

in organizing the annual Roanoke 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb has been instrumental. Working alongside First Lieutenant Stephen Curry, Captain Robert Reid, and retired Battalion Chief Matt Dewhirst, this team has brought a cherished tradition to the Roanoke Valley. For a decade now, the event has drawn around 300 participants and raises \$25,000 for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation annually.

The 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb challenges participants to climb the equivalent of 110 stories of the World Trade Center, thus honoring the 343 firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, 2001.

I congratulate Captain Matthiessen's humble dedication to this mission and his continued service to his community as well as all those who participate year after year in the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb. May we never forget.

□ 0915

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8997, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8998, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1370 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1370

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8997) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118-42 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived.

SEC. 2. (a) No further amendment to H.R. 8997, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of this resolution.

(b) Each further amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on

Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(c) All points of order against further amendments printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules or against amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 4. During consideration of H.R. 8997 for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate.

SEC. 5. At the conclusion of consideration of H.R. 8997 for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 6. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8998) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118-41 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived.

SEC. 7. (a) No further amendment to H.R. 8998, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, amendments en bloc described in section 8 of this resolution, and pro forma amendments described in section 9 of this resolution.

(b) Each further amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on

Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 9 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(c) All points of order against further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules or against amendments en bloc described in section 8 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 8. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 9 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 9. During consideration of H.R. 8998 for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate.

SEC. 10. At the conclusion of consideration of H.R. 8998 for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FONG). The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, we are here to debate the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 8997 and H.R. 8998. The rule provides for both bills to be considered under structured rules, each with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees, and provides for one motion to recommit for each.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this rule and am in support of the underlying legislation.

I hear time and time again that Congress needs to get serious about addressing our debt. This rule provides for consideration of two measures that cut wasteful and unnecessary spending. They responsibly fund the Federal Government, and they support American production, pushing back on the ridiculous Green New Deal agenda under the Biden-Harris administration.

H.R. 8997 refocuses spending on things that matter. It eliminates wasteful spending on unnecessary and redundant climate change programs, reins in the out-of-control regulation being implemented by the executive branch, and prohibits funding from being used to promote DEI and CRT initiatives. I don't think I need to go into all the ways misguided DEI efforts are failing.

It removes the Department of Energy's role in the LNG export application review process, something that has bipartisan support, and this legislation counters the very real Chinese and Russian threat by investing in national security and American energy production.

It should come as no shock to anyone that the Biden-Harris administration has been attacking American energy production at every opportunity, giving up power to adversaries like China and Russia in the process.

H.R. 8997 counters these national threats, investing in U.S. energy security and strengthening our economic competitiveness. It funds key nuclear programs to regain America's leadership in the global market, and it safeguards our energy and technology assets from foreign threats.

H.R. 8998 right-sizes Federal Government spending, limiting burdensome and unnecessary regulations, respecting taxpayer dollars, and eliminating government waste. It strengthens our national security by encouraging domestic energy production, requiring the government to resume oil and gas leasing and expanding critical mineral access on public lands like those in northern Minnesota.

It respects the taxpayer by cutting government waste, including a 20 percent reduction in the EPA, reducing the Council of Environmental Equality to its authorized levels. It removes the gray wolf from the Endangered Species List, an issue that hits home with so many people across this country dealing with the menace of wolves, including in my home State of Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, the Biden-Harris agenda does not achieve their stated goals. What it does do is it hurts our domestic producers and gives Russia and China a competitive edge. This legislation takes a serious step to address our debt, strengthen national security, and focus funding where the American people need it.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Minnesota for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we heard last week that the Republican Party is newly focused on unity, toning down the rhetoric, and bringing people closer together. Wow, that is rich. I mean, I guess they mean only to unite people under their extreme agenda because the four funding bills we met on last night are part of the same unpopular, divisive, controversial, extreme MAGA agenda that they have been pushing since they came into the majority.

None of this is serious. None of these bills are ever going to become law. All of the bills are aligned with the GOP's Project 2025, their dystopian plan to consolidate power in the Presidency and take total control over our country and our lives.

If Trump and the Republicans win in November, they promise to gut the checks and balances that protect our freedoms. They promise to advance abortion bans in every State. They promise to give big corporations billions of dollars while increasing taxes for middle-class families.

That is their plan for America. It is not about unity. It is about division. It is scary, quite frankly.

These policies are centered around driving people further apart, not bringing them together. They even had to pull the Agriculture and Financial Services appropriations bills because they were too extreme. They didn't even know whether they had the votes within the Republican Conference to vote for these crummy bills.

Just to reiterate, this rule only brings half of the bills we heard testimony on last night to the House floor because the other half were so controversial, so divisive, so partisan, again, that the Republican leadership wasn't even sure they had the votes within their own Conference.

What is the point of wasting time at the Rules Committee if these bills aren't ready for the floor? I have never seen lawmakers work so hard and force institutional staff to spend so much time putting in such extensive effort to do absolutely nothing—nothing. This majority's superpower is wasting people's time.

□ 0930

For the two bills that are included in this rule, they are just as unserious. Again, they will never, ever become law.

This is an energy and water bill that raises energy costs and is full of more giveaways for big polluters and an interior and environment bill that is potentially even worse, gutting funding for national parks. Our national parks are like the only thing in this country that has a 100 percent approval rating, and they are attacking national parks. Give me a break.

What they are doing, Mr. Speaker, is they are going after national parks

while padding the pockets of big polluters. Follow the money. There are more culture war riders and more attacks on LGBTQ people.

One of these bills has language to protect Confederate names of things. I mean, that is unifying, commemorating the traitors of the Civil War? Enough is enough.

This is just an awful, awful rule. I urge my Republican colleagues to stop wasting people's time and vote "no" with us.

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

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, in listening to the ranking member, I think we got way, way off topic. In some cases, people just tuning in may actually think it is a campaign rally.

Here to refocus us on what is actually in this bill and what we are talking about is our colleague from Texas—excuse me—our colleague from Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD).

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I was born in Texas but proudly represent Missouri.

I thank my friend from Minnesota for allowing me to speak.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this important appropriations bills package before us.

As China continues to build up its military and reportedly has more ICBM launchers than we do, H.R. 8997, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, will invest in America's nuclear deterrence to ensure that we can keep pace with the threat from Communist China.

This legislation will also strengthen our Nation's energy security by rejecting the Biden-Harris administration's damaging pause on new LNG exports and supporting energy production right here at home.

A key issue for our district, Mr. Speaker, this bill pushes back against the ridiculous Biden-Harris waters of the United States rule. It will mandate transparency. It will help ensure the progressive Democrats in the White House comply with the Supreme Court's decision of *Sackett v. EPA*.

H.R. 8998, the Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, will rein in the administration's job-killing climate and environmental regulations, the green new scam, and it will slash the EPA's funding by 20 percent. The EPA needs to be operating on real science, not a flawed political ideology.

As the Biden-Harris administration continues to shove its EV pipe dream down the throats of America, this bill will promote critical mineral production right here at home and help ensure China does not continue to dominate the global market.

Mr. Speaker, these bills are vital for maintaining America's national security, protecting our agriculture producers, and keeping pace with the growing threat from Communist China.

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

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

The gentlewoman said that I was off topic in my opening speech. I have never been more on topic. I actually talked about the crummy bills that my Republican friends are bringing to the floor today. The gentlewoman in her opening speech talked about ag producers. They pulled the ag bill. It is so important that they pulled it because they don't have the votes to pass it.

I will say, Mr. Speaker, my Republican friends are demonstrating to the country what the definition of incompetence is. They don't know how to run this place, and they can't pass appropriations bills.

I am looking at FY 2024. They had the agriculture appropriations bill fail on the floor. They pulled three appropriations bills before final passage because they didn't have the votes to pass them. There were failed rules on appropriations measures. The defense rule last year failed twice. Two of the bills that we had testimony on at the Rules Committee, where Members actually filed amendments, were pulled because they can't even get support within their own Conference. That is the definition of incompetence.

You talk about a campaign rally? The campaign rally is going to be later today in the Rules Committee when Republicans are going to call an emergency meeting to pass a resolution bashing Vice President KAMALA HARRIS. Don't give me any lectures about campaign rallies because I have never seen a more politically motivated majority in my life.

This is not the way this place is supposed to be run. None of these bills, including the two that my friends are bringing to the floor today, are serious. They are going nowhere. They will never become law. This is ridiculous, and it is a waste of time. It is pathetic.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rushed to the floor this morning to oppose the rule and the underlying legislation because these Republican bills will raise electric bills on the families I represent back home in Florida and likely raise costs on all American families.

The bills will stunt the incredible growth in clean energy manufacturing, providing a gift to China especially. These bills will pad the profits of big oil companies at the expense of hardworking American families and small business owners.

I agree with the ranking member, Mr. Speaker. I am alarmed that the Republicans are already pressing their radical Project 2025 agenda, as it is apparent in these appropriations bills. Let's talk about a few of the policies in here.

First, it is very important that we help our neighbors weatherize their homes. It helps save them on their electric bills. It creates jobs. We estimate that this Republican bill will now slam the door shut for about 54,000 working-class Americans who need those weatherization dollars.

The Republican bills propose to gut energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives at a time when we are seeing a manufacturing renaissance across America. In less than 2 years since the Democrats in Congress passed the infrastructure law and the Inflation Reduction Act, private-sector companies in the United States have announced a more than \$360 billion investment in 600 clean energy projects that have created about 300,000 new jobs in America. This is where the economy is going: the clean, sustainable energies. That is why it is so smart to invest in our people, not to cede these industries to China and our adversaries.

This bill would have us look backward, to say: China, you take the lead.

I am not willing to do that. We are the United States of America. We should lead. We should lead in building the batteries, the electric vehicles, the solar panels, and all of the new technologies we need to lower costs and to help solve the climate crisis that is also heaping costs on my neighbors back home in Florida.

These Republican bills also make it easier to ship gas overseas, including to our adversaries. What that does is it hikes prices on people and businesses in our country.

This is a backward-looking bill. There is a better way. That way is investing in cleaner, cheaper energy, creating jobs in America, building the middle class, solving the climate crisis, putting people over politics, putting people over polluters, putting people over this radical 2025 agenda.

Please vote "no" on these bills. Vote for the USA. Vote for our future and the future of our kids.

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

We are doing what the American people sent us to do. We are doing the work. We are introducing appropriations bills, hearing them in committee, sending them through the process in transparency. We are doing that.

We have actually passed four appropriations bills off the floor, and that represents the majority of spending. We are moving forward. We are doing the work.

If we want to look at who is not doing their work, that may be the Senate Democrats. We have sent bills over, and they just refuse to do anything. What have they been doing with appropriations bills? We have been passing these and sending them there. They have chosen to do nothing.

We can just take a look at the tax bill, a negotiated tax bill that had bipartisan support out of the Ways and Means Committee. We passed it off the

floor, and they have done nothing, even though that was negotiated. They didn't even live up to the negotiations, the agreements. If we need to look at who is not doing their work, let's look at the Senate Democrats because we absolutely are passing bills, and we are doing our work in transparent ways through the committee process and on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to advocate for funding in this bill and the rule that underlies it.

It is interesting to hear the ranking member from Massachusetts talk about how this is all about corporations. We are going to talk about energy. You heard the gentlewoman from Florida talk about energy bills and it is going to cost jobs. My district, the Texas Gulf Coast, has seven ports in it, more than any other Member of Congress. We produce 65 percent of the Nation's jet fuel and 80 percent of the Nation's military grade fuel.

This is about working families. This bill will bolster our economic strength. It will create jobs. It will ensure that our infrastructure can support growth and withstand challenges.

The Texas Gulf Coast is the energy producing capital. We have got 7 of America's largest petroleum refineries, 3 LNG plants, and 60 percent of the Nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

We are not talking about shipping gas to our enemies. Was that the comment from the gentlewoman from Florida? We are talking about shipping it to our allies, so they don't have to buy from enemies.

As the energy capital of the world in Texas, we understand the critical importance of this bill. Our hardworking families—again, it is about working families—depend on a robust energy sector. This legislation will help us continue to lead in producing the cleanest and most affordable oil and gas. Let's keep our Nation strong. Help me to keep Texas strong. Let's secure this for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying bills.

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

You hear lots of things on the House floor, but the gentlewoman from Minnesota just said something I am having a tough time following. She is blaming Senate Democrats for the failure of House Republicans in bringing their appropriations bills to the floor.

Was it Senate Democrats' fault that the House agriculture appropriations bill was pulled, that Republicans pulled it? We had a hearing in the Rules Committee. People testified on amendments, and it is not here. Where is it? I don't know where it went. They pulled it.

I gave the gentlewoman an opportunity yesterday to vote to bring the House ag appropriations bill to the floor as well as the financial services

bill, the ones they wrote. They are lousy bills, but I figure let's bring them to the floor, we will amend it and have a debate. She voted no. All Republicans voted no.

Then the gentlewoman comes to the floor and says, oh, it is the Senate Democrats. What? People are paying attention. We have got to be serious here. Getting our appropriations work done is one of the essential jobs that we have in the House of Representatives, and Republicans can't get it done.

These bills are so polarizing, so awful, that they can't even get a majority of Republicans to vote for it. So she is blaming the Senate Democrats? Give me a break. I have heard everything. I have heard everything as an excuse why they can't get their work done.

This is incompetence. This is pathetic. We need a majority in this House that puts the people first, that actually gets its work done, not someone who comes up here and points fingers at everybody as an excuse to not bring bills to the floor.

We had two appropriations bills that we heard testimony on in the Rules Committee that were pulled, including the House appropriations bill that they wrote. They are in charge. I can't believe this.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, I am going to urge that we defeat the previous question. If we do, I am going to offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 12, a bill that would ensure every American has full access to essential reproductive healthcare.

□ 0945

Republicans continue to double down on ending access to abortion care, even going so far as to try to end access to IVF and assistive reproductive services. However, because it is so deeply unpopular and plain wrong, now they are trying to hide it. They don't like to mention it anymore. However, we still see their attacks every single day. We see the toxic riders that they attach to their bills banning abortion and contraception.

We saw it last night in the Rules Committee with Mr. ROSENDALE putting forward his amendment to ban IVF. We saw it in the Appropriations Committee markup when Ranking Member DELAURO offered an amendment to protect IVF coverage in our Federal employee health benefits plan, and the Republicans on the committee voted "no." They voted "no." Thankfully, they pulled that bill from the floor because they don't even have the votes among their own Conference for this extreme, radical agenda.

House Democrats are focused on protecting women, protecting patients, and protecting Americans' rights. H.R. 12 will keep fundamental healthcare services available across the country, and we must get this passed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amend-

ment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, to discuss our proposal, I proudly yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from the State of Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the rule and in strong support of the Women's Health Protection Act.

The Women's Health Protection Act would protect the right to abortion nationwide. It would restore the intensely personal freedom for pregnant people to make decisions about their own bodies.

That is the complete opposite of Trump's Project 2025, the extremist Republicans' agenda for their policies that they want to advance.

Trump's Project 2025 outlines a whole-of-government approach to eliminate the right to abortion. It restricts access to contraception. It calls for the Federal Government to stop enforcing laws that require hospitals to provide emergency care to pregnant people in need of an abortion.

Let me just be clear, Mr. Speaker. This fight is about our fundamental freedoms, the freedom to make choices about our own bodies, our own health, and our own economic future.

I am standing here as one of the one-in-four women in America who has had an abortion myself. I can tell you that these decisions are intensely personal. We do not need an extreme Republican Party trying to control our freedoms.

In my case, I had already experienced a very difficult pregnancy, and my daughter was born prematurely at 26½ weeks. She was actually just 1 pound, 14 ounces. She was about the size of my hand. She weighed about the same as a small squash, and she literally almost did not survive. My doctors told me that if I were to have another pregnancy it would be extremely high risk both for me and for the child. Hence, I took my daily contraceptive pill that Republicans are trying to get rid of for Americans across this country so that I could protect my health and the health of any future pregnancies.

In fact, what happened was I got pregnant anyway, and my doctor said: You really should have an abortion.

I made that decision with my doctor and with my family.

Why should anyone else be a part of that decision?

It was a hard decision for me, but for every person it should be their choice.

Donald Trump has bragged that he did a "great job" getting rid of Roe v. Wade. Well, thanks Donald Trump. Thanks to Donald Trump, one in three women in this country of childbearing age now live in a State with an abortion ban. Thanks to Republicans, a woman who was 20 weeks pregnant when her water broke was told by doc-

tors that the pregnancy was not viable, but still she was not provided the fundamental freedom to do what she needed to do for her health. She was forced to go through the pain of delivering a stillborn child.

Trump's Project 2025 and the Republican policy agenda tells millions of families across this country who want to plan their families that they can't even use contraception or IVF.

This is not theoretical. This is very real.

Just last week J.D. VANCE became Donald Trump's running mate; J.D. VANCE who thinks abortion is "comparable" to slavery, J.D. VANCE who has criticized exceptions for even rape and incest, and wants to help Trump and Republicans enact a nationwide abortion ban.

Democrats have a completely different vision. It is in the Women's Health Protection Act, and that is to defend and protect your fundamental freedoms.

Vote "no" on this motion.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD an article from the BBC titled: "Project 2025: A wish list for a Trump Presidency, explained."

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

There was no objection.

[From BBC News]

PROJECT 2025: A WISH LIST FOR A TRUMP PRESIDENCY, EXPLAINED
(By Mike Wendling)

President Joe Biden's Democrats are mobilising against a possible governing agenda for Donald Trump if he is elected this November.

The blueprint, called Project 2025 and produced by the conservative Heritage Foundation, is one of several think-tank proposals for Trump's platform.

Over more than 900 pages, it calls for sacking thousands of civil servants, expanding the power of the president, dismantling the Department of Education and other federal agencies, and sweeping tax cuts.

The Heritage Foundation unveiled its agenda in April 2023, and liberal opposition ramped up as former President Trump has taken a lead in polls after President Biden's poor debate performance.

Early this July, Heritage president Kevin Roberts raised the prospect of political violence during a podcast interview.

"We are in the process of the second American revolution, which will remain bloodless if the left allows it to be," Mr. Roberts told the War Room podcast, founded by Trump adviser Steve Bannon.

The remarks prompted the Biden campaign to accuse Trump and his allies of "dreaming of a violent revolution to destroy the very idea of America".

The comments have refocused attention on Project 2025.

It is common for Washington think-tanks to propose policy wishlists for potential governments-in-waiting. The liberal Center for American Progress, for example, was dubbed

Barack Obama's "ideas factory" during his presidency.

What has Trump said about Project 2025?

In early July, Trump said on his social media platform that he knows "nothing about Project 2025".

"I have no idea who is behind it. I disagree with some of the things they're saying and some of the things they're saying are absolutely ridiculous and abysmal," he wrote.

"Anything they do, I wish them luck, but I have nothing to do with them".

However, several people linked to the project worked in Trump's administration or as allies in his re-election campaign.

Project 2025 director Paul Dans was chief of staff at the Office of Personnel Management under Trump.

Associate director Spencer Chretien was a former special assistant to Trump and associate director of Presidential Personnel.

Adviser Russell Vought worked in Trump's Office of Management and Budget.

What is Project 2025?

The Project 2025 document outlines four main aims: restore the family as the centrepiece of American life; dismantle the administrative state; defend the nation's sovereignty and borders; and secure God-given individual rights to live freely.

It is one of several policy papers for a platform broadly known as Agenda 47—so-called because Trump would be America's 47th president if he won.

Heritage says Project 2025 was written by several former Trump appointees and reflects input from more than 100 conservative organisations.

Here's an outline of several key proposals.

GOVERNMENT

Project 2025 proposes that the entire federal bureaucracy, including independent agencies such as the Department of Justice, be placed under direct presidential control—a controversial idea known as "unitary executive theory".

In practice, that would streamline decision-making, allowing the president to directly implement policies in a number of areas.

The proposals also call for eliminating job protections for thousands of government-employees, who could then be replaced by political appointees.

The document labels the FBI a "bloated, arrogant, increasingly lawless organization" and calls for drastic overhauls of this and other federal agencies, including eliminating the Department of Education.

IMMIGRATION

Increased funding for a wall on the US-Mexico border—one of Trump's signature proposals in 2016—is proposed in the document.

However, more prominent are the consolidation of various US immigration agencies and a large expansion in their powers.

Other proposals include increasing fees on immigrants and allowing fast-tracked applications for migrants who pay a premium.

EPA—CLIMATE AND ECONOMY

The document proposes slashing federal money for research and investment in renewable energy, and calls for the next president to "stop the war on oil and natural gas".

Carbon-reduction goals would be replaced by efforts to increase energy production and security.

The paper sets out two competing visions on tariffs, and is divided on whether the next president should try to boost free trade or raise barriers to exports.

But the economic advisers suggest that a second Trump administration should slash corporate and income taxes, abolish the Federal Reserve and even consider a return to gold-backed currency.

ABORTION

Project 2025 does not call for a nationwide abortion ban.

However, it proposes withdrawing the abortion pill mifepristone from the market.

TECH AND EDUCATION

Under the proposals, pornography would be banned, and tech and telecoms companies that facilitate access to such content would be shut down.

The document calls for school choice and parental control over schools, and takes aim at what it calls "woke propaganda".

It proposes to eliminate a long list of terms from all laws and federal regulations, including "sexual orientation", "diversity, equity, and inclusion", "gender equality", "abortion" and "reproductive rights".

Jared Huffman, a Democrat congressman from California, has launched a Stop Project 2025 Task Force.

He described Project 2025 as "a dystopian plot that's already in motion to dismantle our democratic institutions".

Mr. Huffman said the project would "abolish checks and balances, chip away at church-state separation, and impose a far-right agenda that infringes on basic liberties and violates public will".

"We need a coordinated strategy to save America and stop this coup before it's too late".

Heritage has previously said Mr. Biden's party was scaremongering with "an unserious, mistake-riddled press release".

House Democrats are dedicating taxpayer dollars to launch a smear campaign against the united effort to restore self-governance to everyday Americans," said Mr. Roberts in early June.

"Under the Biden administration, the federal government has been weaponized against American citizens, our border invaded, and our institutions captured by woke ideology".

The Heritage Foundation is one of the most influential of a number of think tanks that has produced policy papers designed to guide a possible second Trump presidency.

Since the 1980s, Heritage has produced similar policy documents as part of its Mandate for Leadership series.

Project 2025, backed by a \$22m (£17m) budget, also sets out strategies for implementing policies beginning immediately after the presidential inauguration in January 2025.

In his speeches and on his website, Trump has endorsed a number of ideas included in Project 2025, although his campaign has said the candidate has the final say on policy.

Many of the proposals would face immediate legal challenges if implemented.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this article describes Project 2025 as a policy wish list for a second Trump term cooked up by some of Trump's closest allies at the far-right Heritage Foundation.

It is a chilling window into what may await us come January should Donald Trump be elected President.

The items on Project 2025's agenda are straight-up dystopian. They want to take complete control of the Department of Justice. They want to end the independence of all Federal agencies, and they want to take mifepristone off the market which would amount to a virtual nationwide abortion ban. They want to slash efforts to combat climate change, implement inhumane border policies, and fire thousands and thousands of government employees.

I am just scratching the surface here, Mr. Speaker. You can read it for your-

self. I hope people will Google it and read the documents for themselves.

If that weren't horrifying enough, the architects of this atrocious Project 2025 are also threatening political violence to all those who oppose them. Just last week, Kevin Roberts, the president of the Heritage Foundation, said: "The second American Revolution will remain bloodless if the left allows it to be."

Let that sink in.

Mr. Speaker, Donald Trump literally incited an insurrection to stay in power. He claimed he would be a dictator on day one of his second term, and the Supreme Court just granted him full immunity for acts committed while in office.

If anyone here is stupid enough to believe that he won't act on these threats, I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, it is hard to believe that anybody could be that gullible.

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

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time, and I will close on our side.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, it is not just about the legislation here. It is about two competing visions for America.

Democrats' record speaks for itself. We passed the largest infrastructure bill in a generation, and my Republican friends are falling over each other trying to take credit for infrastructure projects in their district that most of them voted against.

We passed the largest climate change bill in world history. We brought jobs back from overseas. Inflation is coming down, job growth is solid, and we are working to guarantee that all Americans have an opportunity to succeed. We are fighting for workers. We want opportunity for kids, success for families, and dignity for our seniors. We support our veterans. We want democracy to be secure at home and around the world. We have a vision for a better future and an idea on how to get there.

These Republican bills, once again, show the Republicans are more interested in division and taking us backwards. They have no ideas to make life better for Americans. They only have Donald Trump and Project 2025. That is it. That is it.

Here we are debating appropriations bills. We were supposed to be having four on the floor today. Two of them were pulled after we had a hearing in the Rules Committee, after Members testified on amendments, after legislative staff spent hours and hours and hours drafting amendments for Democrats and Republicans, and after the Parliamentarians reviewed all these amendments to see whether they were germane or not. CBO did scores on all of them.

All this work, and they pulled it. What a colossal waste of time, and the

gentlewoman said: Well, it is the Senate Democrats.

I just have trouble following that logic. I have trouble following that logic. It makes no sense.

The bottom line is that these bad bills can't even get over the finish line. None of them are going to become law. We are wasting our time. The way this is supposed to work is we are supposed to work together, especially since it is a Democratic-controlled Senate and a Democrat in the White House, and you have a very slim margin here in the House for Republicans. We should be working together to construct bills that can actually pass and that will actually help people.

Again, I had an amendment in the Rules Committee last night to bring two bills, the Financial Services appropriations bill and the Agriculture appropriations bill that we had testimony on, bring it to the floor. I think they are garbage bills the way they are written, but I had an amendment that made in order all of the amendments that were offered by Democrats and Republicans. We didn't protect any amendments from any points of order, and we could have had a debate and hopefully made these bills better.

However, they were so bad that Republicans didn't even believe they could twist enough Republican arms to pass them. We wasted time, and they pulled them.

I will say this about the bills that are being brought to the floor today. I want to give my friends who are watching a little insight into the way they think about fairness. Mr. Speaker, 123 Republican amendments are made in order, and 23 Democratic amendments. That is it.

Perfectly good, germane amendments that should be in order were not made in order. That is their idea of fairness. It is a coming attraction of what will happen if their candidate wins the Presidency and they win the Senate. It is their way or the highway.

Right now, their way can't even get enough votes within the majority party right now. They can't pass two of these bills, so they pulled them.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, we have to do better. This is not a serious Congress. This is not serious legislating. These appropriations bills are important because our farmers rely on them. That is why the Agriculture appropriations bill is important and the Financial Services bill is important. All these bills are important. We need to not just have ideological debates, we need to have bills come to the floor that can actually pass and work its way through the process and get signed into law.

This is the failing of this majority. My friend from Minnesota can point the finger at the Senate, she can point the finger at Biden, and she can point the finger at Vice President HARRIS. I mean, they can point fingers all over the place. At the end of the day, unfortunately for America, they are in con-

trol of the House of Representatives, and they are doing a lousy job. They are doing a lousy job.

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

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the left have accused Republicans of wasting time, and I take serious issue with that. Republicans are going through the proper and transparent process to pass these appropriations bills. We are doing serious work.

I applaud my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for the work they have done and for listening to the needs of the American people. The Biden-Harris administration is hell-bent on imposing the radical far-left Green New Deal agenda, and they do not care how much damage they do to the country or to the economy or to the American people in the process.

The legislation under the rule today reins in reckless government spending, cuts harmful regulation, and restores independence putting us back in competition on the world stage.

As an example, the EPA spends too much of its time and resources creating new regulations to stifle the U.S. economy. When I go home to Minnesota—and I know many of the other Members hear this when they go home—I constantly hear about concerns with regulations largely due to EPA rulemaking. This includes regulations on light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles, electric power plants, and the abuse of the Endangered Species Act. All of these burden businesses and consumers.

H.R. 8998 will make significant cuts to these regulations and take meaningful strides toward rightsizing our government.

□ 1000

I encourage my Democratic colleagues, particularly those in the Senate, to recognize that this legislation is the will of the people. My colleagues should take it seriously to responsibly fund our government, defend American producers, and address our Nation's debt.

My colleagues like to make it sound like Republicans are blindly hacking away at government programs. I, for one, applaud the Appropriations Committee for taking such a thoughtful look at where we can responsibly cut spending.

The fact is that we are trillions of dollars in debt, and Americans are facing the highest inflation rates in over 40 years. Families across this country are being forced to tighten their belts. For their sake, it is time for the Federal Government to do the same.

We must put a stop to reckless government spending. My Democratic colleagues are not willing to do it and were not willing to do it when the minority was in control, but we are. I call upon the other side to help us get the debt under control.

Mr. Speaker, I support the rule and the underlying legislation.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 1370 OFFERED BY
MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 11. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 12) to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 12. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 12.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUSTOFF). The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. 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 question are postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1020

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida) at 10 o'clock and 20 minutes a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 1370;

Adoption of House Resolution 1370, if ordered;

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

S. 3706; and

S. 227.