

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

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

I thank my Democratic colleagues for their work. We have two coin bills here on the floor today, and they speak to different parts of our United States history and the best among us. That gift that continues with us retelling important stories of our history is really important for us to know today.

I thank Mr. PANETTA for the work that he put into bringing this Congressional Gold Medal Act before us and the story of Everett Alvarez, Jr.'s contribution to the United States and the example he gives us. For this to be done in his lifetime is a very special and rare honor, indeed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important resolution, and I thank my colleagues for the form of debate here and the storytelling. It is important for us to tell the stories of the best of American history, and, let's be honest, it is important to tell the whole story of American history. These stories of heroic acts are really important for us to know.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption 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 North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1097.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL DISASTER TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2023

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5863) to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5863

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 "Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF RULES FOR TREATMENT OF CERTAIN DISASTER-RELATED PERSONAL CASUALTY LOSSES.

For purposes of applying section 304(b) of the Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020, section 301 of such Act shall be applied by substituting "the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023" for "this Act" each place it appears.

SEC. 3. EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME FOR COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES OR DAMAGES RESULTING FROM CERTAIN WILDFIRES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, gross income shall not include any amount received by an individual as a qualified wildfire relief payment.

(b) QUALIFIED WILDFIRE RELIEF PAYMENT.—For purposes of this section—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The term "qualified wildfire relief payment" means any amount received by or on behalf of an individual as compensation for losses, expenses, or damages (including compensation for additional living expenses, lost wages (other than compensation for lost wages paid by the employer which would have otherwise paid such wages), personal injury, death, or emotional distress) incurred as a result of a qualified wildfire disaster, but only to the extent the losses, expenses, or damages compensated by such payment are not compensated for by insurance or otherwise.

(2) QUALIFIED WILDFIRE DISASTER.—The term "qualified wildfire disaster" means any federally declared disaster (as defined in section 165(i)(5)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) declared, after December 31, 2014, as a result of any forest or range fire.

(c) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986—

(1) no deduction or credit shall be allowed (to the person for whose benefit a qualified wildfire relief payment is made) for, or by reason of, any expenditure to the extent of the amount excluded under this section with respect to such expenditure, and

(2) no increase in the basis or adjusted basis of any property shall result from any amount excluded under this subsection with respect to such property.

(d) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.—This section shall only apply to qualified wildfire relief payments received by the individual during taxable years beginning after December 31, 2019, and before January 1, 2026.

(e) EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF LIMITATION.—In the case of a claim for credit or refund which is properly allocable to the exclusion which is described in subsection (a)—

(1) the period of limitation prescribed in section 6511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for the filing of such claim shall be treated as not expiring earlier than the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and

(2) any limitation described in section 6511(b)(2) of such Code shall not apply.

SEC. 4. EAST PALESTINE DISASTER RELIEF PAYMENTS.

(a) DISASTER RELIEF PAYMENTS TO VICTIMS OF EAST PALESTINE TRAIN DERAILMENT.—East Palestine train derailment payments shall be treated as qualified disaster relief payments for purposes of section 139(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(b) EAST PALESTINE TRAIN DERAILMENT PAYMENTS.—For purposes of this section, the term "East Palestine train derailment payment" means any amount received by or on behalf of an individual as compensation for loss, damages, expenses, loss in real property value, closing costs with respect to real property (including realtor commissions), or inconvenience (including access to real property) resulting from the East Palestine train derailment if such amount was provided by—

(1) a Federal, State, or local government agency,

(2) Norfolk Southern Railway, or

(3) any subsidiary, insurer, or agent of Norfolk Southern Railway or any related person.

(c) TRAIN DERAILMENT.—For purposes of this section, the term "East Palestine train derailment" means the derailment of a train in East Palestine, Ohio, on February 3, 2023.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply to amounts received on or after February 3, 2023.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH 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 on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5863, the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act, introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE), my Ways and Means Committee colleague.

This legislation was approved last year by the Ways and Means Committee 38-0 because families and communities across the country who suffered disasters need support. In fact, bipartisan support for this legislation was so strong that it was approved a second time by the Ways and Means Committee as part of the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act.

This legislation not only helps victims of disasters but also provides broad and immediate tax relief for American workers, farmers, families, and small businesses, which is why the House of Representatives passed it with 84 percent support earlier this year. I encourage my Senate colleagues to take up that legislation to support disaster victims and help the millions of Americans treading water in today's economy.

The Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act provides assistance to communities across the country, bringing relief to those recovering and rebuilding after tragic floods and tornadoes, like those that affected communities in my home State of Missouri in the winter of 2021 and the summer of 2023, hurricanes like Hurricane Ian that claimed countless lives in Florida, wildfires like those that devastated communities in California and Hawaii, and the train derailment and toxic chemical spill in East Palestine, Ohio.

I commend Representative STEUBE for his leadership on this issue. His passion started with his desire to provide help to the families he represents who were devastated by the hurricane. In the interest of getting this done, he broadened his relief effort to include over 300 storms in 45 States.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill so that we are standing with and supporting our fellow neighbors when they are most in need. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation, and I thank Chairman SMITH of the Ways and Means Committee for all the good work

he has done to ensure that we are able to help our constituents who are suffering as a result of natural disasters. I also thank my colleague and friend, Mr. STEUBE, without whose leadership on the Ways and Means Committee we wouldn't be here today. I also thank Mr. LAMALFA, my colleague to the north of my district, who has worked with me over the years to address one component that is covered by this piece of legislation.

This has been a long time coming for my constituents—too long, way too long. This is now the second time in 5 months that this House has come together to state plainly and in a bipartisan fashion that Americans should help one another when disaster strikes, while the Senate continues to play politics with what ought to be a bipartisan victory. They have been sitting on the tax bill for 5 months. I join Chairman SMITH in calling for them to move the entire bill because there is so much in it for so many of our constituents across the country.

I want to briefly reiterate how we got here today. In my district, wildfires in 2015, 2017, and 2018 devastated entire communities across my district and across the State of California. Entire towns were destroyed. Thousands of people lost homes, and dozens of people lost their lives.

In the aftermath, the courts found that Pacific Gas and Electric was liable for causing some of these fires. As part of its subsequent bankruptcy proceedings, the utility established a trust from which fire survivors are generally eligible for compensation for losses sustained during these fires.

Let me pause here to say one thing. No disaster survivor is ever made whole. No one is ever made whole. People lost their homes and everything in their homes—family pictures, family heirlooms, family records. They lost businesses. As I said earlier, sadly, they lost family members.

While the courts eventually created a path to compensation, it took years to get there, years my constituents didn't have. They couldn't wait around for 3, 4, 6 years to get a payment from that trust. Then, because the trust was structured in the form of stock shares and because stock shares need to be monetized carefully and slowly in order to maximize return to survivors, the payments to survivors came in batches. Nobody is getting—repeat, nobody is getting—100 percent of what they lost.

To add insult to injury, right as our constituents started to get a little bit of compensation, our constituents were told they may actually owe taxes on these payments because, depending on the taxpayer, the payments may qualify as income. In 4 years of working on this issue, I have yet to encounter a single person on either side of the aisle who believes this is fair. That is why we have been so successful in passing this legislation numerous times out of the Ways and Means Committee and off the floor of this House.

This bill has been stalled, advanced, and then held up. It has been marked up, passed the House, and stalled again. The Senate ought to quit dithering on what is an objectively good bill for our country and just pass it, but because they are unwilling to do so, we are here again tonight to take this matter up.

As I said, I am grateful to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Mr. NEAL, our ranking member on Ways and Means, has been a great colleague and a great champion for this. I also thank the chairman, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. STEUBE, one of our colleagues on the committee.

I wish such an unusual strategy to get here wasn't necessary, but I am committed—and I think my colleagues here are committed—to pulling every lever at our disposal to get this bill passed. This is a fundamental question of fairness, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman THOMPSON for his advocacy as well on this legislation and helping move it through our committee in a very bipartisan effort.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE), the author of this legislation.

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of H.R. 5863, the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023.

In a historic act, last week, a majority of the House of Representatives made clear that the House should act to provide tax relief to victims of natural disasters all across America. I thank every Member who stood with me in this fight, and I am thankful that this bill is finally being debated on the floor.

On September 28, 2022, southwest Florida was ravaged by Hurricane Ian, one of the most devastating hurricanes to ever hit our Nation. NOAA ranks Hurricane Ian as the third most costly hurricane in United States history, killing nearly 150 people and causing billions of dollars in damages. For Floridians, we know that the recovery from Hurricane Ian is far from over.

Despite experiencing numerous hurricanes yearly, Floridians are resilient. I have been working tirelessly on disaster relief legislation for Floridians to recover from various storms that have decimated so many communities around our State. The most recurring and pressing issue I hear in my district is that the sun coast is still waiting for Congress to do its job to provide much-needed relief.

More than a year-and-a-half after landfall of Hurricane Ian, Congress has yet to provide disaster relief for those impacted financially by Ian. I have received thousands of letters, calls, and pleas for help from people in my district who have incurred tens of thousands of dollars in recovery expenses and are having a hard time getting ahead.

□ 1700

On eight separate occasions since 2002, Congress has provided tax relief to victims of natural disasters. Since 2021, over 300 disasters across 47 States have been declared without Congress taking action.

Additionally, wildfires across the Western United States and Maui have greatly impacted many Americans who have not received any relief from this body. Similarly, the victims of the East Palestine train derailment are facing the same situation.

This bill helps everyday Americans and provides them the ability to deduct their expenses from a natural disaster from their taxes.

This bill will not just aid Hurricane Ian victims. It will provide relief to the millions of Americans around the country who are victims of federally declared disasters. It will help victims of flooding in the Midwest. In the Pacific Northwest, victims of wildfires will get the relief they deserve. Those affected by severe winter storms in the Northeast will benefit from this tax deduction, as will our friends in Texas who have experienced damage from a wide variety of disasters, including winter storms, tornadoes, flooding, and fires.

In short, this is not a problem that just affects Florida or California. This impacts millions of American families, and Congress must act to provide them relief.

I am grateful to be supported by many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to lead the fight for Americans all across the country to get disaster relief. Disaster relief is not a Democratic problem or a Republican problem. It is something that all of us face.

I give sincere thanks to Members and staff who have worked tirelessly on this bill. I give special thanks to California Congressmen MIKE THOMPSON, JIMMY PANETTA, and DOUG LAMALFA, as well as Congresswoman JILL TOKUDA of Hawaii, for their leadership on this effort.

I also thank former Congressman BILL JOHNSON, who represented East Palestine, Ohio, and played an important role with this bill.

I give special thanks to Ways and Means Committee Chairman JASON SMITH for passing this bill out of the committee.

The constituents of my district and the districts each of these colleagues represents are in need of help. Today, I urge swift passage of this bill on the House floor and urge expeditious consideration in the Senate so that Americans all across America can get much-needed relief.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA), who knows firsthand the tragedy of wildfire.

Her constituents experienced a horrific disaster in her district, in her home State, and she has been there with them every step of the way. She is

here on their behalf again tonight. I thank her for her support.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5863, the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023.

It will keep survivors' hard-earned money in their pockets and help them get their lives back to normal as soon as possible, whatever that normal might look like.

Seeing the overwhelming challenges faced by the survivors of the Maui wildfires, our "family," "ohana," I introduced H.R. 5873, the Natural Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023, last October to lessen the tax burden faced by disaster survivors and ensure they have the financial resources to support their "family," "ohana."

Since then, far too many people continue to struggle with recovery costs that no one could ever budget for. Across our country, through all disasters current, those to come, and so far in the past, they have reached deep into their savings. They have gone into debt to feed their "children," "keiki," to cover their mortgages, to pay for education and healthcare costs, and to rebuild their homes, businesses, and livelihoods.

I thank my friends and colleagues, Congressmen GREG STEUBE and DOUG LAMALFA, for incorporating elements of my legislation into this bill as we continue to fight for its critical passage.

Like me, they know all too well that there will never be enough to replace all that people lost. As the good Congressman from California mentioned, no one will be made whole, but that being said, anything we can do to lighten the tax burden and the financial struggles they face will go a long way to rebuilding lives and rebuilding communities.

I am proud to join Congressmen STEUBE, LAMALFA, and THOMPSON on the floor today to pass this bill out of the House. I implore the Senate to embrace their "responsibility," "kuleana," and pass this bill.

Disaster does not discriminate. It doesn't care if you are Democratic, Independent, or Republican. When it hits, people need help. We must pass this critical bipartisan piece of legislation now.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH for helping us with our legislation all this time here, and I am very grateful also to Mr. STEUBE for allowing our bill to be piggybacked with his in this effort here, as well as H.R. 7024, Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024, which is still waiting over in the Senate. I hope we can get that one passed, but I am grateful for everybody to join this effort here today in a strong, bipartisan effort to move this narrower, very important disaster relief package to help people all across the country, as has been said.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. THOMPSON of California, so much for our partnership on this. It has taken some time, but we are getting there. I am glad to see it.

With the losses we have suffered along with our constituents—especially our constituents, of course—it is very painful to see and not be able to go back to them and say we have gotten a result.

My own constituents, I commend them. I am grateful for them. They have been very patient, the victims of the Camp fire where 85 lives were lost, the victims of the Zogg fire, my neighbors down there in the Santa Rosa area, and of course, my good friend, Ms. TOKUDA. Lahaina suffered an even greater loss of life than what we had in Paradise, which was a record. We don't want to set records. We want to get results.

It has been a great partnership on top of disaster and heartache.

Just picture this, though, as I talk about Paradise: You wake up in the morning, and you hear there is a fire. All of a sudden, there is an evacuation. People are crowding the narrow roadways, trying to get up the hill or down the hill out of town, barely making it in some cases, scorched vehicles, tires on fire, all of that.

They are seeing in their rearview mirrors their neighborhood engulfed in flames and their houses burning down with all their mementos, as was mentioned, in them.

They are wondering: Did their neighbor get out? Did the elderly lady up the street get out? Thank goodness there was a firefighter or neighbor that maybe helped that lady get out just in time, so there was not even a bigger loss of life.

The resilience of these folks in the fires that I have had in my district and my neighbors in our neighboring States is just amazing as they have stuck with us on this.

A settlement happened with the utility to somehow partly compensate them, and indeed, they will never be made whole.

My colleagues have pointed that out well. They can never be made whole, even with a lot of money. That settlement should not be a taxable event.

Think about it. Just break that down for a minute. You are in your home, and you have been paying off your mortgage. Maybe it is already paid off. You have your equity in your home. This disaster happens, and you lose your home. All of a sudden, you have to rearrange your life. You have to rebuild your life. That portion of that equity that now is going to be compensated for partly by the settlement with the utility, that portion of your home, is now a newly taxable event because of the IRS' interpretation of that.

How is that right? How is that fair at all? Someone is ripped out of their life, home, family, whatever may have happened to them personally, and now

they have a taxable event on top of that piece of equity that was in their home because of a bad interpretation here.

That is why this legislation is necessary. That is why it has been so strongly supported on both sides of the aisle all through the process here. That is why we need to overcome these hurdles we have, whether it is over in the Senate or what have you, to get this done.

People deserve to have that predictability, that sustainability of their lives, to be able to put themselves back in a good way again.

To the fire victims of the Camp fire in my area, the Zogg fire, our other neighbors out there, relief is on the way.

This has been a tremendous effort, a little out of the ordinary, to get this legislation back to this floor here tonight, and I think it will pass resoundingly. I hope so. I ask for everybody's "aye" vote.

Again, I appreciate all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for stepping forward and doing right by the fire victims, by the hurricane victims, by those folks in East Palestine, and by others who are going to be added to this.

This is how legislation should look. This is how a country pulls together, and I am glad to be part of it.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again, I thank Mr. STEUBE, Mr. LAMALFA, Chairman SMITH, and all of our colleagues on Ways and Means who worked so hard to bring this bill to fruition not once, not twice, but now three times.

I know how difficult it is for our friend from Hawaii, in her area. What a devastating fire that was, and I know how hard she is working for her constituents. I thank her for being on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, Florida, Texas, South Carolina, Louisiana, Kentucky, Oregon, New York, California, and over a dozen other States have been devastated by disasters. There is not a single colleague in this House who should have to go through a disaster to know how bad it is. It devastates communities. It devastates people's lives. It disrupts communities. It disrupts people's lives. People are killed. Businesses are lost. Homes and heirlooms are lost and destroyed.

The least that we can do is to come to the aid of our constituents, our fellow Americans, in time of disaster and in time of great need. That is what we are doing today.

This is commendable work by the Ways and Means Committee, and every Member of this House should be proud to come to the floor and vote to support their friends, their neighbors, and their constituents in these very dark times.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I once again commend the great work and advocacy of Mr. STEUBE, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. THOMPSON. I can tell you they have been advocating since I have been chairman that this is an important piece of legislation to get across the finish line, and let's hope that the United States Senate does the same thing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support 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. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5863, 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. SMITH 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.

ROLLING STOCK PROTECTION ACT

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3317) to amend title 49, United States Code, to remove the lifetime exemption from the prohibition on procurement of rolling stock from certain vehicle manufacturers for parties to executed contracts.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3317

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 "Rolling Stock Protection Act".

SEC. 2. REMOVAL OF LIFETIME EXEMPTION FROM PROHIBITION ON PROCUREMENT OF ROLLING STOCK FOR PARTIES TO EXECUTED CONTRACTS.

Section 5323(u)(5) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B) by striking "Except as provided in subparagraph (C) and for a contract or subcontract that is not described in subparagraph (A)" and inserting "Except as provided in subparagraph (B)";

(2) in subparagraph (C) by striking "Subparagraph (B)" and inserting "Subparagraph (A)";

(3) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(4) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) and the gentleman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and in-

clude extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 3317.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3317, the Rolling Stock Protection Act.

This bipartisan bill, introduced by the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit Chairman Rick Crawford, was reported favorably out of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in May 2023.

I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this legislation. The bill will prevent Federal tax dollars from being sent to foreign State-owned enterprises and State-connected businesses for the purchase of rolling stock such as railcars and buses.

□ 1715

Moreover, this bill will block Federal dollars flowing from the Federal Transit Administration to rolling stock manufacturers connected to the Chinese Communist Party.

In 2019, Congress enacted the Transportation Infrastructure Vehicle Security Act as a provision of the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. TIVSA prohibited public transportation agencies that receive Federal assistance from using funds to procure vehicles from State-owned enterprises.

Passage of TIVSA was a direct response to alarming national and economic security concerns related to China's state-owned enterprise rolling stock manufacturers, primarily the China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation and Build Your Dreams, whose presence in the bus and railcar market had grown significantly.

That legislation included a loophole that allowed the FTA to grant lifetime exemptions to four of the Nation's largest transit agencies, allowing them to continue buying rolling stock manufactured by companies connected to and dependent on the CCP. This bill we are considering today will close that loophole.

In doing so, H.R. 3317 will enhance American manufacturing opportunity in the rolling stock industry. It will help American workers and strengthen our domestic supply chain. H.R. 3317 will take us another step forward in safeguarding America's national security and economic interests.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in support of this legislation which would prohibit all U.S. transit agencies from using Federal dollars on rail rolling stock from State-owned enterprises, or SOEs.

As of today, the U.S. doesn't have any domestic transit railcar manufac-

turers. Federal transit policies have been designed over the years to reflect that reality while still encouraging domestic manufacturing wherever possible.

While the U.S. remains, at least for now, dependent on global transit car manufacturers, we need to ensure fair competition among all manufacturers, including SOEs.

When one entity receives government support for artificially low bids, if that is left unchecked over time, other manufacturers will be driven out of business. This would make transit cars more expensive in the long run and leave systems across the country reliant upon just one manufacturer.

Congress recognized this concern after four U.S. transit agencies awarded rolling stock contracts to an SOE that submitted artificially low bids.

The 2020 National Defense Authorization Act first prohibited most U.S. transit agencies from using Federal transit funds to purchase rolling stock from SOEs. Transit car manufacturers that do not receive government subsidies, including manufacturers in South Korea, Japan, Spain, and other places, were not affected by this ban. Congress exempted the four transit agencies with the initial SOE contracts from the ban so as not to disrupt ongoing procurement.

The legislation that we are considering here today doesn't affect those initial contracts or any current options on those contracts, but it does prevent future contracts from being executed using Federal funds. The bill ensures that all U.S. transit agencies will operate under the same rules.

I would also note that nothing in this legislation impacts what transit agencies do with their local funding. It only affects funding from the Federal Government for transit railcars.

As transit agencies continue to receive the record funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, it is critical we ensure the market for rolling stock is fair and competitive.

Ultimately, that will yield the best outcome for transit agencies and will help them provide more reliable and effective service for their riders.

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

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD), the sponsor of H.R. 3317.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in support of my bill H.R. 3317, the Rolling Stock Protection Act. I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this simple and direct bill.

In May of last year, this bipartisan legislation was favorably reported out of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

My bill will close a loophole in Federal law that currently allows some of the country's largest transit agencies that receive Federal Transit Administration dollars to purchase rolling