

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 25, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 16, 2023, at 3:10 p.m.

That the Senate agreed to Relative to death of the Honorable Dianne Feinstein, United States Senator from the State of California S. Res. 400.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 25, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 18, 2023, at 2:55 p.m.

That the Senate agreed to S.J. Res. 32.

That the Senate agreed to Relative to death of the Honorable Richard Clarence Clark, former United States Senator from the State of Iowa S. Res. 406.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 25, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 23, 2023, at 12:38 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 2854.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 366.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

□ 1730

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 25, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on October 17, 2023, at 3:44 p.m., said to contain a message from the President regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT NARCOTICS TRAF- FICKERS CENTERED IN COLOM- BIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-70)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond October 21, 2023.

The circumstances that led to the declaration of a national emergency on October 21, 1995, have not been resolved. The actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause an extreme level of violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 17, 2023.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 25, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on October 24, 2023, at 3:55 p.m., said to contain a message from the President regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-71)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, as amended by Executive Order 13671 of July 8, 2014, is to continue in effect beyond October 27, 2023.

The situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413, as amended by Executive Order 13671, with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 24, 2023.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4394, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 756 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4394.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FLOOD) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1736

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4394) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, with Mr. FLOOD in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, it is my distinct honor to bring the fiscal year 2024 Energy and Water bill before you today. Before I go into the details, I recognize the hard work of Chairwoman GRANGER and Ranking Member DELAURO on this bill and the entire appropriations process.

I also specifically thank my ranking member, Ms. KAPTUR, for being a tremendous partner throughout this year's process.

At a total of \$56.958 billion, the Energy and Water bill advances our national security, our energy security, and our economic competitiveness in a fiscally responsible manner.

The bill includes \$24 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration. Within that, the bill fully funds all major weapons programs and infrastructure modernization activities, including the W93 warhead, the nuclear sea-launched cruise missile, the B83-1

sustainment efforts, and the restart of plutonium pit production capability. NNSA funding also supports naval reactors and defense nuclear non-proliferation.

Remaining a leader in nuclear energy technologies will ensure reliable energy here at home and will help allies across the globe.

The bill sustains the Department of Energy's nuclear energy base program and also redirects previously appropriated funds to higher priorities, specifically:

\$2.4 billion to develop a domestic capability for producing low-enriched uranium, including high-assay low-enriched uranium that will be necessary for upcoming advanced reactors; and

\$1.2 billion to support the ongoing advanced small modular reactor demonstration project.

To reduce our reliance on foreign sources of critical minerals, the bill provides more than \$200 million for the full spectrum of production technologies.

The Army Corps of Engineers is funded at \$9.57 billion, including full funding of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund activities and ongoing Inland Waterways Trust Fund construction projects. These investments will help ensure goods can be moved safely to and from global markets.

Funding for the Bureau of Reclamation totals \$1.8 billion and prioritizes projects that increase water supply and support drought resiliency.

The bill continues strong funding for the Department of Energy Office of Science, including fusion energy science, to enhance America's role as the global leader of scientific discovery and to lay the foundation for future scientific breakthroughs.

In closing, I thank the staff on both sides of the aisle for their hard work throughout this process. On the majority staff, Angie, Perry, Nora, Richie, Scott, and Janet. In my personal office, Ian and Daniel. On the minority staff, Scott, Jocelyn, and Adam.

This is a strong bill, and I urge Members to support it. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I appreciate Chair FLEISCHMANN very, very much for his serious attention to our complex bill and his cordiality and very constructive attitude throughout.

I begin by thanking our diligent staff for all their hard work on this bill. On the minority staff, I thank Scott McKee, Jocelyn Hunn, and Adam Wilson. On the majority staff, I thank Angie Giancarlo, Perry Yates, Nora Khalil, Richie O'Connell, Scott Prutting, and Janet Harrington. On my personal staff, I thank Margaret McInnis and Mayely Boyce.

As we work on this Energy and Water bill, I place in the RECORD how deeply saddened I am by the passing of our dear colleague in the other body, Senator Dianne Feinstein, who dedicated

the best years of her life to our country.

As Energy and Water appropriators, Dianne and all of us worked closely over many years to protect the waters of the United States and to build a brighter, cleaner energy future and to assure America's nuclear capabilities are secure.

Her acute mastery of the energy, water, and security needs of our Nation had no comparison, and her dignified, noble public service is truly a great loss to our Nation.

There is not time during our bill's consideration today to fully express my thoughts, but I am so deeply saddened for California's loss, for our Nation's loss, and for all who grieve the loss of the longest-serving woman in Senate history.

All I or any of us can do is laud Senator Dianne Feinstein's productive career of exemplary effective public service. Rest in peace, my dear friend.

We consider this important measure at a moment in which the United States economy is growing at record rates, producing historic levels of job growth due to the laws enacted by the last Congress.

With historic job growth, revenues are now coming into the private sector and the Federal Government at much higher levels than before because post-pandemic, millions more people are working. Companies are earning money.

The American people again are doing what America does best: being productive and leaving our Nation to the future in better condition than we found it.

Indeed, this gross domestic product/debt chart clearly illustrates as a result of robust economic growth, our Nation has bent the debt curve as a percentage of GDP for the first time in modern history.

Here we go. It is going down. That is where we want it to go, yes. We are beginning to pay down our Nation's accumulated debt, largely amassed from the costs of past wars, the old debts that were not paid for by those that conducted them at the time.

□ 1745

Then we had the pandemic and, sadly, over several decades, the tax cuts that were enacted allowed the wealthiest and most productive powerful corporations in our country not to carry their fair share of the tax load. I think it is important that everyone share in our Nation's responsibilities.

In this context, I must offer that I am unable to concur with my able colleague, Chairman FLEISCHMANN, on this particular appropriation bill. I prefer a more realistic energy and water allocation that meets the critical energy and water needs of our Nation, not just for today but for the energy independence and the water security for America in perpetuity. We are not out of the woods on this, we have got a lot of work to do.