

resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4136.

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.

BILLION DOLLAR BOONDOGGLE ACT OF 2023

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1258) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress an annual report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1258

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 “Billion Dollar Boondoggle Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “covered agency” means—

(A) an Executive agency, as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) an independent regulatory agency, as defined in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code;

(2) the term “covered project” means a project funded by a covered agency—

(A) that is more than 5 years behind schedule, as measured against the original expected date for completion; or

(B) for which the amount spent on the project is not less than \$1,000,000,000 more than the original cost estimate for the project; and

(3) the term “project” means a major acquisition, a major defense acquisition program (as defined in section 4201 of title 10, United States Code), a procurement, a construction project, a remediation or clean-up effort, or any other time-limited endeavor, that is not funded through direct spending (as defined in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c))).

(b) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance requiring covered agencies to include, on an annual basis in a report described in paragraph (2) of section 3516(a) of title 31, United States Code, or a consolidated report described in paragraph (1) of such section, information relating to each covered project of the covered agency, which shall include—

(1) a brief description of the covered project, including—

(A) the purpose of the covered project;

(B) each location in which the covered project is carried out;

(C) the contract or award number of the covered project, where applicable;

(D) the year in which the covered project was initiated;

(E) the Federal share of the total cost of the covered project; and

(F) each primary contractor, subcontractor, grant recipient, and subgrantee recipient of the covered project;

(2) an explanation of any change to the original scope of the covered project, including by the addition or narrowing of the initial requirements of the covered project;

(3) the original expected date for completion of the covered project;

(4) the current expected date for completion of the covered project;

(5) the original cost estimate for the covered project, as adjusted to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics;

(6) the current cost estimate for the covered project, as adjusted to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics;

(7) an explanation for a delay in completion or an increase in the original cost estimate for the covered project, including, where applicable, any impact of insufficient or delayed appropriations; and

(8) the amount of and rationale for any award, incentive fee, or other type of bonus, if any, awarded for the covered project.

(c) FORM.—If any information required under subsection (b) is classified, such information may be submitted in the form of a classified annex consistent with the protection of sources and methods.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MACE. 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 gentlewoman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, Congress must ensure that every taxpayer dollar is spent efficiently. Every year, the Government Accountability Office reports government projects that are above cost projections or behind schedule, from Federal IT programs to projects at the National Nuclear Security Administration. However, there are likely additional government projects that fly under the radar, falling years behind schedule or costing billions of dollars over budget.

The Billion Dollar Boondoggle Act would address this by informing policymakers of government-funded projects that are behind schedule or above cost projections. Under the bill, agencies must report to Congress on projects that are more than 5 years behind schedule or have expenditures that are at least \$1 billion more than the original cost estimate for the project. Agencies must provide an explanation if there is a delay in completion or an increase in costs for the project.

Congress has a duty to oversee the Federal Government for inefficiency

and waste. This bill informs policymakers and allows Congress to address failing government projects before further taxpayer dollars are wasted or misused.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Senator JONI ERNST for her leadership on this issue, and I thank Representative MILLER-MEEKS for introducing the House companion bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the legislation would require additional reporting on certain Federal projects that are over budget by \$1 billion or 5 years behind schedule. Federal agencies would be required to include this information in their annual performance and accountability reports made to Congress and the President.

Congress, of course, has a duty to make sure that taxpayer dollars are being well and efficiently spent in the ways that we appropriate them. Additional oversight of projects that are vastly over budget or behind schedule makes good sense, and I support this bill.

I appreciate the fact that this version of the bill takes into consideration some technical comments that were provided to us by OMB.

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

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Billion Dollar Boondoggle Act, bipartisan legislation that would require the public disclosure of every taxpayer-funded project that is \$1 billion or more over budget or 5 years or more behind schedule.

This disclosure would include an explanation for the delays and added costs as well as the identification of the contractors.

In Congress, we are entrusted to be stewards of taxpayer dollars. In an example of protracted government-funded projects, the Department of Veterans Affairs had fumbled replacing its decades-old electronic health records system. An assessment found that the 2018 initial cost projection of \$10 billion over 10 years soon ballooned to \$50.8 billion over 28 years.

Government-funded projects that are excessively costly and delayed must be held to account. The bill will increase transparency over these projects to ensure we aren't wasting billions of hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Iowa Senator JONI ERNST for championing this act in the Senate. I urge my colleagues to support and get the Billion Dollar Boondoggle Act to the President's desk.

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

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this commonsense bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1258, 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.

ALL-AMERICAN FLAG ACT

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1973) to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1973

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 "All-American Flag Act".

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT FOR AGENCIES TO BUY DOMESTICALLY MADE UNITED STATES FLAGS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR AGENCIES TO BUY DOMESTICALLY MADE UNITED STATES FLAGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 63 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 6310. Requirement for agencies to buy domestically made United States flags

"(a) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in subsections (b) through (d), funds appropriated or otherwise available to an agency may not be used for the procurement of any flag of the United States, unless such flag has been 100 percent manufactured in the United States from articles, materials, or supplies that have been grown or 100 percent produced or manufactured in the United States.

"(b) AVAILABILITY EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the extent that the head of the agency concerned determines that satisfactory quality and sufficient quantity of a flag described in such subsection cannot be procured as and when needed at United States market prices.

"(c) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PROCUREMENTS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the following:

"(1) Procurements by vessels in foreign waters.

"(2) Procurements for resale purposes in any military commissary, military exchange, or nonappropriated fund instrumentality operated by an agency.

"(3) Procurements for amounts less than the simplified acquisition threshold.

"(d) PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the requirement in subsection (a) if the President determines a waiver is necessary to comply with any trade agreement to which the United States is a party.

"(2) NOTICE OF WAIVER.—Not later than 30 days after granting a waiver under paragraph (1), the President shall publish a notice of the waiver in the Federal Register.

"(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) AGENCY.—The term 'agency' has the meaning given the term 'executive agency' in section 102 of title 40.

"(2) SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD.—The term 'simplified acquisition threshold' has the meaning given that term in section 134."

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"6310. Requirement for agencies to buy domestically made United States flags."

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Section 6310 of title 41, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), shall apply with respect to any contract entered into on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MACE. 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 South Carolina?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, American flags should be made in America. This bill ensures that the Federal Government buys U.S. flags that are made from 100 percent American materials.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Census data, in 2017, the U.S. imported 10 million American flags. Of those, all but 50,000 came from China.

The Department of Defense and individual military departments are already generally required to buy American flags that are made entirely of U.S. materials, but civilian agencies do not have such restrictions. The All-American Flag Act applies current DOD requirements and exceptions across the government.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the House companion bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the American flag should be made in the USA. The All-American Flag Act is a bipartisan bill that I invite all Members to support. It would require all Federal agencies to purchase American flags that are manufactured right here in the USA, using materials grown and produced in the United States.

Under current law, this requirement applies only to the DOD and VA. This bill would extend it to all Federal agencies. I commend the gentleman

from Illinois (Mr. SORESENSEN), our distinguished colleague and the author of the House bill, for his diligent and important work on this issue.

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

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SORESENSEN).

Mr. SORESENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) and the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) for working on this effort with me.

Today, I ask this governing body: What is the most American thing that Members can think of? Is it George Washington, who looks over us? Is it the dome of the Capitol Building, under which Members do the work of the people?

Mr. Speaker, I believe the most American thing is the symbol that flies on my home in Moline, Illinois, on top of this important building, on the back of every ship that carries our military, and which is displayed so proudly behind the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here and see S. 1973, the All-American Flag Act, considered on the floor of the House of Representatives. Under current law, the government can buy flags that contain just 50 percent American-made materials, but I believe that American flags, paid for by American taxpayers, should be entirely made in the greatest country in the world, by the greatest workers in the world.

My bill would require the Federal Government to buy flags that are manufactured 100 percent in the United States, with materials 100 percent grown or produced in the United States.

In 2021, my home State of Illinois passed a law that all American flags purchased must be American made.

This legislation will bring the values of our neighbors back home to the Federal Government. Whether it is over a post office in Kewanee, Illinois, accompanying our troops to battle, or on a casket of a fallen hero, our patriotism has to begin and end here in this country.

In 1906, George Cohan wrote "You're a Grand Old Flag." The song's signature lyric, "She's a Grand Old Flag," came from a conversation that he had with a Civil War veteran who fought at Gettysburg.

My bill will ensure that all grand flags are made in this grand land. I am proud to see my bill come to the House floor today, and I urge all of my patriotic colleagues to be proud of their support for its swift passage and for our great Nation.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill to ensure American flags are made right here in America. This is something every American can get behind.