

Pettersen	Scott, David	Tlaib
Pingree	Sewell	Tokuda
Pocan	Sherman	Tonko
Porter	Sherrill	Torres (CA)
Pressley	Slotkin	Torres (NY)
Quigley	Smith (WA)	Trahan
Ramirez	Sorensen	Trone
Raskin	Soto	Underwood
Ross	Spanberger	Vargas
Ruiz	Stansbury	Vasquez
Ruppersberger	Stanton	Veasey
Ryan	Stevens	Velázquez
Sánchez	Strickland	Wasserman
Sarbanes	Swalwell	Schultz
Schakowsky	Sykes	Waters
Schiff	Takano	Watson Coleman
Schneider	Thanedar	Wild
Scholten	Thompson (CA)	Williams (GA)
Schrier	Thompson (MS)	Wilson (FL)
Scott (VA)	Titus	

NOT VOTING—16

Curtis	Lesko	Salinas
Garbarino	McCarthy	Scanlon
Hoyer	Mfume	Sessions
Jackson Lee	Napolitano	Wexton
Joyce (OH)	Newhouse	
Larson (CT)	Phillips	

□ 1056

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4821, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 838 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. 4821.

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

□ 1102

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. 4821) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, with Mr. PFLUGER 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 Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) and the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON).

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

Mr. Chair, I am pleased to begin consideration of the H.R. 4821, the fiscal year 2024 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Before I get into the bill, I commend Chairwoman GRANGER for her steadfast leadership of the Appropriations Committee and her ongoing support. I thank the ranking member of the full committee, Ms. DELAURO, for her work on this important legislation and other things. I thank Ranking Member PINGREE for her partnership and the subcommittee members for their work on this bill, although Ms. PINGREE and I may have some differences of opinion on this bill.

H.R. 4821 provides \$25.4 billion in new nondefense discretionary spending, which is \$13.4 billion, or 35 percent, below the fiscal year 2023 level. The bill also rescinds \$9.4 billion in unnecessary funding provided to the EPA, the Presidio Trust, and the Council on Environmental Quality through the Inflation Reduction Act.

Cutting funding is never easy or pretty, but with the national debt in excess of \$33 trillion and inflation at an unacceptable level, we had to make tough choices to rein in Federal spending.

Last Congress alone, \$3 trillion was spent outside the normal appropriations process. That is \$3 trillion that went into the national debt.

Simply holding funding flat is not enough. We must work to curb our out-of-control spending and get our budget back on track. This bill does that. This legislation prioritizes critical needs within our reduced allocation and addresses specific interests and concerns brought to our attention through more than 8,000 Member requests.

H.R. 4821 fully funds the payments in lieu of taxes program for fiscal year 2024, which is estimated to be \$515 million. It also makes critical investments in Indian Country by providing funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, and Indian Health Service at fiscal year 2023 levels or above.

To combat catastrophic wildfires and protect communities across the country, the bill includes a \$1.6 billion discretionary increase to fund wildfire activities without budget gimmicks. It also provides a \$2.65 billion cap adjustment for wildfire suppression activities, as authorized.

To address these priorities while rightsizing the agencies under our jurisdiction, the bill reduces funding for nearly every other appropriation in the bill, and many agencies received double-digit percentage reductions. The EPA is reduced by \$4 billion, or 39 percent, below the fiscal year 2023 level.

In terms of policy, the bill makes important steps to reduce regulatory bur-

dens imposed by the EPA, expand access to critical minerals and natural resources, and promote domestic energy production. Such efforts include halting the EPA's job-killing regulations, such as repealing the recent waters of the United States regulations and rules that target reliable energy sources and domestic manufacturing; limiting abuse of the Endangered Species Act regarding species such as the sage grouse, gray wolf, bison, and lesser prairie chicken; expanding access to critical minerals and promoting proper management of our Nation's forests; and requiring oil and gas lease sales. These policies will help boost our national security, reduce energy costs, and create American jobs.

Mr. Chairman, this bill will help manage our public lands wisely, meet our commitment to our brothers and sisters in Indian Country, and restore the fiscal responsibility necessary to get our economy back on track.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the adoption of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Chairman, as ranking member of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I am deeply concerned about the majority's lack of urgency to fund the government. The continuing resolution expires in less than 3 weeks, but instead of getting to work negotiating with the Senate on a full-year bill, we are wasting time on bills that violate the terms of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023.

I strongly oppose the fiscal year 2024 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. This harmful bill debilitates America's ability to address the climate crisis and hobbles the agencies within its jurisdiction.

It slashes funding for the Environmental Protection Agency by nearly 40 percent. That is nearly \$4 billion less than we appropriated in 2023.

It also rescinds more than \$7 billion of vital investments provided by the Inflation Reduction Act for the United States to take immediate economy-wide climate action. Climate change has reached a crisis point, and experts agree that we must take bold action to avoid a major, irreversible catastrophe.

In addition to the cut proposed by the State-Foreign Operations bill, the Republicans' Interior bill virtually eliminates the greenhouse gas reduction fund, which was established by the Inflation Reduction Act to mitigate the costs of climate pollution through investment in low-and zero-emission technologies.

The damage inflicted by this bill extends far beyond climate change. The bill wipes out the environmental justice program and cuts \$1.4 billion from the environmental and climate justice grants made possible through the Inflation Reduction Act.

It curtails the progress that has been made to ensure that all people are

equally protected from our environmental and health hazards. This bill abandons our most vulnerable groups that currently bear a disproportionate share of negative environmental impacts, which includes large swaths of rural communities that I, and many of my colleagues across the aisle, represent.

The bill also slashes funding for enforcement of the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, which will enable polluters.

The cuts in this bill are so severe that even agencies that usually garner bipartisan support are targeted for damaging reductions. Funding for the National Park Service, for example, will be cut by 13 percent.

This bill also significantly reduces funding for the arts and humanities agencies. The cuts to the Smithsonian Institution and National Gallery of Art are so deep that they will be forced to reduce the number of hours or days each week that the museums are open to the public.

When our constituents bring their families to see our Nation's Capital, I think all Members in this room expect they should have access to these museums, but this bill takes that away.

The bill also fails our Nation's wildland firefighters. It does not provide any of the funding requested by the administration to support wildland firefighters and their families through better compensation, safe housing, and health and well-being assistance. Without this funding, firefighters will lose the compensation increases first provided in the bipartisan infrastructure law.

Sadly, this bill also contains numerous discriminatory riders, as well as an exhaustive list of anti-environment riders that seek to derail any effort to combat climate change, and it undermines clean water and clean air protections.

They give an open invitation to exploitive oil, gas, and mineral leasing by blocking environmental regulations and even overriding judicial review. At the same time, the bill suppresses clean energy production. Clean, renewable energy is critical if we are going to save our planet for future generations.

The majority of Americans support becoming carbon neutral by 2050, and they support prioritizing the development of renewable energy sources and preserving biodiversity for the benefit of future generations. The austere and irresponsible cuts in this bill do not align with their values.

Mr. Chairman, I thank Chair SIMPSON and Ranking Member DELAURO for their tireless efforts on this committee. As Mr. SIMPSON mentioned, we don't always agree on everything, but we have a chance to work well together. I thank the staff on both sides of the aisle who work tirelessly.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose this bill, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill to protect the world we are leaving to our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4821, the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2024.

This year's appropriations bill is a win for Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District and our Nation.

It is abundantly clear that the Biden administration has an anti-mining, anti-farmer, anti-American worker, and anti-energy independence agenda. This bill stops that agenda in its tracks.

The Department of the Interior's mineral withdrawal in northeast Minnesota forces us to be dependent on Chinese-owned, child-labor-using mines in the Congo. This bill stops that agenda.

The Biden administration's WOTUS rule that punishes farmers for puddles in their fields, this bill repeals the WOTUS rule.

The EPA's abuse of the Endangered Species Act to list the northern long-eared bat, which has stifled responsible logging and forest management, this bill stops and reverses that.

Mr. Chairman, I am proud that we finally have a commonsense funding bill that puts American workers and rural America first.

Mr. Chairman, additionally, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that this bill also provides funding for critical infrastructure projects in Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District, including wastewater treatment projects in Bemidji, Braham, and Silver Bay, Minnesota.

□ 1115

Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairwoman GRANGER, Chairman SIMPSON, and my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for all their hard work on this legislation. I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), who is the distinguished ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member PINGREE for their work on this legislation. I would also say thank you to the majority and the minority staff, particularly Rita Culp, Jocelyn Hunn, and Farouk Ophaso.

When it comes to caring for the environment—ensuring our air is safe to breathe, our water is safe to drink, and we are resilient in a changing climate—this bill takes the side of the most egregious polluters and climate deniers. This legislation stakes an aggressive anti-environment stance with a crippling 39 percent cut to the Environmental Protection Agency. The ensuing collapse of our means of pro-

tecting the environment and public health would mean more asthma cases, more cancer diagnoses, and more unmitigated natural disasters afflicting American families.

Let me share a portion of a letter sent to Members of this body from the League of Conservation Voters and co-signed by 61 environmental organizations, including the Trust for Public Land and the National Parks Conservation Association.

They said of this bill:

Following "... a summer full of record heat waves, horrific flooding, and wildfire smoke blanketing much of the Nation, this bill would gut the agencies charged with protecting our environment and our health and would massively undermine last year's historic climate legislation, the Inflation Reduction Act. It would also introduce an onslaught of extreme anti-environmental policy mandates that have no place in the appropriations process. This attack on our health, lands, wildlife, biodiversity, air, water, oceans, and communities is unacceptable and must be rejected."

The bill cuts the EPA's clean air program by at least \$200 million and eliminates funds for environmental justice. It cuts the EPA's infrastructure grant programs by a staggering \$1.8 billion. These are not numbers on a page. We are talking about the air in our skies and in our lungs. This is the water we drink, bathe in, and cook with. These are basic life necessities that we have a simple obligation to protect for the American people.

In addition to endangering the global climate and public health, this bill slashes funding for the arts, including the National Endowment for the Arts' flagship Grants for Arts Projects program which benefits individual and community well-being and supports the economy in all of our 435 congressional districts. This bill will prohibit the Smithsonian from highlighting the contributions of Latinos in U.S. history and culture by not making it possible to move forward with the national museum of the American Latino making Hispanics invisible. This is shameful, and it does not represent America's values.

The ramifications of cuts in this bill would reach every corner of the Interior Department. It damages our public lands, promotes dirty energy, jeopardizes biodiversity, and disarms America in the face of the climate crisis. Sharp cuts to the National Park Service means fewer seasonal employees and furloughing existing permanent park employees. The funding loss translates to dozens of employees who are trying to do their job every single day at Yellowstone National Park, Glacier National Park, Sequoia National Park, and Zion National Park, and many more of our Nation's prized national parks being furloughed. These are beloved public lands, and these cuts will mean longer wait times and fewer services available when our constituents

and visitors from around the globe travel to experience these jewels of our Nation's geographic diversity.

The majority is also opening our public lands—the property of the American people—for oil, gas, and mineral leasing, in some cases going as far as blocking judicial review of these transactions. The majority is hindering clean energy projects while promoting fossil fuels lease sales, and the majority is accelerating ecosystem decline by abandoning protections for our most vulnerable apex predators like the gray wolf and grizzly bear.

I have proudly worked across the aisle to protect our environment for Americans past, present, and future, and I am immensely disappointed to see the majority abandon their commitment to conserving America's fragile lands and natural resources. I would not think Republicans need reminding of their own party's history, but this bill is a notable reversal from the proud and bold conservation efforts of the Republicans I have worked with in decades past. I need not remind my colleagues which President created the EPA: Richard M. Nixon.

Finally, as we continue to see in each of these partisan bills, this legislation includes riders that prohibit funding diversity, equity and inclusion, and accessibility in the Federal workforce, none of which belong in any bill, but especially appropriations.

With its dangerous and costly cuts and indefensible riders, I must vote against this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. It will take bipartisan support to get the 2024 Interior bill signed into law, and this bill does not achieve that. I appeal to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to end this partisan charade and join with Democrats at the negotiating table.

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

Mr. Chairman, I would just note that neither the chairwoman or the ranking member of the full committee or the ranking member of the subcommittee in their comments never mentioned the \$33 trillion debt, and over the last Congress, there was \$3 trillion that was spent outside of the regular appropriation process. That is what is causing this. That is what is causing the problems in this country.

This is what reducing spending looks like. Every time you try to reduce spending, Mr. Chairman, you would think it is nothing but death and destruction. If I believed what was just said, I wouldn't vote for this bill, but I think she is wrong on so many counts.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman SIMPSON for his very responsible leadership.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4821, a very fiscally responsible Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

I represent the Ninth District of Pennsylvania where part of that district includes the Marcellus shale, one of the largest reserves of clean natural gas in the world.

Not only does the natural gas industry support over 250,000 jobs in Pennsylvania, but it also contributes \$24 billion to the Commonwealth's GDP, meaning Biden's continued assault on American energy, including the natural gas industry, is truly an assault on Pennsylvania's workforce and economy.

Since taking office, the Biden administration has taken many actions to weaken the natural gas industry by blocking pipeline construction, implementing burdensome regulations, and issuing costly new rules and taxes. This makes foreign producers with less pollutant controls far more competitive within the energy industry. Many of these nations where these producers exist use these funds to fund terrorist activities and fund Vladimir Putin's war. We should take these things into consideration, Mr. Chairman.

While this administration seeks to limit American natural gas, despite it being 50 percent cleaner than other fossil fuels, this appropriations bill supports domestic energy production because Republicans recognize we must embrace an all-of-the-above but also all-of-the-below solution to achieve energy independence and dominance.

This legislation requires resumption of gas lease sales on previously restricted Federal lands, and it also prohibits a number of onerous regulations, such as the EPA's clean power rule that would be detrimental to American energy production.

Among other provisions in the legislation, this legislation will, Mr. Chairman, benefit the American consumers, farmers, manufacturers, small businesses, the U.S. economy as a whole.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), who is the distinguished ranking member of the Defense Subcommittee and the former chair of this subcommittee.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

I rise, Mr. Chairman, in opposition to this legislation. The bill that the majority put before us today grossly underfunds the Department of the Interior. I will mention two areas: the Environmental Protection Agency and the arts and humanities. The ranking member listed the others.

Once again, the cuts the Republicans made to the appropriation bill do not honor the funding levels that were negotiated by the White House and the Republican leadership in the Fiscal Responsibility Act. A promise was broken.

Over 35 percent of the reduction to the top line of this bill is simply irresponsible. The bill claws back billions of dollars from the historic Inflation Reduction Act trying to plug up the

holes created by the massive top line cuts.

This will damage the ability of the United States to respond to climate change and help communities who are currently affected by it, and we are affected by climate change in all of our districts.

As ranking member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I am very aware that the DOD considers climate change to be a top national security issue. Harming our country's ability to respond to this threat will put us at a severe global disadvantage.

This bill's drastic cuts to the EPA and the Interior Department also affect the life, health, and safety of all Americans. It will increase risk to all people who rely on the EPA to safeguard their air and water, to clean up harmful pollution, test for chemicals in their products, and respond to emergencies.

There is one small, bright note in this bill, and I thank the chair and the ranking member for continuing their work together to honor our trust and treaty obligations to our Native American brothers and sisters, but on the whole, the bill before us does not, in my opinion, reflect the serious commitment to meet the needs of our constituents.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. Chair, I could come up with some tax cuts to repeal to pay for the things I am asking for.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CARL).

Mr. CARL. Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. SIMPSON for his remarkable work on this bill, particularly under these trying circumstances.

Mr. Chairman, we are \$33 trillion in debt. We cannot spend our way and we cannot regulate our way out of that debt without having some of the sacrifices that are in this bill, quite frankly.

Chairman SIMPSON has done an outstanding job identifying the key priorities despite a challenging allocation.

One area of concern I would like to address is related to the Biden administration's handling of royalties on Federal land. I would like to emphasize the impact on Warrior Met Coal, which produces metallurgical coal crucial for steel production and happens to be the largest exporter from the Port of Mobile, Alabama, which I am honored to represent.

Regrettably, Warrior Met Coal's Federal lease application with the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management has been marred by delays. The Interior Department's shifting requirements, including the recent demands for an environmental impact study on top of a comprehensive environmental assessment completed over a year ago have been the latest obstacles in a near decade-long effort to secure this lease.

As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, the Mineral Leasing Act requires the maximum economic recovery of coal within

the proposed lease area. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing permit delays, Federal coal is not currently being efficiently mined, causing further setbacks in Federal coal mining. Every day that passes without progress results in a loss of crucial revenue from coal royalties for affected communities, the State of Alabama, and the Federal Government. These are the fees that will help pay some of this debt down.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. CARL. This situation is unacceptable, and I am eager for our colleagues and staff to identify ways to move forward ensuring that the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management uphold their responsibilities under the Mineral Lease Act that impacted communities receive the essential funding they require.

□ 1130

Now, regarding the specific language included in the bill, it highlights the importance of the Bureau of Land Management's production of domestic coal on Federal lands, with a particular emphasis on distinguishing between metallurgical coal and thermal coal.

Additionally, the bill is focused on clawing back wasteful spending, reducing bureaucracy, and maintaining responsible funding levels to serve the best interests of our constituents in this Nation. It addresses the needs of prioritizing essential programs, protecting critical minerals, promoting oil and gas lease sales, and limiting burdensome regulations, among other key priorities.

Continuing to claw back wasteful spending is one step closer to getting our spending under control. I support this bill. It is my hope that, by working together, we can address these critical issues and ensure a brighter future for our communities.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for drawing the House's attention to the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management's responsibilities under the Mineral Leasing Act. I would be pleased to continue to work with him on how the agencies in this bill handle royalties on Federal lands as we move through the FY 2024 spending process.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), my good friend and the distinguished ranking member of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this bill.

We have felt the effects of climate change for years in south Florida,

draining millions from State and local government coffers to respond to the cycle of natural disasters.

What is the majority's response in this bill?

A crippling 39 percent cut to the EPA and policy provisions that will severely undercut efforts to curb CO₂ emissions. We haven't seen EPA funding levels dip this low since 1991, which ironically is when experts told us that we needed to start tackling climate change.

What does that mean for people watching us at home? More asthma, higher rates of cancer, and more frequent natural disasters, upending American families' lives.

We need to invest in clean energy, not just right now, but yesterday. Besides underfunding clean energy efforts, this bill also neglects the cherished Smithsonian Institution. I was extremely disappointed that this bill bars funding for the new National Museum of the American Latino and the operation of the existing Molina Family Latino Gallery.

The legislation that created this museum enjoyed strong bipartisan support just 3 years. The Latino community is so integral to America's heritage, it baffles me why the majority would block the Smithsonian from highlighting their historic and cultural contributions, especially since Congress established this museum.

We must embrace the beautiful mosaic that makes our Nation so incredible, and that includes investing in public museums to provide a cultural and educational platform.

This bill, by the way, also underfunds the Holocaust Memorial Museum. I respectfully requested the majority to include an additional \$2 million over fiscal year 2023 for the museum's education program.

The intentional, genocidal violence inflicted on Israeli civilians and the unconscionable apathy of many nations—and far too many in our own Nation—is a sobering reminder that Israel is surrounded by hostility and danger. Anti-Semitic threats and attacks in the U.S. were already skyrocketing up 37 percent in 2022. Only by fully funding education programs can we truly combat this rise in hate.

Let's take some pride in America. Let's not cloak bigotry and ensure that we can educate people and promote understanding and unity, build up our public spaces, not starve and neglect them. For these reasons and many others, I urge Members to vote "no."

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the ongoing work within the Interior bill.

As the Representative for the Fifth District of Colorado and vice chair of the Natural Resources Committee, I have long supported our critical mineral independence, striving to roll back regulations and burdens on this industry.

However, my background on the House Armed Services Committee and my longstanding support of our national security causes me to caution support of section 466.

Railroad Valley in Nevada has been used and cared for by NASA since 1996 as the world's premier optical sensing calibration site. The Railroad Valley site is used daily to calibrate cameras onboard of satellites that photograph the world daily. Commercial companies have used this playa to provide critical support to satellites that monitor the ongoing war in Ukraine, the conflict in the Middle East, and many other critical needs.

It is for that reason that I am here advocating for the Railroad Valley playa as a national security asset. According to a study done by NASA, the capability this playa provides can only be found in four sites around the world. Current and future needs of our commercial space industry and intelligence community are strongly reliant on the benefits this site provides here in the continental U.S. This is not something we can turn to in other places because the other three sites lie in China, north Africa, and Israel.

Additionally, NASA's study concluded that the Railroad Valley site would be the best option in any case to provide the optimal sensing calibration. It is important to protect the critical mineral rights, but it must not come at the expense of our national security. We must do both.

I thank Mr. AMODEI and Chairman SIMPSON for their tireless work on this issue and their commitment to our future work on compromise language and protection of our national security assets. I look forward to supporting the language that comes out of conference for the Interior appropriations, and I urge adoption of the bill.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), the distinguished ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee and my good friend.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, this Interior and Environment appropriations bill, much like the House Republican appropriations bills that have come before it, is an extreme MAGA manifesto. It is not at all representative of the values of the American people.

This bill is full of reckless policy riders that undermine the most basic environmental protections, take us backwards in the climate fight, and introduce climate change denial as part of a policy for the Republican majority. It pads Big Oil's profits by selling off our Nation's public lands, waters, wildlife, and endangered species.

It rips away the historic and hard-fought climate wins in the Inflation Reduction Act that are not only for protecting our future but growing the middle class with hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs. It bullies American communities that have already been overburdened by pollution and guts environmental justice efforts.

We have seen many of these riders in the Natural Resources Committee this year. They don't have a future as stand-alone bills. Instead of putting in the work to govern and finding meaningful solutions, seeking compromise that the American people actually want, House Republicans are shamelessly burying these provisions in the most extreme Interior Appropriations bill we have ever seen.

House Republicans are following the marching orders of their monarch, former President Trump. It doesn't matter how many times he is indicted for fraud, for stealing classified documents, or for orchestrating an insurrection and a coordinated attempt to overthrow our democracy, they are here doing his bidding to prop up Big Oil and its favorite oligarchs, no matter who gets hurt.

To protect the American people, I and 33 of my colleagues submitted an amendment to strip from this bill the dangerous policy riders, but the Rules Committee, controlled by the most extreme members of the Republican Conference, wouldn't allow a vote on the floor.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GRIJALVA. My Republican colleagues are always quick to protest about process, but it seems that their actions speak louder than their crocodile tears. Their rejection of this amendment demonstrates yet again that this appropriations process is a sham. This particular bill ignores climate and the effects of climate change that are ongoing worldwide and in this country. It undoes any protections to vulnerable communities and communities in general by gutting essential programs and monitoring an enforcement of clean air and clean water, and it erases history. It says we are going to wash this part of history out as, for example, the blocking of the Latino museum, that that part of American history does not exist, and we will not appropriate for that.

Mr. Chair, I urge rejection of this legislation. It is not just a step backward, it is a dismantling of basic public health, environmental, and consequential issues dealing with the identity of this great Nation of ours.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YAKYM).

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Chair, the National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, was created to balance environmental protection with our need to build infrastructure. The NEPA process was once timely and concise, but over time NEPA has become a four-letter word associated with frivolous litigation, mountains of paperwork, project delays, and cost overruns. Congress has taken meaningful bipartisan steps toward reform, but the work is far from over.

My amendment would require the Council on Environmental Quality to report on current NEPA bottlenecks. It mirrors the legislation I introduced yesterday with my friend JIMMY PANETTA, the Studying NEPA's Impact on Projects Act, which would require annual reporting on NEPA litigation, average page length, and timeliness. The American people deserve a government that does not give radicals a heckler's veto over roads, bridges, and energy projects.

I thank the chair and ranking member for including the Yakym-Panetta amendment in this en bloc. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

The challenge here, as I stated earlier, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle never saw a problem that they didn't think a government program could solve. Anybody that thought that we were not going to have to reduce spending I think was living in a different world. When you are facing \$33 trillion and getting on to \$34 trillion in debt, the reality is you are going to have to cut spending.

Now, this is not a criticism of them. I think they honestly believe that all the profligate spending that went on the last couple of years was absolutely necessary. I think the American people expect us to start addressing the debt that our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are going to face, and this is what cutting spending looks like.

It is easy to write a bill. Anybody can write a bill if you have unlimited funds, and that is pretty much what they have had last year and the year before. In spite of almost having unlimited funds to write the Interior bill, they actually took \$1.6 billion in wildfire fighting costs and made it emergency spending. We had to bring it back into the bill, where it should be, instead of using budget gimmicks. That put us \$1.6 billion behind.

We said we are not going to hurt Indian Country with this bill, even with the cuts that we had to make. We were going to fully fund PILT payments. We were going to make sure that we took care of those things that were necessary, like wildfire fighting, because those costs are going to go up. That meant the rest of the bill was going to take some cuts. We used rescissions by pulling back some of the money that was spent over the last several years to make sure that the cuts in this bill were not as dramatic as they would otherwise have been. This is still a 10 percent reduction in the overall bill.

I disagree with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Death and destruction will not follow if we pass this bill. I encourage my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule. This bill shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4821

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OF LANDS AND RESOURCES

For necessary expenses for protection, use, improvement, development, disposal, cadastral surveying, classification, acquisition of easements and other interests in lands, and performance of other functions, including maintenance of facilities, as authorized by law, in the management of lands and their resources under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, including the general administration of the Bureau, and assessment of mineral potential of public lands pursuant to section 1010(a) of Public Law 96-487 (16 U.S.C. 3150(a)), \$1,180,645,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025; of which \$57,140,250 for annual maintenance and deferred maintenance programs and \$154,787,000 for the wild horse and burro program, as authorized by Public Law 92-195 (16 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That amounts in the fee account of the BLM Permit Processing Improvement Fund may be used for any bureau-related expenses associated with the processing of oil and gas applications for permits to drill and related use of authorizations: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, up to \$3,500,000 may be made available for the purposes described in section 122(e)(1)(A) of division G of Public Law 115-31 (43 U.S.C. 1748c(e)(1)(A)).

In addition, \$35,000,000 is for Mining Law Administration program operations, including the cost of administering the mining claim fee program, to remain available until expended, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Bureau and credited to this appropriation from mining claim maintenance fees and location fees that are hereby authorized for fiscal year 2024, so as to result in a final appropriation estimated at not more than \$1,170,645,000, and \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, from communication site rental fees established by the Bureau for the cost of administering communication site activities.

OREGON AND CALIFORNIA GRANT LANDS

For expenses necessary for management, protection, and development of resources and for construction, operation, and maintenance of access roads, reforestation, and other improvements on the revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands, on other Federal lands in the Oregon and California land-grant counties of Oregon, and on adjacent rights-of-way; and acquisition of lands or interests therein, including existing connecting roads on or adjacent to such grant lands; \$60,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That 25 percent of the aggregate of all receipts during the current fiscal year from the revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands is hereby made a charge against the Oregon and California land-grant fund and shall be transferred to the General Fund in the Treasury

in accordance with the second paragraph of subsection (b) of title II of the Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C. 2605).

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

For rehabilitation, protection, and acquisition of lands and interests therein, and improvement of Federal rangelands pursuant to section 401 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1751), notwithstanding any other Act, sums equal to 50 percent of all moneys received during the prior fiscal year under sections 3 and 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act (43 U.S.C. 315b, 315m) and the amount designated for range improvements from grazing fees and mineral leasing receipts from Bankhead-Jones lands transferred to the Department of the Interior pursuant to law, but not less than \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$600,000 shall be available for administrative expenses.

SERVICE CHARGES, DEPOSITS, AND FORFEITURES

For administrative expenses and other costs related to processing application documents and other authorizations for use and disposal of public lands and resources, for costs of providing copies of official public land documents, for monitoring construction, operation, and termination of facilities in conjunction with use authorizations, and for rehabilitation of damaged property, such amounts as may be collected under Public Law 94-579 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 185), to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any provision to the contrary of section 305(a) of Public Law 94-579 (43 U.S.C. 1735(a)), any moneys that have been or will be received pursuant to that section, whether as a result of forfeiture, compromise, or settlement, if not appropriate for refund pursuant to section 305(c) of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1735(c)), shall be available and may be expended under the authority of this Act by the Secretary of the Interior to improve, protect, or rehabilitate any public lands administered through the Bureau of Land Management which have been damaged by the action of a resource developer, purchaser, permittee, or any unauthorized person, without regard to whether all moneys collected from each such action are used on the exact lands damaged which led to the action: *Provided further*, That any such moneys that are in excess of amounts needed to repair damage to the exact land for which funds were collected may be used to repair other damaged public lands.

MISCELLANEOUS TRUST FUNDS

In addition to amounts authorized to be expended under existing laws, there is hereby appropriated such amounts as may be contributed under section 307 of Public Law 94-579 (43 U.S.C. 1737), and such amounts as may be advanced for administrative costs, surveys, appraisals, and costs of making conveyances of omitted lands under section 211(b) of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1721(b)), to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The Bureau of Land Management may carry out the operations funded under this Act by direct expenditure, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and reimbursable agreements with public and private entities, including with States. Appropriations for the Bureau shall be available for purchase, erection, and dismantlement of temporary structures, and alteration and maintenance of necessary buildings and appurtenant facilities to which the United States has title; up to \$100,000 for payments, at the discretion of the Secretary, for information or evidence concerning violations of laws administered

by the Bureau; miscellaneous and emergency expenses of enforcement activities authorized or approved by the Secretary and to be accounted for solely on the Secretary's certificate, not to exceed \$10,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding Public Law 90-620 (44 U.S.C. 501), the Bureau may, under cooperative cost-sharing and partnership arrangements authorized by law, procure printing services from cooperators in connection with jointly produced publications for which the cooperators share the cost of printing either in cash or in services, and the Bureau determines the cooperator is capable of meeting accepted quality standards: *Provided further*, That projects to be funded pursuant to a written commitment by a State government to provide an identified amount of money in support of the project may be carried out by the Bureau on a reimbursable basis.

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as authorized by law, and for scientific and economic studies, general administration, and for the performance of other authorized functions related to such resources, \$1,340,019,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$21,058,200 shall be used for implementing subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e) of section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) (except for processing petitions, developing and issuing proposed and final regulations, and taking any other steps to implement actions described in subsection (c)(2)(A), (c)(2)(B)(i), or (c)(2)(B)(ii) of such section).

CONSTRUCTION

For construction, improvement, acquisition, or removal of buildings and other facilities required in the conservation, management, investigation, protection, and utilization of fish and wildlife resources, and the acquisition of lands and interests therein; \$15,000,000, to remain available until expended.

COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary to carry out section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1535), \$22,000,000, to remain available until expended, to be derived from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND

For expenses necessary to implement the Act of October 17, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 715s), \$13,228,000.

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.), \$48,500,000, to remain available until expended.

NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION

For expenses necessary to carry out the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary to carry out the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.), the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4261 et seq.), the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), and the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.), \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended.

STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS

For wildlife conservation grants to States and to the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico,

Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Indian Tribes under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, for the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished, \$72,612,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount provided herein, \$6,200,000 is for a competitive grant program for Indian Tribes not subject to the remaining provisions of this appropriation: *Provided further*, That \$7,612,000 is for a competitive grant program to implement approved plans for States, territories, and other jurisdictions and at the discretion of affected States, the regional Associations of fish and wildlife agencies, not subject to the remaining provisions of this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, after deducting \$13,812,000 and administrative expenses, apportion the amount provided herein in the following manner: (1) to the District of Columbia and to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, each a sum equal to not more than one-half of 1 percent thereof; and (2) to Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, each a sum equal to not more than one-fourth of 1 percent thereof: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior shall apportion the remaining amount in the following manner: (1) one-third of which is based on the ratio to which the land area of such State bears to the total land area of all such States; and (2) two-thirds of which is based on the ratio to which the population of such State bears to the total population of all such States: *Provided further*, That the amounts apportioned under this paragraph shall be adjusted equitably so that no State shall be apportioned a sum which is less than 1 percent of the amount available for apportionment under this paragraph for any fiscal year or more than 5 percent of such amount: *Provided further*, That the Federal share of planning grants shall not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of such projects and the Federal share of implementation grants shall not exceed 65 percent of the total costs of such projects: *Provided further*, That the non-Federal share of such projects may not be derived from Federal grant programs: *Provided further*, That any amount apportioned in 2024 to any State, territory, or other jurisdiction that remains unobligated as of September 30, 2025, shall be reapportioned, together with funds appropriated in 2026, in the manner provided herein.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service may carry out the operations of Service programs by direct expenditure, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements and reimbursable agreements with public and private entities. Appropriations and funds available to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall be available for repair of damage to public roads within and adjacent to reservation areas caused by operations of the Service; options for the purchase of land at not to exceed one dollar for each option; facilities incident to such public recreational uses on conservation areas as are consistent with their primary purpose; and the maintenance and improvement of aquaria, buildings, and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Service and to which the United States has title, and which are used pursuant to law in connection with management, and investigation of fish and wildlife resources: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 44 U.S.C. 501, the Service may, under cooperative cost sharing and partnership arrangements authorized by law, procure printing services from cooperators

in connection with jointly produced publications for which the cooperators share at least one-half the cost of printing either in cash or services and the Service determines the cooperator is capable of meeting accepted quality standards: *Provided further*, That the Service may accept donated aircraft as replacements for existing aircraft: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, all fees collected for non-toxic shot review and approval shall be deposited under the heading "United States Fish and Wildlife Service—Resource Management" and shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, to be used for expenses of processing of such non-toxic shot type or coating applications and revising regulations as necessary, and shall remain available until expended.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

For expenses necessary for the management, operation, and maintenance of areas and facilities administered by the National Park Service and for the general administration of the National Park Service, \$2,654,000,000, of which \$11,661,000 shall be for planning and interagency coordination in support of Everglades restoration, and \$15,000,000 shall be for uses authorized by section 101122 of title 54, United States Code, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading are available for the purposes of section 5 of Public Law 95-348: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 9 of the 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act (36 U.S.C. note prec. 101; Public Law 115-102), \$2,500,000 of the funds provided under this heading shall be made available for the purposes specified by that Act.

In addition, for purposes described in section 2404 of Public Law 116-9, an amount equal to the amount deposited in this fiscal year into the National Park Medical Services Fund established pursuant to such section of such Act, to remain available until expended, shall be derived from such Fund.

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PRESERVATION

For expenses necessary to carry out recreation programs, natural programs, cultural programs, heritage partnership programs, environmental compliance and review, international park affairs, and grant administration, not otherwise provided for, \$80,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary in carrying out the National Historic Preservation Act (division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code), \$175,400,000, to be derived from the Historic Preservation Fund and to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which \$26,500,000 shall be for Save America's Treasures grants for preservation of nationally significant sites, structures and artifacts as authorized by section 7303 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (54 U.S.C. 3089): *Provided*, That an individual Save America's Treasures grant shall be matched by non-Federal funds: *Provided further*, That individual projects shall only be eligible for one grant: *Provided further*, That all projects to be funded shall be approved by the Secretary of the Interior in consultation with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided for the Historic Preservation Fund, \$30,250,000 is for the Competitive Grants Subactivity; \$11,000,000 is for grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities; \$12,500,000 is for competitive grants for the restoration of historic properties of national, State, and local significance listed on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, to be made without

imposing the usage or direct grant restrictions of section 101(e)(3) (54 U.S.C. 302904) of the National Historic Preservation Act; and \$10,000,000 is for a competitive grant program to honor the semiquincentennial anniversary of the United States by restoring and preserving sites and structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places that commemorate the founding of the nation: *Provided further*, That such competitive grants shall be made without imposing the matching requirements in section 302902(b)(3) of title 54, United States Code, to States and Indian Tribes as defined in chapter 3003 of such title, Native Hawaiian organizations, local governments, including Certified Local Governments, and nonprofit organizations.

CONSTRUCTION

For construction, improvements, repair, or replacement of physical facilities, and related equipment, and compliance and planning for programs and areas administered by the National Park Service, \$114,600,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, for any project initially funded in fiscal year 2024 with a future phase indicated in the National Park Service 5-Year Line Item Construction Plan, a single procurement may be issued which includes the full scope of the project: *Provided further*, That the solicitation and contract shall contain the clause availability of funds found at 48 CFR 52.232-18: *Provided further*, That National Park Service Donations, Park Concessions Franchise Fees, and Recreation Fees may be made available for the cost of adjustments and changes within the original scope of effort for projects funded by the National Park Service Construction appropriation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations, in accordance with current reprogramming thresholds, prior to making any charges authorized under this heading.

CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE

For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of section 101701 of title 54, United States Code, relating to challenge cost share agreements, \$15,000,000, to remain available until expended, for Centennial Challenge projects and programs: *Provided*, That not less than 50 percent of the total cost of each project or program shall be derived from non-Federal sources in the form of donated cash, assets, or a pledge of donation guaranteed by an irrevocable letter of credit.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In addition to other uses set forth in section 101917(c)(2) of title 54, United States Code, franchise fees credited to a sub-account shall be available for expenditure by the Secretary, without further appropriation, for use at any unit within the National Park System to extinguish or reduce liability for Possessory Interest or leasehold surrender interest. Such funds may only be used for this purpose to the extent that the benefitting unit anticipated franchise fee receipts over the term of the contract at that unit exceed the amount of funds used to extinguish or reduce liability. Franchise fees at the benefitting unit shall be credited to the sub-account of the originating unit over a period not to exceed the term of a single contract at the benefitting unit, in the amount of funds so expended to extinguish or reduce liability.

For the costs of administration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund grants authorized by section 105(a)(2)(B) of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-432), the National Park Service may retain up to 3 percent of the amounts which are authorized to be disbursed under

such section, such retained amounts to remain available until expended.

National Park Service funds may be transferred to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation, for purposes authorized under 23 U.S.C. 203. Transfers may include a reasonable amount for FHWA administrative support costs.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH

For expenses necessary for the United States Geological Survey to perform surveys, investigations, and research covering topography, geology, hydrology, biology, and the mineral and water resources of the United States, its territories and possessions, and other areas as authorized by 43 U.S.C. 31, 1332, and 1340; classify lands as to their mineral and water resources; give engineering supervision to power permittees and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensees; administer the minerals exploration program (30 U.S.C. 641); conduct inquiries into the economic conditions affecting mining and materials processing industries (30 U.S.C. 3, 21a, and 1603; 50 U.S.C. 98g(a)(1)) and related purposes as authorized by law; and to publish and disseminate data relative to the foregoing activities; \$1,347,460,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025; of which \$84,788,000 shall remain available until expended for satellite operations; and of which \$39,030,000 shall be available until expended for deferred maintenance and capital improvement projects that exceed \$100,000 in cost: *Provided*, That none of the funds provided for the ecosystem research activity shall be used to conduct new surveys on private property, unless specifically authorized in writing by the property owner: *Provided further*, That no part of this appropriation shall be used to pay more than one-half the cost of topographic mapping or water resources data collection and investigations conducted in cooperation with States and municipalities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

From within the amount appropriated for activities of the United States Geological Survey such sums as are necessary shall be available for contracting for the furnishing of topographic maps and for the making of geophysical or other specialized surveys when it is administratively determined that such procedures are in the public interest; construction and maintenance of necessary buildings and appurtenant facilities; acquisition of lands for gauging stations, observation wells, and seismic equipment; expenses of the United States National Committee for Geological Sciences; and payment of compensation and expenses of persons employed by the Survey duly appointed to represent the United States in the negotiation and administration of interstate compacts: *Provided*, That activities funded by appropriations herein may be accomplished through the use of contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements (including noncompetitive cooperative agreements with Tribes) as defined in section 6302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the United States Geological Survey may enter into contracts or cooperative agreements directly with individuals or indirectly with institutions or nonprofit organizations, without regard to 41 U.S.C. 6101, for the temporary or intermittent services of students or recent graduates, who shall be considered employees for the purpose of chapters 57 and 81 of title 5, United States Code, relating to compensation for travel and work injuries, and chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, relating to tort claims, but shall not be considered to be Federal employees for any other purposes.

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

For expenses necessary for granting and administering leases, easements, rights-of-way, and agreements for use for oil and gas, other minerals, energy, and marine-related purposes on the Outer Continental Shelf and approving operations related thereto, as authorized by law; for environmental studies, as authorized by law; for implementing other laws and to the extent provided by Presidential or Secretarial delegation; and for matching grants or cooperative agreements, \$210,000,000, of which \$154,000,000 is to remain available until September 30, 2025, and of which \$56,000,000 is to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That this total appropriation shall be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary of the Interior and credited to this appropriation from additions to receipts resulting from increases to lease rental rates in effect on August 5, 1993, and from cost recovery fees from activities conducted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, including studies, assessments, analysis, and miscellaneous administrative activities: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as such collections are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation estimated at not more than \$154,000,000: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$3,000 shall be available for reasonable expenses related to promoting volunteer beach and marine cleanup activities.

BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ENFORCEMENT

OFFSHORE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ENFORCEMENT

For expenses necessary for the regulation of operations related to leases, easements, rights-of-way, and agreements for use for oil and gas, other minerals, energy, and marine-related purposes on the Outer Continental Shelf, as authorized by law; for enforcing and implementing laws and regulations as authorized by law and to the extent provided by Presidential or Secretarial delegation; and for matching grants or cooperative agreements, \$172,000,000, of which \$141,000,000 is to remain available until September 30, 2025, and of which \$31,000,000 is to remain available until expended, including \$3,000,000 for offshore decommissioning activities: *Provided*, That this total appropriation shall be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary of the Interior and credited to this appropriation from additions to receipts resulting from increases to lease rental rates in effect on August 5, 1993, and from cost recovery fees from activities conducted by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, including studies, assessments, analysis, and miscellaneous administrative activities: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as such collections are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation estimated at not more than \$144,000,000.

For an additional amount, \$33,000,000, to remain available until expended, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary and credited to this appropriation, which shall be derived from non-refundable inspection fees collected in fiscal year 2024, as provided in this Act: *Provided*, That to the extent that amounts realized from such inspection fees exceed \$33,000,000, the amounts realized in excess of \$33,000,000 shall be credited to this appropriation and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, not less than 50 percent of the inspection fees expended by the Bureau of

Safety and Environmental Enforcement will be used to fund personnel and mission-related costs to expand capacity and expedite the orderly development, subject to environmental safeguards, of the Outer Continental Shelf pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), including the review of applications for permits to drill.

OIL SPILL RESEARCH

For necessary expenses to carry out title I, section 1016; title IV, sections 4202 and 4303; title VII; and title VIII, section 8201 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, \$15,099,000, which shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, to remain available until expended.

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND
ENFORCEMENT

REGULATION AND TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, Public Law 95-87, \$108,923,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which \$65,000,000 shall be available for State and Tribal regulatory grants: *Provided*, That appropriations for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement may provide for the travel and per diem expenses of State and Tribal personnel attending Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement sponsored training.

In addition, for costs to review, administer, and enforce permits issued by the Office pursuant to section 507 of Public Law 95-87 (30 U.S.C. 1257), \$40,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That fees assessed and collected by the Office pursuant to such section 507 shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a fiscal year 2024 appropriation estimated at not more than \$108,923,000.

ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND

For necessary expenses to carry out title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, Public Law 95-87, \$34,000,000, to be derived from receipts of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That pursuant to Public Law 97-365, the Department of the Interior is authorized to use up to 20 percent from the recovery of the delinquent debt owed to the United States Government to pay for contracts to collect these debts: *Provided further*, That funds made available under title IV of Public Law 95-87 may be used for any required non-Federal share of the cost of projects funded by the Federal Government for the purpose of environmental restoration related to treatment or abatement of acid mine drainage from abandoned mines: *Provided further*, That such projects must be consistent with the purposes and priorities of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act: *Provided further*, That amounts provided under this heading may be used for the travel and per diem expenses of State and Tribal personnel attending Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement sponsored training.

In addition, \$136,000,000, to remain available until expended, for payments to States and federally recognized Indian Tribes for reclamation of abandoned mine lands and other related activities in accordance with the terms and conditions described in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That such additional amount shall be used for economic and community development in conjunction with the priorities described in sec-

tion 403(a) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1233(a)): *Provided further*, That of such additional amount, \$89,042,000 shall be distributed in equal amounts to the three Appalachian States with the greatest amount of unfunded needs to meet the priorities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of such section, \$35,218,000 shall be distributed in equal amounts to the three Appalachian States with the subsequent greatest amount of unfunded needs to meet such priorities, and \$11,740,000 shall be for grants to federally recognized Indian Tribes, without regard to their status as certified or uncertified under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, for reclamation of abandoned mine lands and other related activities in accordance with the terms and conditions described in the report accompanying this Act and shall be used for economic and community development in conjunction with the priorities in section 403(a) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977: *Provided further*, That such payments shall be made to States and federally recognized Indian Tribes not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That if payments have not been made by the date specified in the preceding proviso, the amount appropriated for salaries and expenses under the heading "Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement" shall be reduced by \$100,000 per day until such payments have been made.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

OPERATION OF INDIAN PROGRAMS
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the operation of Indian programs, as authorized by law, including the Snyder Act of November 2, 1921 (25 U.S.C. 13) and the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), \$2,010,574,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, except as otherwise provided herein; of which not to exceed \$8,500 may be for official reception and representation expenses; of which not to exceed \$78,494,000 shall be for welfare assistance payments: *Provided*, That in cases of designated Federal disasters, the Secretary of the Interior may exceed such cap for welfare payments from the amounts provided herein, to provide for disaster relief to Indian communities affected by the disaster: *Provided further*, That federally recognized Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations of federally recognized Indian Tribes may use their Tribal priority allocations for unmet welfare assistance costs: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$83,402,000 shall remain available until expended for housing improvement, road maintenance, land acquisition, attorney fees, litigation support, land records improvement, hearings and appeals, and the Navajo-Hopi Settlement Program: *Provided further*, That any forestry funds allocated to a federally recognized Tribe which remain unobligated as of September 30, 2025, may be transferred during fiscal year 2026 to an Indian forest land assistance account established for the benefit of the holder of the funds within the holder's trust fund account: *Provided further*, That any such unobligated balances not so transferred shall expire on September 30, 2026: *Provided further*, That in order to enhance the safety of Bureau field employees, the Bureau may use funds to purchase uniforms or other identifying articles of clothing for personnel: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$7,096,000 in funds for trust, probate, and administrative functions may, as needed, be transferred to the Office of the Secretary, "Departmental Operations" account: *Provided further*, That the

Bureau of Indian Affairs may accept transfers of funds from United States Customs and Border Protection to supplement any other funding available for reconstruction or repair of roads owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as identified on the National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory, 23 U.S.C. 202(b)(1).

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS

For payments to Tribes and Tribal organizations for contract support costs associated with Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act agreements with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education for fiscal year 2024, such sums as may be necessary, which shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amounts made available under this heading shall be available for transfer to another budget account.

PAYMENTS FOR TRIBAL LEASES

For payments to Tribes and Tribal organizations for leases pursuant to section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(l)) for fiscal year 2024, such sums as may be necessary, which shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amounts made available under this heading shall be available for transfer to another budget account.

CONSTRUCTION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For construction, repair, improvement, and maintenance of irrigation and power systems, buildings, utilities, and other facilities, including architectural and engineering services by contract; acquisition of lands, and interests in lands; and preparation of lands for farming, and for construction of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project pursuant to Public Law 87-483; \$153,309,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts as may be available for the construction of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project may be transferred to the Bureau of Reclamation: *Provided further*, That any funds provided for the Safety of Dams program pursuant to the Act of November 2, 1921 (25 U.S.C. 13), shall be made available on a nonreimbursable basis: *Provided further*, That this appropriation may be reimbursed from the Bureau of Trust Fund Administration appropriation for the appropriate share of construction costs for space expansion needed in agency offices to meet trust reform implementation: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$10,000,000 shall be derived from the Indian Irrigation Fund established by section 3211 of the WIIN Act (Public Law 114-322; 130 Stat. 1749): *Provided further*, That amounts provided under this heading are made available for the modernization of Federal field communication capabilities, in addition to amounts otherwise made available for such purpose.

INDIAN LAND AND WATER CLAIM SETTLEMENTS AND MISCELLANEOUS PAYMENTS TO INDIANS

For payments and necessary administrative expenses for implementation of Indian land and water claim settlements pursuant to Public Laws 99-264 and 116-260, and for implementation of other land and water rights settlements, \$825,000, to remain available until expended.

INDIAN GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of guaranteed loans and insured loans, \$11,744,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which \$2,680,000 is for administrative expenses, as authorized by the Indian Financing Act of 1974: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modi-

fying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed or insured, not to exceed \$150,213,551.

BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

OPERATION OF INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

For expenses necessary for the operation of Indian education programs, as authorized by law, including the Snyder Act of November 2, 1921 (25 U.S.C. 13), the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2001-2019), and the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), \$1,131,617,000 to remain available until September 30, 2025, except as otherwise provided herein: *Provided*, That federally recognized Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations of federally recognized Indian Tribes may use their Tribal priority allocations for unmet welfare assistance costs: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$833,592,000 for school operations costs of Bureau-funded schools and other education programs shall become available on July 1, 2024, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, including but not limited to the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) and section 1128 of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2008), not to exceed \$95,822,000 within and only from such amounts made available for school operations shall be available for administrative cost grants associated with grants approved prior to July 1, 2024: *Provided further*, That in order to enhance the safety of Bureau field employees, the Bureau may use funds to purchase uniforms or other identifying articles of clothing for personnel.

EDUCATION CONSTRUCTION

For construction, repair, improvement, and maintenance of buildings, utilities, and other facilities necessary for the operation of Indian education programs, including architectural and engineering services by contract; acquisition of lands, and interests in lands; \$267,887,000 to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That in order to ensure timely completion of construction projects, the Secretary of the Interior may assume control of a project and all funds related to the project, if, not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, any Public Law 100-297 (25 U.S.C. 2501, et seq.) grantee receiving funds appropriated in this Act or in any prior Act, has not completed the planning and design phase of the project and commenced construction.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education may carry out the operation of Indian programs by direct expenditure, contracts, cooperative agreements, compacts, and grants, either directly or in cooperation with States and other organizations.

Notwithstanding Public Law 87-279 (25 U.S.C. 15), the Bureau of Indian Affairs may contract for services in support of the management, operation, and maintenance of the Power Division of the San Carlos Irrigation Project.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Bureau of Indian Education for central office oversight and Executive Direction and Administrative Services (except Executive Direction and Administrative Services funding for Tribal Priority Allocations, regional offices, and facilities operations and maintenance) shall be available for contracts, grants, compacts, or coopera-

tive agreements with the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Bureau of Indian Education under the provisions of the Indian Self-Determination Act or the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-413).

In the event any Tribe returns appropriations made available by this Act to the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Bureau of Indian Education, this action shall not diminish the Federal Government's trust responsibility to that Tribe, or the government-to-government relationship between the United States and that Tribe, or that Tribe's ability to access future appropriations.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Bureau of Indian Education, other than the amounts provided herein for assistance to public schools under 25 U.S.C. 452 et seq., shall be available to support the operation of any elementary or secondary school in the State of Alaska.

No funds available to the Bureau of Indian Education shall be used to support expanded grades for any school or dormitory beyond the grade structure in place or approved by the Secretary of the Interior at each school in the Bureau of Indian Education school system as of October 1, 1995, except that the Secretary of the Interior may waive this prohibition to support expansion of up to one additional grade when the Secretary determines such waiver is needed to support accomplishment of the mission of the Bureau of Indian Education, or more than one grade to expand the elementary grade structure for Bureau-funded schools with a K-2 grade structure on October 1, 1996. Appropriations made available in this or any prior Act for schools funded by the Bureau shall be available, in accordance with the Bureau's funding formula, only to the schools in the Bureau school system as of September 1, 1996, and to any school or school program that was reinstated in fiscal year 2012. Funds made available under this Act may not be used to establish a charter school at a Bureau-funded school (as that term is defined in section 1141 of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2021)), except that a charter school that is in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act and that has operated at a Bureau-funded school before September 1, 1999, may continue to operate during that period, but only if the charter school pays to the Bureau a pro rata share of funds to reimburse the Bureau for the use of the real and personal property (including buses and vans), the funds of the charter school are kept separate and apart from Bureau funds, and the Bureau does not assume any obligation for charter school programs of the State in which the school is located if the charter school loses such funding. Employees of Bureau-funded schools sharing a campus with a charter school and performing functions related to the charter school's operation and employees of a charter school shall not be treated as Federal employees for purposes of chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 113 of title I of appendix C of Public Law 106-113, if in fiscal year 2003 or 2004 a grantee received indirect and administrative costs pursuant to a distribution formula based on section 5(f) of Public Law 101-301, the Secretary shall continue to distribute indirect and administrative cost funds to such grantee using the section 5(f) distribution formula.

Funds available under this Act may not be used to establish satellite locations of schools in the Bureau school system as of September 1, 1996, except that the Secretary may waive this prohibition in order for an Indian Tribe to provide language and cultural immersion educational programs for non-public schools located within the jurisdictional area of the Tribal government

which exclusively serve Tribal members, do not include grades beyond those currently served at the existing Bureau-funded school, provide an educational environment with educator presence and academic facilities comparable to the Bureau-funded school, comply with all applicable Tribal, Federal, or State health and safety standards, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, and demonstrate the benefits of establishing operations at a satellite location in lieu of incurring extraordinary costs, such as for transportation or other impacts to students such as those caused by busing students extended distances: *Provided*, That no funds available under this Act may be used to fund operations, maintenance, rehabilitation, construction, or other facilities-related costs for such assets that are not owned by the Bureau: *Provided further*, That the term “satellite school” means a school location physically separated from the existing Bureau school by more than 50 miles but that forms part of the existing school in all other respects.

Funds made available for Tribal Priority Allocations within Operation of Indian Programs and Operation of Indian Education Programs may be used to execute requested adjustments in Tribal priority allocations initiated by an Indian Tribe.

BUREAU OF TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL TRUST PROGRAMS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the operation of trust programs for Indians by direct expenditure, contracts, cooperative agreements, compacts, and grants, \$104,176,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$17,867,000 from this or any other Act, may be available for settlement support: *Provided*, That funds for trust management improvements and litigation support may, as needed, be transferred to or merged with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, “Operation of Indian Programs” and Bureau of Indian Education, “Operation of Indian Education Programs” accounts; the Office of the Solicitor, “Salaries and Expenses” account; and the Office of the Secretary, “Departmental Operations” account: *Provided further*, That funds made available through contracts or grants obligated during fiscal year 2024, as authorized by the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), shall remain available until expended by the contractor or grantee: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to provide a quarterly statement of performance for any Indian trust account that has not had activity for at least 15 months and has a balance of \$15 or less: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall issue an annual account statement and maintain a record of any such accounts and shall permit the balance in each such account to be withdrawn upon the express written request of the account holder: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$100,000 is available for the Secretary to make payments to correct administrative errors of either disbursements from or deposits to Individual Indian Money or Tribal accounts after September 30, 2002: *Provided further*, That erroneous payments that are recovered shall be credited to and remain available in this account for this purpose: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall not be required to reconcile Special Deposit Accounts with a balance of less than \$500 unless the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration receives proof of ownership from a Special Deposit Accounts claimant: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 102 of the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-412) or any other provision of law, the Secretary may aggregate the

trust accounts of individuals whose whereabouts are unknown for a continuous period of at least 5 years and shall not be required to generate periodic statements of performance for the individual accounts: *Provided further*, That with respect to the preceding proviso, the Secretary shall continue to maintain sufficient records to determine the balance of the individual accounts, including any accrued interest and income, and such funds shall remain available to the individual account holders.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for management of the Department of the Interior and for grants and cooperative agreements, as authorized by law, \$67,942,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025; of which not to exceed \$15,000 may be for official reception and representation expenses; of which up to \$1,000,000 shall be available for workers compensation payments and unemployment compensation payments associated with the orderly closure of the United States Bureau of Mines; and of which \$14,958,000 for Indian land, mineral, and resource valuation activities shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds for Indian land, mineral, and resource valuation activities may, as needed, be transferred to and merged with the Bureau of Indian Affairs “Operation of Indian Programs” and Bureau of Indian Education “Operation of Indian Education Programs” accounts and the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration “Federal Trust Programs” account: *Provided further*, That funds made available through contracts or grants obligated during fiscal year 2024, as authorized by the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), shall remain available until expended by the contractor or grantee.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

For fiscal year 2024, up to \$400,000 of the payments authorized by chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code, may be retained for administrative expenses of the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Program: *Provided*, That the amounts provided under this Act specifically for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program are the only amounts available for payments authorized under chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That in the event the sums appropriated for any fiscal year for payments pursuant to this chapter are insufficient to make the full payments authorized by that chapter to all units of local government, then the payment to each local government shall be made proportionally: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may make adjustments to payment to individual units of local government to correct for prior overpayments or underpayments: *Provided further*, That no payment shall be made pursuant to that chapter to otherwise eligible units of local government if the computed amount of the payment is less than \$100.

INSULAR AFFAIRS
ASSISTANCE TO TERRITORIES

For expenses necessary for assistance to territories under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior and other jurisdictions identified in section 104(e) of Public Law 108-188, \$107,857,000, of which: (1) \$97,640,000 shall remain available until expended for territorial assistance, including general technical assistance, maintenance assistance, disaster assistance, coral reef initiative and natural resources activities, and brown tree snake control and research; grants to the judiciary in American Samoa

for compensation and expenses, as authorized by law (48 U.S.C. 1661(c)); grants to the Government of American Samoa, in addition to current local revenues, for construction and support of governmental functions; grants to the Government of the Virgin Islands, as authorized by law; grants to the Government of Guam, as authorized by law; and grants to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, as authorized by law (Public Law 94-241; 90 Stat. 272); and (2) \$10,217,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for salaries and expenses of the Office of Insular Affairs: *Provided*, That all financial transactions of the territorial and local governments herein provided for, including such transactions of all agencies or instrumentalities established or used by such governments, may be audited by the Government Accountability Office, at its discretion, in accordance with chapter 35 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That Northern Mariana Islands Covenant grant funding shall be provided according to those terms of the Agreement of the Special Representatives on Future United States Financial Assistance for the Northern Mariana Islands approved by Public Law 104-134: *Provided further*, That the funds for the program of operations and maintenance improvement are appropriated to institutionalize routine operations and maintenance improvement of capital infrastructure with territorial participation and cost sharing to be determined by the Secretary based on the grantee’s commitment to timely maintenance of its capital assets: *Provided further*, That any appropriation for disaster assistance under this heading in this Act or previous appropriations Acts may be used as non-Federal matching funds for the purpose of hazard mitigation grants provided pursuant to section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c).

COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION

For grants and necessary expenses, \$1,463,000, to remain available until expended, as provided for in sections 221(a)(2) and 233 of the Compact of Free Association for the Republic of Palau; and section 221(a)(2) of the Compacts of Free Association for the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, as authorized by Public Law 99-658 and Public Law 108-188.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

At the request of the Governor of Guam, the Secretary may transfer discretionary funds or mandatory funds provided under section 104(e) of Public Law 108-188 and Public Law 104-134, that are allocated for Guam, to the Secretary of Agriculture for the subsidy cost of direct or guaranteed loans, plus not to exceed three percent of the amount of the subsidy transferred for the cost of loan administration, for the purposes authorized by the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 and section 306(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act for construction and repair projects in Guam, and such funds shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That such loans or loan guarantees may be made without regard to the population of the area, credit elsewhere requirements, and restrictions on the types of eligible entities under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 and section 306(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: *Provided further*, That any funds transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be in addition to funds otherwise made available to make or guarantee loans under such authorities.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Solicitor, \$90,945,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, \$64,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

DEPARTMENT-WIDE PROGRAMS

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for fire preparedness, fire suppression operations, fire science and research, emergency rehabilitation, fuels management activities, and rural fire assistance by the Department of the Interior, \$1,097,443,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$12,000,000 shall be for the renovation or construction of fire facilities: *Provided*, That such funds are also available for repayment of advances to other appropriation accounts from which funds were previously transferred for such purposes: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided \$247,000,000 is for fuels management activities: *Provided further*, That persons hired pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 1469 may be furnished subsistence and lodging without cost from funds available from this appropriation: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 42 U.S.C. 1856d, sums received by a bureau or office of the Department of the Interior for fire protection rendered pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1856 et seq., protection of United States property, may be credited to the appropriation from which funds were expended to provide that protection, and are available without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That using the amounts designated under this title of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior may enter into procurement contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements, for fuels management activities, and for training and monitoring associated with such fuels management activities on Federal land, or on adjacent non-Federal land for activities that benefit resources on Federal land: *Provided further*, That the costs of implementing any cooperative agreement between the Federal Government and any non-Federal entity may be shared, as mutually agreed on by the affected parties: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding requirements of the Competition in Contracting Act, the Secretary, for purposes of fuels management activities, may obtain maximum practicable competition among: (1) local private, non-profit, or cooperative entities; (2) Youth Conservation Corps crews, Public Lands Corps (Public Law 109-154), or related partnerships with State, local, or nonprofit youth groups; (3) small or micro-businesses; or (4) other entities that will hire or train locally a significant percentage, defined as 50 percent or more, of the project workforce to complete such contracts: *Provided further*, That in implementing this section, the Secretary shall develop written guidance to field units to ensure accountability and consistent application of the authorities provided herein: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be used to reimburse the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for the costs of carrying out their responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to consult and conference, as required by section 7 of such Act, in connection with wildland fire management activities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior may use wildland fire appropriations to enter into leases of real property with local govern-

ments, at or below fair market value, to construct capitalized improvements for fire facilities on such leased properties, including but not limited to fire guard stations, retardant stations, and other initial attack and fire support facilities, and to make advance payments for any such lease or for construction activity associated with the lease: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize the transfer of funds appropriated for wildland fire management, in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$50,000,000 between the Departments when such transfers would facilitate and expedite wildland fire management programs and projects: *Provided further*, That funds provided for wildfire suppression shall be available for support of Federal emergency response actions: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for assistance to or through the Department of State in connection with forest and rangeland research, technical information, and assistance in foreign countries, and, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, shall be available to support forestry, wildland fire management, and related natural resource activities outside the United States and its territories and possessions, including technical assistance, education and training, and cooperation with United States and international organizations: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, \$383,657,000 shall be available for wildfire suppression operations, and is provided to meet the terms of section 251(b)(2)(F)(i)(I) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS RESERVE
FUND
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

In addition to the amounts provided under the heading "Department of the Interior—Department-Wide Programs—Wildland Fire Management" for wildfire suppression operations, \$350,000,000, to remain available until transferred, is additional new budget authority specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(F) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided*, That such amounts may be transferred to and merged with amounts made available under the headings "Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management" and "Department of the Interior—Department-Wide Programs—Wildland Fire Management" for wildfire suppression operations in the fiscal year in which such amounts are transferred: *Provided further*, That amounts may be transferred to the "Wildland Fire Management" accounts in the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior only upon the notification of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations that all wildfire suppression operations funds appropriated under that heading in this and prior appropriations Acts to the agency to which the funds will be transferred will be obligated within 30 days: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That, in determining whether all wildfire suppression operations funds appropriated under the heading "Wildland Fire Management" in this and prior appropriations Acts to either the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior will be obligated within 30 days pursuant to the preceding proviso, any funds transferred or permitted to be transferred pursuant to any other transfer authority provided by law shall be excluded.

CENTRAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FUND

For necessary expenses of the Department of the Interior and any of its component of-

fices and bureaus for the response action, including associated activities, performed pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), \$9,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ENERGY COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Department of the Interior to inventory, assess, decommission, reclaim, respond to hazardous substance releases, remediate lands pursuant to section 40704 of Public Law 117-58 (30 U.S.C. 1245), and carry out the purposes of section 349 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15907), as amended, \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount shall be in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes: *Provided further*, That amounts appropriated under this heading are available for program management and oversight of these activities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may transfer the funds provided under this heading in this Act to any other account in the Department to carry out such purposes, and may expend such funds directly, or through grants: *Provided further*, That these amounts are not available to fulfill Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) obligations agreed to in settlement or imposed by a court, whether for payment of funds or for work to be performed.

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND
RESTORATION

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FUND

To conduct natural resource damage assessment, restoration activities, and onshore oil spill preparedness by the Department of the Interior necessary to carry out the provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), and 54 U.S.C. 100721 et seq., \$7,750,000, to remain available until expended.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

For the operation and maintenance of a departmental financial and business management system, data management, information technology improvements of general benefit to the Department, cybersecurity, and the consolidation of facilities and operations throughout the Department, \$89,758,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated in this Act or any other Act may be used to establish reserves in the Working Capital Fund account other than for accrued annual leave and depreciation of equipment without prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior may assess reasonable charges to State, local, and Tribal government employees for training services provided by the National Indian Program Training Center, other than training related to Public Law 93-638: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may lease or otherwise provide space and related facilities, equipment, or professional services of the National Indian Program Training Center to State, local and Tribal government employees or persons or organizations engaged in cultural, educational, or recreational activities (as defined in section 3306(a) of title 40, United States Code) at the prevailing rate for similar space, facilities, equipment, or services in the vicinity of the National Indian Program Training Center: *Provided further*, That all funds received pursuant to the two preceding provisos shall be credited to this account, shall be available until expended, and

shall be used by the Secretary for necessary expenses of the National Indian Program Training Center: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may enter into grants and cooperative agreements to support the Office of Natural Resource Revenue's collection and disbursement of royalties, fees, and other mineral revenue proceeds, as authorized by law.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

There is hereby authorized for acquisition from available resources within the Working Capital Fund, aircraft which may be obtained by donation, purchase, or through available excess surplus property: *Provided*, That existing aircraft being replaced may be sold, with proceeds derived or trade-in value used to offset the purchase price for the replacement aircraft.

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

For necessary expenses for management of the collection and disbursement of royalties, fees, and other mineral revenue proceeds, and for grants and cooperative agreements, as authorized by law, \$157,440,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025; of which \$71,251,000 shall remain available until expended for the purpose of mineral revenue management activities: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, \$15,000 shall be available for refunds of overpayments in connection with certain Indian leases in which the Secretary of the Interior concurred with the claimed refund due, to pay amounts owed to Indian allottees or Tribes, or to correct prior unrecoverable erroneous payments.

GENERAL PROVISIONS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

EMERGENCY TRANSFER AUTHORITY—INTRA-BUREAU

SEC. 101. Appropriations made in this title shall be available for expenditure or transfer (within each bureau or office), with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, for the emergency reconstruction, replacement, or repair of aircraft, buildings, utilities, or other facilities or equipment damaged or destroyed by fire, flood, storm, or other unavoidable causes: *Provided*, That no funds shall be made available under this authority until funds specifically made available to the Department of the Interior for emergencies have been exhausted: *Provided further*, That all funds used pursuant to this section must be replenished by a supplemental appropriation, which must be requested as promptly as possible.

EMERGENCY TRANSFER AUTHORITY—DEPARTMENT-WIDE

SEC. 102. The Secretary of the Interior may authorize the expenditure or transfer of any no year appropriation in this title, in addition to the amounts included in the budget programs of the several agencies, for the suppression or emergency prevention of wildland fires on or threatening lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior; for the emergency rehabilitation of burned-over lands under its jurisdiction; for emergency actions related to potential or actual earthquakes, floods, volcanoes, storms, or other unavoidable causes; for contingency planning subsequent to actual oil spills; for response and natural resource damage assessment activities related to actual oil spills or releases of hazardous substances into the environment; for the prevention, suppression, and control of actual or potential grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary, pursuant to the authority in section 417(b) of Public Law 106-224 (7 U.S.C. 7717(b)); for emergency reclamation projects

under section 410 of Public Law 95-87; and shall transfer, from any no year funds available to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, such funds as may be necessary to permit assumption of regulatory authority in the event a primacy State is not carrying out the regulatory provisions of the Surface Mining Act: *Provided*, That appropriations made in this title for wildland fire operations shall be available for the payment of obligations incurred during the preceding fiscal year, and for reimbursement to other Federal agencies for destruction of vehicles, aircraft, or other equipment in connection with their use for wildland fire operations, with such reimbursement to be credited to appropriations currently available at the time of receipt thereof: *Provided further*, That for wildland fire operations, no funds shall be made available under this authority until the Secretary determines that funds appropriated for "wildland fire suppression" shall be exhausted within 30 days: *Provided further*, That all funds used pursuant to this section must be replenished by a supplemental appropriation, which must be requested as promptly as possible: *Provided further*, That such replenishment funds shall be used to reimburse, on a pro rata basis, accounts from which emergency funds were transferred.

AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS

SEC. 103. Appropriations made to the Department of the Interior in this title shall be available for services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, when authorized by the Secretary of the Interior, in total amount not to exceed \$500,000; purchase and replacement of motor vehicles, including specially equipped law enforcement vehicles; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; hire of passenger motor vehicles; purchase of reprints; payment for telephone service in private residences in the field, when authorized under regulations approved by the Secretary; and the payment of dues, when authorized by the Secretary, for library membership in societies or associations which issue publications to members only or at a price to members lower than to subscribers who are not members.

AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS, INDIAN TRUST MANAGEMENT

SEC. 104. Appropriations made in this Act under the headings "Bureau of Indian Affairs," "Bureau of Indian Education," and "Bureau of Trust Funds Administration" and any unobligated balances from prior appropriations Acts made under the same headings shall be available for expenditure or transfer for Indian trust management and reform activities. Total funding for settlement support activities shall not exceed amounts specifically designated in this Act for such purpose. The Secretary shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 60 days of the expenditure or transfer of any funds under this section, including the amount expended or transferred and how the funds will be used.

REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

SEC. 105. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to redistribute any Tribal Priority Allocation funds, including Tribal base funds, to alleviate Tribal funding inequities by transferring funds to address identified, unmet needs, dual enrollment, overlapping service areas or inaccurate distribution methodologies. No Tribe shall receive a reduction in Tribal Priority Allocation funds of more than 10 percent in fiscal year 2024. Under circumstances of dual enrollment, overlapping service areas or inaccurate distribution methodologies, the 10 percent limitation does not apply.

OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF INSPECTION FEES

SEC. 106. (a) In fiscal year 2024, the Secretary of the Interior shall collect a non-refundable inspection fee, which shall be deposited in the "Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement" account, from the designated operator for facilities subject to inspection under 43 U.S.C. 1348(c).

(b) Annual fees shall be collected for facilities that are above the waterline, excluding drilling rigs, and are in place at the start of the fiscal year. Fees for fiscal year 2024 shall be—

(1) \$10,500 for facilities with no wells, but with processing equipment or gathering lines;

(2) \$17,000 for facilities with 1 to 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells; and

(3) \$31,500 for facilities with more than 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells.

(c) Fees for drilling rigs shall be assessed for all inspections completed in fiscal year 2024. Fees for fiscal year 2024 shall be—

(1) \$30,500 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of 500 feet or more; and

(2) \$16,700 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of less than 500 feet.

(d) Fees for inspection of well operations conducted via non-rig units as outlined in title 30 CFR 250 subparts D, E, F, and Q shall be assessed for all inspections completed in fiscal year 2024. Fees for fiscal year 2024 shall be—

(1) \$13,260 per inspection for non-rig units operating in water depths of 2,500 feet or more;

(2) \$11,530 per inspection for non-rig units operating in water depths between 500 and 2,499 feet; and

(3) \$4,470 per inspection for non-rig units operating in water depths of less than 500 feet.

(e) The Secretary shall bill designated operators under subsection (b) quarterly, with payment required within 30 days of billing. The Secretary shall bill designated operators under subsection (c) within 30 days of the end of the month in which the inspection occurred, with payment required within 30 days of billing. The Secretary shall bill designated operators under subsection (d) with payment required by the end of the following quarter.

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS FOR WILD HORSE AND BURRO HOLDING FACILITIES

SEC. 107. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior may enter into multiyear cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations and other appropriate entities, and may enter into multiyear contracts in accordance with the provisions of section 3903 of title 41, United States Code (except that the 5-year term restriction in subsection (a) shall not apply), for the long-term care and maintenance of excess wild free-roaming horses and burros by such organizations or entities on private land. Such cooperative agreements and contracts may not exceed 10 years, subject to renewal at the discretion of the Secretary.

MASS MARKING OF SALMONIDS

SEC. 108. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall, in carrying out its responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species of salmon, implement a system of mass marking of salmonid stocks, intended for harvest, that are released from federally operated or federally financed hatcheries including but not limited to fish releases of coho, chinook, and steelhead species. Marked fish must have a visible mark that can be readily identified by commercial and recreational fishers.

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS WITH INDIAN AFFAIRS

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2024, in carrying out work involving cooperation with State, local, and Tribal governments or any political subdivision thereof, Indian Affairs may record obligations against accounts receivable from any such entities, except that total obligations at the end of the fiscal year shall not exceed total budgetary resources available at the end of the fiscal year.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR EXPERIENCED SERVICES PROGRAM

SEC. 110. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law relating to Federal grants and cooperative agreements, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to make grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, private nonprofit organizations designated by the Secretary of Labor under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 to utilize the talents of older Americans in programs authorized by other provisions of law administered by the Secretary and consistent with such provisions of law.

(b) Prior to awarding any grant or agreement under subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that the agreement would not—

(1) result in the displacement of individuals currently employed by the Department, including partial displacement through reduction of non-overtime hours, wages, or employment benefits;

(2) result in the use of an individual under the Department of the Interior Experienced Services Program for a job or function in a case in which a Federal employee is in a lay-off status from the same or substantially equivalent job within the Department; or

(3) affect existing contracts for services.

OBLIGATION OF FUNDS

SEC. 111. Amounts appropriated by this Act to the Department of the Interior shall be available for obligation and expenditure not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEPARATION OF ACCOUNTS

SEC. 112. The Secretary of the Interior, in order to implement an orderly transition to separate accounts of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education, may transfer funds among and between the successor offices and bureaus affected by the reorganization only in conformance with the reprogramming guidelines described in this Act.

PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT)

SEC. 113. Section 6906 of title 31, United States Code, shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year 2024” for “fiscal year 2019”.

INTERAGENCY MOTOR POOL

SEC. 114. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or Federal regulation, federally recognized Indian Tribes or authorized Tribal organizations that receive Tribally-Controlled School Grants pursuant to Public Law 100-297 may obtain interagency motor vehicles and related services for performance of any activities carried out under such grants to the same extent as if they were contracting under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

APPRAISER PAY AUTHORITY

SEC. 115. For fiscal year 2024, funds made available in this or any other Act or otherwise made available to the Department of the Interior for the Appraisal and Valuation Services Office may be used by the Secretary of the Interior to establish higher minimum rates of basic pay for employees of the Department of the Interior in the Appraiser (GS-1171) job series at grades 11 through 15 carrying out appraisals of real property and

appraisal reviews conducted in support of the Department's realty programs at rates no greater than 15 percent above the minimum rates of basic pay normally scheduled, and such higher rates shall be consistent with subsections (e) through (h) of section 5305 of title 5, United States Code.

SAGE-GROUSE

SEC. 116. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)—

(1) to write or issue a proposed or final rule with regard to—

(A) the greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*);

(B) the Columbia Basin Distinct Population Segment of greater sage-grouse; or

(C) the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of greater sage-grouse; or

(2) to implement, administer, or enforce—

(A) the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of Greater Sage-Grouse” (78 Fed. Reg. 64327; published October 28, 2013);

(B) the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Status for the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of Greater Sage-Grouse With Special Rule” (78 Fed. Reg. 64357; published October 28, 2013); or

(C) the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Status for the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of Greater Sage-Grouse With Section 4(d) Rule and Designation of Critical Habitat” (88 Fed. Reg. 25613; published April 27, 2023).

STATE CONSERVATION GRANTS

SEC. 117. For expenses necessary to carry out section 200305 of title 54, United States Code, the National Park Service may retain up to 7 percent of the State Conservation Grants program to provide to States, the District of Columbia, and insular areas, as matching grants to support State program administrative costs.

TITLE II

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

For science and technology, including research and development activities, which shall include research and development activities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; necessary expenses for personnel and related costs and travel expenses; procurement of laboratory equipment and supplies; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; and other operating expenses in support of research and development, \$560,707,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the funds included under this heading, \$19,475,000 shall be for Research: National Priorities as specified in the report accompanying this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT

For environmental programs and management, including necessary expenses not otherwise provided for, for personnel and related costs and travel expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; purchase of reprints; library memberships in societies or associations which issue publications to members only or at a price to members lower than to subscribers who are not members; administrative costs of the brownfields program under the Small Business Liability Relief

and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002; implementation of a coal combustion residual permit program under section 2301 of the Water and Waste Act of 2016; and not to exceed \$9,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$2,428,959,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That of the funds included under this heading—

(1) \$35,000,000 shall be for Environmental Protection: National Priorities as specified in the report accompanying this Act;

(2) \$651,226,000 shall be for Geographic Programs as specified in the report accompanying this Act.

In addition, \$9,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses of activities described in section 26(b)(1) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2625(b)(1)): *Provided*, That fees collected pursuant to that section of that Act and deposited in the “TSCA Service Fee Fund” as discretionary offsetting receipts in fiscal year 2024 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this appropriation and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated in this paragraph from the general fund for fiscal year 2024 shall be reduced by the amount of discretionary offsetting receipts received during fiscal year 2024, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$0: *Provided further*, That to the extent that amounts realized from such receipts exceed \$9,000,000, those amounts in excess of \$9,000,000 shall be deposited in the “TSCA Service Fee Fund” as discretionary offsetting receipts in fiscal year 2024, shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the funds included in the first paragraph under this heading, the Chemical Risk Review and Reduction program project shall be allocated for this fiscal year, excluding the amount of any fees appropriated, not less than the amount of appropriations for that program project for fiscal year 2014.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$44,030,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities of, or for use by, the Environmental Protection Agency, \$24,000,000, to remain available until expended.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SUPERFUND (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), including sections 111(c)(3), (c)(5), (c)(6), and (e)(4) (42 U.S.C. 9611), and hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft, \$355,856,000, to remain available until expended, consisting of such sums as are available in the Trust Fund on September 30, 2023, and not otherwise appropriated from the Trust Fund, as authorized by section 517(a) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) and up to \$355,856,000 as a payment from general revenues to the Hazardous Substance Superfund for purposes as authorized by section 517(b) of SARA: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be allocated to other Federal agencies in accordance with section 111(a) of CERCLA: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$13,847,000 shall be paid to the “Office of Inspector General” appropriation to remain

available until September 30, 2025, and \$31,928,000 shall be paid to the “Science and Technology” appropriation to remain available until September 30, 2025.

LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK TRUST FUND PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out leaking underground storage tank cleanup activities authorized by subtitle I of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, \$83,885,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$60,691,000 shall be for carrying out leaking underground storage tank cleanup activities authorized by section 9003(h) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act; and \$23,194,000 shall be for carrying out the other provisions of the Solid Waste Disposal Act specified in section 9508(c) of the Internal Revenue Code: *Provided*, That the Administrator is authorized to use appropriations made available under this heading to implement section 9013 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to provide financial assistance to federally recognized Indian Tribes for the development and implementation of programs to manage underground storage tanks.

INLAND OIL SPILL PROGRAMS

For expenses necessary to carry out the Environmental Protection Agency’s responsibilities under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, including hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft, \$19,865,000, to be derived from the Oil Spill Liability trust fund, to remain available until expended.

STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For environmental programs and infrastructure assistance, including capitalization grants for State revolving funds and performance partnership grants, \$2,583,858,000, to remain available until expended, of which—

(1) \$535,000,000 shall be for making capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act; and of which \$460,611,000 shall be for making capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act: *Provided*, That \$470,139,492 of the funds made available for capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds and \$410,309,777 of the funds made available for capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds shall be for the construction of drinking water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure and for water quality protection in accordance with the terms and conditions specified for such grants in the report accompanying this Act for projects specified for “STAG—Drinking Water State Revolving Fund” and “STAG—Clean Water State Revolving Fund” in the table titled “Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items” included in the report accompanying this Act, and, for purposes of these grants, each grantee shall contribute not less than 20 percent of the cost of the project unless the grantee is approved for a waiver by the Agency: *Provided further*, That the Administrator is authorized to use up to \$1,500,000 of funds made available for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds under this heading under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381) to conduct the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 603(d)(7) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the limitation on the amounts in a State water pollution control revolving fund that may be used by a State to administer the fund shall not apply to amounts included as principal in loans made by such fund in fiscal year 2024 and prior years where such amounts represent costs of administering the fund to the

extent that such amounts are or were deemed reasonable by the Administrator, accounted for separately from other assets in the fund, and used for eligible purposes of the fund, including administration: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (g)(1), (h), and (i) of section 201 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, grants made under title II of such Act for American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the United States Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia may also be made for the purpose of providing assistance: (1) solely for facility plans, design activities, or plans, specifications, and estimates for any proposed project for the construction of treatment works; and (2) for the construction, repair, or replacement of privately owned treatment works serving one or more principal residences or small commercial establishments: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding the provisions of such subsections (g)(1), (h), and (i) of section 201 and section 518(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, funds reserved by the Administrator for grants under section 518(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act may also be used to provide assistance: (1) solely for facility plans, design activities, or plans, specifications, and estimates for any proposed project for the construction of treatment works; and (2) for the construction, repair, or replacement of privately owned treatment works serving one or more principal residences or small commercial establishments: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding any provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and regulations issued pursuant thereof, up to a total of \$2,000,000 of the funds reserved by the Administrator for grants under section 518(c) of such Act may also be used for grants for training, technical assistance, and educational programs relating to the operation and management of the treatment works specified in section 518(c) of such Act: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, funds reserved under section 518(c) of such Act shall be available for grants only to Indian Tribes, as defined in section 518(h) of such Act and former Indian reservations in Oklahoma (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior) and Native Villages as defined in Public Law 92–203: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding the limitation on amounts in section 518(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, up to a total of 2 percent of the funds appropriated, or \$30,000,000, and notwithstanding the limitation on amounts in section 1452(i) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, up to a total of 2 percent of the funds appropriated, or \$20,000,000, for State Revolving Funds under such Acts may be reserved by the Administrator for grants under section 518(c) and section 1452(i) of such Acts: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding the amounts specified in section 205(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, up to 1.5 percent of the aggregate funds appropriated for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program under the Act less any sums reserved under section 518(c) of the Act, may be reserved by the Administrator for grants made under title II of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act for American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and United States Virgin Islands: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding the limitations on amounts specified in section 1452(j) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, up to 1.5 percent of the funds appropriated for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs under the Safe Drinking Water Act may be reserved by the Administrator for grants made under section 1452(j) of the Safe

Drinking Water Act: *Provided further*, That 10 percent of the funds made available under this title to each State for Clean Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants and 14 percent of the funds made available under this title to each State for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants shall be used by the State to provide additional subsidy to eligible recipients in the form of forgiveness of principal, negative interest loans, or grants (or any combination of these), and shall be so used by the State only where such funds are provided as initial financing for an eligible recipient or to buy, refinance, or restructure the debt obligations of eligible recipients only where such debt was incurred on or after the date of enactment of this Act, or where such debt was incurred prior to the date of enactment of this Act if the State, with concurrence from the Administrator, determines that such funds could be used to help address a threat to public health from heightened exposure to lead in drinking water or if a Federal or State emergency declaration has been issued due to a threat to public health from heightened exposure to lead in a municipal drinking water supply before the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That in a State in which such an emergency declaration has been issued, the State may use more than 14 percent of the funds made available under this title to the State for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants to provide additional subsidy to eligible recipients: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 1452(o) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(o)), the Administrator shall reserve up to \$12,000,000 of the amounts made available for fiscal year 2024 for making capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to pay the costs of monitoring for unregulated contaminants under section 1445(a)(2)(C) of such Act:

(2) \$29,000,000 shall be for architectural, engineering, planning, design, construction and related activities in connection with the construction of high priority water and wastewater facilities in the area of the southwestern United States, after consultation with the appropriate commission: *Provided*, That no funds made available by this Act to address the water, wastewater and other critical infrastructure needs of the colonias in the United States located in the southwestern United States shall be made available to a county or municipal government unless that government has established an enforceable local ordinance, or other zoning rule, which prevents in that jurisdiction the development or construction of any additional colonia areas, or the development within an existing colonia the construction of any new home, business, or other structure which lacks water, wastewater, or other necessary infrastructure;

(3) \$30,558,000 shall be for grants to the State of Alaska to address drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs of rural and Alaska Native Villages: *Provided*, That of these funds: (A) the State of Alaska shall provide a match of 25 percent; (B) no more than 5 percent of the funds may be used for administrative and overhead expenses; and (C) the State of Alaska shall make awards consistent with the Statewide priority list established in conjunction with the Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for all water, sewer, waste disposal, and similar projects carried out by the State of Alaska that are funded under section 221 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1301) or the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.) which shall allocate not less than 25 percent of the funds provided for projects in regional hub communities;

(4) \$80,000,000 shall be to carry out section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)), including grants, interagency agreements, and associated program support costs: *Provided*, That at least 10 percent shall be allocated for assistance in persistent poverty counties: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this section, the term “persistent poverty counties” means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1993 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, the 2000 decennial census, and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, or any territory or possession of the United States;

(5) \$105,000,000 shall be for grants under title VII, subtitle G of the Energy Policy Act of 2005;

(6) \$69,927,000 shall be for targeted airshed grants in accordance with the terms and conditions in the report accompanying this Act;

(7) \$23,221,000 shall be for grants under subsections (a) through (j) of section 1459A of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-19a);

(8) \$30,500,000 shall be for grants under section 1464(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-24(d));

(9) \$25,011,000 shall be for grants under section 1459B of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-19b);

(10) \$7,000,000 shall be for grants under section 1459A(1) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-19a(1));

(11) \$27,000,000 shall be for grants under section 104(b)(8) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1254(b)(8));

(12) \$5,000,000 shall be for grants under section 224 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1302b);

(13) \$5,000,000 shall be for grants under section 226 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1302d);

(14) \$3,000,000 shall be for grants under section 227 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1302e);

(15) \$3,000,000 shall be for grants under section 220 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1300);

(16) \$50,000,000 shall be for grants under section 221 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1301);

(17) \$2,000,000 shall be for grants under section 4304(b) of the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (42 U.S.C. 300j-19e);

(18) \$3,000,000 shall be for carrying out section 302(a) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (33 U.S.C. 4282(a)), of which not more than 2 percent shall be for administrative costs to carry out such section: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 302(a) of such Act, the Administrator may also provide grants pursuant to such authority to Intertribal consortia consistent with the requirements in 40 CFR 35.504(a), to former Indian reservations in Oklahoma (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior), and Alaska Native Villages as defined in Public Law 92-203;

(19) \$5,000,000 shall be for grants under section 1459F of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-19g);

(20) \$2,000,000 shall be for carrying out section 2001 of the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-270, 42 U.S.C. 300j-3c note): *Provided*, That the Administrator may award grants to and enter into contracts with Tribes, Intertribal consortia, public or private agencies, institutions, organizations, and individuals, without regard to section 3324(a) and (b) of title 31 and section 6101 of title 41, United States Code, and enter into interagency agreements as appropriate;

(21) \$5,000,000 shall be for grants under section 50217(b) of the Infrastructure Invest-

ment and Jobs Act (33 U.S.C. 1302f(b); Public Law 117-58);

(22) \$5,000,000 shall be for grants under section 124 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1276); and

(23) \$1,073,030,000 shall be for grants, including associated program support costs, to States, federally recognized Tribes, interstate agencies, Tribal consortia, and air pollution control agencies for multi-media or single media pollution prevention, control and abatement, and related activities, including activities pursuant to the provisions set forth under this heading in Public Law 104-134, and for making grants under section 103 of the Clean Air Act for particulate matter monitoring and data collection activities subject to terms and conditions specified by the Administrator, and under section 2301 of the Water and Waste Act of 2016 to assist States in developing and implementing programs for control of coal combustion residuals, of which: \$36,340,000 shall be for carrying out section 128 of CERCLA; \$1,505,000 shall be for grants to States under section 2007(f)(2) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, which shall be in addition to funds appropriated under the heading “Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program” to carry out the provisions of the Solid Waste Disposal Act specified in section 9508(c) of the Internal Revenue Code other than section 9003(h) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act; \$18,512,000 of the funds available for grants under section 106 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act shall be for State participation in national- and State-level statistical surveys of water resources and enhancements to State monitoring programs.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans and for the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, \$65,974,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans, including capitalized interest, and total loan principal, including capitalized interest, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$12,500,000,000: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$5,000,000 shall be used solely for the cost of direct loans and for the cost of guaranteed loans for projects described in section 5026(9) of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 to State infrastructure financing authorities, as authorized by section 5033(e) of such Act: *Provided further*, That the use of direct loans or loan guarantee authority under this heading for direct loans or commitments to guarantee loans for any project shall be in accordance with the criteria published in the Federal Register on June 30, 2020 (85 FR 39189) pursuant to the fourth proviso under the heading “Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program Account” in division D of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94): *Provided further*, That none of the direct loans or loan guarantee authority made available under this heading shall be available for any project unless the Administrator and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget have certified in advance in writing that the direct loan or loan guarantee, as applicable, and the project comply with the criteria referenced in the previous proviso: *Provided further*, That, for the purposes of carrying out the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Director of the Congressional Budget Office may request,

and the Administrator shall promptly provide, documentation and information relating to a project identified in a Letter of Interest submitted to the Administrator pursuant to a Notice of Funding Availability for applications for credit assistance under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program, including with respect to a project that was initiated or completed before the date of enactment of this Act.

In addition, fees authorized to be collected pursuant to sections 5029 and 5030 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 shall be deposited in this account, to remain available until expended.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, notwithstanding section 5033 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, \$6,026,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS— ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 6303(1) and 6305(1), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in carrying out the Agency's function to implement directly Federal environmental programs required or authorized by law in the absence of an acceptable Tribal program, may award cooperative agreements to federally recognized Indian Tribes or Intertribal consortia, if authorized by their member Tribes, to assist the Administrator in implementing Federal environmental programs for Indian Tribes required or authorized by law, except that no such cooperative agreements may be awarded from funds designated for State financial assistance agreements.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency is authorized to collect and obligate pesticide registration service fees in accordance with section 33 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w-8), to remain available until expended.

Notwithstanding section 33(d)(2) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 U.S.C. 136w-8(d)(2)), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may assess fees under section 33 of FIFRA (7 U.S.C. 136w-8) for fiscal year 2024.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency is authorized to collect and obligate fees in accordance with section 3024 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6939g) for fiscal year 2024, to remain available until expended.

The Administrator is authorized to transfer up to \$368,000,000 of the funds appropriated for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative under the heading “Environmental Programs and Management” to the head of any Federal department or agency, with the concurrence of such head, to carry out activities that would support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement programs, projects, or activities; to enter into an interagency agreement with the head of such Federal department or agency to carry out these activities; and to make grants to governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, institutions, and individuals for planning, research, monitoring, outreach, and implementation in furtherance of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

The Science and Technology, Environmental Programs and Management, Office of Inspector General, Hazardous Substance Superfund, and Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program Accounts, are

available for the construction, alteration, repair, rehabilitation, and renovation of facilities, provided that the cost does not exceed \$300,000 per project.

For fiscal year 2024, and notwithstanding section 518(f) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1377(f)), the Administrator is authorized to use the amounts appropriated for any fiscal year under section 319 of the Act to make grants to Indian Tribes pursuant to sections 319(h) and 518(e) of that Act.

The Administrator is authorized to use the amounts appropriated under the heading “Environmental Programs and Management” for fiscal year 2024 to provide grants to implement the Southeast New England Watershed Restoration Program.

Notwithstanding the limitations on amounts in section 320(i)(2)(B) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, not less than \$2,800,000 of the funds made available under this title for the National Estuary Program shall be for making competitive awards described in section 320(g)(4).

For fiscal year 2024, the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention and the Office of Water may, using funds appropriated under the headings “Environmental Programs and Management” and “Science and Technology”, contract directly with individuals or indirectly with institutions or non-profit organizations, without regard to 41 U.S.C. 5, for the temporary or intermittent personal services of students or recent graduates, who shall be considered employees for the purposes of chapters 57 and 81 of title 5, United States Code, relating to compensation for travel and work injuries, and chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, relating to tort claims, but shall not be considered to be Federal employees for any other purpose: *Provided*, That amounts used for this purpose by the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention and the Office of Water collectively may not exceed \$2,000,000.

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, \$1,000,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to any agency in the Natural Resources and Environment mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the office.

FOREST SERVICE

FOREST SERVICE OPERATIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, \$1,069,086,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That a portion of the funds made available under this heading shall be for the base salary and expenses of employees in the Chief's Office, the Work Environment and Performance Office, the Business Operations Deputy Area, and the Chief Financial Officer's Office to carry out administrative and general management support functions: *Provided further*, That funds provided under this heading shall be available for the costs of facility maintenance, repairs, and leases for buildings and sites where these administrative, general management and other Forest Service support functions take place; the costs of all utility and telecommunication expenses of the Forest Service, as well as business services; and, for information technology, including cybersecurity requirements: *Provided further*, That funds provided under this heading may be

used for necessary expenses to carry out administrative and general management support functions of the Forest Service not otherwise provided for and necessary for its operation.

FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

For necessary expenses of forest and rangeland research as authorized by law, \$275,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, \$32,197,000 is for the forest inventory and analysis program: *Provided further*, That all authorities for the use of funds, including the use of contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements, available to execute the Forest and Rangeland Research appropriation, are also available in the utilization of these funds for Fire Science Research.

STATE, PRIVATE, AND TRIBAL FORESTRY

For necessary expenses of cooperating with and providing technical and financial assistance to States, territories, possessions, Tribes, and others, and for forest health management, including for invasive plants, and conducting an international program and trade compliance activities as authorized, \$305,198,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, for management, protection, improvement, and utilization of the National Forest System, and for hazardous fuels management on or adjacent to such lands, \$1,816,437,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, \$32,000,000 shall be deposited in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund for ecological restoration treatments as authorized by section 4003(f) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303(f)): *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, \$41,600,000 shall be for forest products: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, \$207,000,000 shall be for hazardous fuels management activities, of which not to exceed \$20,000,000 may be used to make grants, using any authorities available to the Forest Service under the “State, Private, and Tribal Forestry” appropriation, for the purpose of creating incentives for increased use of biomass from National Forest System lands: *Provided further*, That \$20,000,000 may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into procurement contracts or cooperative agreements or to issue grants for hazardous fuels management activities, and for training or monitoring associated with such hazardous fuels management activities on Federal land, or on non-Federal land if the Secretary determines such activities benefit resources on Federal land: *Provided further*, That funds made available to implement the Community Forest Restoration Act, Public Law 106-393, title VI, shall be available for use on non-Federal lands in accordance with authorities made available to the Forest Service under the “State, Private, and Tribal Forestry” appropriation: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 33 of the Bankhead Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1012), the Secretary of Agriculture, in calculating a fee for grazing on a National Grassland, may provide a credit of up to 50 percent of the calculated fee to a Grazing Association or direct permittee for a conservation practice approved by the Secretary in advance of the fiscal year in which the cost of the conservation practice is incurred, and that the amount credited shall remain available to the Grazing Association or the direct permittee, as appropriate, in the fiscal year in which the credit is made and each fiscal year thereafter for use on the project for conservation practices approved by the Sec-

retary: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated to this account shall be available for the base salary and expenses of employees that carry out the functions funded by the “Capital Improvement and Maintenance” account, the “Range Betterment Fund” account, and the “Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses” account.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, \$152,243,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027, for construction, capital improvement, maintenance, and acquisition of buildings and other facilities and infrastructure; for construction, reconstruction, and decommissioning of roads that are no longer needed, including unauthorized roads that are not part of the transportation system; and for maintenance of forest roads and trails by the Forest Service as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 532-538 and 23 U.S.C. 101 and 205: *Provided*, That \$10,000,000 shall be for activities authorized by 16 U.S.C. 538(a): *Provided further*, That funds becoming available in fiscal year 2024 under the Act of March 4, 1913 (16 U.S.C. 501) shall be transferred to the General Fund of the Treasury and shall not be available for transfer or obligation for any other purpose unless the funds are appropriated.

ACQUISITION OF LANDS FOR NATIONAL FORESTS SPECIAL ACTS

For acquisition of lands within the exterior boundaries of the Cache, Uinta, and Wasatch National Forests, Utah; the Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada; and the Angeles, San Bernardino, Sequoia, and Cleveland National Forests, California; and the Ozark-St. Francis and Ouachita National Forests, Arkansas; as authorized by law, \$664,000, to be derived from forest receipts.

ACQUISITION OF LANDS TO COMPLETE LAND EXCHANGES

For acquisition of lands, such sums, to be derived from funds deposited by State, county, or municipal governments, public school districts, or other public school authorities, and for authorized expenditures from funds deposited by non-Federal parties pursuant to Land Sale and Exchange Acts, pursuant to the Act of December 4, 1967 (16 U.S.C. 484a), to remain available through September 30, 2027, (16 U.S.C. 516-517a, 555a; Public Law 96-586; Public Law 76-589, Public Law 76-591; and Public Law 78-310).

RANGE BETTERMENT FUND

For necessary expenses of range rehabilitation, protection, and improvement, 50 percent of all moneys received during the prior fiscal year, as fees for grazing domestic livestock on lands in National Forests in the 16 Western States, pursuant to section 401(b)(1) of Public Law 94-579, to remain available through September 30, 2027, of which not to exceed 6 percent shall be available for administrative expenses associated with on-the-ground range rehabilitation, protection, and improvements.

GIFTS, DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS FOR FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

For expenses authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1643(b), \$45,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027, to be derived from the fund established pursuant to the above Act.

MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL FOREST LANDS FOR SUBSISTENCE USES

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service to manage Federal lands in Alaska for subsistence uses under title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3111 et seq.), \$1,099,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for forest fire presuppression activities on National Forest System lands, for emergency wildland fire suppression on or adjacent to such lands or other lands under fire protection agreement, and for emergency rehabilitation of burned-over National Forest System lands and water, \$2,116,956,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such funds, including unobligated balances under this heading, are available for repayment of advances from other appropriations accounts previously transferred for such purposes: *Provided further*, That any unobligated funds appropriated in a previous fiscal year for hazardous fuels management may be transferred to the "National Forest System" account: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be available to reimburse State and other co-operating entities for services provided in response to wildfire and other emergencies or disasters to the extent such reimbursements by the Forest Service for non-fire emergencies are fully repaid by the responsible emergency management agency: *Provided further*, That funds provided shall be available for support to Federal emergency response: *Provided further*, That the costs of implementing any cooperative agreement between the Federal Government and any non-Federal entity may be shared, as mutually agreed on by the affected parties: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, \$1,011,000,000 shall be available for wildfire suppression operations, and is provided to meet the terms of section 251(b)(2)(F)(i)(I) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS RESERVE
FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

In addition to the amounts provided under the heading "Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management" for wildfire suppression operations, \$2,300,000,000, to remain available until transferred, is additional new budget authority specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(F) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided*, That such amounts may be transferred to and merged with amounts made available under the headings "Department of the Interior—Department-Wide Programs—Wildland Fire Management" and "Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management" for wildfire suppression operations in the fiscal year in which such amounts are transferred: *Provided further*, That amounts may be transferred to the "Wildland Fire Management" accounts in the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture only upon the notification of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations that all wildfire suppression operations funds appropriated under that heading in this and prior appropriations Acts to the agency to which the funds will be transferred will be obligated within 30 days: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That, in determining whether all wildfire suppression operations funds appropriated under the heading "Wildland Fire Management" in this and prior appropriations Acts to either the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior will be obligated within 30 days pursuant to the preceding proviso, any funds transferred or permitted to be transferred pursuant to any other transfer authority provided by law shall be excluded.

COMMUNICATIONS SITE ADMINISTRATION
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Amounts collected in this fiscal year pursuant to section 8705(f)(2) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334), shall be deposited in the special account established by section 8705(f)(1) of such Act, shall be available to cover the costs described in subsection (c)(3) of such section of such Act, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts shall be transferred to the "National Forest System" account.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FOREST SERVICE
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations to the Forest Service for the current fiscal year shall be available for: (1) purchase of passenger motor vehicles; acquisition of passenger motor vehicles from excess sources, and hire of such vehicles; purchase, lease, operation, maintenance, and acquisition of aircraft to maintain the operable fleet for use in Forest Service wildland fire programs and other Forest Service programs; notwithstanding other provisions of law, existing aircraft being replaced may be sold, with proceeds derived or trade-in value used to offset the purchase price for the replacement aircraft; (2) services pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2225, and not to exceed \$100,000 for employment under 5 U.S.C. 3109; (3) purchase, erection, and alteration of buildings and other public improvements (7 U.S.C. 2250); (4) acquisition of land, waters, and interests therein pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2268a; (5) for expenses pursuant to the Volunteers in the National Forest Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 558a, 558d, and 558a note); (6) the cost of uniforms as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901-5902; and (7) for debt collection contracts in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3718(c).

Funds made available to the Forest Service in this Act may be transferred between accounts affected by the Forest Service budget restructure outlined in section 435 of division D of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94): *Provided*, That any transfer of funds pursuant to this paragraph shall not increase or decrease the funds appropriated to any account in this fiscal year by more than ten percent: *Provided further*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

Any appropriations or funds available to the Forest Service may be transferred to the Wildland Fire Management appropriation for forest firefighting, emergency rehabilitation of burned-over or damaged lands or waters under its jurisdiction, and fire preparedness due to severe burning conditions upon the Secretary of Agriculture's notification of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations that all fire suppression funds appropriated under the heading "Wildland Fire Management" will be obligated within 30 days: *Provided*, That all funds used pursuant to this paragraph must be replenished by a supplemental appropriation which must be requested as promptly as possible.

Not more than \$50,000,000 of funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for expenditure or transfer to the Department of the Interior for wildland fire management, hazardous fuels management, and State fire assistance when such transfers would facilitate and expedite wildland fire management programs and projects.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Forest Service may transfer unobligated balances of discretionary funds appropriated to the Forest Service by this Act to or within the National Forest System Account, or reprogram funds to be used for the purposes of hazardous fuels management and urgent rehabilitation of burned-over Na-

tional Forest System lands and water: *Provided*, That such transferred funds shall remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That none of the funds transferred pursuant to this paragraph shall be available for obligation without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for assistance to or through the Agency for International Development in connection with forest and rangeland research, technical information, and assistance in foreign countries, and shall be available to support forestry and related natural resource activities outside the United States and its territories and possessions, including technical assistance, education and training, and cooperation with United States government, private sector, and international organizations: *Provided*, That the Forest Service, acting for the International Program, may sign direct funding agreements with foreign governments and institutions as well as other domestic agencies (including the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Department of State, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation), United States private sector firms, institutions and organizations to provide technical assistance and training programs on forestry and rangeland management: *Provided further*, That to maximize effectiveness of domestic and international research and cooperation, the International Program may utilize all authorities related to forestry, research, and cooperative assistance regardless of program designations.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available to enter into a cooperative agreement with the section 509(a)(3) Supporting Organization, "Forest Service International Foundation" to assist the Foundation in meeting administrative, project, and other expenses, and may provide for the Foundation's use of Forest Service personnel and facilities.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for expenditure or transfer to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, for removal, preparation, and adoption of excess wild horses and burros from National Forest System lands, and for the performance of cadastral surveys to designate the boundaries of such lands.

None of the funds made available to the Forest Service in this Act or any other Act with respect to any fiscal year shall be subject to transfer under the provisions of section 702(b) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 2257), section 442 of Public Law 106-224 (7 U.S.C. 7772), or section 10417(b) of Public Law 107-171 (7 U.S.C. 8316(b)).

Not more than \$82,000,000 of funds available to the Forest Service shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Agriculture and not more than \$14,500,000 of funds available to the Forest Service shall be transferred to the Department of Agriculture for Department Reimbursable Programs, commonly referred to as Greenbook charges: *Provided*, That nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit or limit the use of reimbursable agreements requested by the Forest Service in order to obtain information technology services, including telecommunications and system modifications or enhancements, from the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Agriculture.

Of the funds available to the Forest Service, up to \$5,000,000 shall be available for priority projects within the scope of the approved budget, which shall be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps and shall be carried out under the authority of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.).

Of the funds available to the Forest Service, \$4,000 is available to the Chief of the Forest Service for official reception and representation expenses.

Pursuant to sections 405(b) and 410(b) of Public Law 101-593, of the funds available to the Forest Service, up to \$3,000,000 may be advanced in a lump sum to the National Forest Foundation to aid conservation partnership projects in support of the Forest Service mission, without regard to when the Foundation incurs expenses, for projects on or benefitting National Forest System lands or related to Forest Service programs: *Provided*, That of the Federal funds made available to the Foundation, no more than \$300,000 shall be available for administrative expenses: *Provided further*, That the Foundation shall obtain, by the end of the period of Federal financial assistance, private contributions to match funds made available by the Forest Service on at least a one-for-one basis: *Provided further*, That the Foundation may transfer Federal funds to a Federal or non-Federal recipient for a project at the same rate that the recipient has obtained the non-Federal matching funds.

Pursuant to section 2(b)(2) of Public Law 98-244, up to \$1,500,000 of the funds available to the Forest Service may be advanced to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in a lump sum to aid cost-share conservation projects, without regard to when expenses are incurred, on or benefitting National Forest System lands or related to Forest Service programs: *Provided*, That such funds shall be matched on at least a one-for-one basis by the Foundation or its sub-recipients: *Provided further*, That the Foundation may transfer Federal funds to a Federal or non-Federal recipient for a project at the same rate that the recipient has obtained the non-Federal matching funds.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service under the National Forest System heading shall be available for the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into cooperative agreements with other Federal agencies, Tribes, States, local governments, private and nonprofit entities, and educational institutions to support the work of forest or grassland collaboratives on activities benefitting Federal lands and adjacent non-Federal lands, including for technical assistance, administrative functions or costs, and other capacity support needs identified by the Forest Service.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for interactions with and providing technical assistance to rural communities and natural resource-based businesses for sustainable rural development purposes.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for payments to counties within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, pursuant to section 14(c)(1) and (2), and section 16(a)(2) of Public Law 99-663.

Any funds appropriated to the Forest Service may be used to meet the non-Federal share requirement in section 502(c) of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056(c)(2)).

The Forest Service shall not assess funds for the purpose of performing fire, administrative, and other facilities maintenance and decommissioning.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, of any appropriations or funds available to the Forest Service, not to exceed \$500,000 may be used to reimburse the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), Department of Agriculture, for travel and related expenses incurred as a result of OGC assistance or participation requested by the Forest Service at meetings, training sessions, management reviews, land purchase negotiations, and similar matters unrelated to civil litigation: *Pro-*

vided, That future budget justifications for both the Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture should clearly display the sums previously transferred and the sums requested for transfer.

An eligible individual who is employed in any project funded under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.) and administered by the Forest Service shall be considered to be a Federal employee for purposes of chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available to pay, from a single account, the base salary and expenses of employees who carry out functions funded by other accounts for Enterprise Program, Geospatial Technology and Applications Center, remnant Natural Resource Manager, Job Corps, and National Technology and Development Program.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES

For expenses necessary to carry out the Act of August 5, 1954 (68 Stat. 674), the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, and titles II and III of the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Indian Health Service, \$273,556,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, except as otherwise provided herein; and shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2023, and in addition, \$4,901,524,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2024, and remain available through September 30, 2026, except as otherwise provided herein; together with payments received during each fiscal year pursuant to sections 231(b) and 233 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 238(b) and 238b), for services furnished by the Indian Health Service: *Provided*, That funds made available to Tribes and Tribal organizations through contracts, grant agreements, or any other agreements or compacts authorized by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301), shall be deemed to be obligated at the time of the grant or contract award and thereafter shall remain available to the Tribe or Tribal organization without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That \$2,500,000 shall be available for fiscal year 2025 for grants or contracts with public or private institutions to provide alcohol or drug treatment services to Indians, including alcohol detoxification services: *Provided further*, That \$996,755,000 shall remain available until expended for fiscal year 2025 for Purchased/Referred Care: *Provided further*, That of the total amount specified in the preceding proviso for Purchased/Referred Care, \$54,000,000 shall be for the Indian Catastrophic Health Emergency Fund: *Provided further*, That \$51,000,000 shall remain available until expended for fiscal year 2025 for implementation of the loan repayment program under section 108 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act: *Provided further*, That \$58,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 shall be for costs related to or resulting from accreditation emergencies, including supplementing activities funded under the heading "Indian Health Facilities", of which up to \$4,000,000 may be used to supplement amounts otherwise available for Purchased/Referred Care: *Provided further*, That the amounts collected by the Federal Government as authorized by sections 104 and 108 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1613a and 1616a) during the preceding fiscal year for breach of contracts shall be deposited in the Fund authorized by section 108A of that Act (25 U.S.C. 1616a-1) and shall remain available

until expended and, notwithstanding section 108A(c) of that Act (25 U.S.C. 1616a-1(c)), funds shall be available to make new awards under the loan repayment and scholarship programs under sections 104 and 108 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 1613a and 1616a): *Provided further*, That the amounts made available within this account for the Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention Program, for Opioid Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services, for the Domestic Violence Prevention Program, for the Zero Suicide Initiative, for the housing subsidy authority for civilian employees, for Aftercare Pilot Programs at Youth Regional Treatment Centers, for transformation and modernization costs of the Indian Health Service Electronic Health Record system, for national quality and oversight activities, for improving collections from public and private insurance at Indian Health Service and Tribally-operated facilities, for an initiative to treat or reduce the transmission of HIV and HCV, for a maternal health initiative, for the Telebehavioral Health Center of Excellence, for Alzheimer's activities, for Village Built Clinics, for a produce prescription pilot, and for accreditation emergencies shall be allocated at the discretion of the Director of the Indian Health Service and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That funds provided in this Act that are available for two fiscal years may be used in their second year of availability for annual contracts and grants that fall within 2 fiscal years, provided the total obligation is recorded in such second year of availability: *Provided further*, That the amounts collected by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under the authority of title IV of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1613) shall remain available until expended for the purpose of achieving compliance with the applicable conditions and requirements of titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act, except for those related to the planning, design, or construction of new facilities: *Provided further*, That funding contained herein for scholarship programs under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1613) shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That amounts received by Tribes and Tribal organizations under title IV of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act shall be reported and accounted for and available to the receiving Tribes and Tribal organizations until expended: *Provided further*, That the Bureau of Indian Affairs may collect from the Indian Health Service, and from Tribes and Tribal organizations operating health facilities pursuant to Public Law 93-638, such individually identifiable health information relating to disabled children as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out its functions under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.): *Provided further*, That of the funds provided for fiscal year 2025, \$74,138,000 is for the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund and may be used, as needed, to carry out activities typically funded under the Indian Health Facilities account: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act, or any other Act, to the Indian Health Service for the Electronic Health Record system shall be available for obligation or expenditure for the selection or implementation of a new Information Technology infrastructure system, unless the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are consulted 90 days in advance of such obligation.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS

For payments to Tribes and Tribal organizations for contract support costs associated with Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act agreements with the

Indian Health Service for fiscal year 2024, such sums as may be necessary: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amounts made available under this heading shall be available for transfer to another budget account: *Provided further*, That amounts obligated but not expended by a Tribe or Tribal organization for contract support costs for such agreements for the current fiscal year shall be applied to contract support costs due for such agreements for subsequent fiscal years.

PAYMENTS FOR TRIBAL LEASES

For payments to Tribes and Tribal organizations for leases pursuant to section 105(1) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(l)) for fiscal year 2024, such sums as may be necessary, which shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amounts made available under this heading shall be available for transfer to another budget account.

INDIAN HEALTH FACILITIES

For construction, repair, maintenance, demolition, improvement, and equipment of health and related auxiliary facilities, including quarters for personnel; preparation of plans, specifications, and drawings; acquisition of sites, purchase and erection of modular buildings, and purchases of trailers; and for provision of domestic and community sanitation facilities for Indians, as authorized by section 7 of the Act of August 5, 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2004a), the Indian Self-Determination Act, and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, and for expenses necessary to carry out such Acts and titles II and III of the Public Health Service Act with respect to environmental health and facilities support activities of the Indian Health Service, \$475,209,000, which shall remain available until expended and shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2023; and, in addition, \$976,699,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2024, and remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated for the planning, design, construction, renovation, or expansion of health facilities for the benefit of an Indian Tribe or Tribes may be used to purchase land on which such facilities will be located: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$500,000 may be used for fiscal year 2025 by the Indian Health Service to purchase TRANSAM equipment from the Department of Defense for distribution to the Indian Health Service and Tribal facilities: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated to the Indian Health Service may be used for sanitation facilities construction for new homes funded with grants by the housing programs of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Appropriations provided in this Act to the Indian Health Service shall be available for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109 at rates not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the maximum rate payable for senior-level positions under 5 U.S.C. 5376; hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft; purchase of medical equipment; purchase of reprints; purchase, renovation, and erection of modular buildings and renovation of existing facilities; payments for telephone service in private residences in the field, when authorized under regulations approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services; uniforms, or allowances therefor as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902; and for expenses of attendance at meetings that relate to the func-

tions or activities of the Indian Health Service: *Provided*, That in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, non-Indian patients may be extended health care at all Tribally administered or Indian Health Service facilities, subject to charges, and the proceeds along with funds recovered under the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651–2653) shall be credited to the account of the facility providing the service and shall be available without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other law or regulation, funds transferred from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Indian Health Service shall be administered under Public Law 86–121, the Indian Sanitation Facilities Act and Public Law 93–638: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated to the Indian Health Service in this Act, except those used for administrative and program direction purposes, shall not be subject to limitations directed at curtailing Federal travel and transportation: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the Indian Health Service in this Act shall be used for any assessments or charges by the Department of Health and Human Services unless such assessments or charges are identified in the budget justification and provided in this Act, or approved by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations through the reprogramming process: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds previously or herein made available to a Tribe or Tribal organization through a contract, grant, or agreement authorized by title I or title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), may be deobligated and reobligated to a self-determination contract under title I, or a self-governance agreement under title V of such Act and thereafter shall remain available to the Tribe or Tribal organization without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the Indian Health Service in this Act shall be used to implement the final rule published in the Federal Register on September 16, 1987, by the Department of Health and Human Services, relating to the eligibility for the health care services of the Indian Health Service until the Indian Health Service has submitted a budget request reflecting the increased costs associated with the proposed final rule, and such request has been included in an appropriations Act and enacted into law: *Provided further*, That with respect to functions transferred by the Indian Health Service to Tribes or Tribal organizations, the Indian Health Service is authorized to provide goods and services to those entities on a reimbursable basis, including payments in advance with subsequent adjustment, and the reimbursements received therefrom, along with the funds received from those entities pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination Act, may be credited to the same or subsequent appropriation account from which the funds were originally derived, with such amounts to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That reimbursements for training, technical assistance, or services provided by the Indian Health Service will contain total costs, including direct, administrative, and overhead costs associated with the provision of goods, services, or technical assistance: *Provided further*, That the Indian Health Service may provide to civilian medical personnel serving in hospitals operated by the Indian Health Service housing allowances equivalent to those that would be provided to members of the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service serving in similar positions at such hospitals: *Provided further*, That the appropriation structure for the In-

dian Health Service may not be altered without advance notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

For necessary expenses for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in carrying out activities set forth in section 311(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9660(a)) and section 126(g) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, \$75,000,000.

AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

For necessary expenses for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in carrying out activities set forth in sections 104(i) and 111(c)(4) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) and section 3019 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, \$76,000,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, in lieu of performing a health assessment under section 104(i)(6) of CERCLA, the Administrator of ATSDR may conduct other appropriate health studies, evaluations, or activities, including, without limitation, biomedical testing, clinical evaluations, medical monitoring, and referral to accredited healthcare providers: *Provided further*, That in performing any such health assessment or health study, evaluation, or activity, the Administrator of ATSDR shall not be bound by the deadlines in section 104(i)(6)(A) of CERCLA: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for ATSDR to issue in excess of 40 toxicological profiles pursuant to section 104(i) of CERCLA during fiscal year 2024, and existing profiles may be updated as necessary.

OTHER RELATED AGENCIES

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

For necessary expenses to continue functions assigned to the Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970, and Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1977, and not to exceed \$750 for official reception and representation expenses, \$3,750,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 202 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970, the Council shall consist of one member, appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, serving as chairman and exercising all powers, functions, and duties of the Council.

CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses in carrying out activities pursuant to section 112(r)(6) of the Clean Air Act, including hire of passenger vehicles, uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902, and for services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109 but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem equivalent to the maximum rate payable for senior level positions under 5 U.S.C. 5376, \$12,960,000: *Provided*, That the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (Board) shall have not more than three career Senior Executive Service positions: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the individual appointed to the position

of Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall, by virtue of such appointment, also hold the position of Inspector General of the Board: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Inspector General of the Board shall utilize personnel of the Office of Inspector General of EPA in performing the duties of the Inspector General of the Board, and shall not appoint any individuals to positions within the Board.

OFFICE OF NAVAJO AND HOPI INDIAN
RELOCATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation as authorized by Public Law 93-531, \$3,060,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be derived from unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading: *Provided*, That funds provided in this or any other appropriations Act are to be used to relocate eligible individuals and groups including evictees from District 6, Hopi-partitioned lands residents, those in significantly substandard housing, and all others certified as eligible and not included in the preceding categories: *Provided further*, That none of the funds contained in this or any other Act may be used by the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation to evict any single Navajo or Navajo family who, as of November 30, 1985, was physically domiciled on the lands partitioned to the Hopi Tribe unless a new or replacement home is provided for such household: *Provided further*, That no relocatee will be provided with more than one new or replacement home: *Provided further*, That the Office shall relocate any certified eligible relocatees who have selected and received an approved homesite on the Navajo reservation or selected a replacement residence off the Navajo reservation or on the land acquired pursuant to section 11 of Public Law 93-531 (88 Stat. 1716).

INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA
NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT

PAYMENT TO THE INSTITUTE

For payment to the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development, as authorized by part A of title XV of Public Law 99-498 (20 U.S.C. 4411 et seq.), \$13,000,000, which shall become available on July 1, 2024, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Smithsonian Institution, as authorized by law, including research in the fields of art, science, and history; development, preservation, and documentation of the National Collections; presentation of public exhibits and performances; collection, preparation, dissemination, and exchange of information and publications; conduct of education, training, and museum assistance programs; maintenance, alteration, operation, lease agreements of no more than 30 years, and protection of buildings, facilities, and approaches; not to exceed \$100,000 for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; and purchase, rental, repair, and cleaning of uniforms for employees, \$852,215,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, except as otherwise provided herein; of which not to exceed \$16,938,000 for the instrumentation program, collections acquisition, exhibition reinstallation, Smithsonian American Women's History Museum, and the repatriation of skeletal remains program shall remain available until expended; and including such funds as may be necessary to support American overseas research centers: *Provided*, That funds appropriated herein are available for advance payments to inde-

pendent contractors performing research services or participating in official Smithsonian presentations: *Provided further*, That the Smithsonian Institution may expend Federal appropriations designated in this Act for lease or rent payments, as rent payable to the Smithsonian Institution, and such rent payments may be deposited into the general trust funds of the Institution to be available as trust funds for expenses associated with the purchase of a portion of the building at 600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, to the extent that federally supported activities will be housed there: *Provided further*, That the use of such amounts in the general trust funds of the Institution for such purpose shall not be construed as Federal debt service for, a Federal guarantee of, a transfer of risk to, or an obligation of the Federal Government: *Provided further*, That no appropriated funds may be used directly to service debt which is incurred to finance the costs of acquiring a portion of the building at 600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, or of planning, designing, and constructing improvements to such building: *Provided further*, That any agreement entered into by the Smithsonian Institution for the sale of its ownership interest, or any portion thereof, in such building so acquired may not take effect until the expiration of a 30 day period which begins on the date on which the Secretary of the Smithsonian submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate, the Committees on House Administration and Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate a report, as outlined in the explanatory statement described in section 4 of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94; 133 Stat. 2536) on the intended sale.

FACILITIES CAPITAL

For necessary expenses of repair, revitalization, and alteration of facilities owned or occupied by the Smithsonian Institution, by contract or otherwise, as authorized by section 2 of the Act of August 22, 1949 (63 Stat. 623), and for construction, including necessary personnel, \$107,500,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$10,000 shall be for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For the upkeep and operations of the National Gallery of Art, the protection and care of the works of art therein, and administrative expenses incident thereto, as authorized by the Act of March 24, 1937 (50 Stat. 51), as amended by the public resolution of April 13, 1939 (Public Resolution 9, 76th Congress), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; payment in advance when authorized by the treasurer of the Gallery for membership in library, museum, and art associations or societies whose publications or services are available to members only, or to members at a price lower than to the general public; purchase, repair, and cleaning of uniforms for guards, and uniforms, or allowances therefor, for other employees as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901-5902); purchase or rental of devices and services for protecting buildings and contents thereof, and maintenance, alteration, improvement, and repair of buildings, approaches, and grounds; and purchase of services for restoration and repair of works of art for the National Gallery of Art by contracts made, without advertising, with individuals, firms, or organizations at such rates or prices and under such terms and conditions as the Gallery may deem proper, \$160,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

REPAIR, RESTORATION AND RENOVATION OF
BUILDINGS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of repair, restoration, and renovation of buildings, grounds and facilities owned or occupied by the National Gallery of Art, by contract or otherwise, for operating lease agreements of no more than 10 years, that address space needs created by the ongoing renovations in the Master Facilities Plan, as authorized, \$18,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such funds may be obligated for design and construction of an off-site art storage facility in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and may be transferred to the Smithsonian Institution for such purposes: *Provided further*, That contracts awarded for environmental systems, protection systems, and exterior repair or renovation of buildings of the National Gallery of Art may be negotiated with selected contractors and awarded on the basis of contractor qualifications as well as price.

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

For necessary expenses for the operation, maintenance, and security of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, \$20,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

CAPITAL REPAIR AND RESTORATION

For necessary expenses for capital repair and restoration of the existing features of the building and site of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR
SCHOLARS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary in carrying out the provisions of the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Act of 1968 (82 Stat. 1356) including hire of passenger vehicles and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, \$12,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE
HUMANITIES

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses to carry out the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, \$186,300,000 shall be available to the National Endowment for the Arts for the support of projects and productions in the arts, including arts education and public outreach activities, through assistance to organizations and individuals pursuant to section 5 of the Act, for program support, and for administering the functions of the Act, to remain available until expended.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses to carry out the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, \$186,300,000 to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That appropriations for carrying out section 10(a)(2) of such Act shall be available for obligation only in such amounts as may be equal to the total amounts of gifts, bequests, devises of money, and other property accepted by the chairman or by grantees of the National Endowment for the Humanities under the provisions of sections 11(a)(2)(B) and 11(a)(3)(B) of such Act during the current and preceding fiscal years for which equal amounts have not previously been appropriated.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

None of the funds appropriated to the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities may be used to process any grant

or contract documents which do not include the text of 18 U.S.C. 1913: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated to the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities may be used for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That funds from nonappropriated sources may be used as necessary for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts may approve grants of up to \$10,000, if in the aggregate the amount of such grants does not exceed 5 percent of the sums appropriated for grantmaking purposes per year: *Provided further*, That such small grant actions are taken pursuant to the terms of an expressed and direct delegation of authority from the National Council on the Arts to the Chairperson.

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses of the Commission of Fine Arts under chapter 91 of title 40, United States Code, \$3,464,000: *Provided*, That the Commission is authorized to charge fees to cover the full costs of its publications, and such fees shall be credited to this account as an offsetting collection, to remain available until expended without further appropriation: *Provided further*, That the Commission is authorized to accept gifts, including objects, papers, artwork, drawings and artifacts, that pertain to the history and design of the Nation's Capital or the history and activities of the Commission of Fine Arts, for the purpose of artistic display, study, or education: *Provided further*, That one-tenth of one percent of the funds provided under this heading may be used for official reception and representation expenses.

NATIONAL CAPITAL ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

For necessary expenses as authorized by Public Law 99-190 (20 U.S.C. 956a), \$4,750,000: *Provided*, That the item relating to "National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs" in the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1986, as enacted into law by section 101(d) of Public Law 99-190 (20 U.S.C. 956a), shall be applied in fiscal year 2024 in the second paragraph by inserting ", calendar year 2020 excluded" before the first period.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Public Law 89-665), \$8,285,000.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the National Capital Planning Commission under chapter 87 of title 40, United States Code, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, \$8,500,000: *Provided*, That one-quarter of 1 percent of the funds provided under this heading may be used for official reception and representational expenses associated with hosting international visitors engaged in the planning and physical development of world capitals.

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

For expenses of the Holocaust Memorial Museum, as authorized by Public Law 106-292 (36 U.S.C. 2301-2310), \$67,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which \$1,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026, for the Museum's equipment replacement program; and of which \$4,000,000 for the Museum's repair and rehabilitation program and \$1,264,000 for the Museum's out-

reach initiatives program shall remain available until expended.

WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Notwithstanding section 9 of the World War I Centennial Commission Act, as authorized by the World War I Centennial Commission Act (Public Law 112-272) and the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291), for necessary expenses of the World War I Centennial Commission, \$1,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That in addition to the authority provided by section 6(g) of such Act, the World War I Commission may accept money, in-kind personnel services, contractual support, or any appropriate support from any executive branch agency for activities of the Commission.

UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission to plan and coordinate observances and activities associated with the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, as authorized by Public Law 116-282, the technical amendments to Public Law 114-196, \$15,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

TITLE IV GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS

SEC. 401. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available for any activity or the publication or distribution of literature that in any way tends to promote public support or opposition to any legislative proposal on which Congressional action is not complete other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

OBLIGATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 402. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

DISCLOSURE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

SEC. 403. The amount and basis of estimated overhead charges, deductions, reserves, or holdbacks, including working capital fund charges, from programs, projects, activities and subactivities to support government-wide, departmental, agency, or bureau administrative functions or headquarters, regional, or central operations shall be presented in annual budget justifications and subject to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Changes to such estimates shall be presented to the Committees on Appropriations for approval.

MINING APPLICATIONS

SEC. 404. (a) LIMITATION OF FUNDS.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to this Act shall be obligated or expended to accept or process applications for a patent for any mining or mill site claim located under the general mining laws.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Secretary of the Interior determines that, for the claim concerned: (1) a patent application was filed with the Secretary on or before September 30, 1994; and (2) all requirements established under sections 2325 and 2326 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 29 and 30) for vein or lode claims, sections 2329, 2330, 2331, and 2333 of the Revised

Statutes (30 U.S.C. 35, 36, and 37) for placer claims, and section 2337 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 42) for mill site claims, as the case may be, were fully complied with by the applicant by that date.

(c) REPORT.—On September 30, 2025, the Secretary of the Interior shall file with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on actions taken by the Department under the plan submitted pursuant to section 314(c) of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104-208).

(d) MINERAL EXAMINATIONS.—In order to process patent applications in a timely and responsible manner, upon the request of a patent applicant, the Secretary of the Interior shall allow the applicant to fund a qualified third-party contractor to be selected by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to conduct a mineral examination of the mining claims or mill sites contained in a patent application as set forth in subsection (b). The Bureau of Land Management shall have the sole responsibility to choose and pay the third-party contractor in accordance with the standard procedures employed by the Bureau of Land Management in the retention of third-party contractors.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS, PRIOR YEAR LIMITATION

SEC. 405. Sections 405 and 406 of division F of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235) shall continue in effect in fiscal year 2024.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS, FISCAL YEAR 2024 LIMITATION

SEC. 406. Amounts provided by this Act for fiscal year 2024 under the headings "Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, Contract Support Costs" and "Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Contract Support Costs" are the only amounts available for contract support costs arising out of self-determination or self-governance contracts, grants, compacts, or annual funding agreements for fiscal year 2024 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, and the Indian Health Service: *Provided*, That such amounts provided by this Act are not available for payment of claims for contract support costs for prior years, or for repayments of payments for settlements or judgments awarding contract support costs for prior years.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS

SEC. 407. The Secretary of Agriculture shall not be considered to be in violation of section 6(f)(5)(A) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(5)(A)) solely because more than 15 years have passed without revision of the plan for a unit of the National Forest System. Nothing in this section exempts the Secretary from any other requirement of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.) or any other law: *Provided*, That if the Secretary is not acting expeditiously and in good faith, within the funding available, to revise a plan for a unit of the National Forest System, this section shall be void with respect to such plan and a court of proper jurisdiction may order completion of the plan on an accelerated basis.

PROHIBITION WITHIN NATIONAL MONUMENTS

SEC. 408. No funds provided in this Act may be expended to conduct preleasing, leasing and related activities under either the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) or the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) within the boundaries of a National Monument established pursuant to

the Act of June 8, 1906 (16 U.S.C. 431 et seq.) as such boundary existed on January 20, 2001, except where such activities are allowed under the Presidential proclamation establishing such monument.

LIMITATION ON TAKINGS

SEC. 409. Unless otherwise provided herein, no funds appropriated in this Act for the acquisition of lands or interests in lands may be expended for the filing of declarations of taking or complaints in condemnation without the approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That this provision shall not apply to funds appropriated to implement the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989, or to funds appropriated for Federal assistance to the State of Florida to acquire lands for Everglades restoration purposes.

PROHIBITION ON NO-BID CONTRACTS

SEC. 410. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act to executive branch agencies may be used to enter into any Federal contract unless such contract is entered into in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 33 of title 41, United States Code, or Chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation, unless—

(1) Federal law specifically authorizes a contract to be entered into without regard for these requirements, including formula grants for States, or federally recognized Indian Tribes;

(2) such contract is authorized by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (Public Law 93-638, 25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) or by any other Federal laws that specifically authorize a contract within an Indian Tribe as defined in section 4(e) of that Act (25 U.S.C. 5304(e)); or

(3) such contract was awarded prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

POSTING OF REPORTS

SEC. 411. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public website of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS GRANT GUIDELINES

SEC. 412. Of the funds provided to the National Endowment for the Arts—

(1) The Chairperson shall only award a grant to an individual if such grant is awarded to such individual for a literature fellowship, National Heritage Fellowship, or American Jazz Masters Fellowship.

(2) The Chairperson shall establish procedures to ensure that no funding provided through a grant, except a grant made to a State or local arts agency, or regional group, may be used to make a grant to any other organization or individual to conduct activity independent of the direct grant recipient. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit payments made in exchange for goods and services.

(3) No grant shall be used for seasonal support to a group, unless the application is specific to the contents of the season, including identified programs or projects.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS PROGRAM PRIORITIES

SEC. 413. (a) In providing services or awarding financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965 from funds appropriated under this Act, the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts shall ensure that priority is given to providing services or awarding financial assistance for projects, productions, workshops, or programs that serve underserved populations.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term “underserved population” means a population of individuals, including urban minorities, who have historically been outside the purview of arts and humanities programs due to factors such as a high incidence of income below the poverty line or to geographic isolation.

(2) The term “poverty line” means the poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, and revised annually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))) applicable to a family of the size involved.

(c) In providing services and awarding financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 with funds appropriated by this Act, the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts shall ensure that priority is given to providing services or awarding financial assistance for projects, productions, workshops, or programs that will encourage public knowledge, education, understanding, and appreciation of the arts.

(d) With funds appropriated by this Act to carry out section 5 of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965—

(1) the Chairperson shall establish a grant category for projects, productions, workshops, or programs that are of national impact or availability or are able to tour several States;

(2) the Chairperson shall not make grants exceeding 15 percent, in the aggregate, of such funds to any single State, excluding grants made under the authority of paragraph (1);

(3) the Chairperson shall report to the Congress annually and by State, on grants awarded by the Chairperson in each grant category under section 5 of such Act; and

(4) the Chairperson shall encourage the use of grants to improve and support community-based music performance and education.

STATUS OF BALANCES OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 414. The Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service, and the Indian Health Service shall provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate quarterly reports on the status of balances of appropriations including all uncommitted, committed, and unobligated funds in each program and activity within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

EXTENSION OF GRAZING PERMITS

SEC. 415. The terms and conditions of section 325 of Public Law 108-108 (117 Stat. 1307), regarding grazing permits issued by the Forest Service on any lands not subject to administration under section 402 of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1752), shall remain in effect for fiscal year 2024.

FUNDING PROHIBITION

SEC. 416. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network is designed to block access to pornography websites.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, Tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

HUMANE TRANSFER AND TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

SEC. 417. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, or the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land administered by the Forest Service (referred to in this section as the “Secretary concerned”), may transfer excess wild horses and burros that have been removed from land administered by the Secretary concerned to other Federal, State, and local government agencies for use as work animals.

(b) The Secretary concerned may make a transfer under subsection (a) immediately on the request of a Federal, State, or local government agency.

(c) An excess wild horse or burro transferred under subsection (a) shall lose status as a wild free-roaming horse or burro (as defined in section 2 of Public Law 92-195 (commonly known as the “Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act”)) (16 U.S.C. 1332)).

(d) A Federal, State, or local government agency receiving an excess wild horse or burro pursuant to subsection (a) shall not—

(1) destroy the horse or burro in a manner that results in the destruction of the horse or burro into a commercial product;

(2) sell or otherwise transfer the horse or burro in a manner that results in the destruction of the horse or burro for processing into a commercial product; or

(3) euthanize the horse or burro, except on the recommendation of a licensed veterinarian in a case of severe injury, illness, or advanced age.

(e) Amounts appropriated by this Act shall not be available for—

(1) the destruction of any healthy, unadopted, and wild horse or burro under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned (including a contractor); or

(2) the sale of a wild horse or burro that results in the destruction of the wild horse or burro for processing into a commercial product.

FOREST SERVICE FACILITY REALIGNMENT AND ENHANCEMENT AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION

SEC. 418. Section 503(f) of Public Law 109-54 (16 U.S.C. 580d note) shall be applied by substituting “September 30, 2024” for “September 30, 2019”.

USE OF AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL

SEC. 419. (a)(1) None of the funds made available by a State water pollution control revolving fund as authorized by section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12) shall be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water system or treatment works unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States.

(2) In this section, the term “iron and steel” products means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (in this section referred to as the “Administrator”) finds that—

(1) applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest;

(2) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or

(3) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

(c) If the Administrator receives a request for a waiver under this section, the Administrator shall make available to the public on an informal basis a copy of the request and information available to the Administrator concerning the request, and shall allow for informal public input on the request for at least 15 days prior to making a finding based on the request. The Administrator shall make the request and accompanying information available by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(d) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

(e) The Administrator may retain up to 0.25 percent of the funds appropriated in this Act for the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds for carrying out the provisions described in subsection (a)(1) for management and oversight of the requirements of this section.

LOCAL COOPERATOR TRAINING AGREEMENTS AND TRANSFERS OF EXCESS EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR WILDFIRES

SEC. 420. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to enter into grants and cooperative agreements with volunteer fire departments, rural fire departments, rangeland fire protection associations, and similar organizations to provide for wildland fire training and equipment, including supplies and communication devices. Notwithstanding section 121(c) of title 40, United States Code, or section 521 of title 40, United States Code, the Secretary is further authorized to transfer title to excess Department of the Interior firefighting equipment no longer needed to carry out the functions of the Department's wildland fire management program to such organizations.

RECREATION FEES

SEC. 421. Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) shall be applied by substituting "October 1, 2025" for "September 30, 2019".

REPROGRAMMING GUIDELINES

SEC. 422. None of the funds made available in this Act, in this and prior fiscal years, may be reprogrammed without the advance approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations in accordance with the reprogramming procedures contained in the report accompanying this Act.

LOCAL CONTRACTORS

SEC. 423. Section 412 of division E of Public Law 112-74 shall be applied by substituting "fiscal year 2024" for "fiscal year 2019".

INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION

SEC. 424. Section 426 of division G of Public Law 113-76 (16 U.S.C. 565a-1 note) shall be applied by substituting "September 30, 2024" for "September 30, 2019".

PUERTO RICO SCHOOLING AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION

SEC. 425. The authority provided by the 19th unnumbered paragraph under heading "Administrative Provisions, Forest Service" in title III of Public Law 109-54, as amended, shall be applied by substituting "fiscal year 2024" for "fiscal year 2019".

FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCTS FEE COLLECTION AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION

SEC. 426. Section 339 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropria-

tions Act, 2000 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106-113; 16 U.S.C. 528 note), as amended by section 335(6) of Public Law 108-108 and section 432 of Public Law 113-76, shall be applied by substituting "fiscal year 2024" for "fiscal year 2019".

TRIBAL LEASES

SEC. 427. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of any lease under section 105(1) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(1)), the initial lease term shall commence no earlier than the date of receipt of the lease proposal.

(b) The Secretaries of the Interior and Health and Human Services shall, jointly or separately, during fiscal year 2024 consult with Tribes and Tribal organizations through public solicitation and other means regarding the requirements for leases under section 105(1) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(1)) on how to implement a consistent and transparent process for the payment of such leases.

FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND RECOVERY FUND

SEC. 428. The authority provided under the heading "Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund" in title I of Public Law 111-88, as amended by section 117 of division F of Public Law 113-235, shall be applied by substituting "fiscal year 2024" for "fiscal year 2020" each place it appears.

ALLOCATION OF PROJECTS, NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LAND LEGACY RESTORATION FUND AND LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

SEC. 429. (a)(1) Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall allocate amounts made available from the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund for fiscal year 2024 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 200402 of title 54, United States Code, and as provided in subsection (e) of such section of such title, to the agencies of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture specified, in the amounts specified, for the stations and unit names specified, and for the projects and activities specified in the table titled "Allocation of Funds: National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund Fiscal Year 2024" in the report accompanying this Act.

(2) Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate, shall allocate amounts made available for expenditure from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2024 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 200303 of title 54, United States Code, to the agencies and accounts specified, in the amounts specified, and for the projects and activities specified in the table titled "Allocation of Funds: Land and Water Conservation Fund Fiscal Year 2024" in the report accompanying this Act.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by subsection (c) of this section, neither the President nor his designee may allocate any amounts that are made available for any fiscal year under subsection (c) of section 200402 of title 54, United States Code, or subsection (a) of section 200303 of title 54, United States Code, other than in amounts and for projects and activities that are allocated by subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section: *Provided*, That in any fiscal year, the matter preceding this proviso shall not apply to the allocation of amounts for continuing administration of programs allocated funds from the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund or the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which may be allocated only in amounts that are no more than the allocation for such purposes in subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section.

(c) The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may reallocate amounts from each agency's "Contingency Fund" line in the table titled "Allocation of Funds: National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund Fiscal Year 2024" to any project funded by the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund within the same agency, from any fiscal year, that experienced a funding deficiency due to unforeseen cost overruns, in accordance with the following requirements—

(1) "Contingency Fund" amounts may only be reallocated if there is a risk to project completion resulting from unforeseen cost overruns;

(2) "Contingency Fund" amounts may only be reallocated for cost of adjustments and changes within the original scope of effort for projects funded by the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund; and

(3) the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture must provide written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate 30 days before taking any actions authorized by this subsection if the amount reallocated from the "Contingency Fund" line for a project is projected to be 10 percent or greater than the following, as applicable—

(A) the amount allocated to that project in the table titled "Allocation of Funds: National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund Fiscal Year 2024" in the report accompanying this Act; or

(B) the initial estimate in the most recent report submitted, prior to enactment of this Act, to the Committees on Appropriations pursuant to section 431(e) of division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328).

(d)(1) Concurrent with the annual budget submission of the President for fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall each submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate project data sheets for the projects in the "Submission of Annual List of Projects to Congress" required by section 200402(h) of title 54, United States Code: *Provided*, That the "Submission of Annual List of Projects to Congress" must include a "Contingency Fund" line for each agency within the allocations defined in subsection (e) of section 200402 of title 54, United States Code: *Provided further*, That in the event amounts allocated by this Act or any prior Act for the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund are no longer needed to complete a specified project, such amounts may be reallocated in such submission to that agency's "Contingency Fund" line: *Provided further*, That any proposals to change the scope of or terminate a previously approved project must be clearly identified in such submission.

(2)(A) Concurrent with the annual budget submission of the President for fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall each submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a list of supplementary allocations for Federal land acquisition and Forest Legacy Projects at the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service that are in addition to the "Submission of Cost Estimates" required by section 200303(c)(1) of title 54, United States Code, that are prioritized and detailed by account, program, and project, and that total no less than half the full amount allocated to each account for that land management Agency under the allocations submitted under section 200303(c)(1) of title 54, United States

Code: *Provided*, That in the event amounts allocated by this Act or any prior Act pursuant to subsection (a) of section 200303 of title 54, United States Code are no longer needed because a project has been completed or can no longer be executed, such amounts must be clearly identified if proposed for reallocation in the annual budget submission.

(B) The Federal land acquisition and Forest Legacy projects in the “Submission of Cost Estimates” required by section 200303(c)(1) of title 54, United States Code, and on the list of supplementary allocations required by subparagraph (A) shall be comprised only of projects for which a willing seller has been identified and for which an appraisal or market research has been initiated.

(C) Concurrent with the annual budget submission of the President for fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall each submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate project data sheets in the same format and containing the same level of detailed information that is found on such sheets in the Budget Justifications annually submitted by the Department of the Interior with the President’s Budget for the projects in the “Submission of Cost Estimates” required by section 200303(c)(1) of title 54, United States Code, and in the same format and containing the same level of detailed information that is found on such sheets submitted to the Committees pursuant to section 427 of division D of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94) for the list of supplementary allocations required by subparagraph (A).

(e) The Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture shall provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate quarterly reports on the status of balances of projects and activities funded by the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund for amounts allocated pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section and the status of balances of projects and activities funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund for amounts allocated pursuant to subsection (a)(2) of this section, including all uncommitted, committed, and unobligated funds, and, for amounts allocated pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section, National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund amounts reallocated pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

POLICIES RELATING TO BIOMASS ENERGY

SEC. 430. To support the key role that forests in the United States can play in addressing the energy needs of the United States, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall, consistent with their missions, jointly—

(1) ensure that Federal policy relating to forest bioenergy—

(A) is consistent across all Federal departments and agencies; and

(B) recognizes the full benefits of the use of forest biomass for energy, conservation, and responsible forest management; and

(2) establish clear and simple policies for the use of forest biomass as an energy solution, including policies that—

(A) reflect the carbon neutrality of forest bioenergy and recognize biomass as a renewable energy source, provided the use of forest biomass for energy production does not cause conversion of forests to non-forest use;

(B) encourage private investment throughout the forest biomass supply chain, including in—

- (i) working forests;
- (ii) harvesting operations;

(iii) forest improvement operations;

(iv) forest bioenergy production;

(v) wood products manufacturing; or

(vi) paper manufacturing;

(C) encourage forest management to improve forest health; and

(D) recognize State initiatives to produce and use forest biomass.

SMALL REMOTE INCINERATORS

SEC. 431. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to implement or enforce the regulation issued on March 21, 2011 at 40 CFR part 60 subparts CCCC and DDDD with respect to units in the State of Alaska that are defined as “small, remote incinerator” units in those regulations and, until a subsequent regulation is issued, the Administrator shall implement the law and regulations in effect prior to such date.

TIMBER SALE REQUIREMENTS

SEC. 432. No timber sale in Alaska’s Region 10 shall be advertised if the indicated rate is deficit (defined as the value of the timber is not sufficient to cover all logging and stumpage costs and provide a normal profit and risk allowance under the Forest Service’s appraisal process) when appraised using a residual value appraisal. The western red cedar timber from those sales which is surplus to the needs of the domestic processors in Alaska, shall be made available to domestic processors in the contiguous 48 United States at prevailing domestic prices. All additional western red cedar volume not sold to Alaska or contiguous 48 United States domestic processors may be exported to foreign markets at the election of the timber sale holder. All Alaska yellow cedar may be sold at prevailing export prices at the election of the timber sale holder.

TRANSFER AUTHORITY TO FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION FOR THE NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LAND LEGACY RESTORATION FUND

SEC. 433. Funds made available or allocated in this Act to the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture that are subject to the allocations and limitations in 54 U.S.C. 200402(e) and prohibitions in 54 U.S.C. 200402(f) may be further allocated or reallocated to the Federal Highway Administration for transportation projects of the covered agencies defined in 54 U.S.C. 200401(2).

PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS

SEC. 434. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this Act or any other Act may be used to promulgate or implement any regulation requiring the issuance of permits under title V of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7661 et seq.) for carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, water vapor, or methane emissions resulting from biological processes associated with livestock production.

GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING RESTRICTIONS

SEC. 435. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be used to implement any provision in a rule, if that provision requires mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from manure management systems.

FUNDING PROHIBITION

SEC. 436. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to regulate the lead content of ammunition, ammunition components, or fishing tackle under the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) or any other law.

ALASKA NATIVE REGIONAL HEALTH ENTITIES AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION

SEC. 437. Section 424(a) of title IV of division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76) shall be applied

by substituting “October 1, 2024” for “December 24, 2022”.

RESCISSION OF GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND

SEC. 438. Of the unobligated balances of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for activities of the Environmental Protection Agency by subsection (a) of section 134 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7434(a)), \$7,765,000,000 are permanently rescinded.

RESCISSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE GRANTS

SEC. 439. Of the unobligated balances of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for activities of the Environmental Protection Agency by section 138(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7438(a)), \$1,353,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

HUNTING, FISHING, AND RECREATIONAL SHOOTING ON FEDERAL LAND

SEC. 440. (a) None of the funds made available by this or any other Act for any fiscal year may be used to prohibit the use of or access to Federal land (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6502)) for hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting if such use or access—

(1) was not prohibited on such Federal land as of January 1, 2013; and

(2) was conducted in compliance with the resource management plan (as defined in section 101 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 6511)) applicable to such Federal land as of January 1, 2013.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture may temporarily close, for a period not to exceed 30 days, Federal land managed by the Secretary to hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting if the Secretary determines that the temporary closure is necessary to accommodate a special event or for public safety reasons. The Secretary may extend a temporary closure for one additional 90-day period only if the Secretary determines the extension is necessary because of extraordinary weather conditions or for public safety reasons.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as affecting the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of the several States to manage, control, or regulate fish and resident wildlife under State law or regulations.

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

SEC. 441. The rule submitted by the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’” (88 Fed. Reg. 3004 (January 18, 2023)) shall have no force or effect.

LIMITATION

SEC. 442. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be obligated to enforce Public Land Order 7917 (88 Fed. Reg. 6308 (January 31, 2023)).

MINERAL LEASES

SEC. 443. Notwithstanding any other provision of law and not subject to further judicial review, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act the Secretary of the Interior shall reinstate the hardrock mineral leases in the Superior National Forest in the State of Minnesota issued in 2019 and identified as MNES-01352 and MNES-01353.

USE OF MINING CLAIMS FOR ANCILLARY ACTIVITIES

SEC. 444. Section 10101 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (30 U.S.C. 28f) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) SECURITY OF TENURE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A claimant shall have the right to use, occupy, and conduct operations on public land, with or without the discovery of a valuable mineral deposit, if—

“(i) such claimant makes a timely payment of the location fee required by section 10102 and the claim maintenance fee required by subsection (a); or

“(ii) in the case of a claimant who qualifies for a waiver under subsection (d), such claimant makes a timely payment of the location fee and complies with the required assessment work under the general mining laws.

“(B) OPERATIONS DEFINED.—For the purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘operations’ means—

“(i) any activity or work carried out in connection with prospecting, exploration, processing, discovery and assessment, development, or extraction with respect to a locatable mineral;

“(ii) the reclamation of any disturbed areas; and

“(iii) any other reasonably incident uses, whether on a mining claim or not, including the construction and maintenance of facilities, roads, transmission lines, pipelines, and any other necessary infrastructure or means of access on public land for support facilities.

“(2) FULFILLMENT OF FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT.—A claimant that fulfills the requirements of this section and section 10102 shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements of any provision of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act that requires the payment of fair market value to the United States for use of public lands and resources relating to use of such lands and resources authorized by the general mining laws.

“(3) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to diminish the rights of entry, use, and occupancy, or any other right, of a claimant under the general mining laws.”.

CHARLES M. RUSSELL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

SEC. 445. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used by the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate or allow for the introduction of American bison (Bison bison) on the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge (as originally established in Executive Order 7509, renamed in Public Land Order 2951, and redesignated in Public Land Order 5635).

COTTONWOOD

SEC. 446. No later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall issue the final rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations for Interagency Cooperation” (86 Fed. Reg. 2373 (January 12, 2021)).

SOCIAL COST OF CARBON

SEC. 447. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to consider or incorporate the social cost of carbon—

(1) as part of any cost-benefit analysis required or performed pursuant to—

(A) any law;

(B) Executive Order 13990 (86 Fed. Reg. 7037; relating to protecting public health and the environment and restoring science to tackle the climate crisis);

(C) Executive Order 14094 (88 Fed. Reg. 21879; relating to modernizing regulatory review);

(D) the Presidential Memorandum entitled “Modernizing Regulatory Review” issued by the President on January 20, 2021;

(E) any revisions to Office of Management and Budget Circular A-4 proposed or finalized under Executive Order 14094; or

(F) “Technical Support Document: Social Cost of Carbon, Methane, and Nitrous Oxide Interim Estimates under Executive Order 13990,” published under the Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases, in February of 2021;

(2) in any rulemaking;

(3) in the issuance of any guidance;

(4) in taking any other agency action; or

(5) as a justification for any rulemaking, guidance document, or agency action.

LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN

SEC. 448. None of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment” (87 Fed. Reg. 72674 (November 25, 2022)).

ECOGRIEF

SEC. 449. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended to carry out the program for Federal employees at the Department of the Interior entitled “Acknowledging Ecogrief and Developing Resistance” or any counseling sessions, workshop, or any other meeting pertaining to ecological grief, ecogrief, or eco-resilience.

NORTH CASCADES ECOSYSTEM GRIZZLY BEAR

SEC. 450. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to prepare an environmental impact statement for, or to implement, administer, or enforce, the North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan (87 Fed. Reg. 68190).

WATER RIGHTS

SEC. 451. None of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be obligated to require or request, as a condition of the issuance, renewal, or extension of any Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management permit, lease, allotment, easement, or other land use and occupancy, arrangement, the transfer, or relinquishment of any water right, in whole, or in part, granted under State law.

GRAY WOLF

SEC. 452. Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall reissue the final rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Gray Wolf (Canis lupus) From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife” (85 Fed. Reg. 69778 (November 3, 2020)).

COST RECOVERY

SEC. 453. (a) Any regulation promulgated by the Secretary of the Interior to establish fees to recover the costs of processing an application for a special recreation permit or monitoring an authorization under a special recreation permit for competitive or organized group or event use shall include an exemption providing that fee may not be recovered for not less than the first 100 hours of work necessary in any 1 year to process the application or monitor the authorization.

(b) Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall revise section 2932.31(e) of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, to be consistent with subsection (a) of this section.

EXECUTIVE ORDER FUNDING PROHIBITION

SEC. 454. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available to implement, administer,

apply, enforce, or carry out Executive Order 13985 of January 20, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 7009, relating to advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the Federal Government), Executive Order 14035 of June 25, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 34593, relating to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the Federal workforce), or Executive Order 14091 of February 16, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 10825, relating to further advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the Federal Government).

LIMITATION

SEC. 455. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any program, project, or activity that promotes or advances Critical Race Theory or any concept associated with Critical Race Theory.

WUHAN INSTITUTE LIMITATION

SEC. 456. None of the funds made available by this Act may be made available to support, directly or indirectly, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or any laboratory owned or controlled by the governments of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela under the regime of Nicolás Maduro Moros, or any other country determined by the Secretary of State to be a foreign adversary.

NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

SEC. 457. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the final rule “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat” (87 Fed. Reg. 73488 (November 30, 2020)).

EXEMPTION TO COASTAL BARRIER RESTRICTIONS FOR SHORELINE BORROW SITES

SEC. 458. Section 6 of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3505) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) BORROW SITE.—Section 5 shall not apply to expenditures or financial assistance relating to the use of funds to use a borrow site located within the System if such site has been in use as a borrow site by a coastal storm risk management project for a period of more than 15 years.”.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

SEC. 459. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be obligated for the planning, design, or construction of the National Museum of the American Latino or the operation of the Molina Family Latino Gallery.

GAO ANALYSIS

SEC. 460. Notwithstanding any provision of law, none of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended for the purpose of pre-leasing, leasing, or the conveyance of leases for onshore wind energy activities in Idaho, unless or until the Comptroller General of the United States completes a report identifying potential adverse effects of wind energy development including with respect to, wildlife, cultural resources, transportation, hunting, wetlands and the connected surface and ground waters.

PESTICIDES

SEC. 461. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended to issue or adopt any guidance or any policy, take any regulatory action, or approve any labeling or change to such labeling that is inconsistent with or in any respect different from the conclusion of—

(a) a human health assessment performed pursuant to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136 et seq.); or

(b) a carcinogenicity classification for a pesticide.

STEAM RULE

SEC. 462. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be obligated to finalize, administer, or enforce the proposed rule titled “Supplemental Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category” published on March 29, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 18824).

WAIVER

SEC. 463. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to approve a waiver submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency by the State of California, pursuant to section 209(e) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7543(e)), for the State of California’s amendments to its rule titled “Small Off-Road Engine Regulations: Transition to Zero Emissions”.

5-YEAR PLAN

SEC. 464. Section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “subsections (c) and (d) of this section, shall prepare and periodically revise,” and inserting “this section, shall issue every five years”;

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) Each five-year program shall include at least two Gulf of Mexico region-wide lease sales per year.”.

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “domestic energy security,” after “between”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (f) through (i) as subsections (h) through (k), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) Five-Year Program for 2023–2028.—The Secretary shall issue the five-year oil and gas leasing program for 2023 through 2028 and issue the Record of Decision on the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement by not later than 60 days of enactment of this Act.

“(g) Subsequent Leasing Programs.—

“(1) In General.—Not later than 36 months after conducting the first lease sale under an oil and gas leasing program prepared pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall begin preparing the subsequent oil and gas leasing program under this section.

“(2) Requirement.—Each subsequent oil and gas leasing program under this section shall be approved by not later than 180 days before the expiration of the previous oil and gas leasing program.”.

TRANSPARENCY

SEC. 465. (a) Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall reissue and implement Order No. 3368 “Promoting Transparency and Accountability in Consent Decrees and Settlement Agreements” dated September 11, 2018.

(b) None of the funds made available by this Act shall be available to rescind the Order reissued under subsection (a), reissue, enforce, administer, or implement Order No. 3408 “Rescission of Secretary’s Order 3368” dated June 17, 2022, or to issue, enforce, administer, or implement any substantially similar order.

LIMITATION

SEC. 466. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce Public Land Order No. 7921 (relating to the withdrawal of public land for satellite calibration in Railroad Valley; Nye County, Nevada), published by the Bureau of Land Management in the Federal Register on April 27, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 25682).

OZONE

SEC. 467. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be made available to implement, administer, or enforce the final rule titled “Federal ‘Good Neighbor Plan’ for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards” published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register on June 5, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 36654).

OFFSHORE WIND

SEC. 468. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended for the purpose of pre-leasing, leasing, or the conveyance of leases for offshore wind energy activity in the Florida administrative boundary until the Comptroller General of the United States submits, to the appropriate Congressional Committees, a study regarding the potential impact of offshore wind development and associated infrastructure in the Florida administrative boundary on military readiness and training, marine environment and ecology, tourism, and other uses of the Outer Continental Shelf.

(b) In this section, the term “administrative boundary” means the offshore administrative boundary for a State depicted in “Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Administrative Boundaries Extending from the Submerged Lands Act Boundary seaward to the Limit of the United States Outer Continental Shelf” published January 3, 2006 (71 Fed. Reg. 127).

(c) In this section, the term “appropriate Congressional Committees” means the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

RECORD OF DECISION

SEC. 469. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than September 30, 2024, the Secretary of the Interior shall issue a new Record of Decision for the Caldwell Canyon Mine project that addresses the deficiencies identified by the United States District Court for the District of Idaho in its decisions and orders issued in *Center for Biological Diversity, et al. v. United States Bureau of Land Management, et al.* (Case Number 4:21-CV-00182-BLW) on January 24, 2023, and June 2, 2023.

EPA OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SEC. 470. Beginning on October 1, 2023, of the amounts made available to the Environmental Protection Agency under each of sections 60101, 60102, 60104, 60105, 60106, 60107, 60108, 60109, 60110, 60111, 60112, 60113, 60115, 60116, and 60201 of Public Law 117–169, two-tenths of one percent of such amounts shall be transferred to the Office of the Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency for oversight of funding provided to the Environmental Protection Agency by such Public Law: *Provided*, That amounts so transferred shall be derived from the unobligated balances of amounts under each such section.

GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT

SEC. 471. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for management of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument except in compliance with the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plans for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, dated February 2020.

OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING

SEC. 472. (a) The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct all lease sales described in the 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program (November

2016) that have not been conducted as of the date of the enactment of this Act by not later than September 30, 2024.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except within areas subject to existing oil and gas leasing moratoria beginning in fiscal year 2024, the Secretary of the Interior shall annually conduct a minimum of 2 region-wide oil and gas lease sales in the following planning areas of the Gulf of Mexico region, as described in the 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program (November 2016):

(1) The Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area.

(2) The Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning in fiscal year 2024, the Secretary of the Interior shall annually conduct a minimum of 2 region-wide oil and gas lease sales in the Alaska region of the Outer Continental Shelf, as described in the 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program (November 2016).

(d) In conducting lease sales under subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary of the Interior shall—

(1) issue such leases in accordance with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1332 et seq.); and

(2) include in each such lease sale all unleased areas that are not subject to a moratorium as of the date of the lease sale.

ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING

SEC. 473. (a)(1) The Secretary of the Interior shall immediately resume quarterly onshore oil and gas lease sales in compliance with the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).

(2) The Secretary of the Interior shall ensure—

(A) that any oil and gas lease sale pursuant to paragraph (1) is conducted immediately on completion of all applicable scoping, public comment, and environmental analysis requirements under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(B) that the processes described in subparagraph (A) are conducted in a timely manner to ensure compliance with subsection (b)(1).

(3) Section 17(b)(1)(A) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting “Eligible lands comprise all lands subject to leasing under this Act and not excluded from leasing by a statutory or regulatory prohibition. Available lands are those lands that have been designated as open for leasing under a land use plan developed under section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and that have been nominated for leasing through the submission of an expression of interest, are subject to drainage in the absence of leasing, or are otherwise designated as available pursuant to regulations adopted by the Secretary.” after “sales are necessary.”.

(b)(1) In accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), each fiscal year, the Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a minimum of four oil and gas lease sales in each of the following States:

(A) Wyoming.

(B) New Mexico.

(C) Colorado.

(D) Utah.

(E) Montana.

(F) North Dakota.

(G) Oklahoma.

(H) Nevada.

(I) Alaska.

(J) Any other State in which there is land available for oil and gas leasing under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) or any other mineral leasing law.

(2) In conducting a lease sale under paragraph (1) in a State described in that paragraph, the Secretary of the Interior shall offer all parcels nominated and eligible pursuant to the requirements of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) for oil and gas exploration, development, and production under the resource management plan in effect for the State.

(3) The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a replacement sale during the same fiscal year if—

(A) a lease sale under paragraph (1) is canceled, delayed, or deferred, including for a lack of eligible parcels; or

(B) during a lease sale under paragraph (1) the percentage of acreage that does not receive a bid is equal to or greater than 25 percent of the acreage offered.

(4) Not later than 30 days after a sale required under this subsection is canceled, delayed, deferred, or otherwise missed the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that states what sale was missed and why it was missed.

RESCISSION OF COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY FUNDS

SEC. 474. Of the unobligated balances of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for activities of the Council on Environmental Quality under sections 60401 and 60402 of Public Law 117-169 (commonly known as the “Inflation Reduction Act of 2022”) as of the date of the enactment of this Act are rescinded.

RESCISSION OF DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FUNDS

SEC. 475. Of the unobligated balances of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available under section 50224 of Public Law 117-169 (commonly known as the “Inflation Reduction Act of 2022”) as of the date of the enactment of this Act are rescinded.

OFFICIAL FLAGS

SEC. 476. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to fly or display a flag over a facility of a Department or agency funded by this Act other than the flag of the United States; the flag of a State, insular area, or the District of Columbia; the flag of a Federally recognized Tribal entity; the official flag of the Secretary of the Interior; the official flag of a U.S. Department or agency; or the POW/MIA flag.

EFFECT ON OTHER LAW

SEC. 477. Nothing in this Act, or any amendments made by this Act, shall affect—

(a) the Presidential memorandum titled “Memorandum on Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf From Leasing Disposition” and dated September 8, 2020;

(b) the Presidential memorandum titled “Memorandum on Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf From Leasing Disposition” and dated September 25, 2020;

(c) the Presidential memorandum titled “Memorandum on Withdrawal of Certain Areas off the Atlantic Coast on the Outer Continental Shelf From Leasing Disposition” and dated December 20, 2016; or

(d) the ban on oil and gas development in the Great Lakes described in section 386 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15941).

VEHICLE RESERVATION SYSTEM AT GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

SEC. 478. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the operation or

implementation of the vehicle reservation system at Glacier National Park.

PROHIBITION ON FUNDING FOR SECRETARIAL ORDER NO. 3410

SEC. 479. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of the Interior to implement or execute Secretarial Order No. 3410 (regarding Restoration of American Bison and the Prairie Grasslands) or any appendix to that Order, dated March 3, 2023.

LIMITATION

SEC. 480. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, or enforce the proposed rule titled “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units Review of the Residual Risk and Technology Review” and published April 24, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 24854).

LEAD AMMUNITION AND TACKLE

SEC. 481. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to prohibit the use of lead ammunition or tackle on Federal land or water that is made available for hunting or fishing activities or to issue regulations relating to the level of lead in ammunition or tackle to be used on Federal land or water, unless—

(1) the Secretary of the Interior determines that a decline in wildlife population on the specific unit of Federal land or water is primarily caused by the use of lead in ammunition or tackle, based on field data from the specific unit of Federal land or water; and

(2) the prohibition or regulation, as applicable, is—

(A) consistent with—

(i) the law of the State in which the specific unit of Federal land or water is located; or

(ii) an applicable policy of the fish and wildlife department of the State in which the specific unit of Federal land or water is located; or

(B) approved by the fish and wildlife department of the State in which the specific unit of Federal land or water is located.

(b) In any case in which the Secretary of the Interior determines under subsection (a) that there is a wildlife population decline on a specific unit of Federal land or water that warrants a prohibition on or regulation relating to the level of lead in ammunition or tackle, the Secretary shall include in a Federal Register notice an explanation of how the prohibition or regulation, as applicable, meets the requirements of this section.

LIMITATION

SEC. 482. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule titled “New Source Performance Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From New, Modified, and Reconstructed Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units; Emission Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Existing Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units; and Repeal of the Affordable Clean Energy Rule” published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register on May 23, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 33240).

LIMITATION

SEC. 483. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or

moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman.

(b) DISCRIMINATORY ACTION DEFINED.—As used in subsection (a), a discriminatory action means any action taken by the Federal Government to—

(1) alter in any way the Federal tax treatment of, or cause any tax, penalty, or payment to be assessed against, or deny, delay, or revoke an exemption from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of, any person referred to in subsection (a);

(2) disallow a deduction for Federal tax purposes of any charitable contribution made to or by such person;

(3) withhold, reduce the amount or funding for, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any Federal grant, contract, subcontract, cooperative agreement, guarantee, loan, scholarship, license, certification, accreditation, employment, or other similar position or status from or to such person;

(4) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any entitlement or benefit under a Federal benefit program, including admission to, equal treatment in, or eligibility for a degree from an educational program, from or to such person; or

(5) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny access or an entitlement to Federal property, facilities, educational institutions, speech fora (including traditional, limited, and non-public fora), or charitable fundraising campaigns from or to such person.

(c) ACCREDITATION; LICENSURE; CERTIFICATION.—The Federal Government shall consider accredited, licensed, or certified for purposes of Federal law any person that would be accredited, licensed, or certified, respectively, for such purposes but for a determination against such person wholly or partially on the basis that the person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction described in subsection (a).

LIMITATION

SEC. 484. None of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Smithsonian Institution by this Act may be made available for partnerships or activities associated with the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices, including any use of facilities by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices.

LIMITATION

SEC. 485. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule titled “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Ethylene Oxide Emissions Standards for Sterilization Facilities Residual Risk and Technology Review” published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register on April 13, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 22790) or the proposed interim registration review decision and draft risk assessment addendum for ethylene oxide described in the notice titled “Pesticide Registration Review; Proposed Interim Decision and Draft Risk Assessment Addendum for Ethylene Oxide; Notice of Availability” published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register on April 13, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 22447) unless the Commissioner of Food and Drugs certifies that finalization, implementation, administration, or enforcement of such rule, decision, or addendum for ethylene oxide will not adversely impact the availability of sterile medical products in the United States.

LIMITATION

SEC. 486. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement a final

rule listing the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard as endangered or threatened pursuant to “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard” (88 Fed. Reg. 42661 (July 3, 2023)).

LIMITATION

SEC. 487. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the decisions proposed in the notice titled “Pesticide Registration Review; Proposed Interim Decisions for the Rodenticides; Notice of Availability” published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register on November 29, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 73297).

LIMITATION

SEC. 488. None of the funds made available by this Act may be made available to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule titled “Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles” and published May 5, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 29184), or any substantially similar rule.

LIMITATION

SEC. 489. None of the funds made available by this Act may be made available to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule titled “Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Heavy-Duty Vehicles-Phase 3” and published April 27, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 25926), or any substantially similar rule.

FUNDING LIMITATION REGARDING BLM RULE

SEC. 490. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to—

(1) develop, finalize, or issue a final rule with respect to the proposed rule entitled “Conservation and Landscape Health” published by the Bureau of Land Management in the Federal Register on April 3, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 19583); or

(2) implement, administer, or enforce such proposed rule or any substantially similar rule.

GREATER YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM GRIZZLY BEAR

SEC. 491. (a) Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall reissue the final rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Population of Grizzly Bears From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife” (82 Fed. Reg. 30502 (June 30, 2017)), without regard to any other provision of law that applies to the issuance of that final rule.

(b) The reissuance of the final rule described in subsection (a) (including this section) shall not be subject to judicial review.

BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE

SEC. 492. The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, shall prepare an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), prior to approving an operations permit, as described in 36 Code of Federal Regulations, subpart B §§9.80 through 9.90, for the purpose of conducting or proposing to conduct non-federal oil or gas operations within the Big Cypress National Preserve.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 493. \$0

This Act may be cited as the “Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024”.

The CHAIR. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived.

No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in part A of

House Report 118-261, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of House Resolution 838, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of this resolution.

Each amendment printed in part A of the report shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of House Resolution 838, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in part A of the report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, except as provided by section 4 of House Resolution 838, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate.

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AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. SIMPSON OF IDAHO

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 838, I offer amendments en bloc.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 1 consisting of amendment Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 36, 37, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 69, and 105 printed in part A of House Report 118-261, offered by Mr. SIMPSON of Idaho:

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

Page 8, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,150,000)”.

Page 40, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,150,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 8, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 40, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. ADAMS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 13, line 13, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000) (increased by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS

Page 13, line 13, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. LAWLER OF NEW YORK

Page 13, line 13, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

Page 13, line 13, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$266,124,000) (reduced by \$266,124,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. NORTON OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Page 13, line 13, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (decreased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. GARBARINO OF NEW YORK

Page 14, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$15,000,000) (increased by \$15,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. LAWLER OF NEW YORK

Page 14, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 40, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 14, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 40, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. ESPAILLAT OF NEW YORK

Page 14, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

Page 14, line 17, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000) (increased by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. BARR OF KENTUCKY

Page 19, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 40, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

Page 19, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,500,000)”.

Page 40, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 27, line 22, after the dollar amount insert “(increased by \$1,500,000)”.

Page 28, line 10, after the dollar amount insert “(increased by \$1,500,000)”.

Page 68, line 6, after the dollar amount insert “(decreased by \$1,750,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 40, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 132, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MS. KAMLAGER-DOVE OF CALIFORNIA

Page 40, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000) (increased by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 30, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$4,000,000)”.

Page 68, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$4,000,000)”.

Page 68, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$4,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

Page 40, line 19 insert “(reduced by \$4,000,000)”.

Page 46, line 8 after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 97, line 8, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MR. NORCROSS OF NEW JERSEY

Page 40, line 19 after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)(decreased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

Page 40, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$12,500,000)”.

Page 42, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$12,500,000)”.

Page 42, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$12,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

Page 46, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$575,000,000) (increased by \$575,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MRS. CASTRO OF TEXAS

Page 51, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA

Page 67, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. MASSIE OF KENTUCKY

Page 67, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MS. BLUNT OF ROCHESTER OF DELAWARE

Page 68, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000) (reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 36 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 68, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 97, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 37 OFFERED BY MR. FEENSTRA OF IOWA

Page 68, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1) (reduced by \$1)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

Page 68, line 6, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$12,000,000)”.

Page 68, line 6, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$12,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 42 OFFERED BY MR. LAWLER OF NEW YORK

Page 70, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 43 OFFERED BY MR. DAVID SCOTT OF GEORGIA

Page 72, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MRS. SYKES OF OHIO

Page 72, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,769,351,000) (reduced by \$1,769,351,000)”.

Page 72, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,103,861,000) (reduced by \$1,103,861,000)”.

Page 72, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$665,490,000) (reduced by \$665,490,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 45 OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

Page 72, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$100,000,000)(reduced by \$100,000,000)”.

Page 72, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$100,000,000)(reduced by \$100,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 46 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 72, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 47 OFFERED BY MR. MOYLAN OF GUAM

Page 76, line 8, strike “1.5” and insert “2”.

AMENDMENT NO. 48 OFFERED BY MR. PETERS OF CALIFORNIA

Page 78, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000) (reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 49 OFFERED BY MRS. DINGELL OF MICHIGAN

Page 79, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$20,000,000)(decreased by \$20,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 50 OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 80, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$6,500,000) (reduced by \$6,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 51 OFFERED BY MRS. TRAHAN OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 81, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$230,000,000) (reduced by \$230,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 52 OFFERED BY MS. PEREZ OF WASHINGTON

Page 84, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 53 OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

Page 90, line 23, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 92, line 17, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 54 OFFERED BY MR. BARR OF KENTUCKY

Page 91, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 55 OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

Page 92, line 17, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$409,843,000)(reduced by \$409,843,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 56 OFFERED BY MR. PANETTA OF CALIFORNIA

Page 92, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 57 OFFERED BY MR. YAKYM OF INDIANA

Page 120, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 69 OFFERED BY MR. MOORE OF UTAH

Page 193, after line 2, insert the following:
SEC. 493. For “UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY” to implement the Saline Lake Ecosystems in the Great Basin States Assessment and Monitoring Program, there is hereby appropriated, and the amount otherwise provided by this Act for “DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES—OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY—DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS - (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)” is hereby reduced by, \$5,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 105 OFFERED BY MR. MOORE OF UTAH

At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account), insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) For “Department of the Interior—Office of the Secretary—Departmental Operations - (including transfer of funds)” for carrying out section 4 of the Modernizing Access to Our Public Land Act (Public Law 117-114), there is hereby appropriated, and the amount otherwise provided for by this Act for “Department of the Interior—Office of the Secretary—Departmental Operations - (including transfer of funds)” is hereby reduced by, \$5,500,000.

(b) For “Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Forest Service Operations - (including transfer of funds)” for carrying out section 4 of the Modernizing Access to Our Public Land Act (Public Law 117-114), there is hereby appropriated, and the amount otherwise provided for by this Act for “Department of the Interior—Office of the Secretary—Departmental Operations - (including transfer of funds)” is hereby reduced by, \$5,500,000.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) and the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, this bipartisan en bloc amendment was developed in coordination with the minority. It contains noncontroversial amendments addressing important issues at the agencies funded in this bill that have been agreed to by both sides.

It provides support for the Department of the Interior's efforts to identify critical minerals in the United States. It highlights the importance of the rural water technical assistance grants, as well as the clean water and drinking water State revolving funds. It emphasizes support for the Federal wildland firefighters and Bureau of Indian Affairs road construction. Finally, it includes additional support for research into harmful algal blooms and provides assistance to the territories.

Mr. Chair, I support the adoption of this en bloc, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I rise to support this en bloc amendment, which includes several noncontroversial amendments that we support.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I have no further speakers on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. GRIFFITH

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$74,232,000)”.

Page 2, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$74,232,000)”.

Page 193, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$74,232,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak to amendment No. 1, in favor thereof.

Mr. Chair, this is an amendment that will take the Wild Horse and Burro Program back to the 2019 levels, or about \$80.5 million. In just 4 years, this program has gone up 46 percent.

Now, I have always had some questions about this program anyway because what we do, Mr. Chairman, is we rent land or lease Federal land that the Bureau of Land Management has to farmers who bring their cattle in. That is perfectly fine. I am fully supportive of that, but because the wild horses reproduce at such a fast rate, the horses were eating up the grass before the cattle could get to it. Because of that, we came up with this program back in the 1970s. The original idea was that the program would have these wild horses captured and adopted, and there are some adopted.

In fact, we do some birth control measures. Historically, less than 1 percent has been used for birth control, but this year, we are hoping it goes up a little bit higher. That being said, a 46 percent rise in the cost of this program seems to be awfully high.

Further, what do we do with all those horses that don't get adopted or that don't get the proper birth control shot, usually from a helicopter? We take them and ship them to farms and house them for the rest of their lives. Basically, what we have set up is a very expensive retirement home for wild horses and wild burros, and we are on the hook.

I know people love the wild stallions, and it makes people reminiscent of the old West, but I remind them that the horses that exist today are non-native to North America. They were introduced as the Spanish first came in and other European settlers arrived on the two continents, North America and South America.

I have to question, with the debt that this country has and the severe needs we have in other parts of this Nation, on the border, and around the world, why are we increasing spending on retirement homes for wild burros and horses about 46 percent over 4 years?

It just takes the program back. It does not eliminate it. It takes it back to the 2019 levels and starts to put an end to it.

Mr. Chair, I know you are already aware of this, but at \$2 a horse in long-term care, \$2 a horse per night, there are a lot of other things we could do with that money.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment to decrease funding for the Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Program.

I understand the gentleman's frustration. Many of us have been addressing this for a number of years, trying to find the right solution. We haven't found it yet. They used to take these horses to slaughter. You can't do that anymore. The public won't accept it, and frankly, neither will I.

In the West, continuing the Wild Horse and Burro Program at sustained levels is vital to controlling the population. Even with the funding provided, BLM will not be able to manage and curb the exponentially increasing number in the herds.

Failing to manage wild herds in the West would have devastating effects on rangelands and all the animals that depend on them. Therefore, I must oppose the gentleman's amendment.

Living in the West, I have seen this problem and what it does to rangelands. If there is a better solution rather than just cutting funding, let's hear what that better solution is because, believe me, this committee has been working hard to try to find what to do about it because we don't want to see these populations grow either, but it is a reality that we have to deal with. That is why it has increased funding in this bill.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chair, I understand the idea is to control the population, but what we are doing is not controlling the population. What we are doing is putting them into retirement homes that the American taxpayer is paying for.

I am glad to be able to present this amendment today, and I appreciate the opportunity to do that. I thank the Rules Committee for the opportunity to do it because the American people have to take a good hard look at this.

Is this what we ought to be doing? Should we be creating retirement homes for 60,000 wild horses when we are having a hard enough time having folks in retirement homes who are human beings?

In the State of Virginia, we had a recent survey that showed that 41 percent of our facilities are not taking in new people because they don't have the staffing levels. Maybe we should be spending this money on taking care of human beings instead of taking care of wild horses.

We have to figure out another way to control the population. If putting them in retirement homes is appropriate, then I would be surprised if most Americans knew how much money we were spending. We spent \$154 million this year on these retirement homes for wild horses and burros. I don't

think the American people understand or realize this. I get that they want the horses taken care of, but it costs an awful lot of money.

Mr. Chairman, I think we need to do something, and I think the Bureau of Land Management needs to come up with another idea. If all we do is continue to increase their funding 46 percent over 4 years, they have no incentive to come up with another idea.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, drastically reducing funding for the Wild Horse and Burro Program would have a devastating effect on our Western lands and the work we have done to manage the herd. For these reasons, I must oppose this amendment.

I thank the gentleman for bringing up the issue. It is an issue, but cutting funding is not the way to solve the problem. If people have better ways of managing this or additional ways of managing this, I encourage them to come forward because we are willing to listen to all alternatives on what we can do.

As I said, we used to slaughter them. We used to send them to Mexico for slaughter and stuff. We can't do that anymore because of the optics of it and everything else.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chair, it is prohibited by law.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, we are looking at sterilization of some of those and the success or not success rate of what we are doing, but I guess the expert on this whole issue was the former Congressman from Utah (Mr. STEWART). He worked on this continuously, trying to address it, and he has since retired. That was a great loss to all of us, but this is a perplexing problem.

Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for bringing the amendment up and discussing it, but I must oppose this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. HAGEMAN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 21, insert “(reduced by \$590,322,500)” after the dollar amount.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chairman, today, I rise in support of my amendment that cuts funding for the Bureau of Land Management by 50 percent.

The mission of the BLM is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Unfortunately, the BLM isn't living up to its stated purpose, and it has lost its way.

It is becoming harder and harder for each new generation to use and enjoy our public lands because the BLM is locked in on its goal to lock out land users, including recreationists, livestock grazers, and energy producers.

Earlier this year, the BLM proposed the so-called landscape health rule, which seeks to replace productive activities under the BLM's multiple-use framework by creating an additional use, so-called conservation leases, a designation never approved by Congress.

The current framework already balances conservation with other uses. Creating an entirely new use under the umbrella of conservation is simply a means to eliminate other uses and bar anyone from even setting foot on these lands.

Now, I am grateful that this act also includes a section that prevents funding from going toward the implementation of this proposed rule, but that is not enough. We must also address the BLM's overall agenda to lock us out of our Federal lands. My amendment does just that, and I request my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DONALDS). The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I understand the frustration that the gentlewoman expresses in her statement, but I must rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Bureau of Land Management's funding level is already \$255.4 million, or 18 percent below the FY23 enacted level. A drastic 50 percent cut to already decreased levels leaves me concerned that this would put the agency in a position where they cannot carry out critical activities to address their most pressing issues in Western States, particularly in Wyoming, Idaho, and other States.

The growing backlog for grazing, energy, and mineral activity permits; population problems with wild horses and burros that were just debated on the last amendment; and the increasing demand for increased recreational access to our public lands cause me deep concern when you want to cut the BLM by an additional 50 percent.

Mr. Chair, I must oppose this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I thank the chair of this committee for opposing the amendment.

As far as I am concerned, this amendment is extreme. It will not gain bipartisan support and become law.

The draconian cuts proposed in this bill violate the agreement reached by former Speaker MCCARTHY and President Biden that were memorialized in statute in Public Law 118-5, the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023.

We would not be teetering on the brink of government shutdown if my Republican colleagues would hold up their end of the bargain.

As to this amendment, with the West reeling from the historic megadrought, the worst in 1,200 years, why would any of my colleagues want to hamstring the Bureau of Land Management from protecting our public lands for the American public and future generations?

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1200

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chair, The BLM has recently launched an attack on 3.6 million acres in Wyoming through its proposed draft Rock Springs Resource Management Plan, or RMP. Through their preferred alternative, they are trying to lock out land users by designating 1.8 million acres as areas of critical environmental concern, which essentially prevents us from accessing and using these lands, particularly as it relates to recreation, livestock grazing, energy production and mineral extraction.

The Rock Springs Draft RMP is entirely biased, unscientific, violates FLPMA and NEPA, and is an abuse of BLM's authority. We can mine, we can drill, we can graze, and we can recreate on Federal lands while also conserving our important natural resources and wildlife, and, in fact, we have been doing so for literally decades.

Come to Wyoming and see how we have managed these resources. We have a beautiful State, abundant wildlife, clean water, and clean air. We are also one of the largest energy producers in the United States. Conservation and protection go hand-in-hand with grazing and energy development.

The BLM's preferred alternative for the Rock Springs RMP does not strike the proper balance between conservation and development. It would ravage Wyoming's and the Nation's economy and ultimately destroy opportunities to use the land in a productive, profitable, and effective way.

The BLM has turned into an arm of the radical environmental organizations running this administration, is aggressively exceeding its authorization, and ignoring its very purpose for existence.

I encourage adoption of my amendment so that we can begin to right this ship.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chair, the BLM is attacking not only the State of Wyoming's economy, but the economic well-being and security of every American. It continues to pursue these failed policies that force us to depend on importing our food and our energy, while also stifling competition for companies that operate on public lands.

Examples of these aggressive actions include: Leading out on President Biden's war on oil and gas, as well as his war on coal;

Crippling conservation efforts by eliminating uses that improve the environment;

Preventing local and State and multigenerational input as to what the most appropriate uses and management of land are, while also pursuing policies that impact the value and quality of our property resources;

Holding projects on Federal lands hostage to environmental litigation, and then selling out to the demands of environmental groups that are gaining traction in the fight against local control.

The BLM has perfected the sue-and-settle model, and all of us are suffering the consequences.

There are so many other examples of the BLM attacking the State of Wyoming, as well as the economic well-being of every citizen in the United States.

Mr. Chairman, today, my State faces an onslaught of proposals from the Bureau of Land Management and other Federal agencies as they pursue the terribly destructive Green New Deal. Cutting the BLM's budget as proposed in amendment No. 2 is one step forward in addressing those attacks.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chair, the system that we have with the BLM is no longer sustainable, and most States across the West are struggling as a result. My colleagues in the House and Senate are wholly opposed to reining in the executive state, so I have no choice but to try to slash this agency's budget to try to rein in what they have been doing.

The fact is that the Federal Government's ever-growing presence in the West and its adversarial nature to our way of life is undermining our prosperity. In short, the BLM doesn't work for us anymore, it doesn't work for the people of Wyoming, and it doesn't protect our natural resources. It is time that we do something about it, recognize where the problem lies, and slash the budget.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that if the gentlewoman has a problem with the Rock Springs area, that the gentlewoman address that specifically, but this cuts 50 percent of the BLM across the board. That

means it is going to substantially impact Idaho, and guess what? We get along pretty well with the BLM in Idaho.

If you cut this 50 percent, you are going to have tough times getting grazing permits. We have minerals in what is called the phosphate patch in Idaho that the BLM has to deal with.

Our general problem is when the decisions that are made in Idaho, both by the BLM or the Forest Service or their other agencies, and those decisions come to Washington, then you have a problem. That is where the problem exists.

This would cut 50 percent of, actually, the BLM across the country. That is the problem I have with this, especially when we have already made an 18 percent reduction in their budget in this bill.

I understand where the gentlewoman is coming from. Wyoming might have a special problem, and an amendment should be addressed to deal with that instead of the BLM in general.

I would oppose this amendment, and I hope my colleagues would vote "no" on it.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. COLLINS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 16, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert (increased by "\$3,750,000").

Page 120, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert (decreased by "\$3,750,000").

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Chair, the job description of a Member of Congress is real short. It is to take care of your constituents and have oversight of the Federal Government.

This amendment deals with the oversight portion. It is oversight of an unauthorized Federal agency, of which we have over 1,200 unauthorized agencies. An unauthorized agency is one that was simply not approved by Congress.

In this case, the agency was approved through the executive branch to help with overseeing the implementation of NEPA back during the Nixon administration. Since then, it has become one of the rogue, woke, climate control warriors for the Biden administration, pushing rules and regulations. As a matter of fact, the budget for this unauthorized agency was around \$3.75 million. It happened to grow during the Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act to over \$62 million.

Now, the Council on Environmental Quality is just one of a long list of unauthorized agencies in this Federal Government.

During recent oversight hearings, on four occasions, Director Brenda Mallory was requested to come and testify. Now, she only showed up one time. During that time, she decided that she would refuse to answer questions. She didn't have to answer our questions on any subject.

Let me make that even clearer. She wasn't refusing to answer my questions or the committee's questions. She was refusing to answer to the American people, the very taxpayers that foot the bill for that agency. You see, they have gotten to where, like other agencies, like the one that was just mentioned, they feel they don't have to answer to us. They don't have to answer to the American people. They are beyond that. It is beneath them to have to explain what they do.

This amendment does one simple thing. \$3.75 million is their annual budget. It simply takes that from this woke, climate-change-warrior-style agency, and it moves it over to the national parks to their construction fund, and what that does is that is going to help, Mr. Chairman, with the backlog of deferred maintenance that is in the national parks.

The national parks are running a deferred maintenance because of Members from the other side of the aisle using their funds on the national parks for pet projects.

Mr. Chair, I urge the passage of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, this amendment completely eliminates the Council on Environmental Quality. This important office is responsible for coordinating the Federal Government's efforts to improve, preserve, and protect Americans' public health and the environment. These are very important tasks.

It also works to ensure that environmental reviews for infrastructure projects and Federal actions are thorough, efficient, and reflect the input of the public and local communities.

This proposed amendment would hobble the office and result in significant delays to infrastructure projects across the country at exactly the wrong time.

Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Chairman, this is a prime example of another rogue, unauthorized agency out there that is implementing rules and regulations for which they were not set up. It also is an agency that was issued \$62 million through the Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act. Therefore, they have plenty of cash over there. This simply takes \$3.75 million and moves it over to help with the deferred maintenance in the national parks.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), the committee chairman.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

While I understand the concerns from my colleagues about the CEQ's actions under this administration related to the environmental review process and other issues, I believe that the CEQ has a valuable role to play in leading the efforts to strike a balance in ensuring our environment is protected while also promoting economic development and job growth.

It is important to have an agency lead coordinated efforts across the administration on issues such as conservation and preservation of our natural resources. I would say this, though: Republicans like what CEQ did under the previous administration. They actually liked what they were doing. The way to change policies of an agency is by voting in a different administration, and next year, we will have that opportunity to see how the American people feel.

I would point out that we rescinded those funds that were given to CEQ in this bill also, so they don't have all those funds that are left there, and we have actually reduced the funding. I rise in opposition to the amendment, while I understand the gentleman's concern under this administration.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman has the only time remaining. The gentleman from Georgia yielded back his time.

Does the gentleman from Georgia ask unanimous consent to reclaim his time?

Mr. COLLINS. I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Chairman, I believe that \$62.5 million was given to this agency in the Inflation Reduction Act, which was passed into law. Any bill that is out there that rescinds that money has not been signed. Therefore, it is still there.

I am simply saying, take the \$3.75 million, which is our duty as Members of Congress to have oversight, especially over an agency that was never

authorized by Congress. I don't care which administration it is. Wrong is wrong. This agency is not authorized by this body. Therefore, I am asking for the funds to be moved over to the national parks for their deferred maintenance. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, once again, this is a terribly misguided amendment to completely defund and eliminate the Council on Environmental Quality. I appreciate the remarks by the chair that, while in different administrations, we may feel differently about the kinds of decisions or the tactic taken, but we understand the importance of this particular agency, and defunding it would be absolutely the wrong move.

I appreciate the gentleman who sponsored this amendment, his desire to fund the national parks, and we have a way to do that. Just go against the cuts that are made in this bill, vote against the Interior Appropriations bill, and we will make sure that, in a future iteration of this bill, we fully fund the national parks. I appreciate his understanding the importance of making sure that funding is available.

As to this amendment, this is a bad amendment.

Mr. Chair, I oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1215

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. DESAULNIER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 16 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike section 447.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Chair, the social cost of carbon is an important tool that allows us to put economic value on the cost of greenhouse gas emissions to society as emissions continue to grow.

As we inch closer to the tipping point for being able to reverse the impacts of

climate change, the social cost of carbon is even more important for us to know. This kind of analysis is used to evaluate policy proposals and helps to take into account the nonmonetary costs of carbon emissions, like its impact on pollution, drought, public health, and more.

As a real-world example, a social cost of carbon analysis can help more accurately measure the price of oil by taking into account the health and environmental impacts of emissions from oil refineries on nearby communities.

By correctly valuing the damage of each additional ton of carbon dioxide emissions, we can see the real costs or benefits of raising or decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. Using the social cost of carbon now will not only provide massive financial savings in the future for individuals, businesses, and the government, but it will also help to better evaluate the significant public health impacts of climate change.

In the district I represent and the rest of the San Francisco Bay Area, we are continually hit by the impacts of climate-fueled wildfires and drought, among other disasters, as we have seen in the past year alone. The area I represent is a heavy fossil fuel-impacted area with five oil refineries. My district is the headquarters of the second-largest American petroleum company, Chevron.

We have a lot of economic importance in this community, but we are also at the forefront of transitioning, making sure that we are analytical and peer-reviewed in those objective reviews, including cost-benefits, so we make the right decisions in this transition. This is why this is important.

These disasters that we have been impacted by—direct and indirect impacts on public health, including physical injury, mental health impacts, and making chronic illnesses even worse—put extra burdens on individual families in the medical system locally, at the State level, and nationally. This only highlights the need to use all the tools available to reduce greenhouse gas emissions but in a thoughtful way by having the best analysis possible.

By knowing the true value of certain investments and policy action, and objective criteria, we can make more informed decisions on how our actions today will impact future generations.

Addressing climate change takes a whole-of-government approach. Having been a former board member of the California Air Resources Board, and having served under two Republican Governors and one Democratic Governor when we did these kinds of analyses that were bipartisan, I know firsthand the importance of correctly evaluating the reduction of emissions from all angles.

At that time, both Republicans and Democrats in California valued legitimate cost-benefit analysis. The board had to consider this by a State statute, which was signed by Ronald Reagan when he signed the California Clean

Air Act, and consider all of these consequences.

Unfortunately, the bill in front of us today prohibits the Federal Government from doing just this kind of carbon analysis on a cost-benefit basis. This is just another misguided, partisan effort, unfortunately, to dismantle our work to address, in a thoughtful way, climate change that will continue to be detrimental to all communities, industries, and businesses.

My amendment would strike this prohibition and continue to allow for agencies to use the social cost of carbon in a cost-benefit way as one tool in the larger decisionmaking process.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment to strike the provision in the bill prohibiting the use of the social costs of carbon.

The social cost of carbon attempts to monetize the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions. What it really means is that it is an easy way to increase the cost of a project or of anything that will produce emissions, like driving a car, to justify regulations or halt the activity because the costs outweigh the benefits.

This is even more problematic because this monetary value has fluctuated wildly in past decades from \$1 to \$190 per metric ton. This fluctuation tells me that the methodology and metrics are fuzzy at best and seriously flawed at worst and have lacked transparency.

All of this is especially concerning given the social cost of carbon is used to issue job-killing regulations and halt energy and infrastructure projects in the United States while the world's largest polluters are not being held accountable.

Mr. Chairman, for these reasons, I oppose this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Chair, I unexpectedly and respectfully disagree with my friend and colleague.

As in all cost-benefits, it takes time to make them more effective. In California, we are doing that as part of the tradition of the California EPA and CARB. We work closely with the Federal agencies, and then everyone benefits from it, whatever their position on energy and the effect of climate.

As I said, as somebody who has been involved with the fossil fuel industry and wants to make sure that there is a correct transition, and as someone who views the impact of carbon very seriously and thinks we are in a very difficult time, these kinds of cost-benefits, if done right, help the argument.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 19 printed in part A of House Report 118–261.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 21, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$28,000,000)”.

Page 21, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$28,000,000)”.

Page 193, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$28,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, ineffective, unreliable, and dangerous. That is what we are here to talk about on this amendment. This amendment strikes the \$28 million in this bill to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management renewable energy program that promotes the administration's reckless goal of creating 30 gigawatts of offshore wind production by 2030.

The promotion of the rapid expansion of offshore wind is particularly misguided considering offshore wind's high levelized cost, the significant lack of reliability, the impact on flight safety and national defense, and the threat to endangered ocean wildlife from offshore wind activity.

Offshore wind is one of the most expensive energy sources available. The Energy Information Administration estimates the levelized cost of energy for offshore wind at \$136.51 per megawatt hour, which is three times as much as even onshore wind, which is still way more expensive than the traditional forms of energy that are clean and that we rely on to turn these very lights on in this Chamber.

The heavy reliance on offshore wind is a contributing factor to the United Kingdom having one of the highest electricity prices in the world.

In addition to being expensive, wind power is notoriously unreliable. Intermittency is a fact of life for wind power and one that cannot be overcome or ignored. More simply put, if the wind stops blowing, the power goes out. You don't have a backup because we are shutting down all the backups across this country.

One of the significant contributors to the European energy crisis in 2021 and 2022 is a flatlining of offshore wind production. Investing Federal resources in this expensive and unreliable technology is economically ill-advised and

unaffordable as we are \$33 trillion in debt.

Beyond the economic problems with offshore wind, these projects actively threaten national security, maritime safety, and flight safety.

The Department of Defense has identified most of the eastern Atlantic Coast as a wind exclusion zone for defense and defense training, including active and currently leased wind farm areas. The DOD, the people we rely on to keep us safe, said, no, they don't want this.

The interagency Wind Turbine Radar Interference Mitigation Working Group has raised concerns that these offshore wind farms will create radar interference that will impede air traffic control, homeland security, national defense, and weather forecasting.

Despite these concerns and the grave implications of radar interference on the military and the maritime and aviation industries, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has recklessly pursued these offshore wind projects without addressing any of these issues. The Bureau's renewable energy program is recklessly green-lighting wind energy projects without accounting for any of the concerns I just raised.

Congress must end the funding for this misguided program and protect American taxpayers from the funding of this, again, ineffective, unreliable, and dangerous form of energy.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management manages the development of energy and mineral resources of the Outer Continental Shelf along our Nation's coastlines. I understand the intent of the gentleman's amendment is to eliminate the Office of Renewable Energy Programs at BOEM.

I will first note the base bill already cuts funding for the renewable energy account by nearly \$15 million, or almost 35 percent, so about a third of it is gone in our base bill.

I am also concerned that completely eliminating funding runs counter to an all-of-the-above energy approach that is necessary to ensure a mix of affordable and reliable energy sources for our constituents and businesses, and to reduce our dependence on foreign countries, some adversaries, for our energy.

Additionally, I have heard from some in our Conference about their support for offshore renewable activities, which would not move forward without this BOEM office.

Mr. Chair, I must, therefore, oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW), someone on the front lines who

is dealing with this and energy bills with his bosses, his constituents.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Chair, I thank my friend from Pennsylvania for yielding, and I thank him for his leadership on this very important issue.

Mr. Chairman, it would be hard to find a district that has been more of a petri dish for the experiments of the Office of Renewable Energy Programs at BOEM than mine. I live it every single day.

Before I go on and talk about this, just from the heart, the projects that are coming up—fortunately, one of them, Orsted, some of you may have heard of it, has now left—have received billions of dollars of funding from the State and Federal Government. They, themselves, admit it would reduce our tourism industry, but they minimized it. The company itself said it would reduce it by approximately \$1.1 billion only. It would kill our fishing industry.

□ 1230

It would really create very serious situations in our national defense and our national security. It would increase utility rates, again, according to the company itself, so it is probably much worse than the amount I previously stated; two to three to four times as much as we currently pay. It is a plan that would rely upon foreign countries to supply our energy. How stupid is that.

It has been a painful process. Thank God we won the first step when this huge, multinational, Danish company decided they couldn't take it anymore. We had a movement in south Jersey at our shore. Our shore counts. We have a beautiful, clean, pristine environment. It was an organic movement. It was the people. We had rallies. I myself produced 5,000 signs saying: Stop wind turbines. Renew and keep our beautiful shore.

This is from the heart. This was a bad plan that would industrialize the areas that they are focused upon and would cost a great deal of money.

Mr. Chair, it would be hard to find a district that has been more of a petri dish for the experiments of the Office of Renewable Energy at BOEM than mine.

In South Jersey, the industrialization of our shorelines at the hands of foreign offshore wind companies has been a top priority for BOEM and the Biden Administration.

Lies, lack of accurate information, and poor community engagement were rampant as offshore wind companies and their friends in the federal government tried to force these projects forward.

Well, I am happy to say that as of this week, much of the South Jersey coastline has been liberated from this threat.

But the Office of Renewable Energy's goals are clear: they want to force this President's Green New Deal agenda forward by any means necessary.

So, in a time of exceedingly high fuel prices and inflation, it is unconscionable to continue to send tens of millions of taxpayer dollars to an office whose priorities will only exacerbate these problems.

We must direct our resources towards tangible priorities, not partisan ideologies.

I hope all of my colleagues will join us in voting for this amendment.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, let's just remember, we are here to protect the welfare of the American public, and we cannot close our eyes to the impacts of climate change: the drought, the flooding, the severe storms, the wildfire events that we are experiencing. Climate change has reached a crisis point, and we have to take bold action to avoid a major irreversible catastrophe. That means we have to invest in renewable energy.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are proposing this amendment that would focus all of BOEM's resources on conventional energy. If my colleague from New Jersey wants to talk about the tragedy of what could happen to our States—I represent Maine, and we care about our beautiful coastline. We are worried about offshore oil drilling and the fishermen's impact, the potential impact on tourism of an oil spill, all of the things we have seen happen in other places.

We want to invest in the renewable and wind industry. To say it would reduce our tourism industry down to zero is ludicrous. To say it would do this to our fishing industry without careful management would be ridiculous.

I have been to visit the countries of Norway and Denmark. I have talked to the people from Scotland about their offshore wind projects. It hasn't eliminated tourism or reduced their fishing industry. This is misinformation made up because people want to stick to their dependence on oil and gas and the things that we have to eliminate.

I oppose this amendment. It has nothing good about it. We should not reduce the funding from the renewable energy programs, and we should continue in the way that we are.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, as I said, I oppose this amendment. It is contrary to what we on this side of the aisle have been preaching for a number of years, and that is the all-of-the-above energy program. It is going to take nuclear. It is going to take coal. It is going to take oil. It is going to take, yes, wind and solar. That is going to be a part of the mix. That is just the reality.

We don't mean that every mile of offshore area ought to be available for wind towers in the ocean, but there are some places that are. I would oppose cutting the BOEM renewable energy office completely, and I would urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MR. CLYDE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 21 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 40, line 19, insert “(decreased by \$15,000)” after the dollar amount.

Page 40, line 21, insert “(decreased by \$15,000)” after the dollar amount.

Page 193, line 4, insert “(increased by \$15,000)” after the dollar amount.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it, which would eliminate funds for official receptions within the Department of the Interior.

Our national debt is quickly approaching \$34 trillion, and yet wasteful and unnecessary spending is still rampant in our Federal Government. The American taxpayers deserve to know that their hard-earned money is being spent responsibly and conservatively, but the underlying bill still includes thousands of taxpayer dollars for government operations that are neither relevant nor essential for the success of our Nation in the Department of the Interior.

One such account is the receptions and representation expense account, which provides funds for hosting cocktail receptions and catering for Department of the Interior events. Our Department of the Interior should not be holding such events as the Department's actions simultaneously jeopardize our Nation's energy security.

For example, earlier this year, the Department of the Interior announced its plans to withdraw millions of acres within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, as well as efforts to cancel the lawfully awarded leases to the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority within the nonwilderness coastal plain that were issued in early 2021, as required by law. It is ridiculous that the Biden administration is penalizing Alaska's right to produce more oil but allows Iran to produce more of its oil while Iranian-sponsored terrorists wage war on Israel, our greatest ally in the Middle East.

It is abundantly clear that the Biden administration—in this case, the Department of the Interior—needs to re-evaluate its priorities and put America first. These individuals should not be rewarded with taxpayer funds to pay for cocktail receptions while advocating against American security amidst a dire debt crisis.

When it comes to budgeting, every little bit counts. We need to clawback

all wasteful spending and unnecessary spending to get our fiscal house in order.

Mr. Chair, for this reason, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment to this bill, which eliminates this frivolous use of funds, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, this is another partisan amendment that wastes more time on a bill that should go nowhere. Cutting \$15,000 and taking away the Cabinet Secretary's ability to host Tribal members and other important dignitaries is just petty.

At a time when we are seeing record numbers of historic storms and climate events, this is what my colleagues across the aisle have chosen to care about?

Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chair, eliminating official reception funds is not a new or novel idea. We should be fiscally responsible with every solitary dollar that we spend. We eliminated almost a half a million dollars of official reception funds in the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriation. Of that half million, \$284,000 was in the FBI, \$36,000 was in the ATF, and \$50,000 in the Office of the United States Attorney, among other amounts.

This is only \$15,000, not a huge amount of money, but every dollar counts. We must be fiscally responsible in every area, especially regarding money spent on cocktail receptions.

Who can forget the picture of the GSA official, Jeffrey Neely, pictured in the hot tub with a wine glass in Las Vegas. That was a complete abuse of funds.

This is \$15,000 that will be going to the funding reduction account. We will be saving \$15,000. We do not need a reception fund in the Department of the Interior for them to do their job better.

Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to support my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 28 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 46, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 46, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 68, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentlewoman

from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my amendment that redirects \$5 million from government bureaucracy to hazardous fuels reduction activities within the Bureau of Land Management to prevent catastrophic wildfires and save lives.

The year I was elected to office, Colorado suffered the worst fire season in Colorado history with the three largest recorded wildfires we have ever had. Hundreds of homes were destroyed and evacuated as Coloradans endured more than 100 days of fire.

The Cameron Peak fire burned more than 208,000 acres and more than 460 structures to the tune of \$6 million in property losses. The East Troublesome fire, on the border of my district, killed two people.

Coloradans also suffered severe health issues resulting from significant smoke from these fires. Wildfire smoke causes serious disorders including eye and respiratory tract infections, reduction of lung function, bronchitis, exacerbation of asthma, and even premature death.

Catastrophic wildfires also cause significant damage to the environment. A few years ago, NASA concluded that one catastrophic wildfire can emit more carbon emissions in just a few days than all vehicle emissions in an entire State over the course of an entire year.

Decades of mismanagement have left our Nation's Federal lands vulnerable to insects and disease and ripe for a catastrophic wildfires. The good news is that there is finally significant bipartisan support throughout the country to prevent wildfires, and the Forest Service is seeking to treat 20 million acres of national forests and grasslands and 30 million acres of State, local, Tribal, and private lands over the next 10 years.

However, we need to do more, as Federal agencies have stated that more than 1 billion acres throughout the country are currently at risk of catastrophic wildfires. Our Federal lands are overgrown and poorly managed, making them more susceptible to wildfire, disease, and bark beetle attacks.

There are Federal lands in Colorado and in the West where we once had 50 to 100 trees per acre but now we see 500 to 1,000 trees per acre. This is a massive overgrowth in our forests that we need to manage. There are also 6 billion standing dead trees in the Western United States. Some people call that a problem. I call it a tinderbox waiting to ignite.

Fuel treatments are effective, and Federal agencies have made clear that "over 90 percent of fuel treatments are effective in changing fire behavior and/or helping with control of the wildfire."

Let's put the lives of the American people first and take significant action

to benefit our environment by passing my hazardous fuels reduction amendment.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my commonsense amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I want to be clear. I fully support hazardous fuels reduction activities at the BLM. I am so sorry for the wildfires that have occurred in Colorado and in so many other States across our Nation.

I come from the most forested State in the Nation, the State of Maine. We know how important good forest management is. We know how important this is, but I absolutely do not support the offset.

The EPA has already been cut by 39 percent, and further cuts to its core programs will only embolden polluters and weaken the safety of our water and air.

We could easily fund both things, the EPA and forest management at the Forest Service, if the majority had produced their bills at levels that were agreed upon and passed into law in the Fiscal Responsibility Act.

If my colleagues across the aisle are serious about managing hazardous fuels at BLM, it would have been fully funded in the base bill.

Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I don't think that this is something that should be opposed. Redirecting \$5 million from government bureaucracies to hazardous fuels reduction activities is very common sense. We are to be good stewards of our land, and part of that is being proactive rather than reactive.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 33 will not be offered.

□ 1245

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 35 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 68, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,000,000)".

Page 132, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) and a

Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer my amendment that redirects \$5 million from government bureaucracy to active forest management activities at the U.S. Forest Service to prevent catastrophic wildfires and save lives.

Each year in the United States, about 65,000 wildfires burn more than 10 million acres. Wildfires kill people and destroy everything they own, including their homes and sentimental family heirlooms that can never be replaced. Some of the stories of loss I have heard from people in my district are truly heartbreaking.

Our forests are overgrown and poorly managed, making them more susceptible to catastrophic wildfires. We can reduce the size and severity of wildfires through active forest management, which will also protect our watersheds and municipal water supplies. A healthy forest means healthy watersheds.

According to the Colorado State Forest Service, more than 24.4 million acres of Colorado forestland impact Colorado's water supply, where 80 percent of the State's population relies on those forested watersheds for municipal water supplies.

Healthy forests act as a natural water filter and storage system and are critical to maintaining healthy watersheds. In the United States, forests are a source of drinking water for over 180 million people.

Historically, wildfire suppression has consumed more than 50 percent of the Forest Service's budget. The Forest Service only harvested 3.2 billion board feet in 2020 compared to over 10 billion board feet in 1990.

The current flawed approach causes us to spend billions of dollars on the back end to suppress fire, neglecting fire prevention and putting our communities at increasing risk of catastrophic fires.

The Forest Service's own fuel treatment effectiveness database reports that over 90 percent of the fuel treatments were effective in changing fire behavior and/or helping with control of wildfire.

Wildfires are also getting more intense, and we are seeing more crown fires that burn hotter and cause increased ecological damage to soil and watersheds. Unfortunately, Federal agencies have failed to recognize this correlation and timber harvests being down nearly 80 percent over the past 30 years.

This also negatively impacts education and local communities as, historically, 25 percent of the receipts from timber harvests went toward schools and important infrastructure projects for the communities that we all serve and love.

Let's pass my active forest management amendment that will help prevent catastrophic wildfires and save lives.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I want to address some of the same concerns about this amendment as I did in the previous amendment.

To be clear, I fully support active forest management at the Forest Service. I feel very bad about the wildfires that have occurred in Colorado and so many other States across our country. I can't imagine the devastation to a family who loses their home or a community that finds the entire community leveled by a forest fire.

I am also very aware of the importance of managing our forests, whether it is the timber sales or the great benefit we get from well-maintained forests. I come from the most forested State in the Nation. Sustainable forest products and our wood products industry are extremely important, and managing those forests is extremely important.

Mr. Chair, I cannot support this offset. The EPA has already been cut by 39 percent. Further cuts to its core program will only embolden polluters and weaken the safety of our water and air.

We can easily fund both things, the EPA and forest management at the Forest Service, if only the majority had produced a bill at the level that was agreed upon and passed into law by the Fiscal Responsibility Act. If my colleagues across the aisle are serious about active forest management at the Forest Service, it would have been fully funded in the base bill.

Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 38 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. MCCORMICK

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 39 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 68, line 6, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$17,000,000)".

Page 69, line 20, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I offer amendment No. 39 to H.R. 4821, the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill for 2024.

Amendment No. 39 will reduce funding for the Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Programs and Management account by \$17 million. My amendment will then reallocate \$10 million for increased oversight of the EPA. It will also provide for spending cuts to the EPA of \$2 million.

The EPA's role is to protect human health and the environment through research and development. Yet, it seems it is often more focused on burdensome bureaucratic red tape than on the American people and its businesses.

Stringent EPA regulations burden businesses with compliance costs, leading to job losses, higher prices for the customer, and reduced economic competitiveness, particularly in industries such as manufacturing, energy, and agriculture.

For example, in my own district, repavement of a key road has been delayed for 18 months at the cost of nearly \$750 million. These roads are heavily trafficked and in desperate need of repair.

This delay is due to EPA's requirement of an extensive environmental impact study, even though the road was paved over a decade ago and this is a simple re-pavement project to revitalize the community. This is a ridiculous delay of the inevitable.

The EPA needs to begin prioritizing these communities over the bureaucratic overreach with overbearing regulations.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support amendment No. 39, which would decrease the EPA's overall funding account and reallocate a portion of these funds to increase oversight, transparency, and accountability.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, to be clear, I fully support all oversight efforts and believe the mission of the inspectors general across government is vital, but I disagree with the offset and the treatment of the EPA in this bill generally.

In the base bill, the EPA is cut by nearly 40 percent. Every single account is cut except for the Office of the Inspector General. Quite frankly, the inspector general's office does pretty well under this bill.

Cutting every single program at the EPA and seeking to increase funding for only one office, which happens to be the oversight office, is a clear attempt by the majority to politicize the inspector general, and that is unacceptable.

Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I reiterate that my amendment reduces funding for the overbearing EPA, increases funding of EPA oversight, and cuts spending by \$2 million.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 41 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 58 OFFERED BY MR. WESTERMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 58 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 120, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,750,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

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

Mr. Chair, I will start by thanking the chair of the subcommittee for the great work that they did on this bill and for working with us on so many issues. I have one little adjustment I would make that would make the bill even better.

I rise in support of my amendment, which would reduce funding for the Council on Environmental Quality from the 2023 level of \$3,750,000 to its currently authorized level of \$1 million for fiscal year 2024.

While I do, again, appreciate the Appropriations Committee's efforts to reduce funding for this account by \$926,000 from fiscal year 2023 levels, as well as rescind the \$62.5 million of funds made available to CEQ by the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, it is my belief that Congress must go further to hold CEQ accountable for their actions.

I am deeply concerned by CEQ's lack of accountability to congressional oversight and their unwillingness to answer basic questions or even answer a letter in a timely manner. Congressional hearings and letters of inquiry are important tools that elected Representatives use to engage directly with administration officials to conduct oversight on policy objectives, openly debate legislation, and spotlight waste, fraud, and abuse occurring in government. These officials have an obligation to be responsive to Congress, engage in the oversight process, and be accountable to the American people.

However, on three separate occasions just this year, CEQ Chair Brenda Mallory has refused to testify before the

Committee on Natural Resources. In addition, Chair Mallory's staff, in written emails from just a few months ago, actually questioned the precedent and need for congressional oversight hearings.

CEQ has also failed to respond to basic document production letters, most recently missing yet another deadline on Monday, October 31, for a second request for the production of documents.

I will note for the record that we are not the only committee experiencing frustration with CEQ, and the specific issues we have been seeking answers on since June—well, let's just say that we are not alone in this endeavor. This type of behavior from political appointees in the executive branch is unacceptable and must not be allowed to continue.

Mr. Chairman, I come before you today to provide solutions. Working hand in hand with the Appropriations Committee and through the appropriations process, Republicans and Democrats alike should support a reduction in funding to agencies and agency heads that refuse to comply with congressional oversight.

One of the hearings where Chair Mallory refused to appear focused on CEQ's proposed changes to NEPA. These proposed changes have far-reaching impacts and affect countless stakeholders, which would make one think that oversight and transparency would be a high priority for CEQ.

To make matters worse, the changes CEQ is proposing to NEPA stand to increase permitting timelines for all kinds of projects, including energy and infrastructure, and ignore significant changes to the NEPA statute made in the bipartisan Fiscal Responsibility Act.

Some of my colleagues here today might be concerned about the level of funding that is provided by my amendment to CEQ for staffing at the \$1 million level. However, the Council is well equipped to function on a much smaller budget, as they have the authority under statute not only to work with outside NGOs but also to detail employees across government to their staff without impacting their budget.

To further emphasize this point, CEQ's governing statute actually encourages the Council to work with public organizations, meaning Federal, State, and local governments, as well as nonprofits, to save money on employees. So why don't we adhere to what the law says?

To recap, my amendment holds up Congress' end of the bargain by providing CEQ with its authorized amount for operations of \$1 million for fiscal year 2024 and not \$1 more.

Should the Council wish to discuss this matter with Congress, it would be my suggestion that Chair Mallory and her staff become more responsive to our questions and requests for routine oversight.

My amendment would send a clear message to the administration that

disregard for congressional oversight and the American people is unacceptable.

Mr. Chair, for this reason, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I am pretty sure this is *deja vu* all over again. I think we have already had an amendment to cut or eliminate the Council on Environmental Quality. This one does it by cutting 36 percent.

This office is responsible for coordinating the Federal Government's efforts to improve, preserve, and protect Americans' public health and environment. It also works to ensure that environmental reviews for infrastructure projects and Federal actions are thorough, efficient, and reflect the input of the public and local communities.

□ 1300

This amendment would hobble the office and result in significant delays to the very important infrastructure projects going on all across this country.

We have debated this once already. This was a bad amendment then. It is a bad amendment now. I oppose it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chairman, in closing, I would say the only thing slowing down and providing blockades for projects across the country is CEQ and the influence they are having across other organizations. They are unresponsive to Congress. We should stand up for our Article I rights as Members of Congress, cut their funding, and make them more responsive.

Mr. Chairman, I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 59 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 59 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 120, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,750,000)".

Page 193, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,750,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, while I like the last amendment, I have got another good one.

This amendment strikes all funding, \$3.75 million, for the Council on Environmental Quality. The Council on Environmental Quality was created by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to advance environmental policies and to meet requirements under NEPA.

The Biden administration has weaponized this CEQ with developing policies on climate change, environmental justice, and Federal sustainability, all while creating more paperwork under NEPA that the previous administration tried to reverse.

Mr. Chairman, these policies are what is holding America back. Onerous NEPA requirements and State-level laws like those in California are holding back countless programs and construction projects around the country. They are also part of the Democrat apparatus that aims to shift America's way of life by meeting unscientific emission goals.

The Federal Government is supposed to do a lot of things. It doesn't do many of them well, but it doesn't need to tell us how to cook our food. Yet, as written by the Department of Energy's own estimates for their gas stove rule, only 4 percent of gas stovetops available in the market today meet the new standard, essentially forcing Americans to choose electric stovetops.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is back again. I think it is still *deja vu* all over again because this is now the third time we have taken up this amendment. It is to, once again, eliminate the Council on Environmental Quality. We have a pending roll call on that very exact question.

It just seems to me we have plenty to do around here. We have plenty to do and are having a very busy day. We will have a very busy day tomorrow, and we have very ambitious goals on the part of the majority to pass through a lot of appropriations bills.

Why in the world would we have three of the same amendments?

I appreciate that different people wanted to give different perspectives on it, but couldn't they all have spoken on the same amendment?

I also would just say that a lot of my colleagues on this side of the aisle had amendments that were eliminated and that weren't given a chance to speak on the floor.

If the majority had just gone from three to one of these amendments, they could have used the time for two more of my colleagues' amendments and we could have had a little more Democratic debate, perhaps on reinstating funding for the National Museum of the American Latino. There were a lot

of good things we would like to see discussed under this bill.

Why in the world did the majority have to have us discuss this a third time?

Mr. Chairman, I do want you to know I have my talking points. I can say exactly the same things about why it is very arbitrary to eliminate the Council on Environmental Quality, why the office is important in establishing the Federal Government's efforts to improve, preserve, and protect Americans' public health and environment, also to ensure that environmental reviews for infrastructure projects and Federal actions are thorough, efficient, and reflect the input of the public and local communities, and I know you appreciate hearing that from me three times.

Nevertheless, it just seems to me that if we were managing this floor in a way that really made the best use of all our colleagues' time we would either give a few more amendments to the Democratic minority or we would just do this once, have one roll call, and give the majority all a chance to speak on that particular bill and voice their opinion.

It is still a bad amendment. We will still oppose this amendment, and we shouldn't be doing this at this particular time.

Once again, I oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for her thoughts on it.

Why are there three?

We want to give the minority three opportunities to do the right thing. Oftentimes Members vote, and then they think, oh, boy. They hear from their constituents and say that I wish I didn't vote that way.

We want to make sure that the minority knows that this agency does not need to exist.

By the way, of all the things, again, that the Federal Government needs to do, it does not need to be doing this. The States are doing an adequate job. As a matter of fact, they are doing an awesome job and in some places it is too awesome of a job.

Take California. It is losing population for the first time in history because they are doing too awesome of a job of being tyrannical towards their citizens with policies just like this.

We want the minority to have the opportunity. We want the minority to know that this is a pressing issue. We want the minority to know that we are not giving up on it and that we are going to keep coming back until we end this boondoggle. Finally, we want to remind everybody—in case no one else knows it—we are \$33 trillion in debt and in the next 18 months we will probably be \$36 trillion in debt.

Mr. Chairman, if you can't afford electricity, groceries, or gasoline, your credit card payments are maxed out, and you can't afford to buy a new car,

the reason is because this Congress, this institution, and this town refuses to stop the spending that is causing all of your high prices.

This is the place to stop the spending.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 60 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 60 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 129, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$186,300,000)”.

Page 193, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$186,300,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, my amendment strikes \$186.3 million in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. According to its website, the NEA is the largest funder of the arts and arts education in communities nationwide.

Now, this is all well and good. I am sure all of us here can appreciate the arts. Certainly, I attend my daughters' concerts. We have pictures hanging up in our home and pictures hanging up in my office. We bought them. We pay for our daughters' instruments. We pay for their instruction in music. We go to the plays, and we pay. However, again, we are \$33 trillion in debt. We are heading for \$36 trillion in the next 18 months.

According to a recent report by Giving USA 2023, in 2022, giving to the arts, culture, and humanities is estimated at over \$24 billion. The funding in this bill is a drop in the bucket compared to those private-sector contributions. Yet, it is still important to an America that is careening towards bankruptcy.

Furthermore, there have been many debates about objectionable art funded by NEA grants including lewd or controversial topics. Our citizens, our bosses, and our constituents shouldn't have to be forced to pay for these things that they find objectionable.

One current example is the NEA's current focus on equity, which only divides Americans using identity politics.

One way to completely avoid that debate is to stop subsidizing any of these projects.

The NEA also operates several programs that, quite frankly, shouldn't exist, including the Art in Architecture program which commissions art for Federal buildings, and the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Program which subsidizes the insurance of art exhibitions, both domestic and international, including private collections.

It is not enough that we pay for it here, we have to spend the money internationally, including private collections. This is our Federal Government. These are our Federal tax dollars of which we are borrowing right now to pay this bill. We just don't have the money for these programs.

I don't have anything against Americans creating wonderful art or enjoying wonderful art. I am one of them.

The question is: Should our taxpayers be paying for it?

I don't think that they should.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I am just so sad that we have to debate this amendment to eliminate funding for the National Endowment for the Arts.

The NEA is the Federal agency that funds, promotes, and strengthens the creative capacity of our communities by providing all Americans—that is all Americans—with diverse opportunities for arts participation.

With the very small \$186.3 million in this bill, the small but mighty agency supports arts organizations and artists in every congressional district in the country, and these investments yield enormous economic benefits.

My colleague on the other side of the aisle says that he pays for his own arts. He makes sure that his family has the arts opportunities and that his children's art is paid for.

However, every community does not have the funding to pay for their own arts. Not every community can afford arts and music in their schools. They can't afford these opportunities. Yes, there is private-sector funding, but private-sector funding goes to where the private sector wants it to be spent. It doesn't make sure that in rural States like mine that small towns can take advantage of this and that small arts organizations can have these opportunities.

A 2021 analysis done by the Department of Commerce and the NEA found that arts and cultural industries add over \$1 trillion to the U.S. economy, support nearly 5 million jobs, and account for 4.4 percent of the GDP—4.4 percent.

In what other sector wouldn't we make a lousy \$186 million investment in something that was going to add 4.4 percent to our GDP?

These guys would be all over it if it was auto manufacturing or chips or something else.

The arts have an incredible value as a positive tool for economic development, education, and community building. Defunding this important agency would cause catastrophic harm. It is a terrible idea.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, the question really should be: Is this a Federal requirement? Is this a Federal responsibility?

I agree with the gentlewoman on a whole host of things she said about the economic impact of the arts and the humanities.

The question is: Should the Federal Government be doing it?

If there is a return on investment, and I agree there is, apparently, it is worthy because in 2022 private industry and private contributions were \$24 billion. That is awesome. We ought to encourage that.

Now, maybe \$186 million is a drop in the bucket in this bill, and I suspect it is. Where I come from, \$186 million is a heck of a lot of money. It is a heck of a lot of money.

Mr. Chairman, if you watch the one millions, the two millions, the five millions, the 100 millions, the 186 millions, then maybe sometimes you can get to the fact that this year we are spending \$2.2 trillion more than we are taking in at the Federal level—\$2.2 trillion.

Mr. Chairman, you have to start somewhere, and you start with the ones, the tens, the twenties, the hundreds, and the hundred millions. That is where you start.

This is not a Federal responsibility. It should be done by local and State if they want to do it. The Federal Government cannot sustain it and should not sustain it.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), who is the chair of the committee.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment which seeks to eliminate funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. While I support the gentleman's spending, this bill already significantly reduces funding including the NEA. The bill also requires—and this is what is important to me, frankly—that the NEA allocate at least 40 percent of its grant funding to State and local communities.

Now, the gentleman mentioned the \$24 billion that was given privately to the arts throughout the country. The problem is none of that \$24 billion goes to support an arts organization in Je-

rome, Idaho; or in Shelley, Idaho; or in Sandpoint, Idaho.

What I emphasize every time I talk to the director of the National Endowment for the Arts is that I am concerned about the arts in rural communities. I have gone out to communities throughout my district and met with these arts councils about what they do. Their funding is completely reliant—maybe completely is too broad a word—but substantially reliant on the grants that they get from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment.

□ 1315

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, to close, I appreciate the words of Mr. SIMPSON, and I appreciate his acknowledgment that it is the rural communities, whether in his State of Idaho or my State of Maine, where there are so many communities that don't have the benefit of the private funding, they don't have the benefit of wealthy parents who can maybe afford to pay for their children's music and arts education. These are communities that desperately depend on this money.

I also want to say that while there is a lot of economic growth going on in the arts industry, that it is a huge contributor, that many of these venues—particularly the small ones—were the first to have to close their doors during the pandemic and the last to open, and many haven't recovered.

Many people who work in the arts industry, many artists themselves are still struggling to get back on their feet. That just makes this funding even more critically important.

This is a great way to make sure that everyone in America has the great educational benefit that all young people should have in arts and music and developing that level of creativity and curiosity and the so many wonderful educational benefits that we know come from having that education in the arts. This makes sure that it is available to everybody.

We are already facing a cut in this bill. We are going from \$207 million—which was never enough; it ought to be at least a dollar per person—down to \$186 million. This cut has already been taken. We don't need to do any more. Certainly, eliminating it would be a travesty.

Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 61 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 61 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 129, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$186,300,000)”.

Page 193, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$186,300,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment strikes \$186.3 million in funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities. I will say, yet again, since people in Washington don't seem to care, we are over \$33 trillion in debt. We are going to add another \$3 trillion here in about less than 2 years.

Let's take a look at the types of projects we are funding through the NEH grants:

\$60,000 to study the labor of interpreters in U.N. field missions;

\$500,000 to renovate 5,800 square feet of gallery space in the Adirondack Museum to meet “contemporary museum standards”;

Over \$330,000 for compact cabinetry and fixtures for a museum in Richmond, Virginia;

Almost \$150,000 to build a comics and social justice curriculum at San Diego State University.

I have a kinship with San Diego. I have been to Richmond; I like it. I am sure the gallery in the Adirondacks and the museum there are very nice, but these are State and local projects. This is not a Federal requirement.

The gentleman from Idaho talked about the small towns and communities I am sure he represents and hopes that the arts and the humanities are there. I hope for the same thing in the little town that I come from, Dillsburg, a rural community that just held the farmers fair, where children, including my daughters, entered their arts stuff to be judged. There was no Federal grant to my kids or any kids in Dillsburg, York, Hershey, Upper Daphin, or Carlisle.

We all want things for our communities, and we want somebody else to pay for them. It has to end somewhere, and this is a place where we can start. Someone has to be responsible. Nobody is saying we shouldn't have the arts and humanities. I am also not saying that some of these aren't worthwhile projects. I am just saying that our constituents' tax dollars shouldn't be subsidizing them.

If a State or locality wants to fund a local museum renovation or curriculum at a State university, that is between them and their taxpayers.

Mr. Chair, I urge support for my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment, which seeks to eliminate all funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

While I understand the gentleman's intent to reduce spending—something that I agree with—the reality is that is exactly what we have been doing in these bills.

I have seen firsthand the impact that the NEH dollars have had in my district. In fact, I contribute annually to the Idaho Endowment for the Humanities. NEA grants allow rural communities, including veterans and students, to have access to historical, cultural, and educational resources that wouldn't otherwise be available to them.

What I have seen that works—and, again, I have been around to a lot of the different grants that are received—they are preserving our history. That is exactly what they are doing. I support their efforts, and, therefore, I object to this amendment and hope my colleagues will oppose it.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, let's talk about some other projects. I know the good gentleman from Idaho talked about we are reducing spending, we continue to reduce spending, and we try to do that.

Mr. Chairman, we are going broke saving money around this town. We keep on talking about reducing spending, but somehow—I don't know how it is—when I watch that clock one of my colleagues wears on his lapel, the numbers on the national debt clock continue to get larger. I showed the national debt clock to my daughter one time, and she said, "What is that?" I pulled it up online, and I showed it to her. She stared at it, and she said, Well, it never stops.

Mr. Chairman, it doesn't stop. We are going broke saving money.

Here are some more projects:

\$60,000 to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion concepts and content into humanities general education courses at Thomas Edison State University in Trenton, New Jersey; a wonderful place;

Over \$360,000 for diversity, equity, and inclusion programs at the University of Central Oklahoma;

\$215,000 to California State University for 25 middle and high school English teachers to study climate futurism, which is storytelling that uses climate science as a catalyst to imagine possible climate futures.

Now, the President has just asked for a supplemental of over \$100 billion for wars in Ukraine, Israel, and to process more illegal migrants across our bor-

der. We don't have money for that. We are going to borrow money for that, and we are going to borrow money for this.

Mr. Chairman, there is a lot of worthwhile things in the world that we want to be a part of, that we want to pay for. We just don't have the money. We just don't have the money. I would ask that we quit saving money and going broke and pass this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I would just say that I am very disappointed that the gentleman doesn't agree with us that we ought to reduce spending because that is what these bills have been doing. Anybody who suggests we are going to stop the debt clock overnight is living in a fantasy world, but we are actually reducing spending.

The Appropriations Committee is the only committee in this Congress that is actually reducing spending. They are tough choices, but we have been making those tough choices. I wish the rest of Congress would also.

Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, may I inquire how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho has 3½ minutes remaining.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I would just reiterate that I oppose this amendment that would defund the National Endowment for the Humanities. I thank the chair for his eloquent remarks about the importance of it in Idaho.

Idaho and Maine have a lot in common. Our potatoes are so much better, but other than that, we really could see eye to eye on so many issues. Sorry, I am sure their potatoes are perfectly fine.

This misguided amendment would significantly hinder support for high-quality projects and programs that reach every single State and territory and benefit millions of Americans.

NEH is a very unique source of funding for a wide range of local, nonprofit institutions and organizations across the country. This money goes to our States and our local organizations. These grants strengthen teaching and learning in the schools and colleges. They facilitate research and original scholarship, provide opportunities for lifelong learning, preserve and provide access to cultural and educational resources, and strengthen the institutional base of the humanities.

My colleague on the other side of the aisle who proposed this amendment says he doesn't really see the value of it and goes about to disregard some of the programs that are being funded through this. The fact is that sometimes we need to use literature, history, or the arts to talk about difficult topics. You may not think it is important for us to talk about climate change but, in fact, millions of young

people, in fact millions of people in this country, are very worried about that and want to talk about it and think about how we can come with very diverse ideas to a solution that works for all of us.

The same with our diversity and equity issues. These are tough topics, and my colleague on the other side of the aisle would just have them eliminated, sweep them under the rug. Yet, we have the opportunity to use our great literature and the history of this country and the lessons that we have learned to have those conversations.

I don't know what planet this amendment comes from; someplace where these issues aren't important. Here they are very important. These programs are used by American veterans, by American senior citizens, and young people in our schools. They are so widely used in large and small communities, and they are good investments in our communities. These awards stimulate significant participation and commitment by local and private partners. They generate more money to do exactly what we are doing, so we should be doing more for the NEH, not less.

Mr. Chair, I oppose this misguided amendment.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 62 OFFERED BY MR. ROUZER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 62 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 172, strike lines 1 through 11 and insert the following:

EXEMPTION TO COASTAL BARRIER RESTRICTIONS FOR SHORELINE BORROW SOURCES

SEC. 458. Section 6 of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3505) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) BORROW SOURCE.—Section 5 shall not apply to Federal expenditures or financial assistance for the use of a borrow source located within the System if such borrow source, or a portion thereof, has been used as a borrow source by a coastal storm risk management project at least once prior to December 31, 2008.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, this amendment simply makes a technical change to the underlying language suggested by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Natural Resources Committee. To be specific of what those changes are, it takes the word "borrow site" and changes it to "borrow source," and then takes the phrase "for a period of more than 15 years" and replaces it with "at least once prior to December 31, 2008."

There literally is no change to the substance of the underlying text. This is just an accommodation of the request of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 63 OFFERED BY MR. NEHLS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 63 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 192, after line 2, insert the following:
SEC. 493. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the National Park Service to place any limitation on the number of air tours at national parks.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, my amendment prohibits the National Park Service from placing any limitation on the number of air tours at our Nation's parks. There are over 45,000 commercial scenic air tours over our national parks every year. These air tour operators provide that breathtaking experience for visitors that should remain, if not even increase.

I have been following this issue for quite some time now, and I don't think people really fully understand what is going on here. Two decades ago, Congress passed the National Park Air Tourism Act which required the National Park Service and the Federal Aviation Administration to work together to develop air tourism management plans for any park that had 50 or more annual air tours over its landscape.

□ 1330

After 20 years of bickering and bureaucratic incompetence, jurisdictional fights between Federal agencies, and the actions of what we would see in a kindergarten, neither the National Park Service nor the FAA had completed their congressional mandate.

An effort was spearheaded by radical environmentalists whose sole goal is to

end air tours because they think noise ruins the experience of visitors and the animals who live there.

As a result of these efforts, in 2019, a court ordered that any park hosting 50 or more sightseeing air tours a year develop a management plan by August 2022. Twenty-four parks are named in the resulting court order, and some of these parks developed plans that will drastically reduce the number of air tours or outright ban them.

This is completely nuts. Did they depose an elk or a moose or a trout and find that these air tours offend them? Give me a break.

These air tours are not reserved for the millionaire and billionaire class, as some of my colleagues like to pretend. They are utilized by families, the disabled, the elderly, and middle-class Americans.

I will also point out that the level of noise from our air tours is decreasing every year with technological advances and investments from our air tour operators, not to mention many of the flights fly at an altitude that people on the ground wouldn't even notice.

If there are any Democratic staffers or Members listening to this right now, I would like them to answer this question. We hear a lot of talk about fairness, equity, and civil rights, but if we reduce or phase out air tours, then what is your plan for the disabled or the elderly? How are they supposed to traverse these landscapes? Where is the fairness there?

Air tour operators offer a crucial alternative for individuals who cannot easily walk the often treacherous terrain of our national parks. I understand some of these more radical environmentalists believe these flights disrupt the natural landscape and experience because of noise, but what about the families that have children who are disabled or those who want grandma and grandpa to participate in that family vacation? Who is advocating for them? Where is the sympathy for them? And who the hell are we to deny them that experience?

Let's do the right thing and save our air tours and ensure access for our elderly and the disabled by supporting my amendment.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, first, let me say that I am not totally opposed to what the gentleman is trying to do. I think these air tours are important, but I think it is wrong to say they can't place any limitations on them.

The gentleman raises the point that they have been trying to address this for a number of years, and so far, they haven't been able to do it. I think that they need to be able to do that, and the Park Service ought to be able to look at the number of air tours.

I am not opposed to air tours. I think they are a great thing. I have taken a

few of them. The reality is that completely eliminating the Park Service's ability to make reasonable limitations on these, I think, is the wrong way to go. It goes too far, but I understand what the gentleman is trying to say and what he is trying to do. I just don't think we can go this far.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, these tours are very important. In fact, the gentleman from Texas talked about the technology. In the Grand Canyon, they have this quiet technology where you can barely hear them on the ground.

There are limitations on these tours already in many of the parks. The problem here is the bureaucracy can't help the private sector. I love the gentleman's aspect about no limitations because that is going to make it happen. It is going to make it happen because they are going to try to put limitations on them.

This makes sure that everybody has the opportunity to experience these. On top of that, air tours require no ground-based infrastructure at the park, which expands accessibility without the need for roads, trails, signs, bathrooms, garbage cans, or other services. These are important.

They also generate a sizable amount of money because every tour generates some kind of fee back to the Federal Government. At \$34 trillion and growing, I think we could all use a little bit of that extra money.

If you look at it from the eyes of a businessman and allowing these air tours to help out, you are going to find out that America is singing "Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah" all day long, seeing the beautiful landscapes.

Mr. Chair, I join with my friend from Texas and say please vote for this amendment.

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Chair, I couldn't agree more with my colleague from Arizona.

The only ones against this, it appears, are the environmentalists because I haven't talked to a moose or an elk or a trout that has found these tours offensive.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 64 OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 64 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 193, after line 2, insert the following:
SEC. 493. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to promulgate new

rules that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget finds has resulted in or is likely to result in—

(1) an annual effect on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more;

(2) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or

(3) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, since the Biden administration took office, in just the first 2 years, they implemented or imposed costs on the American public exceeding \$300 billion.

Mr. Chairman, when I was in school, I learned there were three branches of government. There was the judicial branch, executive branch, and legislative branch. Apparently, there is a fourth branch of government, and it is the bureaucrats. It is this entity out there that is writing rules, writing regulations, and imposing costs on American families—I will say it again—to the tune of over \$300 billion in just the first 2 years of this administration.

What does that look like at home? It looks like regulations that are killing small businesses. The U.S. Census Bureau has quantified that one in every four households in America has had to choose among costs like groceries, utility bills, gasoline for their cars, or medical costs.

These are false choices, Mr. Chairman. American families shouldn't have to choose among costs like that. These are necessities. Again, we shouldn't have to choose between groceries, utility costs, and things like rent and a mortgage.

The average American family is paying 40 percent more right now for energy costs like gasoline and utility bills because of the policies of this administration.

What our amendment does is it simply restores the role of Congress, the role of Representatives. It says that any new regulation that is estimated or quantified to cost in excess of \$100 billion cannot move forward without actual action by the Congress.

Mr. Chairman, I think that this is a commonsense amendment. I think it is consistent with what the Founders intended the role of their Representatives to be. It is consistent with what the Founders intended as the role of the legislative branch of Congress, that we have a role in ensuring that regulations being carried out are consistent with congressional intent and that we are not going to go out there and impose taxes, fees, or bureaucratic red

tape on American families when they can afford it the least right now.

The Ways and Means Committee has estimated that 17.4 percent is the percent that inflation has gone up under this administration, the additional cost being placed on American families. We cannot allow this mysterious fourth branch of government that has no accountability to continue to impose costs on American families.

Again, this restores the role of the branch of government that we all are here to represent. It restores the functionality of Congress.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, this amendment is one more controversial poison pill rider that sadly shows that the extreme Republicans are not interested in bills that can gain bipartisan support and become law.

In 2012, before the Bush tax cuts, the Congressional Budget Office showed revenues exceeding primary spending for the next 65 years and that debt as a percent of GDP would decline indefinitely.

Since then, tax cut extensions and the Trump tax cuts have added \$10 trillion to the debt to date, and their cost will increase enough over time to account for the entire long-term growth in debt ratio. Remember, those benefits are disproportionately enjoyed by the wealthy.

If we want to truly protect the American taxpayer, we should be marking up bills at the levels agreed to between the President and Speaker MCCARTHY and signed into law in the Fiscal Responsibility Act rather than bringing the government to the verge of a shutdown and now marking up bills that just don't just break the deal but obliterate it and cut crucial domestic investments.

Let's get serious about passing bills that can gain bipartisan support and become law.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote against this harmful amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentlewoman's comments. Unfortunately, those comments aren't really relevant to this amendment.

Let's be clear on what this amendment does. It prevents agencies from imposing regulations that exceed a compliance cost of \$100 million or more.

If the gentlewoman is concerned about spending and debts and deficits, I share those concerns with her. As a matter of fact, as a result of this administration's legislation like the CHIPS Act, IRA, ARP, and the infrastructure bill, an additional \$10 trillion in spending has been incurred as a re-

sult of their reckless and irresponsible actions.

Mr. Chair, what that translates to is that 50 cents of every dollar we are going to borrow over the next 10 years is going to go to pay interest on the debt. Over the next 10 years, we are going to spend \$10 trillion on interest payments on the debt.

Mr. Chairman, you represent areas in Ohio. I represent areas of Louisiana. We have representation here for Idaho and Maine. We have constituents that have real needs. We are flushing money down the toilet by putting \$10 trillion just toward interest payments.

This helps to improve the efficiency of the Federal Government. It is complementary to the deregulatory agenda that we saw under the previous administration.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 65 OFFERED BY MS. HAGEMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 65 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 193, after line 2, insert the following: SEC. 493. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Rock Springs RMP Revision, Wyoming, referred to in the notice of availability titled "Notice of Availability of the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Rock Springs RMP Revision, Wyoming" published by the Bureau of Land Management on August 18, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 56654).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chair, today, I rise in support of my amendment, which prohibits the BLM from finalizing its draft Rock Springs resource management plan, the purpose of which is to severely restrict livestock grazing, mining, energy development, recreation, and other activities on 3.6 million acres of land in southwestern Wyoming.

The BLM is required to update its resource management plans approximately every 10 years. The Rock Springs field office began the process of updating its own plan in 2011 in accordance with FLPMA.

The proposed RMP contains four alternatives for the planning area, including alternative A, which keeps the current management plan in place; the BLM's preferred plan, alternative B,

which would have tremendous negative consequences for Wyoming and the Nation as a whole; alternative C, which severely restricts recreational activities; and alternative D, which provides a better balance between various uses but still substantially impacts the activities of key contributors to Wyoming's economy, such as our trona mining and existing oil and gas operations.

Contrary to the very purpose of the BLM, it has chosen the most restrictive, the most draconian, and the least scientifically defensible plan—the one that Wyomingites are the most opposed to—as its preference, that being alternative B.

In total, under BLM's preferred alternative B, about 2.5 million acres would not be available for new rights-of-way. This would be an increase of more than 480 percent in acreage off-limits to important things like power lines, pipelines, and maintaining roads.

The draft RMP restricts the use of vehicles on millions of acres of land, restricts recreation, cuts livestock grazing, destroys our trona industry, and severely restricts our ability to explore for and produce oil, gas, and coal.

BLM's alternative B is a nonstarter and will have severe impacts on the economy of not only Wyoming but the Nation. It will impact our food supply.

It is for these reasons that I have introduced my amendment to defund the BLM's efforts to finalize or implement the RMP as a whole.

Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to support this important amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1345

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from New Mexico is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Chair, the Republicans' Interior Appropriations bill attacks our environment and the opportunity for our prosperity in communities that have historically been left behind. This bill stands in stark contrast to Democratic values and priorities.

Last Congress, the Democratic House, Senate, and President recognized that for too long rural communities have lost jobs, people, and economic vibrancy.

As someone from and representing rural communities, changing this trajectory is my purpose and my passion in Congress. It is also my duty to bring rural voices to this Chamber, especially at times when Republicans' extreme bills will hurt our precious rural communities.

I know many of my colleagues in this room are also concerned about the rural communities where they live, yet rather than investing in places of promise, Republicans are using their appropriation bills to undermine that promise.

Indeed, their Interior-Environment bill cuts programs from the Inflation Reduction Act, our landmark law that we passed last year that marked the largest climate investment in U.S. history. They want to cut that Act by \$9.4 billion. This includes slashing the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund by \$7.8 billion.

That fund allows us to address the climate crisis while investing in jobs and capital improvements in rural America and other communities across the country that have been left behind. This program is an opportunity to remedy decades of underinvestment and to protect our beautiful lands, our beautiful environment, for generations.

I hear my Republican colleagues talk a lot about energy independence, yet they attack the programs that would actually help us achieve energy independence, true energy independence, not relying on foreign oil and Russia and others who would control the prices that we pay at home. We also know that pollution especially hurts the same communities that we fail to invest in, communities that are often places where Latinos and other people of color live.

This bill does not attack that pollution. Instead, it cuts \$1.4 billion needed to address environmental health impacts. It tells those communities that they are not a priority. It tells them that we are not going to make things right for their health or for the environment. What is worse is that this bill cuts funding for the environmental agencies and council that work to protect our environment and public health, because health is directly tied to environmental pollution.

Last Congress, Democrats made historic investments in rural America's infrastructure, the most investments since the New Deal and the rural electrification program. In contrast, in the extreme Interior bill, Republicans would roll back all that progress. We can't face the climate crisis on a 1991 EPA budget, which is what this bill would do.

For these reasons, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill.

My amendment would strike the four provisions of the bill that cut programs for the Inflation Reduction Act, including the \$7.8 billion cuts from EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. It would also cut \$1.4 billion to the Environmental and Climate Justice Grants—I would make sure that those were not cut; all remaining funding from the Council on Environmental Quality for environmental and climate data collection and "efficient and effective;" and all remaining funding for the National Park System for deferred maintenance.

We know our parks need the care that they deserve. They are America's promise, and we are ignoring them and letting them deteriorate.

Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD the text of my amendment.

Ms. Leger Fernandez moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4821 to the Committee on Appropriations with the following amendment: Strike sections 438, 439, 474, and 475.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chairman, none of the responses from my colleague on the other side had anything to do with the amendment before us, so I am going to proceed with the statistics related to this particular RMP.

The RMP severely restricts vehicle access, including 4,500 miles of routes to all uses, while removing an additional 10,000 miles of routes from the transportation network.

This draft RMP designates 1.8 million acres out of 3.6 million acres as areas of critical environmental concern without any congressional input whatsoever.

Perhaps what is most disheartening and disturbing and illegal about this RMP is the fact that it has ignored not only stakeholder input over the past 12 years, but the input and analysis undertaken and completed by the BLM personnel in the Rock Springs district's office.

The administration has proven time and again that its primary agenda is to push forward with the radical Green New Deal, as we just heard from my colleague on the other side, and that it views the opinions of unelected bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., over the citizens of this country, and that it does not care whether its actions actually work in the real world or cause severe damage.

In addition to the fact that alternative B is just plain bad on its face, it was also adopted in violation of FLPMA and NEPA. According to a former BLM engineer who worked in the Rock Springs field office on this very RMP, most of the research and work went into studying and pursuing alternative D. What does that mean? The most controversial alternative, the alternative that the BLM is now seeking to impose on Wyoming, was never adequately evaluated.

Alternative C, which includes heavy recreational restrictions, also had little time and little review. The lack of planning and analysis and input related to alternative B exposes the fact that this is a political decision that is not based on the real-life situation in the Rock Springs district, but more related to the idea of blocking any access to our natural resources for the things that we have historically used them for.

Mr. Chair, we have historically balanced our energy development, land use recreation, wildlife management, and grazing, and we have done it well. Come to Wyoming. It is a beautiful State. We have been able to balance all of these interests and, in the process,

become the largest producer of trona in the United States, raised hundreds of thousands of head of cattle and sheep, and produced massive amounts of coal and oil and gas to power this country, all the while protecting our habitat, our air quality, our water quality, and our very way of life.

I am proud of Wyoming producers, ranchers, and recreationists and what they have created, and we cannot allow BLM to destroy it.

It was said the other day by a reporter that this BLM RMP takes the public off public lands. I couldn't have said it better.

Mr. Chairman, we have seen this kind of thing happen across the interior West, including with the Bears Ears designation in Utah, and others in Colorado and Arizona. We need to put a stop to this effort to block our access, use, and management of our resources.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, which would prevent any funds from going towards implementing this monstrosity of a plan.

Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 66 OFFERED BY MRS. HARSHBARGER

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. FALLON). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 66 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 193, after line 2, insert the following: SEC. 493. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be available for the United States Board on Geographic Names.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Chairman, the Democrats have been hard at work revising American history, from the removal of statues to renaming military bases. They truly believe they can and should erase the history and progress we have made since our Nation was founded for their own political benefit.

When Secretary Haaland took over as Secretary of the Interior, she immediately made a point to politicize the Board on Geographic Names through deeming the word "squaw" as derogatory. This would entail removing any word containing squaw from any geographic landmark or unincorporated town, resulting in the town of Squawberry in Tennessee's First District to be renamed as Partridgeberry.

I am standing here to argue that the Federal Government has no business

renaming towns and erasing our history. This is blatant government overreach, and we should not allow our government to continue to force our revisionist history upon my constituents or anybody else's constituents.

I don't believe the Founding Fathers viewed historical revision as a key function of our government. Changing the name of small towns throughout America, such as Squawberry, is entirely unnecessary.

When historical revisionists are given an inch, they will take a mile. How long will it be until the Department of the Interior decides to remove the mission of Washington or Jefferson from geographic landmarks? I don't trust this administration to act in good faith. They have politicized vast swaths of the government, and the Board on Geographic Names is yet just another victim of those seeking to use our government and its agencies as tools to further their own agenda.

For these reasons, I believe we must prohibit the funding on the Board on Geographic Names and put an end to this woke revisionist policy being forced upon the American public.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, this amendment would prohibit all funds to the United States Board on Geographic Names. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names is a Federal body created in 1890 and established in its present form by public law in 1947 to maintain uniform geographic name usage throughout the Federal Government. The Board is comprised of representatives of Federal agencies concerned with geographic information, population, ecology, and management of public lands.

In this age of geographic information systems, the internet, and homeland defense, geographic names data are even more important. The Board works with Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies, and more than 50 nations have some type of national names authority.

My Republican colleagues should be focused on creating bills that will garner bipartisan support and become law, not prohibiting funding for a board that helps surveyors, mapmakers, and scientists, and serves the Federal Government and the public as a central authority to which name problems, name inquiries, name changes, and new name proposals can be directed.

I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Chairman, I go back to my original statement. The Federal Government has no business renaming towns and erasing our history. That should be left to local and State entities to decide.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I am not an authority on this, but my understanding is that the Federal Government could not rename a town in a State. The Federal Government has authority on public lands on names that are related to public property.

I am very pleased that we have Secretary Deb Haaland as the Secretary of Interior right now, and I respect the fact that we have someone, for the first time ever, who is a member of a Tribe. Secretary Haaland has made a statement that using the word "squaw" is offensive to Native American Tribes, and I fully agree with her, and many people in my own State agree with her and have changed those names, but, in this particular case, I don't believe that the Department of the Interior can arbitrarily rename a town in any State in the Nation.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 67 OFFERED BY MR. LAMALFA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 67 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 193, after line 2, insert the following: SEC. 493. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the establishment or modification of a national monument in Colusa County, California, under chapter 3203 of title 54, United States Code (commonly referred to as the "Antiquities Act of 1906").

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

□ 1400

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chair, in 1906, the Antiquities Act was passed by Congress to give the President authority to declare our national monuments were historical landmarks and structures. But this act required that declaration be confined to the smallest possible area to do a given job. In 2023, we see the original intent of this bill has become almost unrecognizable.

Much like Congress has experienced and the American people have experienced with the Clean Water Act and

the definition of the waters of the United States, the executive branch has continually run wild with the authority Congress at one time had granted it.

While the Clean Water Act was used by both the Obama and Biden administration in an attempt to put all water under the jurisdiction of bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., so too has the Antiquities Act been used to take vast tracks of land, especially in the Western United States, out of consideration for economic development and responsible land management, such as for fire.

Some of the early drafts of the Antiquities Act even mentioned a total limitation of any monuments to 640 acres. A limitation on monument size, 640 acres was the original draft. That is only one square mile.

By contrast, in August President Biden designated new lands to the Grand Canyon totaling nearly 1 million acres. That would be approximately 1,500 square miles.

When President Teddy Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act into law, he did so believing it would allow the U.S. to honor its history and protect public lands. All good things.

Today, when word of a new national monument reaches an area, such as my area in northern California, my constituents in Colusa County didn't react with hope or an appreciation of history in this particular instance. Instead, they reacted with anger, frustration, or even fear of what it will mean for lands in their areas.

For example, will the Federal Government still perform necessary forest and land management? That is an issue we deal with continuously. As we saw in my district in 2021, we had a 1-million-acre fire known as the Dixie fire due to lack of forest service management on Federal land.

And another question would be: Can we still allow for recreation on these lands?

Mr. Chairman, this body has allowed the executive branch to take too much of our authority away from Congress. The abuse of the Antiquities Act is just the latest in a long line of white flags Congress has flown against the President.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, this amendment would prohibit the use of any Federal funds to establish or modify any national monuments under the Antiquities Act within Colusa County, California. Now, I am very sorry that my colleague on the other side of the aisle feels this way. I appreciate being able to serve on the Agriculture Committee with him. We often have areas on agreement, but on this, we disagree.

The Antiquities Act provides the President with the authority to des-

ignate national monuments in order to protect the objects of historic or scientific interest. This amendment inappropriately restricts the President's ability to declare a national monument in specific parts of the country. Both Republican and Democratic Presidents have used this authority to increase the protection of special Federal lands.

In our State, we are particularly pleased that a previous President declared the Katahdin Woods and Waters as a national monument. And we are very glad about the way it has been managed and the fact that it is an important resource to our State. This bill would go against 100 years of American tradition to protect the Nation's cultural and natural resources. The Antiquities Act represents an important achievement in the progress of conservation and preservation efforts in the United States. Congress should not stand in the way of these achievements.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the thoughts by my good colleague from Maine, and I appreciate her.

In this particular case, we are limiting, relative to the whole country, a small area. This affects several thousand acres, not the entire country. The President's whole powers are in one county in my district, Colusa County in northern California. They have asked not to be included in this monument because it would limit their ability to do important things, such as manage the land for fire danger or recreation. It is really rather sparse land in that area. It is good for deer hunting.

So what is it you really need a monument for? If you are going to do extensive things like mining, drilling, putting in pipelines or power lines, you already have to get permits for those. And it takes the mines we are going to need in this country if we are going to electrify everything, they take 20 years to get a mine made. But that is not even proposed in this area. It is simply to have a little autonomy in the area.

Now, when it wasn't affecting Colusa County, the locals there weren't particularly against the moment as it didn't affect their county. After an additional portion got drawn in, they said, Well, wait a minute. This is our county. We already have difficulty in this rural county with revenue and being able to do the things we need to do in a rural economy, in an agriculture economy or what little tourism they can get out that way too, they are having that option taken away from them.

With the monument, you basically can't do anything on the land, including in many cases, mechanized forest firefighting. You have to go out with hand tools in some of these areas. And so, it just means the fire gets bigger. It just means less options for locals.

I thought the Antiquities Act was supposed to be preserving things for the people's enjoyment, not completely cutting them off. That is why we are so strongly opposed to this being added to Colusa County in this instance here.

With that, I still oppose. I appreciate being able to work over on the other side with Senator PADILLA's office on this conversation in moving forward to say, Let us have our autonomy in our areas of northern California where we don't think a monument works for us in order to manage the land as needed.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 68 OFFERED BY MS. MALLIOTAKIS.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 68 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 193, after line 2, insert the following:
SEC. 493. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the National Park Service to enact the terms of NPS Lease#L-GATE912-2023, as executed on September 15, 2023.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Chair, my amendment would prohibit any funding from being used by the National Park Service to enact the terms of the lease to house migrants at Floyd Bennett Field in the Gateway National Recreation Area in Brooklyn, New York, where our Mayor Eric Adams, has setup a tent city for over 2,000 migrants with little supervision. Turning our Federal parks into encampments for un-vetted migrants from all over the world is unsafe, and it is unfair to the surrounding communities and the taxpayers being forced to foot the bill.

There have already been dozens of arrests at existing shelters in New York City, stabbings, DUIs, and other horrific incidents. And it is wrong that our mayor continues to misinterpret New York City's right to shelter decree, which was intended for homeless New Yorkers, not citizens of other countries.

Today, as a matter of fact, there is a group of big city Democrat mayors here in Washington, including Mayor Adams, scheduled to meet with the White House for what I assume is a request for more money to add more shelters and more encampments through our cities.

Mr. Chairman, President Biden and congressional Democrats in Congress

have no intention to stop the flow of migrants at our border. And Congress cannot and will not continue to fund this insanity.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment since the Senate refuses to pass our H.R. 2 bill, which would provide border security and stop this unsustainable and unsafe flow.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, this amendment would block New York City from completing the terms of its lease agreement with the National Park Service, and it offers no solution for those seeking refuge.

This amendment would put up yet another obstacle for the residents of New York City as they try to address this unique challenge.

We should be looking for ways to help both residents of the city and the migrants as they navigate the often complicated and lengthy immigration process.

I know a little something about this challenge the cities are facing because while I don't represent New York City, I represent Portland, Maine, and other cities in Maine that have had a large influx of asylees coming to our State. Now, we are a very welcoming State, but we have some of the same challenges with finding sufficient housing for people while they are navigating this difficult process of asylum seeking.

Now let's just remember, we are a welcoming nation. Asylum seekers are coming from war-torn countries, from political challenges, and the process of seeking asylum can take a very long time. In my State, we have some of the same challenges trying to find sufficient housing.

I want to say that we can't forget the fact that, again, we are a welcoming nation. We are a welcoming State, and we are a nation of immigrants.

I don't know about my colleague across the aisle, but I am very fortunate that my grandfather had the opportunity to come to this country. And that allowed my family to be a part of the American Dream.

So many of the people who are coming here today are leaving, as I said, difficult political situations, war-torn nations, with real challenges to get here. Our immigration process is lengthy. They are, for the most part, legal asylum seekers. They need to go through a long court process.

If, in fact, she really wanted to do something that would significantly change the amount of time that people have to be in shelters or in housing, perhaps—I know it is on another bill—she could support my bill to reduce the amount of time that asylum seekers have to wait to get their work permits so that they could more rapidly go to work, so that they weren't waiting in shelters, in tents, in other places.

I don't know about your State, but in mine our chamber of commerce is constantly asking for more workers. We are constantly behind in having sufficient people to do the work. So to say that we do not want to welcome these people who come from war-torn nations and difficult political situations, and that we don't want to find a way to accommodate them, we should be looking for ways to speed up the process to make sure that people can go to work, and so that they can make sure that they can move forward and become those extremely responsible and hard-working members of American society that they choose to be.

Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Chair, I will respond by saying that we are a welcoming nation. We are a welcoming city. My parents are immigrants, as well.

However, nobody was required to pay for their housing—my parents did not move into a park that the mayor created to be an encampment—taking that away from the taxpayers.

I simply say that we need to have individuals who want to come to this country follow the rules, follow the law, and that is the big difference here. The President has created a crisis. It is of his own making with his open border policies.

You mention war-torn countries, but there are over 120 different countries that are being represented, not to mention it is just completely unsustainable. I am not just talking about the 6 million that you mentioned that applied for asylum. I am sure you know that more than half of those asylum cases were denied in court. I think that is an important thing to point out, which means that they are abusing the asylum process to gain entry into our country.

My office, in particular, has helped nearly 100 people become U.S. citizens. I am very proud of that. It may be more than anybody else in this Chamber, quite frankly. We did it for the people who followed the rules, did everything right, have been waiting in line and unfortunately, got stuck in our bureaucracy because now they are being shoved to the back of the line because, as you know, those individuals coming over the border are taken up first before anybody else, which is completely unfair to those who have come here legally.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I participated and went up to New York to see this site. There are 2,200 men in a camp right next to soccer fields, right next to ice-skating rinks. There is going to be a problem here. In fact, just a couple weeks after that, it flooded. This whole area flooded.

So New York City is going to take a national park—this is the first time this has ever happened or occurred—they don't do a NEPA; they don't do

full evaluations, but they are going to turn 2,200 military-aged men into this shelter.

They are higher than a kite if they think that there are not going to be problems. That is what the gentlewoman wants. She wants to have the same things done at this time, at this place as any other place it would be done, such as a NEPA. This is not a good idea to do this in this area. It is going to have a harmful effect on those kids, those children that participate there.

So I agree with the young lady from New York. This is a bad idea. Bad timing. Bad place. Let's follow the rules.

□ 1415

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from New York has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Chair, I would just add that the gentleman made a good point in saying that there has been significant flooding at this particular site. If you care about migrants and care about their safety, there was nearly a foot of water following the recent rainstorms at this site. I don't know how you expect to have these tents set up and people living in that condition. That is number one. Number two, there is also a fire safety issue. Even the legal aid society, by the way, has come out against this particular encampment because they don't feel that it is safe for the inhabitants.

The other point that was brought up about the NEPA process is a very important one. I always hear my colleagues on the other side talk about protecting the environment, yet they are turning a blind eye right now to when the environmental review process is not being fulfilled. There wasn't an environmental assessment. There wasn't anything done to evaluate this, which is why they probably didn't know that such flooding would exist.

Once again, it is unsafe for everybody involved. It is not the responsibility of the taxpayer. It is going to cost them \$15 billion to have these encampments. We shouldn't be doing this. Let's pass H.R. 2 and secure our border.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I am very sorry. I fully sympathize with the city of New York and the many challenges they are facing in managing this influx of people.

As I have said, I have had numerous conversations, whether it is the mayor of my own city of Portland or the city council or the many people who are working hard in social service agencies to make sure that we continue to be a welcoming country; that the asylum seekers who are legally in our country but waiting for the long process of their asylum application to be approved or denied, to get through that process, that they require housing.

I will just say a couple of things. I am sorry also that New York City recently had to experience the foot of water, but I encourage my colleagues to stop opposing measures to reduce the impact of climate change. Once again, they are turning their head at the things that are going to continue to happen more and more to some of our biggest cities in the country and rural areas, as well.

I also recommend that people don't have to stay in shelters for so long if we would only let them go to work. We have a provision for asylum seekers to get a work permit, but right now it takes 180 days. Why not just shorten it down to 30 days. When you are concerned about the cost of this and the cost of people going to work, we can make sure they go to work. I have talked to so many asylum seekers and their families. They are so anxious to go to work, and we have a worker shortage. This is one thing it seems like we could agree upon on both sides of the aisle.

I have no idea if you block this particular park in New York City, what you are going to do to solve this problem. This seems to me like just a mean-spirited attempt to try to turn away people who have nowhere else to turn, who are anxious to become workers in our society, and who need to go through a lengthy process. We could shorten that process.

Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 70 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 70 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 193, after line 2, insert the following:
SEC. 493. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Environmental Protection Agency to take any of the actions described as a "backstop" in the December 29, 2009, letter from the Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to the States in the Watershed and the District of Columbia in response to the development or implementation of a State's watershed implementation and referred to in enclosure B of such letter.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, this amendment prohibits the use of funds to take retaliatory actions against States that fall short of their EPA-mandated pollutant reduction goals. Importantly,

this amendment would not prevent the EPA from working with States to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

For context, in 1985, the States in the Chesapeake Bay region recognized the need to address pollutants in the bay, and through their own initiative, came together to conduct clean-up efforts. These State-driven efforts were largely successful. Water quality improved almost 50 percent from 1985 until 2010.

However, in 2010, the EPA seized the States' authority to determine their own method of compliance and threatened to take over the water quality plans if the States failed to comply.

States are not inferior agents to the Federal Government. States are not servants to the Federal Government. This 2010 power grab, known as the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, directly contradicts the intent of the Clean Water Act, directly contradicts it. The Clean Water Act clearly acknowledges State authority in water quality and requires cooperation, not coercion, between the States and the Federal Government.

Now, these coercive methods have been tried and have failed. Water quality has not improved since the federalization of bay clean-up efforts.

It is imperative that we return the rights of the States to make their own water quality decisions and restore the local control that has been shown to improve water quality, to be effective, because the future of the bay depends on it.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, this amendment would allow those who pollute the Chesapeake Bay to ignore the Environmental Protection Agency's water quality standards.

Restoring the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed continues to be a priority. The EPA established mandatory water quality standards, and Congress has approved over \$1 billion for the Chesapeake Bay program to help States, localities, and businesses meet those standards. This amendment would jeopardize that funding and have devastating effects on the health of the bay.

This amendment is not about the well-being of Virginia, Maryland, and the surrounding States. It is about the fact that some industrial operators don't think they should be responsible for controlling the pollution they dump into our rivers and streams across the country.

The courts have sided with the EPA on this matter.

For more than 35 years, the regional partnership created through the Chesapeake Bay program has sought to restore and protect the Nation's largest and most productive estuary.

This amendment would undermine decades of work and have lasting dam-

aging effects to the health of the bay and the economy that it supports.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I remind the gentlewoman and everybody that Pennsylvania and the other States are not ignoring the requirements. As I said, while they were working together without Federal involvement, without the coercive activity of the EPA, water quality was actually improving. It was actually when the Federal Government got involved that things stopped. It hasn't improved since that time. It worked until the Federal Government got involved with their coercive activity, and then it stopped.

This would just allow the States to go back to collaborative efforts, with the Federal Government, with the EPA, without the heavy hand of Damocles' sword hanging over their head trying to force them to do something that apparently and obviously is ineffective. It is ineffective.

We all have the same goal, to clean up the bay. The States have agreed on their own to do this, and they have been effective. What is not effective is the Federal Government's coercive activity. This amendment seeks to remove the ability for that coercive activity so that the requirement is just to work with the States to do what works and works well.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 71 OFFERED BY MR. ARRINGTON

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 71 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end, before the short title, insert the following:

SALINA MUCKET AND MEXICAN FAWSFOOT

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule titled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Salina Mucket and Mexican Fawnsfoot and Designation of Critical Habitat" (88 Fed. Reg. 47952; published July 25, 2023).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) and a

Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chair, I rise to encourage my colleagues to support my amendment to the appropriations for the Department of the Interior to prohibit any funds from being used to finalize President Biden's proposed rule which would list two species of mussels in the Rio Grande River as "endangered" and their habitat as "critical."

Unfortunately, it appears to me that our President cares more about the Mexican mussel and protecting this critical habitat than protecting the American people against violent Mexican drug cartels who he has ceded control of our border to.

The only critical habitat that is endangered along the Rio Grande—I can say this as a Texan who has been there multiple times—are the people in the communities living alongside the Rio Grande because of the deluge of people, crime, and drugs pouring into our communities not only in Texas but throughout the country.

It is clear and evident to everyone in this country that our President has failed in his first and most important job, to provide for the common defense, to enforce the laws of the land, and to secure our sovereign border.

Eight million people have crossed our border illegally. Just in this past year, almost 3.5 million, a record. Last month, 270,000, a record. Record drug flow. Record migrant deaths. Record abuses and humanitarian crimes.

Title 8 of the U.S. Code says that no citizen can induce someone to break the law and they cannot harbor lawbreakers, but that is exactly what is going on. In title 8 of the Federal code, they call it aiding and abetting criminals. That is what our Federal Government, under our Commander in Chief and CEO, President Biden, is sanctioning and legitimizing.

Thankfully, there is a section in the Constitution, Article I, Section 10, that affirms that States have the sovereign right of self-defense. When there is an invasion or States experience imminent danger such that will not permit delay, they have the sovereign right to protect themselves.

Here is the deal. President Biden isn't only abdicating his first and most important responsibility as President and Commander in Chief, he is infringing on States like Texas and their right to defend themselves and their citizens.

This is the case with this Mexican mussel. He is harassing our Governor and State leaders as they desperately try to do what he has failed to do, and that is secure our sovereign border and protect the citizens of Texas.

Mr. President, if you want to protect mussels in the Rio Grande River, stop illegal crossings, not the buoys in the States that are desperately trying to protect their citizens.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history. More than 1 million species are currently threatened with extinction, many within decades.

This amendment seeks to legislate species status rather than providing species with the protections they are afforded under the Endangered Species Act, our principle conservation law, and would potentially increase litigation regarding the government's responsibility to implement the statutory requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

Once again, my Republican colleagues are disregarding the law. We can have a legitimate debate on how to best manage our border and how to handle these issues, but that belongs in the Homeland Security bill and not here under this and not talking about the Endangered Species Act.

The best available scientific and commercial information—not politics—should determine whether a species is listed as threatened or endangered. This amendment circumvents the rigorous process that is in place to make these determinations, as well as the role of public input.

Historical range for these species was throughout the mainstem Rio Grande and select major tributaries in Texas and Mexico but today have been reduced to a single population that occupies only a fraction of this area.

Human activities that threaten and diminish animal habitats, pollute nature, and accelerate global warming are driving species extinction and creating unhealthy ecosystems.

When we lose a species, impacts reverberate throughout ecosystems and we all suffer because our economy, health, livelihoods, food security, and quality of life all depend on healthy ecosystems.

□ 1430

Defunding the Service's ability to list species would work against the clear intent of the Endangered Species Act and would further litigation by outside groups on both sides.

It would also undercut the Service's ability to work collaboratively with Tribes, other Federal agencies, States, local communities, and landowners to conserve this species.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment and protect vulnerable species so future generations benefit from a world with healthy ecosystems and robust biodiversity.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chair, I find it rich with irony that the President decides, in this administration, after Governor Abbott and our State leaders—in a desperate attempt to protect their citizens and our sovereign border as a result of the failure and abdication of border security, which is a national security issue and a responsibility of our Federal Government—put out these buoy barriers to prevent people from taking the dangerous trek across the river and to uphold the law of the land.

Here comes our President, who I think—and I hate to impugn such bad motives to our President, but I think he is more concerned about appeasing the open border left than he actually is about the Mexican mussel, quite frankly. He didn't care that there were millions of people crossing the border illegally, trampling this very "critical habitat" of the Mexican mussel.

Never once was that an issue for the Secretary of the Interior or this administration until Texans decided to stand up and fight for the safety of their citizens and to again honor and uphold the rule of law and our sovereignty as a State.

That is an indication that maybe this President isn't quite concerned about critical habitat.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 72 OFFERED BY MR. BENTZ

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 72 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the establishment of a national monument in Malheur County, Oregon, under chapter 3203 of title 54, United States Code (commonly referred to as the "Antiquities Act of 1906").

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Chair, this amendment would prohibit the Department of the Interior from using appropriated funds for any purpose having to do with establishing, under the Antiquities Act, a national monument in Malheur County, Oregon.

Malheur County is part of my congressional district, and it is huge, almost 10,000 square miles in size. As you can see from this picture to my right, this county is 145 times the size of Washington, D.C. It is sparsely populated, but the people who live and work

there understand the value and importance of protecting the land. Why? Because many are second, third, and fourth generations who have spent their lives earning a living in the most challenging of arid locations, knowing from hard experience that the only way to survive is to live in harmony with the land.

Back in 2015, a small group of mostly urban activists funded by recreational sportswear companies tried to convince the Obama administration that it should use the Antiquities Act to abruptly impose a national monument designation on 2.5 million acres of the 6.3 million acres making up Malheur County. That is about 40 percent of the county's entire area.

This picture beside me shows the typical type of land that makes up this 2.5 million acres. Almost 200 miles of the canyon seen cutting through the sagebrush flats in this picture are already protected with scenic river designations. We don't need a monument stacked on top of those designations.

Much of the 2.5 million acre area is covered by sagebrush and extremely dry. The widely separated springs and ephemeral trickles of water trying to pass as streams in this vast environmentally fragile area are generally the site of ranch headquarters operated for generations by rancher families.

These ranchers, in addition to being an important part of the economy, provide first responder protection for recreationists, hikers, hunters, and, when wildfire breaks out, the land itself. Their presence also protects against abuse of the land by those who have little regard for its fragility.

Back in 2015, when those activists began to lobby the Obama administration for a monument designation, local residents gathered together in opposition. They formed a group of ranchers, hunters, environmental NGOs, and others. For the past 7 years, this group has been meeting, studying, arguing, discussing, and working with landowners, State legislators, county commissioners, Congressmen, Senator RON WYDEN, and others to develop a legislative initiative addressing many of the concerns of interested parties. Their work culminated in S. 1890, the Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act, now pending in the Senate.

Thus, there is no reason for a national monument designation. The pending Senate bill, when finalized, plus the Federal protections already in place, as shown in the chart beside me, are designed to protect this important area. A top-down monument designation will not protect the land, and in fact, such a designation will attract tens of thousands of people to this fragile area, resulting in destruction of the very things a monument purports to protect.

It is a sad commentary on those that preach cooperation and nonpartisanship that one of the environmental NGOs that was at the resolution table

and participated in the structure found in S. 1890 has now begun to advertise, fundraise, and lobby advocating that the President use the Antiquities Act to designate that same 2.5 million acres as a national monument, ignoring the years of work and time invested by those who actually live in, on, and around this land.

Mr. Chair, my amendment is designed to stop the use of Federal monies for a monument designation, thus allowing the locally driven public land protective process to continue.

Mr. Chair, I ask for support of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, this amendment would bar the use of any Federal funds to create national monuments under the Antiquities Act in Malheur County, Oregon.

The Antiquities Act provides the President with the authority to designate national monuments in order to protect objects of historic or scientific interest. This amendment inappropriately restricts the President's ability to declare national monuments in specific parts of the country.

Both Republican and Democratic Presidents have used this authority to increase protection of special Federal lands. It goes against 100 years of American tradition to protect the Nation's cultural and natural resources.

The Antiquities Act represents an important achievement in the progress of conservation and preservation efforts in the United States. Congress should not stand in the way of these achievements.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Chair, I want it known for the record that we had a vote in Malheur County some years ago on whether or not to have a monument, and 90 percent of the voters said no to the monument.

The purpose of the amendment is focused on Malheur County, Oregon, alone. The purpose of including the entire county is that the county itself and the work we are doing in this other bill addresses the county. There is no reason to worry about the amendment being overly broad.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 73 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 73 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. The salary of Elizabeth Klein, Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, shall be reduced to \$1.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer my amendment that utilizes the Holman rule to reduce the salary of the Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Elizabeth Klein, to \$1.

Ms. Klein is a radical environmentalist and a partisan hack compromised by special interests and mired in ethical conflict. Her conflicts of interest were so severe that even Senator MANCHIN voted to block her nomination as Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

As deputy director at the New York University School of Law's State Energy and Environmental Impact Center, Klein placed and paid the salaries of legal fellows in State attorneys general offices to advance Michael Bloomberg's radical environmental agenda.

The use of private money to conduct public business is ethically flawed. An Indiana attorney general categorized Ms. Klein's program as an "arrangement through which a private organization or individual can promote an overtly political agenda by paying the salaries of government employees."

In just the first year of the program, SEEIC fellows participated in filing at least 130 regulatory, legal, and other challenges to President Trump's policies.

Now, Ms. Klein is working for the Federal Government and on the other side of lawsuits that she helped file. Under President Biden's own ethics rules, she should be prohibited from participating in matters involving her former employer.

During her testimony to the House Committee on Natural Resources, I questioned Ms. Klein about her failed nomination to become Deputy Secretary of the Interior. I asked if she had been provided with a recusal list and formally requested that she provide this list to the committee. Ms. Klein told the committee that she was happy to provide the list.

Shamefully, it took a letter from the committee and this aggressive committee questioning for Ms. Klein to send the committee a very delayed recusal list that should have been in place almost immediately after her hiring.

Ms. Klein spent several years funneling money from Michael Bloomberg to sue the Trump administration and pay for the Green New Deal lawyers she had placed in attorneys general offices across the country.

Given her myriad of Federal lawsuits and conflicts, there should be little to

nothing that Ms. Klein is allowed to work on at any subagency within the Department of the Interior.

Senior Federal employees are required to be transparent in their ethical obligations and act impartially, placing their sole loyalty to the Constitution and the laws of the United States.

Ms. Klein's history of infiltrating State governments with Michael Bloomberg minions and supporting lawsuits against the Federal Government makes it impossible for her to meet the ethical obligations that her position of public trust requires.

Ms. Klein's continued employment as Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has been riddled with a controversial and extensive history of ethical conflicts and is a stain on the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Radical, partisan extremists have no place in the Federal Government, especially those in charge of our energy industry.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment to restore integrity to the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, this amendment is petty and punitive. Rather than pursuing grudges against public servants and spewing inaccurate and disrespectful information, my colleagues across the aisle should focus their energy on negotiating with the Senate on a bill to fund the government.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1445

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. Boebert).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 74 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 74 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end, before the short title, insert the following:

PROHIBITION ON FINALIZATION OF CERTAIN
PROPOSED RULES

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce—

(1) the proposed rule titled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision of Regulations for Interagency Cooperation” (88 Fed. Reg. 40753; published June 22, 2023);

(2) the proposed rule titled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat” (88 Fed. Reg. 40764; published June 22, 2023); or

(3) the proposed rule titled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations Pertaining to Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants” (88 Fed. Reg. 40742; published June 22, 2023).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer my amendment that prohibits the Biden administration from taking any action to finalize, implement, or enforce their proposed Endangered Species Act rule proposed on June 22, 2023.

For far too long, radical environmentalists have weaponized the ESA against farmers, ranchers, landowners, and our rural communities. The proposed rule abandons clear and well-functioning Trump-era reforms in favor of one-size-fits-all mandates from disconnected Washington bureaucrats. These new regulations will only make it more difficult for true conservationists to assist with species recovery.

In 2019, the Trump administration modernized the Endangered Species Act for the first time in nearly 40 years. The Trump administration added more flexibility for affected stakeholders while also ensuring species recovery plans take a tailored and targeted approach.

With these proposed rules, the Biden administration moved to repeal and replace these changes with more mandates that don't work for the people on the ground.

In 2019, President Trump and his administration recognized the differences between threatened and endangered species. In doing so, FWS rescinded the prior blanket rule that automatically granted endangered-level protections to species listed as threatened.

Joe Biden's plan to restore this blanket rule will lead to more red tape and burdensome regulations on rural communities, and they simply can't afford that.

Similarly, the 2019 reforms to section 4 regarding listing and delisting of species and designations of critical habitat were a welcome change. These reforms removed constraints that previously prohibited agencies from researching and sharing the economic impact of a listing determination under the ESA.

Joe Biden's proposal removes those flexibilities and includes a mandate

that the agencies must designate unoccupied areas as critical habitat.

The 2019 modernization efforts also updated section 7 to clarify the interagency consultation process and codify alternative consultation mechanisms to provide greater efficiency.

The rule established standards to ensure that effects analysis for proposed actions is limited only to activities that are reasonably certain to occur and must be backed by clear and substantial information.

Eliminating these important modernizations made by President Trump and his administration will only result in further one-size-fits-all responses to threatened and endangered species that will benefit absolutely nobody, including the species.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of my amendment to prevent these egregious new rules from taking effect and steer the ESA back to its intended purpose of actually helping species recover without being a barrier to prosperity for our rural communities.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, the Endangered Species Act is the Nation's principle conservation law whose ultimate goals include preventing the extinction of species and providing for their recovery.

On June 4, 2021, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service announced a plan to improve and strengthen implementation of the Endangered Species Act to address 21st century conservation challenges.

These agencies are proposing to revise three final rules issued in 2019 under the previous administration that do not adequately guide the implementation of the Endangered Species Act. The proposed revisions are intended to improve and clarify the interagency consultation processes; listing, delisting, and reclassification decisions; and designation of critical habitat.

Why would anyone object to making regulations clearer, more straightforward, or improving implementation of the Endangered Species Act?

The Services also proposed to reinstate the 4(d) blanket rule options for protecting and conserving threatened species. Remember, Mr. Chair, providing a suite of protections for threatened species will help it avoid becoming an endangered species.

These proposed rules are now subject to public review and comment, and the Services will carefully consider the comments they receive before finalizing any changes.

The proposed revisions do not alter the standards for making listing and delisting decisions, nor will they automatically lead to an increase or decrease in the total amount or area of

critical habitat that is designated. These decisions will still depend on the Services using the best scientific information available.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to consider how these revisions will make ESA regulations more consistent and efficient, and to reject this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I just would note that we understand how the comment periods work under the Biden administration. Typically, they are for a topic that impacts our rural communities. In the West, there is a real rural and urban divide, and it is always my effort to highlight that and give our rural communities a strong voice in the efforts that we are promoting.

Unfortunately, usually for the topics at hand that are impacting our rural communities, the comment period meetings are often held in urban areas where it is difficult for our farmers and ranchers to even travel to so they can have their comments heard.

Also, these bureaucrats already have their minds made up. They don't care what they are reading in the comments, they don't care what is being said during the comment time.

Their position is solid, and the American people do not want more red tape.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 75 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 75 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end, before the short title, insert the following:

PROHIBITION ON FINALIZATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the Draft Resource Management Plan or Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement referenced in the Notice titled "Notice of Availability of the Draft Resource Management Plan and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Colorado River Valley Field Office and Grand Junction Field Office Resource Management Plans, Colorado" (88 Fed. Reg. 51855; published August 4, 2023).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my amendment that prohibits the Bureau of Land Management from taking any action to finalize, implement, or enforce a Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to end new oil leases on 1.6 million acres in Colorado.

Colorado's West Slope used to have a booming energy production economy. Unfortunately, we have been regulated into poverty in Colorado's Third District.

I remember when I owned a small business, roughnecks used to come into my restaurant, and I knew that it was going to be a good, successful, and profitable day because I had mud on my floors to clean up. However, through regulations, there was no more mud to clean up on nearly any of our business floors, and many businesses shuttered forever.

There used to be 112 rigs on the West Slope, but now we have 4 drilling rigs. Now not-in-my-backyard extremists and job-killing Federal policies have driven away these good-paying jobs. The Bureau of Land Management's Draft Resource Management Plan for the Colorado River Valley field office and Grand Junction field office is the latest fossil fuel attack.

This proposed land grab could remove over 1.6 million acres of public lands in Colorado from future oil and gas leasing and establish nine different areas of critical environmental concern and over 100,000 acres of BLM land.

If this proposal is finalized, the United States will lose access to vital energy resources, many more than 600 fewer wells projected by the agency to be lost by 2043.

The consequences will be felt far beyond the State of Colorado where the residents will lose their livelihoods and see increased gas and energy prices. BLM is proposing to close all areas with no known, low, and moderate oil and gas development potential and is basing its analysis of the oil and gas potential on out-of-date information that does not take into consideration modern technology.

The Permian Basin was once thought to be low to medium, and now it is the highest producing oil field in the world. As a result, the Permian Basin would be closed if this proposal had been in place in New Mexico and Texas prior to the significant amount of production that is now occurring.

This proposed land grab is nothing short of partisan politics meant to further restrict access to the oil and natural gas development that could reinvigorate the economy of the West Slope of Colorado and help ensure energy security for all Americans.

There are already stringent standards and requirements in place for all oil and gas producers that aim at reducing environmental and cultural impacts. This proposed rule is yet another blatant land grab designed to dismantle the fossil fuel industry and force a green transition.

Closing the door to over 1.6 million acres of vital public lands for energy development is not just an issue of economics, it is a threat to our Nation's energy independence and security. This proposal goes beyond necessary environmental consideration and instead seeks to restrict access to promising resources hindering the potential for economic growth and prosperity, particularly on the West Slope of Colorado.

Rogue bureaucrats at the BLM shouldn't be unilaterally locking up more land in Colorado. It is urgent that we block this overreach and prioritize responsible energy production that will help reduce gas prices during these challenging times.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, we are now only 15 days away from a government shutdown, and instead of focusing on keeping the government open, we are working on a bill that is going nowhere.

The draconian cuts proposed in this bill violate the agreement reached by former Speaker MCCARTHY and President Biden and that were memorialized in statute in Public Law 118-5, the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. We would not be teetering on the brink of a government shutdown if my Republican colleagues had held up their end of the bargain.

We are here to protect the welfare of the American public, and we cannot close our eyes to the impacts of climate change, such as the drought, flooding, severe storm, and wildfire events we are experiencing. As of October 10, the United States has experienced 24 confirmed weather/climate disaster events with losses exceeding \$1 billion each. This is a new record.

This amendment seeks to prohibit funding for the Bureau of Land Management to finalize, implement, or enforce a Draft Resource Management Plan and draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement that would remove 1.6 million acres of public lands in Colorado from future oil and gas leasing. These lands do not have high oil and gas potential, and BLM's actions would protect the important wildlife habitat, recreation areas, and water resources, as well as reduce emissions and the impacts of climate change.

Not investing in strategies that minimize and prevent the acceleration of climate change and instead paying billions in disaster relief shows my Republican colleagues are not thinking

about what is best for the American taxpayer.

Our economy, health, livelihoods, food security, and quality of life all depend on healthy ecosystems.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment and focus instead on addressing climate change and making our Nation stronger, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1500

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 76 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 76 printed in part A of House Report 118–261.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end, before the short title, insert the following:

PROHIBITION ON FINALIZATION OF PROPOSED
RULE

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule titled “Fluid Mineral Leases and Leasing Process” (88 Fed. Reg. 47562; published July 24, 2023).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, from day one in his administration, Joe Biden declared an all-out war on American energy production and exploration. He made it clear that he cares more about appeasing the radical climate change activists than protecting the millions of oil and gas workers and producers in America.

I was disappointed but not surprised this July when the Biden administration filed this proposed rule entitled fluid mineral leases and the leasing process, which mandates provisions from the partisan so-called Inflation Reduction Act, better known as the Green New Deal in disguise, which increased the royalty rate for production on Federal lands while also increasing and creating new fees for domestic energy producers.

This new fluid mineral leasing rule is further proof that Joe Biden is using every tool in his administration to dismantle American energy production. It increases bonding levels for the production on Federal lands and proposes ending nationwide bonding and increasing the minimum bond amounts for individual lease bonds and statewide lease bonds from \$10,000 to \$150,000 and from \$25,000 to \$500,000 respectively.

This significant increase will tie up capital that would otherwise be put back into production and is unjustifiable as there are only 37 orphaned oil and gas wells on BLM-managed land.

These increases will impact smaller producers who can’t afford to operate in the market. These additional fees will ultimately harm returns and reduce revenues to State and local governments by disincentivizing development on Federal lands.

The proposed rule also introduces the idea of using preference criteria to inform the BLM’s selection of lands for lease sales. BLM’s rationale for this change is to avoid conflict areas with sensitive cultural wildlife and recreation resources. This means that the BLM field offices could avoid leasing in all areas with endangered or threatened species—maybe that is their goal—critical habitat or even nearby recreation areas, a move that would greatly limit leasing on Federal lands.

With the wars happening in the Middle East and in Europe, and with OPEC significantly lowering oil production, we cannot rely on foreign nations to control our energy supply.

America makes the cleanest energy in the world. American innovation—in particular, fracking—has allowed America to be the global leader in reducing emissions since 2000. We need to stop buying oil and gas from Russia, stop begging OPEC, Venezuela, and even Iran to produce energy for us, and start producing more clean, reliable, affordable energy responsibly here in America.

We must restore American energy dominance and produce clean, reliable energy right here at home. I urge adoption of my amendment, Mr. Chair, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, this amendment is one more controversial poison pill policy rider that sadly shows extremist Republicans are not interested in bills that can gain bipartisan support and become law.

The proposed rule on fluid mineral leases and the leasing process aims to enhance the administration of oil and gas-related activities on America’s public lands and reflects provisions in recently enacted laws that modify aspects of the Federal onshore oil and gas program whose regulations have not been updated since 1988. However, this amendment seeks to prohibit that.

Once again, my Republican colleagues are disregarding the law. This amendment circumvents the rigorous process that is in place to update outdated regulations, which includes opportunities for public input, protects the fiscal interests of the American public, and ensures proper stewardship of public lands and resources for the benefit of future generations.

The Government Accountability Office and the Department of the Inte-

rior’s Office of Inspector General have conducted audits of the BLM’s Federal onshore oil and gas program and highlighted weaknesses that BLM needs to correct to ensure the American public receives a fair return from oil and gas activities on public lands.

I do not understand why my Republican colleagues would seek to undermine the efforts that address those weaknesses and protect the American public. I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment to protect the fiscal interests of the American public and our natural resources so future generations benefit from a world with healthy ecosystems and robust biodiversity.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. Boebert).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 77 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 77 printed in part A of House Report 118–261.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the Bicycle Subsidy Benefit Program of the Department of the Interior.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. Boebert) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my amendment to prohibit funding for the Bicycle Subsidy Benefit Program at the Department of the Interior. I wish I were kidding.

The DOI Bicycle Subsidy Benefit Program provides taxpayer dollars to DOI employees and paid student interns or unpaid student volunteers for the purchase, improvements, repair, storage, and/or maintenance of a nonmotorized bicycle that is used as a primary means of commuting to and from work, as well as a monthly stipend. You can’t make this up.

American taxpayers’ hard-earned money is being wasted on covering bicycle commuting expenses such as bicycles, bicycle locks, bicycle parking storage, bicycle safety equipment, bicycle improvements or accessories, including reflective lights, racks, bicycle repairs, and general maintenance, personal safety and protective equipment, including high-visibility safety apparel, headwear, bicycle gloves, and bicycle share memberships, as well as getting paid to bike to work.

DOI employees are going to bike to work because they want to bike to

work, not because taxpayers are being forced to shell out \$20 a month to Federal bureaucrats that participate in this absurd and ridiculous program.

Coloradans across my district are struggling right now as they deal with the disastrous effects of Joe Biden's destructive economic policies. The Biden administration has unleashed record inflation on Americans that has decimated our bank and retirement accounts, increased gas prices to record levels, raised utility bills, driven up grocery prices, and made it harder to live for all American people.

The primary root cause of this record-breaking inflation was trillions of dollars of wasteful Federal spending. This excessive spending has real life consequences. American families will pay a \$3,581 inflation tax over the next year. Currently 20 million Americans can't even afford to pay their utility bill.

We have seen a 4.3 percent decline in real wages since Biden took office. Americans have lost more than \$2 trillion in retirement savings. America is \$33 trillion in debt, with a \$2 trillion a year deficit, and Democrats want us to continue to print money and pay bureaucrats to bike to work when our so-called Commander in Chief doesn't even know how to properly ride one. Maybe we should subsidize some bicycle lessons for the President while we are at it.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment to cut wasteful Federal spending by prohibiting funding for the Bicycle Subsidy Benefit Program at the Department of the Interior. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, this amendment would block the Department of the Interior from its Bicycle Subsidy Benefit Program, which encourages Federal employees to use bicycles to commute to the office. Not unlike many wellness programs that are available in the public and private sector, this is a good idea for the fresh air, for personal health, for a whole host of reasons. It is also good for the environment. More of us should be on bicycles instead of occupying a car to commute back and forth to work.

The Department created this program in response to a 1993 law in which Congress authorizes each agency head to establish a program to encourage employees to use means other than single-occupancy motor vehicles to commute to and from work. It is a governmentwide program, and this amendment unfairly targets Interior employees.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to treat all employees fairly and reject this amendment. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, riding a bicycle is great. It is wonderful. Sure, we

want fresh air. Sure, we want exercise. It is great for our health, but it is not great for the American taxpayer to subsidize this to bureaucrats.

What about western Colorado? Are we going to subsidize our Bureau of Land Management personnel to ride horses into work? Do we pay for their feed, their lot storage? Do we get to pay for all that as well? It is never ending.

The gentlewoman pointed out that this unfairly targets DOI. I am happy to defund this program in every agency across the Federal Government. We just happen to be speaking about the Department of the Interior right now.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. Boebert). The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 78 OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 78 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to hire or pay the salary of any officer or employee of the Environmental Protection Agency under subsection (f) or (g) of section 207 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 209) who is not already receiving pay under either such subsection on the date of enactment of this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment that would prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from utilizing a title 42 special pay authority.

There is no rationale for this authority to exist. It is time that the authorizers in Congress stand up for their prerogatives and act as a check on the executive branch when it invents claims to new powers to which it has no right.

Mr. Chair, this is not just my sentiment. In 2012, the Government Accountability Office conducted a study on the EPA's use of title 42 special pay authority. In that study, multiple instances of irregularities were found, entry-level scientists were hired at much higher than what would be the expected GS pay level.

Why would we allow the EPA to continue to use a program when it has clearly and repeatedly demonstrated that it is a poor steward of American tax dollars?

Mr. Chair, not only has there been a report that highlights the abuse of the

program, but a subsequent study was undertaken by the EPA's Office of Inspector General that found that the EPA did not demonstrate a need to use this special pay authority. In fact, there was no shortage of qualified applicants for those positions.

Even more alarming, the inspector general found that the EPA did not provide any convincing justification for its continued use. Recent college graduates with a chemistry degree have been hired on to the staff of the EPA at rates higher, much higher than the GS level would indicate. This is not for what the program was intended. It is time for Congress to exercise the proper authority and not allow agencies to ignore congressional intent.

□ 1515

It is time for Congress to exercise the proper authority and not allow agencies to ignore congressional intent.

That is why this amendment should be adopted, Mr. Chair. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment and show the American people that its Representatives here in the people's House will properly require accountability of agencies, particularly when they overstep the bounds of congressional intent.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, this amendment would prohibit the EPA from hiring scientists using its title 42 authority. Title 42 authority is a flexible hiring mechanism that allows agencies to attract and retain staff with outstanding scientific, technical, and clinical skills.

The authority is used by the EPA, CDC, NIH, and other agencies that require candidates to have specialized degrees in areas such as medicine, science, and engineering.

It is not always easy for the Federal Government to attract high-level professionals who have invested many years in school and can easily make more in private practice or even in academia. That is why the Federal Government allows these agencies to provide some additional funding to retain or recruit these employees.

Mr. Chair, I am dismayed that the gentleman does not believe such highly specialized employees deserve title 42 recognition.

With our Nation facing crises like COVID and climate change, we should be investing in our scientists. It is a shortsighted amendment that unfairly attacks Federal employees who devote their lives to public service.

Mr. Chair, I urge the defeat of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chair, I will simply underscore the fact that entry-level chemists at the EPA are hired at much

higher than the GSA rate. These are not highly sought-after scientists. These are entry-level applicants, and there is no shortage of applicants for those positions.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), the chair of the committee.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment, but I rise mainly to explain what the special hiring authority is.

The so-called title 42 special hiring authority was provided to the Department of Health and Human Services to allow the agency to pay individuals above the GSA pay scale. The authority was created to allow the agency to compete with private-sector salaries for the Nation's best healthcare experts and scientists, given the critical importance of human health and the Federal role in public health.

Congress then provided the EPA with this authority for the first time in 2006. It was authorized by Congress in 2006, arguing that the EPA also conducts human health work, such as research and assessment of chemicals. Most recently, the authority of the EPA was renewed in the fiscal year 2022 spending year, which capped the total number of people who could be hired using this special authority to 100 people.

The current authority expires at the end of fiscal year 2025. This amendment allows current individuals to continue to be paid using the special authority but blocks any additional staff from being hired under this authority.

Remember, this expires at the end of 2025, and I would hope that the authorizing committees would take it up and decide what they want to do in the future, but not do this through an amendment.

I understand the gentleman's very longstanding concerns with this authority at EPA, and I agree that appropriate oversight needs to be provided so that this authority is not abused, but I do oppose this amendment.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of the amendment. It is important, with \$31 trillion in national debt, that we be good stewards of taxpayer dollars. The gentleman is right. I have pursued this for a number of years, but it is because it is a noble cause.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further pro-

ceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BUCSHON) having assumed the chair, Mr. FALLON, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4821) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ISRAEL SECURITY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 838, I call up the bill (H.R. 6126) making emergency supplemental appropriations to respond to the attacks in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 6126

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide", \$4,400,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the attacks in Israel: *Provided*, That such amounts may be transferred to accounts under the headings "Operation and Maintenance" and "Procurement" for replacement of defense articles from the stocks of the Department of Defense, and for reimbursement for defense services of the Department of Defense and military education and training, provided to Israel or identified and notified to Congress for provision to Israel: *Provided further*, That funds transferred pursuant to the previous proviso shall be merged with and available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which the funds are transferred: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees of the details of such transfers not less than 15 days before any such transfer: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided under this heading, such amounts may be transferred back and merged with this appropriation: *Provided further*, That any transfer authority provided under this heading is

in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

PROCUREMENT

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

For an additional amount for "Procurement of Ammunition, Army", \$801,400,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the attacks in Israel: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for "Weapons Procurement, Navy", \$10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the attacks in Israel: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for "Missile Procurement, Air Force", \$38,600,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the attacks in Israel: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for "Procurement, Defense-Wide", \$4,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, for the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Government of Israel for the procurement of the Iron Dome and David's Sling defense systems to counter short-range rocket threats: *Provided*, That such funds shall be transferred pursuant to an exchange of letters and are in addition to funds provided pursuant to the U.S.-Israel Iron Dome Procurement Agreement, as amended: *Provided further*, That nothing under this heading shall be construed to apply to amounts made available in prior appropriations Acts for the procurement of the Iron Dome and David's Sling defense systems: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, DEFENSE-WIDE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide", \$1,350,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the attacks in Israel, of which \$1,200,000,000 shall be for the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Government of Israel for the development of the Iron Beam defense system to counter short-range rocket threats: *Provided*, That such funds shall be transferred pursuant to an exchange of letters: *Provided further*, That nothing in the preceding proviso shall be construed to apply to amounts made available in prior appropriations Acts for the development of the Iron Beam defense system: *Provided further*, That such amounts may be transferred to "Procurement, Defense-Wide" for the production of such system: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of