

The OIG's number one recommendation was that the Postal Service fix this serious safety oversight immediately, and that is what we are doing today.

Our legislation would codify the number one recommendation of the OIG, to begin to improve USPS freight trucking safety and provide accountability.

This bill will maintain an internal database, and I hope it will lead to reforms by the Postal Service and save lives.

□ 1645

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for the purposes of a colloquy.

Mr. CONNOLLY, is it the case that rules that would clearly apply to USPS trucks carrying postal mail have not been applied to the contractors?

Mr. CONNOLLY. I think that is a fair conclusion.

Mr. RASKIN. In other words, the postal truck drivers who are working for the Postal Service have to have all the proper licensure and all the proper certification and training. Presumably the brakes are checked on their trucks, but because of the contracting out, they somehow have been able to escape all the rules we have with respect to road safety?

Mr. CONNOLLY. I think, again, that is a fair conclusion, Mr. RASKIN.

Mr. RASKIN. Well, again, I commend the gentleman for bringing this to public attention. That is an extraordinary number of people to lose their lives on the road to private contractors, who seem to have completely escaped the grasp of the rules that have been adopted under the Postal Service. Additionally, we know that the Postal Service traditionally has taken far more serious interest in public safety and public welfare.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I say to Mr. RASKIN, what is so troubling is these are 100 percent preventable tragedies. Not one of these lives had to be lost but for the callousness and lack of regard at the Postal Service in vetting freight contractors.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, this is excellent bipartisan legislation with Congress acting just as it should to address a serious public policy problem, and let's hope that we pass this quickly, the President signs it quickly, and we don't lose any more Americans or Postal Service workers on the road.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, the Postal Service is tasked with the challenging job of providing fast, reliable mail service nationwide. While they do so, their safety should be prioritized.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this common-

sense bill that increases transparency into the Postal Service's safety record to improve public safety throughout our Nation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7527, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### SPECIAL DISTRICT GRANT ACCESSIBILITY ACT

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7525) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local government for the purpose of Federal financial assistance determinations.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7525

*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 "Special District Grant Accessibility Act".

#### SEC. 2. AGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GUIDANCE ON SPECIAL DISTRICTS.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR AGENCY ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SPECIAL DISTRICTS AS GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

(1) OMB GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue guidance that clarifies how an agency recognizes a special district as a unit of local government for the purpose of being eligible to receive Federal financial assistance.

(2) AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the guidance is issued pursuant to paragraph (1), the head of each agency shall implement the requirements of such guidance and conform any policy, principle, practice, procedure, or guideline relating to the administration of the Federal financial assistance programs of the agency.

(3) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that evaluates agency implementation of and conformity to the guidance issued pursuant to paragraph (1).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY.—The term "agency" has the meaning given the term in section 552 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(3) FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The term "Federal financial assistance"—

(A) means assistance that a non-Federal entity receives or administers in the form of a grant, loan, loan guarantee, property, co-

operative agreement, interest subsidy, insurance, food commodity, direct appropriation, or other assistance; and

(B) does not include an amount received as reimbursement for services rendered to an individual in accordance with guidance issued by the Director.

(4) SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term "special district" means a political subdivision of a State, with specified boundaries and significant budgetary autonomy or control, created by or pursuant to the laws of the State, for the purpose of performing limited and specific governmental or proprietary functions that distinguish it as a significantly separate entity from the administrative governance structure of any other form of local government unit within a State.

(5) STATE.—The term "State" means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7525, which establishes a definition in law for special districts and clarifies that special districts are eligible to receive Federal financial assistance.

Many Americans receive essential services through special districts, units of local government authorized under State law to deliver specific services to communities. There are approximately 35,000 special districts across the country in every single State.

Some examples of special districts are ambulance service districts, drainage districts, emergency service boards, and flood control districts, to name a few. These special districts provide critical services to mostly rural communities across the Nation.

The Office of Management and Budget already recognizes special districts as units of local government, similar to townships or villages, yet special districts often struggle to compete for or access Federal funding.

The Special District Grant Accessibility Act works to solve this problem and ensures that special districts are on equal footing with other units of local government. This bill requires the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to Federal agencies, emphasizing how special districts should be recognized as a unit of local government.

This legislation is supported by the National Special Districts Coalition.

I thank Representative FALLON and Representative PETTERSEN for their work on this important bipartisan bill, which impacts nearly every congressional district in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill and reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7525.

The Special District Grant Accessibility Act is a bipartisan measure that takes a positive step forward toward ensuring that Federal policy better reflects the complexities of local governments and how they work.

Congress confronted these complexities when it acted to send aid to local governments during the coronavirus pandemic. This included committee Democrats' historic work with the Biden-Harris administration to provide \$350 billion in direct financial assistance to more than 30,000 governments across the country, the vast majority of which were small local governments, and many of whom received significant assistance for the first time.

This bill would provide further clarity around special districts, a special unit of local government. According to the National Special Districts Coalition, there are roughly 35,000 such special districts across the Nation that play an important role in delivering essential government services, like wastewater treatment and fire protection, to millions of Americans.

Special districts have reported challenges when trying to access Federal funding opportunities and have indicated that a unified Federal definition of "special district" would help clarify how entities can best assist local communities through Federal assistance programs.

To address these concerns, H.R. 7525 would codify a definition of the term and direct OMB to clarify how Federal agencies can recognize special districts as units of local government for the purpose of being eligible for Federal grants and other Federal assistance.

Congress and the Federal Government must continually work to ensure Federal assistance programs are authorized, funded, and implemented to best address the needs of local communities. This should include careful consideration of the intricacies of local governments and a rigorous commitment to ensuring Federal assistance promotes equal opportunity for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate subcommittee Chairman PAT FALLON and Representative BRITTANY PETTERSEN for their excellent bipartisan work and support of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FALLON), my friend.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER), my good friend, for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7525, the Special District Grant

Accessibility Act, introduced by myself and my colleague, Representative PETTERSEN, from the Centennial State of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, special districts are a type of local government authorized by State law, which deliver specialized services to specific communities that would otherwise not be provided. In rural areas, for instance, special districts may provide fire protection, mosquito control, ambulatory services, et cetera. Special districts also occur in urban areas and can provide airport, road, and transit services.

According to the National Special Districts Coalition, as my colleague from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) said, there are about 35,000 special districts in the country, and they are in every State.

In Texas, we have over 3,300 special districts providing all manner of government goods and services. Yet, as these lesser-known units of government, special districts have struggled to consistently access Federal financial assistance.

H.R. 7525 would remedy that and would emphasize that special districts are units of local government and are, therefore, eligible for Federal financial assistance by establishing a definition in law for special districts and requiring the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to Federal agencies, as well as grant-issuing agencies.

This bill also requires an OMB report to Congress on the agency's implementation and conformity to the guidance.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative PETTERSEN and the bipartisan coalition of Members who cosponsored this bill, and I encourage a "yes" vote.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. PETTERSEN).

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Special District Grant Accessibility Act, and I thank my colleague, Representative FALLON, for his leadership and bipartisan collaboration on this bill. I also thank the advocates who raised this concern with our office and give a huge shout-out to my team for doing the work to get it to this point.

Special districts are local governments that are created by the people for a community to deliver specialized services. There are 35,000 special districts across the country, and this includes providing services ranging from drinking water and wastewater management to healthcare, transit, natural resource conservation, and much more.

This bipartisan bill will ensure Federal policies better reflect the complexities of local government by creating a Federal definition. I didn't realize that there were so many barriers at the local level to actually drawing down those Federal funds when it comes to community block grants, childcare

services, and even transportation needs.

We also saw significant barriers when it came to the pandemic and the ARPA funding that was going down to help support communities through that difficult time. We know that this is a very important and small step forward, but it is going to make a big difference for people across Colorado and the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 7525, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill to emphasize that special districts are eligible for Federal financial assistance.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7525.

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. LATURNER. 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.

□ 1700

## ELIMINATE USELESS REPORTS ACT OF 2024

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2073) to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2073

*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 "Eliminate Useless Reports Act of 2024".

### SEC. 2. SUNSETS FOR AGENCY REPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1125 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d);

(2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) BUDGET JUSTIFICATION MATERIALS.—The term ‘budget justification materials’ has the meaning given the term in section 3(b)(2) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note; Public Law 109-282).

“(2) PLAN OR REPORT.—The term ‘plan or report’ means any plan or report submitted