

sound's ecosystems. This bill also reauthorizes crucial programs that have already made significant strides in reducing nitrogen pollution, protecting wetlands, and promoting sustainable development along the shoreline.

This legislation is not only about environmental protection but investing in the future of our communities and the people who rely on the sound. By continuing to safeguard the sound, we are supporting the local economies that depend on tourism, fishing, and other maritime industries. We are also ensuring that future generations can enjoy the natural beauty and recreational opportunities that the sound offers.

I thank my colleague from across the aisle and the sound, Congressman JOE COURTNEY of Connecticut, members of the bipartisan Long Island Sound Caucus who have worked tirelessly on this legislation for more than a year, including my good friends Representatives D'ESPOSITO and GARBARINO, and Chairman GRAVES and Chairman WESTERMAN, whose leadership was instrumental in getting this legislation to the floor. Our collective efforts reflect a shared commitment to the health and prosperity of the entire region.

I also thank the various stakeholders, environmental organizations, and community leaders who all pitched in and who have tirelessly advocated for the protection and restoration of the sound, especially my friends at Save the Sound and Citizens Campaign for the Environment.

Mr. Speaker, the Long Island Sound is an irreplaceable natural asset, and we have to protect it. This legislation provides the tools and resources necessary to continue the important work of restoring and preserving this vital ecosystem. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and reaffirming our commitment to the Long Island Sound.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO).

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, as a son of a mariner and someone who has grown up on Long Island and in its waterways, I am proud to have cosponsored Congressman LALOTA's legislation, H.R. 5441, the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act of 2023.

The bill reauthorizes Federal funding for the EPA to implement the Long Island Sound Conservation and Management Plan, as well as provide stewardship grants to New York State, municipal governments, and community stakeholder groups engaged in conservation activities around the sound.

By passing this critical piece of legislation, we can work to ensure the Long Island Sound program is reauthorized at adequate funding levels and the

sound's watershed and coastal habitats receive the attention they deserve. Not only will the program and grants provided help enhance the aesthetic beauty of the sound, but they will also help provide critical support for water-quality enhancement initiatives, which remain a key policy priority of mine.

The Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act of 2023 represents the latest iteration of Long Island's commitment to preserving our local environment, which is a tradition that stretches back to President Theodore Roosevelt, who spent many years of his life advancing conservation initiatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to support conservation efforts that benefit my constituents, New York at large, and this great Nation. I applaud Congressman LALOTA for introducing this legislation, as it is critical to preserving the Long Island that we love and call home. I look forward to helping get this bill across the floor.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the management of the United States' natural resources requires effective coordination between all levels of government and local stakeholders. The legislation sponsored by Representative LALOTA reauthorizes programs that support the health and well-being of the Long Island Sound.

By reauthorizing these programs, we allow this critical work to continue, conserving an important resource that is vital for the region's economy and the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues 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 Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5441.

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. WESTERMAN. 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.

#### WATER MONITORING AND TRACKING ESSENTIAL RESOURCES (WATER) DATA IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5770) to reauthorize certain

United States Geological Survey water data enhancement programs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5770

*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 "Water Monitoring and Tracking Essential Resources (WATER) Data Improvement Act".*

#### SEC. 2. WATER DATA ENHANCEMENT BY UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

*Section 9507 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 10367) is amended—*

*(1) in subsection (a)—*

*(A) by striking the heading and inserting "FEDERAL PRIORITY STREAMGAGE PROGRAM";*

*(B) in paragraph (1), by striking "national streamflow information program, as reviewed by the National Research Council in 2004" and inserting "Federal priority streamgaging program";*

*(C) in paragraph (2), by striking "national streamflow information program" each place it appears and inserting "Federal priority streamgaging program";*

*(D) in paragraph (4)—*

*(i) in subparagraph (A)—*

*(I) by striking "2009" and inserting "2023"; and*

*(II) in clause (ii), by inserting "precipitation" before "water-quality sensors"; and*

*(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "National Streamflow Information Program as reviewed by the National Research Council," and inserting "Federal needs established through regular solicitation of feedback, such as that documented in the report titled 'Reprioritization of the U.S. Geological Survey Federal Priority streamgaging program, 2022' (Open-file Report 2023-1032).";*

*(E) in paragraph (5), by striking "national streamgaging network" each place it appears and inserting "Federal priority streamgaging network"; and*

*(F) in paragraph (6)—*

*(i) in subparagraph (A)—*

*(I) by striking "national streamflow information program" and inserting "Federal priority streamgaging program"; and*

*(II) by striking "2023" and inserting "2028"; and*

*(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "2019" and inserting "2028";*

*(2) in subsection (b)—*

*(A) in paragraph (2)—*

*(i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting "and Tribes" after "agencies" and*

*(ii) in subparagraph (C)—*

*(I) by inserting "or Tribal lands" after "within a State"; and*

*(II) by inserting "or Tribe" after "water resource agency";*

*(B) in paragraph (6), by inserting ", a Tribe" after "a State"; and*

*(C) in paragraph (7)—*

*(i) by striking "such sums as are necessary" and inserting "\$4,000,000 per fiscal year"; and*

*(ii) by striking "2009 through 2023" and inserting "2023 through 2028";*

*(3) by striking subsection (c);*

*(4) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c); and*

*(5) in subsection (c)(4) (as so redesignated by this subsection), by striking "2019" and inserting "2028".*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5770, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my colleague Mr. NEGUSE's bipartisan bill, which reauthorizes the Federal priority streamgages and the national groundwater resources monitoring programs through fiscal year 2028 at existing funding levels.

The USGS operates and maintains a nationwide streamgaging network, which monitors the amount of water flowing through streams and rivers across the country at any given point in time. Data from this network is used by public and private users, including government agencies responsible for water management and emergency responses, utilities, environmental agencies, and recreational interests. This data informs Americans on whether conditions are safe for fishing, boating, or rafting.

Additionally, the national groundwater resources monitoring program administers a network of water-level wells and water-quality wells. The USGS makes this data publicly available through the National Groundwater Monitoring Network data portal. Given the groundwater is managed by individual States, this data enables States, stakeholders, and individuals to make decisions using the best available science.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Representative NEGUSE's H.R. 5770, the WATER Data Improvement Act.

The WATER Data Improvement Act represents a bipartisan approach to ensuring that water resource managers have the data they need to provide communities and the environment with access to safe, clean water.

The legislation will promote successful drought resiliency strategies, strengthen essential programs, and increase water quality by reauthorizing the U.S. Geological Survey's national groundwater resources monitoring network, its Federal priority streamgage network, and improved water estimation, measurement, and monitoring grant funding through 2028.

The impacts of these programs and grants have been transformative. The national groundwater resources monitoring network brings together Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies' groundwater monitoring efforts while the Federal priority streamgage net-

work measures streamflow information to promote access to crucial groundwater and streamflow data for water resource managers. The legislation would also provide grants to develop, improve, and implement new methodologies and technologies for collecting, analyzing, and delivering water resource data.

With 2024 on track to be the hottest year on record and many communities throughout the West facing a historic drought crisis, it is imperative that we provide water resource managers with the tools that they need to collect and provide accurate data to develop and implement innovative water management and conservation plans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the WATER Data Improve Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, my gratitude to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE), my distinguished colleague, for her leadership on this particular issue, her leadership in the Colorado River Caucus over the course of these last several years as the Upper Basin and Lower Basin States grapple with a historic drought, as was articulated.

I could not say it any better than she did as to the bipartisan approach that she and others are championing here in the United States Congress. I am proud to add this particular piece of legislation to that approach. Of course, my gratitude to Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member GRIJALVA for their consideration of this important bill.

I have the honor and the privilege of representing the great State of Colorado in the United States Congress, and the headwaters of the Colorado River are in my district. In Colorado, we know how important it is to preserve, protect, and strengthen these critical water resources and how important data is to that effort, which is why this bill is so important.

As has been explained by both the chairman and Representative LEE, the Federal priority streamgage network is a federally funded network of streamgages to measure streamflow information for forecasting, flood and drought planning, water-quality monitoring, and more. The national groundwater resources monitoring network is a collaborative network that serves a similar purpose.

At the end of the day, the improved water estimation, measurement, and monitoring technologies programs provide grants to develop and implement new technologies and methodologies to measure water resources data. Each of these programs, I can certainly tell you, Mr. Speaker, is a valuable source

of information for water users across the State of Colorado, across the Upper Basin States, the Lower Basin States, and, indeed, across the Rocky Mountain West.

It is critical these efforts be supported and authorized, which is why I am proud to sponsor this important bipartisan legislation.

It is a simple bill, a noncontroversial bill, one that I hope will earn the support of every Member of this august body, and I certainly look forward, after the House has considered it, to getting it across the finish line with our partners in the Senate, Senator LUMMIS and Senator HICKENLOOPER, of course, from the great State of Colorado.

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today reauthorizes programs that provide data and inform real-time decisionmaking and long-term planning. The USGS water data is fundamental to national and local economies, protection of life and property, and effective management of our Nation's water resources.

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I know personally in Arkansas if I want to go float on the Nation's first wild and scenic river, the Buffalo National River, the first thing I do is go online and look at the data from the USGS water gauges to determine where the best place is to float. This data is used all across the country in many different ways.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Congressman NEGUSE's work on the legislation, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5770, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5770, 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.

#### REMOVAL OF RESTRICTION ON AMENDMENTS TO OR MODIFICATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF AMERICAN SAMOA

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6062) to restore the ability of the people of American Samoa to approve amendments to the territorial constitution based on majority rule in a democratic act of self-determination, as authorized pursuant to an Act of Congress delegating administration of Federal territorial law in the territory