

□ 1630

Without adequate broadband infrastructure, rural communities like those I represent face obstacles in education, healthcare, economic development, and overall social well-being.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill. I am grateful to the chairman and the bipartisan support of the bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, as has been discussed, this bill would help close the digital divide and help communities across the country connect to reliable high-speed vital for participation in today's workforce and economy.

In Mr. GRAVES' own State of Missouri, it would allow people in the bootheel of Missouri to connect so much closer to the city of Memphis, where they will want to come and hear music, eat barbecue, and watch the Cardinals' farm team play baseball.

Mr. Speaker, I support the legislation and urge all my colleagues to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1752, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0 AMENDMENTS ACT

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 886) to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Foundation, to amend the Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 886

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act".

SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449) is amended by inserting before section 3 the following:

"Subtitle A—NOAA And Coast Guard Programs".

(b) GRANTS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS, AND OTHER AGREEMENTS.—Section 3(d) of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952(d)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading by striking "AND CONTRACTS" and inserting "CONTRACTS, AND OTHER AGREEMENTS";

(2) in paragraph (1) by striking "and contracts" and inserting ", contracts, and other agreements";

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking "part of the" and inserting "part of a"; and

(ii) by inserting "or (C)" after "subparagraph (A)"; and

(B) in subparagraph (C) in the matter preceding clause (i) by inserting "and except as provided in subparagraph (B)" after "subparagraph (A)"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(7) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—With respect to any project carried out pursuant to a contract or other agreement entered into under paragraph (1) that is not a cooperative agreement or an agreement to provide financial assistance in the form of a grant, the Under Secretary may contribute on an in-kind basis the portion of the costs of the project that the Under Secretary determines represents the amount of benefit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration derives from the project."

(c) RECEIPT AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; USE OF RESOURCES.—Section 3 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1952) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) RECEIPT AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS.—In order to accomplish the purpose set forth in section 2, the Under Secretary, acting through the Program, may receive and, only to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts, expend funds made available by—

"(1) any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States;

"(2) any State or local government (or any political subdivision thereof);

"(3) any Indian tribe;

"(4) any foreign government or international organization;

"(5) any public or private organization; or

"(6) any individual.

"(f) USE OF RESOURCES.—In order to accomplish the purpose set forth in section 2, the Under Secretary, acting through the Program, may use, with consent, with reimbursement, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of—

"(1) any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States;

"(2) any State or local government (or any political subdivision thereof);

"(3) any Indian tribe;

"(4) any foreign government or international organization;

"(5) any public or private organization; or

"(6) any individual."

SEC. 3. MODIFICATIONS TO THE MARINE DEBRIS FOUNDATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title I of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224) is transferred to appear after section 6 of the Marine Debris Act (P.L. 109-449).

(b) STATUS OF FOUNDATION.—Section 111(a) of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended, in the second sentence, by striking "organization" and inserting "corporation".

(c) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—

(1) APPOINTMENT, VACANCIES, AND REMOVAL.—Section 112(b) of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as paragraphs (2) through (6) respectively;

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as redesignated, the following:

"(1) RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARD REGARDING APPOINTMENTS.—For appointments made under paragraph (2), the Board shall submit to the Under Secretary recommendations on candidates for appointment.";

(C) in paragraph (2), as redesignated, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking "and considering" and inserting "considering"; and

(ii) by inserting "and with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce," after "by the Board,";

(D) in paragraph (4)(A), as redesignated, by inserting "with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce" after "the Board";

(E) by amending paragraph (3), as redesignated, to read as follows:

"(3) TERMS.—Any Director appointed under paragraph (2) shall be appointed for a term of 6 years."; and

(F) in paragraph (6), as redesignated—

(i) by inserting "the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development," after "Service,"; and

(ii) by inserting "and with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce" after "EPA Administrator".

(2) GENERAL POWERS.—Section 112(g) of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A) by striking "officers and employees" and inserting "the initial officers and employees"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B)(i) by striking "its chief operating officer" and inserting "the chief executive officer of the Foundation".

(3) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—Section 112 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(h) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—

"(1) APPOINTMENT; REMOVAL; REVIEW.—The Board may appoint, remove, and review the performance of the chief executive officer of the Foundation.

"(2) POWERS.—The chief executive officer of the Foundation may appoint, remove, and review the performance of any officer or employee of the Foundation."

(d) POWERS OF FOUNDATION.—Section 113(c)(1) of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(1) by inserting "nonprofit" before "corporation"; and

(2) by striking "acting as a trustee" and inserting "formed".

(e) PRINCIPAL OFFICE.—Section 113 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) PRINCIPAL OFFICE.—The Board shall locate the principal office of the Foundation in the National Capital Region, as such term is defined in section 2674(f)(2) of title 10, United States Code, or a coastal shoreline community."

(f) BEST PRACTICES.—Section 113 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act and amended by subsection (e), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(h) BEST PRACTICES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall develop and implement best practices for conducting outreach to Indian Tribes.

"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The best practices developed under paragraph (1) shall—

"(A) include a process to support technical assistance and capacity building to improve outcomes; and

"(B) promote an awareness of programs and grants available under this Act."

(g) USE OF FUNDS.—Section 118 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking “2024” and inserting “2025” and

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking “and State and local government agencies” and inserting “, State and local government agencies, United States and international nongovernmental organizations, regional organizations, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and foreign government entities”;

(2) in subsection (b)(2) by striking “and State and local government agencies” and inserting “, State and local government agencies, United States and international nongovernmental organizations, regional organizations, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and foreign government entities”.

(i) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 9(a) of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1958) is amended by striking “fiscal year 2023” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025”.

SEC. 4. TRANSFERS.

(a) SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0 ACT.—Subtitle C of title I of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224) is transferred to appear after section 119 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449) as transferred and redesignated by this Act.

(b) MARINE DEBRIS ACT.—The Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449) is amended—

(1) by transferring sections 7, 8, and 9 to appear after section 127, as transferred by this Act, and redesignated as sections 131, 132, and 133, respectively; and

(2) by inserting before section 131, as so transferred and redesignated, the following:

“Subtitle D—Administration”.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 131 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred and redesignated by this Act, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (5), (6), (7), (11), (12), and (13), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(1) CIRCULAR ECONOMY.—The term ‘circular economy’ has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224).”

“(2) COASTAL SHORELINE COMMUNITY.—The term ‘coastal shoreline community’ means a city or county directly adjacent to the open ocean, major estuaries, or the Great Lakes.”

“(3) EPA ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘EPA Administrator’ has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224).”

“(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian tribe’ has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).”

(4) by inserting after paragraph (8), as so redesignated, the following:

“(9) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘nonprofit organization’ has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224).”

“(10) POST CONSUMER MATERIALS MANAGEMENT.—The term ‘post-consumer materials management’ has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224).”

(5) by inserting after paragraph (13), as so redesignated, the following:

“(14) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Tribal organization’ has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).”

“(15) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term ‘Under Secretary’ has the meaning given such term

in section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224).”;

(6) in paragraph (13), as so redesignated—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) as subparagraphs (C), (D), and (E); and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) Indian Tribe.”;

(b) TRANSFER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(7) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224) is transferred to section 131 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), inserted after paragraph (8) (as redesignated), and redesignated as paragraph (8).

(2) REDESIGNATION.—Section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224) is amended by redesignating paragraphs (8) through (11) as paragraphs (7) through (10), respectively.

(c) NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—Paragraph (8)(D) of section 131 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred and redesignated by this Act, is amended by striking “(as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304))”.

SEC. 6. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 of the Marine Debris Act, and section 133 of the Marine Debris Act as transferred and so redesignated by this Act, strike “Administrator” and insert “Under Secretary”.

(b) SECTION 5.—In section 5 of the Marine Debris Act strike—

(1) “Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration” and insert “Under Secretary”; and

(2) “Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency” and insert “EPA Administrator”.

(c) SECTION 123.—In section 123, as transferred and so redesignated by this Act, strike “title I” and insert “subtitle B”.

(d) SECTION 131.—Paragraph (8)(D) of section 131 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred and redesignated by this Act, is amended by striking “(as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304))”.

(e) SECTION 134.—Section 134 of the Marine Debris Act, as transferred and so redesignated by this Act, strike “Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency” and insert “EPA Administrator”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 886.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 886 builds upon the work of previous Congresses to protect and preserve the quality of our oceans from marine debris.

This measure was reported favorably from both the Committee on Transpor-

tation and Infrastructure as well as the Committee on Natural Resources. This reconciled version before us today was collaborated on and agreed to by both committees and would enhance the capabilities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration without imposing any new mandates on industry or local government.

It also encourages the Marine Debris Foundation to establish its principal office in a coastal community in the real world outside of Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation. It is very close to my heart. I have worked on plastic pollution for many years.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), the author of this bill.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bipartisan bill, the Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act.

Marine debris is a serious problem. Unfortunately, much of marine debris is made up of plastic pollution. The ocean is littered with plastic bottles, straws, grocery bags, cigarette butts, fishing gear, and abandoned vehicles. Additionally, there are tiny pieces of plastic, microplastics, that make their way into marine life, blocking digestive tracts, altering growth, and, in some cases, killing marine mammals and threatening fisheries.

We still don't know how long it takes for plastic to biodegrade completely. Estimates range from 500 years to never. A 2020 study from The Pew Charitable Trusts found that, every year, more than 11 million metric tons of plastic garbage enter the ocean, harming marine life and destroying ecosystems.

If we do nothing to minimize ocean plastic pollution, it will nearly quadruple by 2040. We need to fundamentally change our reliance on plastics. Not only do they pollute the ocean, but they also exacerbate the climate crisis. The fossil fuel and plastics industries are connected, and plastics contribute to industrial emissions in the United States.

A global challenge of this magnitude cannot be solved with a single bill. We should not limit our action to removing existing plastic from the ocean, and we cannot recycle our way out of plastic waste that ends up on our shores.

We need comprehensive action, but today, we have the opportunity to build on our strong, bipartisan foundation of bicameral efforts to strengthen the NOAA Marine Debris Program and enhance the work of the Marine Debris Foundation.

The bipartisan SOS 2.0 Act, which I worked on and authored with the late Congressman Don Young and Senators SULLIVAN and WHITEHOUSE, is the most comprehensive legislation Congress has

passed to address marine debris that threatens coastal communities and ecosystems.

The bill created a Marine Debris Foundation to support NOAA's work; advanced the removal and prevention of debris, including plastic waste; and established a pilot program to provide incentives for the proper disposal of marine debris collected at sea.

Despite these important policies, current law does not effectively permit NOAA through the Marine Debris Program to assist and collaborate with foreign governments, international organizations, Tribal groups, and other organizations that may have the specific skills required to achieve the Marine Debris Act's goals.

As co-chairs of the House Oceans Caucus, Representative GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN and I introduced the Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act. This bill would amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act and the Marine Debris Act to provide NOAA with greater flexibility to deliver Federal resources and enter into cooperative agreements to conduct marine debris prevention and cleanup.

The ocean is resilient. We can help it heal, but we cannot afford to wait. We have significant work ahead of us to clean up and prevent marine debris, and the Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act continues to build on our bipartisan foundation to protect the ocean.

I thank the gentlewoman and co-chair of the House Oceans Caucus, Representative GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, for her partnership on this bill. I thank our Senate colleagues, Senator DAN SULLIVAN and Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE. I also thank Chairman GRAVES and Ranking Member LARSEN, as well as Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member GRIJALVA.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill to strengthen the Federal response to marine debris and to continue to make ocean health a priority for future generations.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any further speakers, so I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. BONAMICI for bringing this legislation, and I also want to reflect on a group that I am familiar with called the Plastic Pollution Coalition that is headed up by Ms. Dianna Cohen and her sister, no relation to me. They have done great work on plastic and bringing the public's attention to the dangers of plastic in our environment.

Mr. Speaker, I support the legislation and urge all others to support it. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, this bill is an important next step to help remove marine debris and protect our oceans without instituting any new burdensome requirements.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 886, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY SALARY TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4693) to provide that the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 does not apply to certain reports required to be submitted by the Tennessee Valley Authority, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4693

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act".

SEC. 2. SALARY DISCLOSURE; EXCEPTION TO REPORT ELIMINATION.

Section 9 of the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 (16 U.S.C. 831h) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "a financial statement" and all that follows through "\$1,500 a year" and inserting "a report of the total number of employees at the management level or above, to include all executives and board members, that shall include the names, salaries, and duties of such employees, that are receiving compensation at or greater than the maximum rate of basic pay for grade GS-15 of the General Schedule";

(2) by striking all that precedes "The Board shall" and inserting the following:

"SEC. 9. FINANCIAL REPORTING.

"(a) REPORT ON COMPENSATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—"; and

(3) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

"(2) EXEMPTION.—The information concerning salaries of employees of the Corporation contained in, or filed with, the report described in paragraph (1) is exempt from—

"(A) disclosure under section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code; and

"(B) the requirements of the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act (Public Law 117-263)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 4693.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4693, the Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act. This legislation simply reinstates an annual reporting requirement for the Tennessee Valley Authority to disclose to Congress the salaries for upper-level management.

I thank Representatives COHEN and BURCHETT for their bipartisan work on this legislation, which passed out of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure by voice vote this last year.

The bill continues years of work to make the TVA more transparent for its customers and the communities that it obviously serves.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 4693, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GRAVES for his help with this legislation.

I rise in support of H.R. 4693, bipartisan legislation to promote additional transparency over the management structure of the TVA.

I thank my dear friend and colleague from days in Tennessee and days up here, Representative BURCHETT, for his tireless work on this issue and for partnering with me on this act.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, or the TVA, is better known as the Nation's largest government-owned wholesale power producer, supplying power to ten million people across the States of Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, and Kentucky.

The legislation corrects a change enacted in 1995 that removed a requirement to disclose the management structure and salaries of TVA executives as part of the legislation to eliminate antiquated Federal agency reporting requirements. Well, this wasn't an antiquated portion that was deleted. This was something the public needs to see and know.

This bill reflects a fair compromise between our legitimate congressional oversight responsibilities over TVA and the need of TVA to retain and maintain a pool of talented, diverse, and effective management staff, executives, and board members.

It would ensure that Congress has the ability to provide effective oversight of the TVA and its management and executives.

I have asked TVA for salary transparency time and time again but have been refused information beyond that of the five highest-paid employees included in their annual SEC disclosure, which does indicate that the head of TVA makes \$10 million. That is, in my