

Takano Trone
 Tenney Underwood
 Thanedar Valadao
 Thompson (CA) Van Drew
 Thompson (MS) Van Dwyne
 Thompson (PA) Van Orden
 Tiffany Vargas
 Timmons Vasquez
 Titus Veasey
 Tlaib Velazquez
 Tokuda Wagner
 Tonko Walberg
 Torres (CA) Waltz
 Torres (NY) Wasserman
 Trahan Schultz

Waters
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
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 Williams (GA)
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 Wittman
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Carter (LA)
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 Chavez-DeRemer
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 McCormick
 Chu
 Ciscomani
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Cline
 Cloud
 Clyburn
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 Cohen
 Cole
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 Connolly
 Correa
 Costa
 Courtney
 Craig
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 D'Esposito
 Davids (KS)
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 De La Cruz
 Dean (PA)
 DeGette
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 DelBene
 Deluzio
 DeSaulnier
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Donalds
 Duarte
 Duncan
 Dunn (FL)
 Edwards
 Ellzey
 Emmer
 Escobar
 Eshoo
 Espaillat
 Estes
 Ezell
 Fallon
 Feenstra
 Ferguson
 Finstad
 Fischbach
 Fitzgerald
 Fitzpatrick
 Fleischmann
 Fletcher
 Flood
 Fong
 Foster
 Foushee
 Foxx
 Frankel, Lois
 Franklin, Scott
 Frost
 Fry
 Fulcher
 Gallego
 Garbarino
 Garcia (IL)
 Garcia (TX)
 Garcia, Mike
 Garcia, Robert
 Gimenez
 Golden (ME)
 Goldman (NY)
 Gomez
 Gonzales, Tony
 Gonzalez,
 Vicente
 Gooden (TX)
 Gosar
 Gottheimer
 Graves (LA)
 Graves (MO)
 Green (TN)

Green, Al (TX)
 Greene (GA)
 Griffith
 Grothman
 Guest
 Guthrie
 Hageman
 Harder (CA)
 Harris
 Harshbarger
 Hayes
 Hern
 Hill
 Himes
 Hinson
 Horsford
 Houchin
 Houlihan
 Hoyer
 Hoyle (OR)
 Hudson
 Huffman
 Huizenga
 Hunt
 Issa
 Ivey
 Jackson (IL)
 Jackson (NC)
 Jackson (TX)
 Jacobs
 James
 Jayapal
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson (SD)
 Jordan
 Joyce (OH)
 Joyce (PA)
 Kamlager-Dove
 Kaptur
 Kean (NJ)
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kelly (MS)
 Kelly (PA)
 Kennedy
 Khanna
 Kiggans (VA)
 Kildee
 Kiley
 Kilmer
 Kim (CA)
 Kim (NJ)
 Krishnamoorthi
 Kuster
 Kustoff
 LaHood
 LaLota
 Lamborn
 Landsman
 Langworthy
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latta
 LaTurner
 Lawler
 Lee (CA)
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 Lee (NV)
 Lee (PA)
 Leger Fernandez
 Lesko
 Levin
 Lieu
 Lofgren
 Lopez
 Loudermilk
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Luna
 Luttrell
 Lynch
 Mace
 Magaziner
 Malliotakis
 Maloy
 Mann
 Manning
 Massie
 Mast
 Matsui
 McBeth
 McCaul
 McClain
 McClellan
 McClintock
 McCollum
 McCormick
 McGarvey

McGovern
 Meeks
 Menendez
 Meng
 Meuser
 Mfume
 Miller (IL)
 Miller (OH)
 Miller (WV)
 Miller-Meeks
 Mills
 Moonenar
 Mooney
 Moore (AL)
 Moore (UT)
 Moore (WI)
 Moran
 Morelle
 Moskowicz
 Moulton
 Mrvan
 Mullin
 Murphy
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neguse
 Nehls
 Newhouse
 Nickel
 Norcross
 Nunn (IA)
 Obornolte
 Ocasio-Cortez
 Ogles
 Omar
 Owens
 Pallone
 Palmer
 Panetta
 Pappas
 Pelosi
 Peltola
 Perez
 Perry
 Peters
 Pettersen
 Pfluger
 Phillips
 Pingree
 Pocan
 Porter
 Posey
 Pressley
 Quigley
 Ramirez
 Raskin
 Reschenthaler
 Rodgers (WA)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rose
 Rosendale
 Ross
 Rouzer
 Ruiz
 Rulli
 Rutherford
 Ryan
 Salazar
 Salinas
 Sanchez
 Sarbanes
 Scalise
 Scanlon
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Scholten
 Schrier
 Schweikert
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, Austin
 Scott, David
 Self
 Sessions
 Sewell
 Sherman
 Slotkin
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (WA)
 Smucker
 Sorensen
 Soto
 Spanberger
 Spartz
 Stansbury
 Stanton

Staubert
 Steel
 Stefanik
 Steil
 Steube
 Stevens
 Strickland
 Strong
 Suozzi
 Swalwell
 Sykes
 Takano
 Tenney
 Thanedar
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thompson (PA)
 Tiffany
 Timmons
 Titus
 Tlaib
 Tokuda
 Tonko
 Torres (CA)
 Torres (NY)
 Trahan
 Trone
 Underwood
 Valadao
 Van Drew
 Van Dwyne
 Van Orden
 Vargas
 Vasquez
 Veasey
 Velazquez
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Waltz
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup
 Westerman
 Wild
 Williams (GA)
 Williams (NY)
 Williams (TX)
 Wilson (FL)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack
 Yakym
 Zinke

NAYS—2

Good (VA)

Roy

NOT VOTING—21

Bush
 Caraveo
 Castro (TX)
 Cleaver
 Crow
 Evans
 Garamendi
 Granger
 Grijalva
 Higgins (LA)
 Letlow
 Molinaro
 Mooney
 Pascrell
 Pence
 Ruppersberger
 Sherrill
 Simpson
 Turner
 Watson Coleman
 Wexton

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1056

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO OUR COURTS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 227) to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an additional place for holding court for the Pecos Division of the Western District of Texas, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. Issa) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 404, nays 3, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 362]

YEAS—404

Adams
 Aderholt
 Aguilar
 Alford
 Allen
 Allred
 Amo
 Amodei
 Armstrong
 Arrington
 Auchincloss
 Babin
 Bacon
 Baird
 Balderson
 Balint
 Banks
 Barr
 Barragán
 Bean (FL)
 Beatty
 Bentz
 Bera
 Bergman
 Beyer
 Bice
 Biggs
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (GA)
 Bishop (NC)
 Blumenauer
 Blunt Rochester
 Boebert
 Bonamici
 Bost
 Bowman
 Boyle (PA)
 Brecheen
 Brown
 Brownley
 Buchanan
 Bucshon
 Budzinski
 Burchett
 Burgess
 Burlison
 Calvert
 Cammack
 Carbajal
 Cárdenas
 Carey
 Carl
 Carson
 Carter (GA)

Boyle (PA)
 Brecheen
 Brown
 Brownley
 Buchanan
 Bucshon
 Budzinski
 Burchett
 Burgess
 Burlison
 Calvert
 Cammack
 Carbajal
 Cárdenas
 Carey
 Carl
 Carson
 Carter (GA)
 Green (TN)
 Green, Al (TX)
 Greene (GA)
 Griffith
 Grothman
 Guest
 Guthrie
 Hageman
 Harder (CA)
 Harris
 Harshbarger
 Hayes
 Hern
 Hill
 Himes
 Hinson
 Horsford
 Houchin
 Houlihan
 Hoyer
 Hoyle (OR)
 Hudson
 Huffman
 Huizenga
 Hunt
 Issa
 Ivey
 Jackson (IL)
 Jackson (NC)
 Jackson (TX)
 Jacobs
 James
 Jayapal
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson (SD)
 Jordan
 Joyce (OH)
 Joyce (PA)
 Kamlager-Dove
 Kaptur
 Kean (NJ)
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kelly (MS)
 Kelly (PA)
 Kennedy
 Khanna
 Kiggans (VA)
 Kildee
 Kiley
 Kilmer
 Kim (CA)
 Kim (NJ)
 Krishnamoorthi
 Kuster
 Kustoff
 LaHood
 LaLota
 Lamborn
 Landsman
 Langworthy
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latta
 LaTurner
 Lawler
 Lee (CA)
 Lee (FL)
 Lee (NV)
 Lee (PA)
 Leger Fernandez
 Lesko
 Levin
 Lieu
 Lofgren
 Lopez
 Loudermilk
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Luna
 Luttrell
 Lynch
 Mace
 Magaziner
 Malliotakis
 Maloy
 Mann
 Manning
 Massie
 Mast
 Matsui
 McBeth
 McCaul
 McClain
 McClellan
 McClintock
 McCollum
 McCormick
 McGarvey

NAYS—3

Good (VA)

Norman

Roy

NOT VOTING—24

Bush
 Caraveo
 Castro (TX)
 Cleaver
 Crow
 Evans
 Gaetz
 Garamendi
 Granger
 Grijalva
 Higgins (LA)
 LaMalfa
 Letlow
 McHenry
 Molinaro
 Neal
 Pascrell
 Pence
 Ruppersberger
 Sherrill
 Simpson
 Turner
 Watson Coleman
 Wexton

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1102

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I missed the first vote series today due to travel disruptions while returning from a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 359, YEA on Roll Call No. 360, YEA on Roll Call No. 361, and YEA on Roll Call No. 362.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. 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. 8997, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 8997.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1108

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the 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, with Mr. WENSTRUP in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I am pleased to bring the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025, to the floor today.

The bill provides a total of \$59.2 billion to advance our commitment to national security, energy security, and economic competitiveness.

The bill delivers strong support for our national defense and provides \$25.5 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration. The bill prioritizes nuclear weapons activities, fully funding all major stockpile modernization activities and providing additional funds for plutonium pit production and the nuclear sea-launched cruise missile.

At the Department of Energy, the bill supports programs that advance our Nation's energy security and ensure America remains at the forefront of scientific discovery and innovation. This includes strong funding for nuclear energy, including additional funds specifically for nuclear demonstration projects; the Office of Science, including fusion energy sciences; and the full spectrum of mining production technologies to reduce our reliance on foreign sources of critical minerals.

The bill also includes a number of provisions to protect American resources and intellectual property from falling into the hands of foreign adversaries.

Funding for the Corps of Engineers totals \$9.96 billion, including full funding of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund activities and the highest priority, ongoing Inland Waterways Trust Fund construction projects to ensure the safe and efficient flow of commerce.

Funding for the Bureau of Reclamation totals \$1.93 billion, prioritized to projects that increase water supply and support drought resilience. This is a

strong bill that builds on the work we started in fiscal year 2024.

Mr. Chair, I urge Members to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, please let me begin by thanking our diligent committee staff for all of their hard work on this bill, including on both the majority and minority sides. They are a great group of Americans. I thank Scott McKee and Adam Wilson and, on my personal staff, Mayely Boyce and Margaret McInnis.

I also thank Representative DEREK KILMER for his diligent and honorable public service as we present what will be his last bill. DEREK has been a stalwart, serious, and exemplary member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies for many years. His sincere dedication and constant commitment have improved our Nation for today and the tomorrows to come. We will miss him greatly. We all know he will find a way to keep fighting for a more perfect and greater Union, and we thank him for his public service and his meritorious efforts to meet the needs of the American people.

Energy and water undergird America's way of life. They are not optional. They are essential to sustaining life itself.

Our Nation is projected to grow to 400 million people by 2050, three times more people than following World War II. Our bill must catch up to the future, not backpedal.

Sadly, this Republican Energy-Water Development appropriations bill does not meet our Nation's imperative for the future. America must become energy independent in perpetuity. Their bill slow-walks our Nation's obligation to ensure modern, dependable, affordable energy and clean water for millions of our citizens. Thus, it fails to embrace a modern and more secure future.

We cannot behave as though it is 1950. This Energy-Water Development appropriations bill cuts \$1.5 billion, or 43 percent, from the Department of Energy's energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. They are essential to meeting our Nation's new challenges due to weather-related disasters, as we witness home and commercial business insurance rates rising all across our country.

This bill revokes \$8 billion from the Department of Energy's loan programs. A cut of this size would immediately constrict the Department of Energy's ability to spur American manufacturing and innovation in this new climate age.

□ 1115

The bill also slashes the Weatherization Assistance Program, resulting in approximately 54,000 fewer low-income homes receiving weatherization services across our country.

Let me be clear. The cuts in this bill will absolutely jeopardize innovation to achieve American energy independence and security. These cuts will hurt. These cuts will increase energy costs for millions of our fellow citizens, including families and seniors struggling to make ends meet. This bill pushes our Nation backward.

While our Nation has made great strides toward energy independence after half a century of effort, we have not reached home plate and scored on U.S. energy independence in perpetuity.

For example, the United States is fulfilling more of its crude oil needs with domestic supplies than ever before. Thankfully, U.S. net crude oil imports are at the lowest they have been since 1972. Let Russia keep its own oil.

While decreased reliance on imports should give the U.S. more control over prices, consumers are not seeing the full benefits in the price they pay at the pump.

With an adversarial Russia weaponizing energy to destabilize global markets, it is clear that America needs more energy innovation and diversification to reduce our dependence on any form of imported, foreign energy supplies.

Further, we must not cede our solar and chip future to China. We know that China is more than willing to dump products and components to wipe out our domestic industries. We have witnessed this. We know this because it is happening in steel, pharmaceuticals, electronics, and automotive. It simply cannot happen in anything related to energy.

In this new century marked by extreme weather events and increased natural disasters, this bill endangers efforts to address the climate crisis. During 2023, there were 28 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters in this country. In 2024, we are already witnessing an escalation of events like heat waves across America. It is 115 degrees in Phoenix today as I talk. There is major flooding throughout the Midwest. Wildfires are burning in the West, earlier than ever. We had the most intense hurricane to form in the Atlantic so early in the year.

We have States hitting rainfall records. June was the 13th month in a row to set a monthly temperature record. The Wall Street Journal reported property insurance premiums are rising significantly or being completely cut off across our Nation.

The total cost from the billion-dollar disasters in 2023 was a record-setting \$92.9 billion, almost \$100 billion. We can either continue to pay more for disaster response, or we can invest now in climate mitigation and adaptation that will also lower costs for consumers, create jobs, and increase our global competitiveness. The pathway seems crystal clear to me.

Thus, I oppose the Republicans' cuts to vital energy and climate programs. Shortchanging these advances pushes

our Nation backward by slow-walking energy innovation, failing to modernize our Nation's electric grids, failing to advance innovation relative to our global competitors in materials and manufacturing, and failing to build domestic end-to-end supply chains for jobs in the new energy economy, American jobs.

In other areas of this bill, while I support many of the bill's efforts to maintain a safe, secure, and credible nuclear deterrent and robust naval nuclear propulsion program—God bless them—I am concerned how this bill cuts nuclear nonproliferation programs that reduce nuclear risks and counter the global challenge of nuclear proliferation.

Finally, the bill includes numerous controversial poison pill policy riders that sadly show extremist Republicans are not interested in bills that can gain bipartisan support and become law.

I truly do appreciate working with Chairman FLEISCHMANN, a very, very hardworking Member, and our colleagues to develop and pass bipartisan bills, as has long been this committee's practice, including last year. I am saddened that this vital subcommittee is being steered to return to a partisan process for this fiscal year 2025 House bill. Americans all witnessed how chaos and extremism played out last year, and we all fully should know a bipartisan compromise is the only avenue to finalize these bills.

Americans expect us to negotiate our differences, work together across the aisle, and do our jobs to find the big middle. America's future relies on the new age frontiers of energy and water. America can and must do better, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), the distinguished chairman of the full committee.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chair, I thank my good friend, the distinguished subcommittee chairman from Tennessee, for yielding.

Today's measure provides funding for energy and water development initiatives for fiscal year 2025 which are crucial to the prosperity and security of our great Nation.

Rising geopolitical threats show that readiness can never be taken for granted. It is exactly why this legislation bolsters our Nation's nuclear capabilities, particularly our nuclear deterrence posture.

This bill includes significant funding to continue modernizing America's nuclear weapons stockpile and supports the operational nuclear naval fleet. It also directs resources to programs that prevent hostile nations and terrorist groups from acquiring nuclear devices, materials, and expertise.

Today's bill also supports cutting-edge research and development functions, including an increase for the Of-

fice of Science in the Department of Energy and an increase in funding for nuclear energy innovation. I have long said that America must maintain an all-of-the-above energy policy in order to ensure our continued energy independence, and research and development efforts will help us uncover and utilize the energy sources of tomorrow.

The Army Corps of Engineers, which conducts projects to maintain and improve American waterways, is robustly funded. From port improvements and hardware maintenance to flood control and hurricane protection, the Corps' work is critical to our Nation's economic vitality.

I thank Chairman FLEISCHMANN for his strategic approach in putting this bill together, and I urge all Members to support it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN).

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I rise today as one of only 6 percent of the Members of Congress who are mothers of young children under 18 and one of the only 3 percent of mothers of color of young children under the age of 18. I rise out of a concern for the future my children will inherit, a future with extreme weather, continuously rising sea levels, and the detrimental impacts that climate change will have on the habitation of this planet.

For that reason, I rise today to oppose the significant funding cuts and harmful provisions that House Republicans seek in this bill.

At a time when we must double down on our efforts to address climate change, this bill slashes funding for the Department of Energy's efficiency and renewable energy programs by \$1.5 billion, hampering our ability to decarbonize the energy, transportation, industrial, and agricultural sectors, undermining programs that not only improve and modernize our electricity infrastructure but lower costs, because energy efficiency programs are the easiest, quickest way not only to reduce our carbon footprint but to lower energy costs.

Agriculture, which is Virginia's largest private industry, would be harmed by the cuts in this bill. This bill jeopardizes low-income communities by proposing extreme funding cuts to the Weatherization Assistance Program, a program that lowers energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, also improving their health and safety.

The cuts here that include the Weatherization Assistance Program will be detrimental not only to the health of our planet and the health of our constituents, but they will be detrimental to their energy costs as they continue to go up. This bill will increase those costs.

For that reason, I ask that we vote "no."

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MIKE GARCIA), a mem-

ber of the Energy and Water Subcommittee.

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Chair, I am proud to support this very solid Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2025. It is a good bill that will secure our nuclear triad, protect our domestic energy supplies, and pressure the Biden administration to refill our Strategic Petroleum Reserves.

I thank Chairman COLE and especially Chairman FLEISCHMANN, as well as the committee staff, for their hard work on this bill and pulling this forward to the floor.

I am particularly satisfied that this legislation includes my provision to block a rule that was established by the Department of Energy to actually weaken environmental oversight for battery electric storage systems, or BESS facilities.

These BESS sites are essentially giant lithium batteries lined up, side-by-side, and stacked on top of each other, in many cases, and connected to the larger power grid. They are not necessarily, Mr. Chair, bad things.

While energy storage systems are essential for a modern power grid, especially in areas like in my district in southern California where we have high winds and high fire risk and high loads, these BESS facilities could potentially pose dangers for communities if not properly planned, if not properly engineered and constructed, and if put in locations that pose significant harm to our communities and our environment.

In a recent hearing, the San Bernardino fire chief testified that if these BESS sites are not perfectly constructed, they can actually create fires that are extremely difficult and almost impossible to extinguish.

My provision simply says that the Department of Energy needs to stop trying to cut corners and to do the homework before installing these energy storage systems in our communities.

Let me be clear. This isn't an anti-storage provision. It is a provision to ensure that the communities have a voice, and that the government isn't running with scissors during the development of these facilities.

I can tell you in L.A. County, they have made some very bad choices recently when it comes to these BESS facilities. You don't have to look any further than the community of Acton, right in the middle of my district, to understand the risks associated with rushing these energy storage projects.

Acton is a small community, Mr. Chair, right in the middle of the Angeles Forest where L.A. County is forcing, effectively, this BESS facility to be constructed.

Let me paint a picture of where this location is. In their infinite wisdom, L.A. County decided to put this BESS facility smack dab on top of the most active part of the San Andreas Fault. It is right in the middle of some of the most combustible wildlands and poses a significant wildfire risk.

Within a par 5 of this location, there is a large electrical substation that would be basically knocked out, which supplies all of the power to L.A. County or most of the power to L.A. County, if this were to have any issues.

Within a par 5, there is a freeway that is a main corridor going to the high desert. There is a railroad. There is a reservoir, which is drinking water for the high desert and about a third of my district. There are high-voltage transmission lines going overhead. If the facility catches on fire, those will be knocked out. There is a Brightline West planned nearby, a new rail line, as well as California's high-speed rail, right by this BESS facility in L.A. County.

In the end, the community had no input. They had no voice. The government was running with scissors, and the L.A. County officials were able to put this BESS facility in a location that, frankly, is probably the absolute worst location that they could have chosen.

I thank the chairman for this good bill overall. It does a lot of amazing things. I especially want to make sure that I reiterate that these battery storage facilities are good, they are necessary, but they need to be done right. We can't be cutting corners on these very unique technologies.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the underlying bill.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the distinguished and extremely hardworking ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

□ 1130

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, my thanks go to Chairman FLEISCHMANN, to Ranking Member KAPTUR, and to the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee staff for their hard work on this bill, especially Scott McKee and Adam Wilson.

With this bill, we have a rare opportunity to make strategic investments that lower energy costs for American families, promote America's energy independence, and support a robust and modern manufacturing sector.

This is a real chance to ensure America's resiliency in the face of a changing climate and shifting global economy. However, that is not what the majority has chosen. Instead, the majority has cut domestic investments in this bill by over 5 percent, and, with it, they will increase energy costs, jeopardize our energy independence and national security, hurt our global competitiveness, fail to confront the climate crisis, and put tens of thousands of good-paying manufacturing jobs at risk.

Even if some Members of this body may choose to refuse the overwhelming evidence, deny the scientific consensus, and ignore the worsening natural disasters that have become more severe and

more common in each of our districts, we must aggressively transform our energy sector to adapt to our climate reality.

The best path and the only path that addresses climate change, reduces our dependence on fossil fuels, and ends reliance on foreign energy is to diversify how we produce and store energy at home. However, instead of ensuring America leads the world in the development and transition to a global clean energy economy, the majority's bill strips \$1.5 billion from the Department of Energy for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Project 2025 is a Trump MAGA Republican agenda to take over the government and our rights and freedoms. When it comes to green and renewable energy, Project 2025 spells out how Republicans would end any investments altogether in EERE, energy efficiency and renewable energy. It is in a document, but, it is, in reality, in the appropriations bill.

It says, further, in Project 2025 that we must end the focus on climate change and green subsidies, we must eliminate appliance energy efficiency standards, and energy efficiency and renewable energy should be entirely eliminated. They are going down the road of eliminating it.

This goes beyond climate denial. This is climate capitulation. This is climate arson. This is damning our children to an extreme and dangerous future.

We recently received a letter from the Natural Resources Defense Council and dozens of other organizations highlighting how a cut to this program is fiscally irresponsible and threatens our energy future.

They said: "The House proposal for [energy efficiency and renewable energy] significantly threatens energy innovation in the United States. Not only would its proposed cuts hamper innovation in the United States, but they would also hinder a program that has provided significant return on investment for taxpayers. Several independent impact evaluation studies have assessed one-third of [energy efficiency and renewable energy's] research and development portfolio to date and have found that \$12 billion in total investment has generated more than \$388 billion in net economic benefits to the United States."

Mr. Chair, at the appropriate time, I will submit this letter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

This funding supports research and development, manufacturing, energy management, and weatherization technologies that are critical to our Nation's growth and resilience. These cuts are robbing from our children's and our grandchildren's economic, energy, and environmental future.

The bill directly targets disadvantaged communities by slashing funding for the weatherization assistance program which will drive up the cost of home energy bills for roughly 54,000 low-income homes.

The attack on our country's energy future does not stop there. The majority's bill hurts our global competitiveness and eliminates good-paying manufacturing jobs by revoking \$8 billion from the Department of Energy loan programs. These programs promote innovation and manufacturing in America, creating and reshoring jobs that will help America become truly energy independent, and a leader in green energy. However, without this funding, thousands of manufacturing jobs are at risk, and we will fall further behind our global competitors.

This bill fails to create a sustainable future, and it fails to ensure Americans have equitable access to resilient, secure, and clean energy sources.

Democrats are ready to pass legislation that lowers energy costs for the American people and ensures America leads the global transition to a clean energy economy.

I implore the majority to join us. It is time to govern.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for yielding me time.

This legislation funds the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It funds efforts like resiliency in my home State of Louisiana. It funds hurricane protection. It funds flood control. It floods cultural restoration projects.

One project in particular I thank the chairman for highlighting that is included in this legislation is the Morganza to the Gulf project. This hurricane protection project in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes is for a community that has imposed a property tax on themselves. It has imposed a sales tax on themselves to help fund this project. They pulled together over \$1 billion in funds, and this bill finally starts bringing more dollars to the table, partnering with the locals to ensure that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can fund this community, can fund this important project.

Here is the reality, Mr. Chairman: We can either spend millions now building this project, or we can spend billions later picking up the pieces in the aftermath of a disaster, in the aftermath of a hurricane.

This bill also, importantly, funds projects like the Upper Barataria project in Upper St. Charles and Lafourche Parishes on up to Ascension. It funds the Houma navigation channel and other critical projects for our community.

It also funds the nuclear triad. As President Reagan said, peace through strength ensures that we have the strength here in America.

This legislation ensures that the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, our oil reserve, that is now at some of the lowest levels in history is actually returned to appropriate levels.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, in regard to the previous speaker's comments, I remind the American public our Nation

under the last 17 years has reduced emissions more than the next six or seven emissions-reducing countries combined. We have led the world in reducing emissions.

Do you know what, Mr. Chairman?

This wasn't done because of government. It was done because of entrepreneurs and because of innovators. That is how we have led the world. During this time, as we reduced emissions, for every 1 ton we reduced, China has increased by 5 tons.

I thank the staff of the subcommittee, including Angie Giancarlo and the rest of the team, for their help in this legislation. I thank Chairman FLEISCHMANN for his leadership.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to close.

As I said before, Mr. Chairman, America's future relies on our new age frontiers of energy and water. This bill does not meet the mark. America can and must excel.

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

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

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-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 and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 8997

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

The following appropriations shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers for authorized civil functions of the Department of the Army pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related efforts.

INVESTIGATIONS

For expenses necessary where authorized by law for the collection and study of basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related needs; for surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of proposed river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, and related efforts prior to construction; for restudy of authorized projects;

and for miscellaneous investigations, and, when authorized by law, surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of projects prior to construction, \$159,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

CONSTRUCTION

For expenses necessary for the construction of river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; for conducting detailed studies, and plans and specifications, of such projects (including those involving participation by States, local governments, or private groups) authorized or made eligible for selection by law (but such detailed studies, and plans and specifications, shall not constitute a commitment of the Government to construction); \$3,010,000,000, to remain available until expended; of which \$34,900,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, shall be to cover the Federal share of construction costs for facilities under the Dredged Material Disposal Facilities program; and of which such sums as are necessary to cover 35 percent of the costs of construction, replacement, rehabilitation, and expansion of inland waterways projects shall be derived from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, except as otherwise specifically provided for in law: Provided, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

For expenses necessary for flood damage reduction projects and related efforts in the Mississippi River alluvial valley below Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as authorized by law, \$370,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$5,465,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, shall be to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for inland harbors: Provided, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

For expenses necessary for the operation, maintenance, and care of existing river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; providing security for infrastructure owned or operated by the Corps, including administrative buildings and laboratories; maintaining harbor channels provided by a State, municipality, or other public agency that serve essential navigation needs of general commerce, where authorized by law; surveying and charting northern and northwestern lakes and connecting waters; clearing and straightening channels; and removing obstructions to navigation, \$5,714,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$3,106,635,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, shall be to cover the Federal share of eligible operations and maintenance costs for coastal harbors and channels, and for inland harbors, of which \$60,000,000 shall be to carry out subsection (c) of section 2106 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2238c(c)) and shall be designated as being for such purpose pursuant to paragraph (2) of section 14003 of division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136); of which such sums as become available from the special account for the Corps of Engineers established by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 shall be derived from that account for resource protection, research, interpretation, and maintenance activities related to resource protection in the areas at which outdoor recreation is available; of which

such sums as become available from fees collected under section 217 of Public Law 104-303 shall be used to cover the cost of operation and maintenance of the dredged material disposal facilities for which such fees have been collected: Provided, That 1 percent of the total amount of funds provided for each of the programs, projects, or activities funded under this heading shall not be allocated to a field operating activity prior to the beginning of the fourth quarter of the fiscal year and shall be available for use by the Chief of Engineers to fund such emergency activities as the Chief of Engineers determines to be necessary and appropriate, and that the Chief of Engineers shall allocate during the fourth quarter any remaining funds which have not been used for emergency activities proportionally in accordance with the amounts provided for the programs, projects, or activities: Provided further, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

REGULATORY PROGRAM

For expenses necessary for administration of laws pertaining to regulation of navigable waters and wetlands, \$218,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026.

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

For expenses necessary to clean up contamination from sites in the United States resulting from work performed as part of the Nation's early atomic energy program, \$200,000,000, to remain available until expended.

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For expenses necessary to prepare for flood, hurricane, and other natural disasters and support emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to such disasters as authorized by law, \$45,000,000, to remain available until expended.

EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the supervision and general administration of the civil works program in the headquarters of the Corps of Engineers and the offices of the Division Engineers; and for costs of management and operation of the Humphreys Engineer Center Support Activity, the Institute for Water Resources, the United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Finance Center allocable to the civil works program, \$231,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, of which not to exceed \$5,000 may be used for official reception and representation purposes and only during the current fiscal year: Provided, That no part of any other appropriation provided in this title shall be available to fund the civil works activities of the Office of the Chief of Engineers or the civil works executive direction and management activities of the division offices: Provided further, That any Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies appropriation may be used to fund the supervision and general administration of emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to any flood, hurricane, or other natural disaster.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR CIVIL WORKS

For the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 7016(b)(3), \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: Provided, That not more than 25 percent of such amount may be obligated or expended until the Assistant Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the report required under section 101(d) of this Act and a work plan that allocates at least 95 percent of the additional funding provided under each heading in the report accompanying this Act, to specific programs, projects, or activities.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND
INNOVATION PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, notwithstanding section 5033 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026.

In addition, fees authorized to be collected pursuant to sections 5029 and 5030 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 shall be deposited in this account, to remain available until expended.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—CORPS OF
ENGINEERS—CIVIL

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. (a) None of the funds provided in title I of this Act, or provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in title I of this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2025, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that:

(1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity for a different purpose, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(5) augments or reduces existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of the amounts contained in paragraphs (6) through (10), unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(6) INVESTIGATIONS.—For a base level over \$100,000, reprogramming of 25 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$150,000 per project, study, or activity is allowed: Provided, That for a base level less than \$100,000, the reprogramming limit is \$25,000: Provided further, That up to \$25,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation for existing obligations and concomitant administrative expenses;

(7) CONSTRUCTION.—For a base level over \$2,000,000, reprogramming of 15 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$3,000,000 per project, study or activity is allowed: Provided, That for a base level less than \$2,000,000, the reprogramming limit is \$300,000: Provided further, That up to \$3,000,000 may be reprogrammed for settled contractor claims, changed conditions, or real estate deficiency judgments: Provided further, That up to \$300,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation for existing obligations and concomitant administrative expenses;

(8) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—Unlimited reprogramming authority is granted for the Corps to be able to respond to emergencies: Provided, That the Chief of Engineers shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of these emergency actions as soon thereafter as practicable: Provided further, That for a base level over \$1,000,000, reprogramming of 15 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$5,000,000 per project, study, or activity is allowed: Provided further, That for a base level less than \$1,000,000, the reprogramming limit is \$150,000: Provided further, That \$150,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation;

(9) MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES.—The reprogramming guidelines in paragraphs (6), (7), and (8) shall apply to the Investigations, Construction, and Operation and Maintenance portions of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Account, respectively; and

(10) FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM.—Reprogramming of up to 15

percent of the base of the receiving project is permitted.

(b) DE MINIMUS REPROGRAMMINGS.—In no case should a reprogramming for less than \$50,000 be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(c) CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM.—Subsection (a)(1) shall not apply to any project or activity funded under the continuing authorities program.

(d) Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for the current fiscal year which shall include:

(1) A table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the President's budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if applicable, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(2) A delineation in the table for each appropriation both by object class and program, project and activity as detailed in the budget appendix for the respective appropriations; and

(3) An identification of items of special congressional interest.

SEC. 102. The Secretary shall allocate funds made available in this Act solely in accordance with the provisions of this Act and in the report accompanying this Act.

SEC. 103. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to award or modify any contract that commits funds beyond the amounts appropriated for that program, project, or activity that remain unobligated, except that such amounts may include any funds that have been made available through reprogramming pursuant to section 101.

SEC. 104. The Secretary of the Army may transfer to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service may accept and expend, up to \$8,733,000 of funds provided in this title under the heading "Operation and Maintenance" to mitigate for fisheries lost due to Corps of Engineers projects.

SEC. 105. None of the funds in this Act shall be used for an open lake placement alternative for dredged material, after evaluating the least costly, environmentally acceptable manner for the disposal or management of dredged material originating from Lake Erie or tributaries thereto, unless it is approved under a State water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341): Provided, That until an open lake placement alternative for dredged material is approved under a State water quality certification, the Corps of Engineers shall continue upland placement of such dredged material consistent with the requirements of section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2211).

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any water supply reallocation study under the Wolf Creek Dam, Lake Cumberland, Kentucky, project authorized under the Act of July 24, 1946 (60 Stat. 636, ch. 595).

SEC. 107. Additional funding provided in this Act shall be allocated only to projects determined to be eligible by the Chief of Engineers.

SEC. 108. Not later than 15 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees any guidance documents relating to the implementation of the rule entitled "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States': Conforming" published by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register on September 8, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 61964).

SEC. 109. None of the funds made available by this Act or any prior Act may be used to alter the eligibility requirements for assistance under

section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (33 U.S.C. 701n) in effect on November 14, 2022, without express authorization by Congress.

SEC. 110. As of the date of enactment of this Act and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of the Army shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm, including an assembled or functional firearm, at a water resources development project covered under section 327.0 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act) if:

(1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing a firearm; and

(2) the possession of the firearm is in compliance with the law of the State in which the water resources development project is located.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to modify or amend the final rules entitled, "Reissuance and Modification of Nationwide Permits" (86 Fed. Reg. 2744) and "Reissuance and Modification of Nationwide Permits" (86 Fed. Reg. 73522).

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce section 370 of Public Law 116–283 with respect to civil works projects.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACCOUNT

For carrying out activities authorized by the Central Utah Project Completion Act, \$23,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$4,000,000 shall be deposited into the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Account for use by the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission: Provided, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$1,900,000 shall be available until September 30, 2026, for expenses necessary in carrying out related responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior: Provided further, That for fiscal year 2025, of the amount made available to the Commission under this Act or any other Act, the Commission may use an amount not to exceed \$2,164,000 for administrative expenses: Provided further, That of the amounts provided under this heading, not to exceed \$1,000 may be for official reception and representation expenses.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The following appropriations shall be expended to execute authorized functions of the Bureau of Reclamation:

WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For management, development, and restoration of water and related natural resources and for related activities, including the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of reclamation and other facilities, participation in fulfilling related Federal responsibilities to Native Americans, and related grants to, and cooperative and other agreements with, State and local governments, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and others, \$1,773,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$23,620,000 shall be available for transfer to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and \$7,584,000 shall be available for transfer to the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund; of which such amounts as may be necessary may be advanced to the Colorado River Dam Fund: Provided, That \$100,000 shall be available for transfer into the Aging Infrastructure Account established by section 9603(d)(1) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, as amended (43 U.S.C. 510b(d)(1)): Provided further, That such transfers, except for the transfer authorized by the preceding proviso, may be increased or decreased within the overall appropriation under this heading: Provided further, That of the total appropriated, the amount for program activities that can be financed by the Reclamation Fund,

the Water Storage Enhancement Receipts account established by section 4011(e) of Public Law 114–322, or the Bureau of Reclamation special fee account established by 16 U.S.C. 6806 shall be derived from that Fund or account: Provided further, That funds contributed under 43 U.S.C. 395 are available until expended for the purposes for which the funds were contributed: Provided further, That funds advanced under 43 U.S.C. 397a shall be credited to this account and are available until expended for the same purposes as the sums appropriated under this heading: Provided further, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$7,000,000 shall be deposited in the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund established by section 110 of title I of division B of appendix D of Public Law 106–554: Provided further, That of the amounts provided herein, funds may be used for high-priority projects which shall be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps, as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1706: Provided further, That within available funds, \$250,000 shall be for grants and financial assistance for educational activities: Provided further, That in accordance with section 4007 of Public Law 114–322 and as recommended by the Secretary in a letter dated May 22, 2024, funding provided for such purpose in fiscal year 2024 shall be made available to the Sites Reservoir Project: Provided further, That in accordance with section 4009(c) of Public Law 114–322, and as recommended by the Secretary in a letter dated May 22, 2024, funding provided for such purpose in fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024 shall be made available to the El Paso Aquifer Storage and Recovery Enhanced Arroyo Project, the Replenish Big Bear, and the Purified Water Replenishment Project.

CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT RESTORATION FUND

For carrying out the programs, projects, plans, habitat restoration, improvement, and acquisition provisions of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, such sums as may be collected in fiscal year 2025 in the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund pursuant to sections 3407(d), 3404(c)(3), and 3405(f) of Public Law 102–575, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the Bureau of Reclamation is directed to assess and collect the full amount of the additional mitigation and restoration payments authorized by section 3407(d) of Public Law 102–575: Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used for the acquisition or leasing of water for in-stream purposes if the water is already committed to in-stream purposes by a court adopted decree or order.

CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA RESTORATION (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For carrying out activities authorized by the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, consistent with plans to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, \$33,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such amounts as may be necessary to carry out such activities may be transferred to appropriate accounts of other participating Federal agencies to carry out authorized purposes: Provided, That funds appropriated herein may be used for the Federal share of the costs of CALFED Program management: Provided further, That CALFED implementation shall be carried out in a balanced manner with clear performance measures demonstrating concurrent progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the Program.

POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for policy, administration, and related functions in the Office of the Commissioner, the Denver office, and offices in the six regions of the Bureau of Reclamation, to remain available until September 30, 2026, \$66,794,000, to be derived from the Reclamation Fund and be nonreimbursable as provided in 43 U.S.C. 377, of which not to exceed \$5,000 may be used for official reception and representation

expenses: Provided, That no part of any other appropriation in this Act shall be available for activities or functions budgeted as policy and administration expenses.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

Appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation shall be available for purchase and replacement of not to exceed 30 motor vehicles, which are for replacement only.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEC. 201. (a) None of the funds provided in title II of this Act for Water and Related Resources, or provided by previous or subsequent appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in title II of this Act for Water and Related Resources that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2025, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

- (1) initiates or creates a new program, project, or activity;
- (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;
- (3) increases funds for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;
- (4) restarts or resumes any program, project or activity for which funds are not provided in this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(5) transfers funds in excess of the following limits, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress:

- (A) 15 percent for any program, project or activity for which \$2,000,000 or more is available at the beginning of the fiscal year; or
- (B) \$400,000 for any program, project or activity for which less than \$2,000,000 is available at the beginning of the fiscal year;

(6) transfers more than \$500,000 from either the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category or the Resources Management and Development category to any program, project, or activity in the other category, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress; or

(7) transfers, where necessary to discharge legal obligations of the Bureau of Reclamation, more than \$5,000,000 to provide adequate funds for settled contractor claims, increased contractor earnings due to accelerated rates of operations, and real estate deficiency judgments, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(b) Subsection (a)(5) shall not apply to any transfer of funds within the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term “transfer” means any movement of funds into or out of a program, project, or activity.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (a) and (b), the amounts made available in this title under the heading “Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources” shall be expended for the programs, projects, and activities specified in the “House Recommended” columns in the “Water and Related Resources” table included under the heading “Title II—Department of the Interior” in the report accompanying this Act.

(e) The Bureau of Reclamation shall submit reports on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing all the funds reprogrammed between programs, projects, activities, or categories of funding. The first quarterly report shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 202. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be

used to determine the final point of discharge for the interceptor drain for the San Luis Unit until development by the Secretary of the Interior and the State of California of a plan, which shall conform to the water quality standards of the State of California as approved by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to minimize any detrimental effect of the San Luis drainage waters.

(b) The costs of the Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and the costs of the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program shall be classified by the Secretary of the Interior as reimbursable or nonreimbursable and collected until fully repaid pursuant to the “Cleanup Program—Alternative Repayment Plan” and the “SJVDP—Alternative Repayment Plan” described in the report entitled “Repayment Report, Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program, February 1995”, prepared by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. Any future obligations of funds by the United States relating to, or providing for, drainage service or drainage studies for the San Luis Unit shall be fully reimbursable by San Luis Unit beneficiaries of such service or studies pursuant to Federal reclamation law.

SEC. 203. (a) Title I of Public Law 108–361 (the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act), shall be applied by substituting “2025” for “2022” each place it appears.

(b) Section 103(f)(4)(A) of Public Law 108–361 (the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act) is amended by striking “\$30,000,000” and inserting “\$40,000,000”.

SEC. 204. (a) Section 104(c) of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, as amended (43 U.S.C. 2214(c)), shall be applied by substituting “2025” for “2022”.

(b) Section 301 of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 (43 U.S.C. 2241)—

(1) shall be applied by substituting “2025” for “2022”; and

(2) is amended by striking “\$120,000,000” and inserting “\$130,000,000”.

SEC. 205. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to continue the reinitiated consultation on the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536), consistent with the letter from the Bureau of Reclamation dated September 30, 2021, requesting such reinitiated consultation, until the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation requests and receives in writing from the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service a comprehensive report explaining the purpose, methodology, and anticipated outcomes of such reinitiated consultation: Provided, That not later than 15 days after the date on which the Director provides to the Commissioner such report, the Commissioner shall submit to Congress such report.

SEC. 206. (a) The Central Valley Project and California State Water Project shall be operated in accordance with the Preferred Alternative and FWS Biological Opinion and NOAA Biological Opinion.

(b) For the purposes of this section—

(1) the term “Preferred Alternative” means the Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative), as described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project” issued by the Bureau of Reclamation, and dated December 2019;

(2) the term “FWS Biological Opinion” means the United States Fish and Wildlife Service “Biological Opinion for the Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project” (Service File No. 08FBTD00–2019–F–0164) signed on October 21, 2019; and

(3) the term “NOAA Biological Opinion” means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration Fisheries “Biological Opinion on the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project” (Consultation Tracking Number: WRCO-2016-00069) signed on October 21, 2019.

SEC. 207. Section 40902(a)(2) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (43 U.S.C. 3202(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “this Act, except for any project for which—” and inserting “this Act; or”; and

(B) by striking clauses (i) and (ii); and
(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “(except that projects described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B) shall not be eligible)”.

SEC. 208. The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Public Law 114-322) is amended in section 4004(a)—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), strike “public water agency that contracts” and insert “contractor”; and

(2) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or proposed action” after “biological assessment”; and

(3) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or proposed action” after “biological assessment”; and

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (6) as paragraphs (4) through (7), respectively;

(5) after paragraph (2), by inserting the following new paragraph:

“(3) receive a copy of the draft proposed action and have the opportunity to review that document and provide comment to the action agency, which comments shall be afforded due consideration during development.”; and

(6) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “action agency proposes a proposed action or” before “the consulting agency”; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “proposed action or” before “alternative will”; and

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “alternative actions” and inserting “actions or alternatives”.

SEC. 209. (a) Title III of subtitle J of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Public Law 114-322) is amended—

(1) in section 4007(i), by striking “2021” and inserting “2026”; and

(2) in section 4013—

(A) in paragraph (1), by deleting “section 4004, which shall expire 10 years after the date of its enactment” and inserting “section 4004, which shall expire on December 16, 2034”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “on or before December 16, 2026” after “4009(c)”.

(b) Section 1602(g)(1) of the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (43 U.S.C. 390h) is amended by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting “\$167,500,000”.

(c) Section 4(a)(2)(F)(i) of the Water Desalination Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 10301 note; Public Law 104-298) is amended by striking “\$30,000,000” and inserting “\$100,500,000”.

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ENERGY PROGRAMS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for energy efficiency and renewable energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,960,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$223,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2026, for program direction.

CYBERSECURITY, ENERGY SECURITY, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of

plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for energy sector cybersecurity, energy security, and emergency response activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$200,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$28,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2026, for program direction.

ELECTRICITY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for electricity activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$250,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$19,700,000 shall be available until September 30, 2026, for program direction: Provided further, That funds under this heading allocated for the purposes of section 9 of the Small Business Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 638), including for Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer activities, or for the purposes of section 1001 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended (42 U.S.C. 16391(a)), for Technology Commercialization Fund activities, may be reprogrammed without being subject to the restrictions in section 301 of this Act.

GRID DEPLOYMENT

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for grid deployment in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$60,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$6,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2026, for program direction.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for nuclear energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,793,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$97,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2026, for program direction: Provided further, That for the purpose of section 954(a)(6) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended, the only amount available shall be from the amount specified as including that purpose in the “Bill” column in the “Department of Energy” table included under the heading “Title III—Department of Energy” in the report accompanying this Act.

FOSSIL ENERGY AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out fossil energy and carbon management research and development activities, under the authority of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition of interest, including defeasible and equitable interests in any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition or expansion, and for conducting inquiries, technological investigations, and research concerning the extraction, processing, use, and disposal of mineral substances without objectionable social and environmental costs (30

U.S.C. 3, 1602, and 1603), \$875,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount \$70,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2026, for program direction.

NAVAL PETROLEUM AND OIL SHALE RESERVES

For Department of Energy expenses necessary to carry out naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities, \$13,010,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, unobligated funds remaining from prior years shall be available for all naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Strategic Petroleum Reserve facility development and operations and program management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), \$295,148,000, to remain available until expended.

NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve storage, operation, and management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), \$7,150,000, to remain available until expended.

ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities of the Energy Information Administration, \$141,653,000, to remain available until expended.

NON-DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for non-defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$324,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That in addition, fees collected pursuant to subsection (b)(1) of section 5 of the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 6939f(b)(1)) and deposited under this heading in fiscal year 2025 pursuant to section 309 of title III of division C of Public Law 116-94 are appropriated, to remain available until expended, for mercury storage costs.

URANIUM ENRICHMENT DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING FUND

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out uranium enrichment facility decontamination and decommissioning, remedial actions, and other activities of title II of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, and title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, \$864,182,000, to be deposited into and subsequently derived from the Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund, to remain available until expended, of which \$5,000,000 shall be available in accordance with title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

SCIENCE

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for science activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and purchase of not more than 35 passenger motor vehicles, \$8,390,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$238,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2026, for program direction.

NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for nuclear waste disposal activities to carry out the purposes of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of

1982, Public Law 97-425, as amended, \$12,040,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSITIONS

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for carrying out the activities of technology transitions, \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$12,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2026, for program direction.

CLEAN ENERGY DEMONSTRATIONS

For Department of Energy expenses necessary to carry out program direction of the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, \$27,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026.

ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY—ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities authorized by section 5012 of the America COMPETES Act (Public Law 110-69), \$450,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$40,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2026, for program direction.

TITLE 17 INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

Such sums as are derived from amounts received from borrowers pursuant to section 1702(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 under this heading in prior Acts, shall be collected in accordance with section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided, That for necessary administrative expenses of the Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program, as authorized, \$55,000,000 is appropriated, to remain available until September 30, 2026: Provided further, That up to \$55,000,000 of fees collected in fiscal year 2025 pursuant to section 1702(h) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 shall be credited as offsetting collections under this heading and used for necessary administrative expenses in this appropriation and shall remain available until September 30, 2026: Provided further, That to the extent that fees collected in fiscal year 2025 exceed \$55,000,000, those excess amounts shall be credited as offsetting collections under this heading and available in future fiscal years only to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced (1) as such fees are received during fiscal year 2025 (estimated at \$170,000,000) and (2) to the extent that any remaining general fund appropriations can be derived from fees collected in previous fiscal years that are not otherwise appropriated, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2025 appropriation from the general fund estimated at \$0: Provided further, That the Department of Energy shall not subordinate any loan obligation to other financing in violation of section 1702 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 or subordinate any Guaranteed Obligation to any loan or other debt obligations in violation of section 609.8 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLES MANUFACTURING LOAN PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary in carrying out the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program, \$18,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026.

TRIBAL ENERGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary in carrying out the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program, \$6,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026.

INDIAN ENERGY POLICY AND PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses for Indian Energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), \$95,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of the amount

appropriated under this heading, \$14,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2026, for program direction.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

For salaries and expenses of the Department of Energy necessary for departmental administration in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), \$387,078,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles and official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$30,000, plus such additional amounts as necessary to cover increases in the estimated amount of cost of work for others notwithstanding the provisions of the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. 1511 et seq.): Provided, That such increases in cost of work are offset by revenue increases of the same or greater amount: Provided further, That moneys received by the Department for miscellaneous revenues estimated to total \$100,578,000 in fiscal year 2025 may be retained and used for operating expenses within this account, as authorized by section 201 of Public Law 95-238, notwithstanding the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 3302: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2025 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$286,500,000.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of the Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026.

ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

WEAPONS ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for atomic energy defense weapons activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$20,338,752,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$135,264,000 shall be available until September 30, 2026, for program direction.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for defense nuclear nonproliferation activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$2,445,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NAVAL REACTORS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for naval reactors activities to carry out the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition (by purchase, condemnation, construction, or otherwise) of real property, plant, and capital equipment, facilities, and facility expansion, \$2,118,773,000, to remain available until expended, of which, \$94,750,000 shall be transferred to "Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy", for the Advanced Test Reactor: Provided, That of such amount made available under this heading, \$62,848,000 shall be available until September 30, 2026, for program direction.

FEDERAL SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for Federal Salaries and Expenses in the National Nuclear Security Administration, \$564,475,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, including official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$17,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for atomic energy defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$7,132,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$326,893,000 shall be available until September 30, 2026, for program direction.

OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses, necessary for atomic energy defense, other defense activities, and classified activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,179,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$387,781,000 shall be available until September 30, 2026, for program direction.

POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION FUND

Expenditures from the Bonneville Power Administration Fund, established pursuant to Public Law 93-454, are approved for official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$5,000: Provided, That during fiscal year 2025, no new direct loan obligations may be made.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHEASTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, including transmission wheeling and ancillary services, pursuant to section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the southeastern power area, \$9,127,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, to remain available until expended: Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, up to \$9,127,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southeastern Power Administration: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2025 appropriation estimated at not more than \$0: Provided further, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$75,778,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: Provided further, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they

are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, for construction and acquisition of transmission lines, substations and appurtenant facilities, and for administrative expenses, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500 in carrying out section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the Southwestern Power Administration, \$55,070,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), up to \$43,630,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southwestern Power Administration: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2025 appropriation estimated at not more than \$11,440,000: Provided further, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$80,000,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: Provided further, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For carrying out the functions authorized by title III, section 302(a)(1)(E) of the Act of August 4, 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7152), and other related activities including conservation and renewable resources programs as authorized, \$340,983,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, to remain available until expended, of which \$340,983,000 shall be derived from the Department of the Interior Reclamation Fund: Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), and section 1 of the Interior Department Appropriation Act, 1939 (43 U.S.C. 392a), up to \$241,111,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Western Area Power Administration: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2025 appropriation estimated at not more than \$99,872,000, of which \$99,872,000 is derived from the Reclamation Fund: Provided further, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$525,000,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 and the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: Provided further, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same

year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses): Provided further, That the remaining unobligated balances from amounts described in the fifth proviso under this heading in Public Law 111-85 are hereby permanently rescinded.

FALCON AND AMISTAD OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE FUND

For operation, maintenance, and emergency costs for the hydroelectric facilities at the Falcon and Amistad Dams, \$6,525,000, to remain available until expended, and to be derived from the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund of the Western Area Power Administration, as provided in section 2 of the Act of June 18, 1954 (68 Stat. 255): Provided, That notwithstanding the provisions of that Act and of 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$6,297,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services from the Falcon and Amistad Dams shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the hydroelectric facilities of these Dams and associated Western Area Power Administration activities: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2025 appropriation estimated at not more than \$228,000: Provided further, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred: Provided further, That for fiscal year 2025, the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration may accept up to \$1,685,000 in funds contributed by United States power customers of the Falcon and Amistad Dams for deposit into the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund, and such funds shall be available for the purpose for which contributed in like manner as if said sums had been specifically appropriated for such purpose: Provided further, That any such funds shall be available without further appropriation and without fiscal year limitation for use by the Commissioner of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission for the sole purpose of operating, maintaining, repairing, rehabilitating, replacing, or upgrading the hydroelectric facilities at these Dams in accordance with agreements reached between the Administrator, Commissioner, and the power customers.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to carry out the provisions of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$3,000, and the hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$532,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed \$532,000,000 of revenues from fees and annual charges, and other services and collections in fiscal year 2025 shall be retained and used for expenses necessary in this account, and shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as revenues are received during fiscal year 2025 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2025 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$0.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 301. (a) No appropriation, funds, or authority made available by this title for the Department of Energy shall be used to initiate or resume any program, project, or activity or to prepare or initiate Requests For Proposals or similar arrangements (including Requests for

Quotations, Requests for Information, and Funding Opportunity Announcements) for a program, project, or activity if the program, project, or activity has not been funded by Congress.

(b)(1) Unless the Secretary of Energy notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 full business days in advance, none of the funds made available in this title may be used to—

(A) make a grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling \$1,000,000 or more;

(B) make a discretionary contract award or Other Transaction Agreement totaling \$1,000,000 or more, including a contract covered by the Federal Acquisition Regulation;

(C) provide nonoperational funding through a competition restricted only to Department of Energy National Laboratories totaling \$1,000,000 or more;

(D) provide nonoperational funding directly to a Department of Energy National Laboratory totaling \$25,000,000 or more;

(E) issue a letter of intent to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D); or

(F) announce publicly the intention to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D).

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 15 days of the conclusion of each quarter a report detailing each grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling less than \$1,000,000 provided during the previous quarter.

(3) The notification required by paragraph (1) and the report required by paragraph (2) shall include the recipient of the award, the amount of the award, the fiscal year for which the funds for the award were appropriated, the account and program, project, or activity from which the funds are being drawn, the title of the award, and a brief description of the activity for which the award is made.

(c) The Department of Energy may not, with respect to any program, project, or activity that uses budget authority made available in this title under the heading "Department of Energy—Energy Programs", enter into a multiyear contract, award a multiyear grant, or enter into a multiyear cooperative agreement unless—

(1) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is funded for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award; or

(2) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement includes a clause conditioning the Federal Government's obligation on the availability of future year budget authority and the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 days in advance.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (e), (f), and (g), the amounts made available by this title shall be expended as authorized by law for the programs, projects, and activities specified in the "Bill" column in the "Department of Energy" table included under the heading "Title III—Department of Energy" in the report accompanying this Act.

(e) The amounts made available by this title may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Department shall notify, and obtain the prior approval of, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program, project, or activity funding level to increase or decrease by more than \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(f) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates, initiates, or eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(2) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act; or

(3) reduces funds that are directed to be used for a specific program, project, or activity by this Act.

(g)(1) The Secretary of Energy may waive any requirement or restriction in this section that applies to the use of funds made available for the Department of Energy if compliance with such requirement or restriction would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver.

(h) The unexpended balances of prior appropriations provided for activities in this Act may be available to the same appropriation accounts for such activities established pursuant to this title. Available balances may be merged with funds in the applicable established accounts and thereafter may be accounted for as one fund for the same time period as originally enacted.

SEC. 302. Funds appropriated by this or any other Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for intelligence activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094) during fiscal year 2025 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2025.

SEC. 303. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for the construction of facilities classified as high-hazard nuclear facilities under 10 CFR Part 830 unless independent oversight is conducted by the Office of Enterprise Assessments to ensure the project is in compliance with nuclear safety requirements.

SEC. 304. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to approve critical decision-2 or critical decision-3 under Department of Energy Order 413.3B, or any successive departmental guidance, for construction projects where the total project cost exceeds \$100,000,000, until a separate independent cost estimate has been developed for the project for that critical decision.

SEC. 305. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to support a grant allocation award, discretionary grant award, or cooperative agreement that exceeds \$100,000,000 in Federal funding unless the project is carried out through internal independent project management procedures.

SEC. 306. No funds shall be transferred directly from “Department of Energy—Power Marketing Administration—Colorado River Basins Power Marketing Fund, Western Area Power Administration” to the general fund of the Treasury in the current fiscal year.

SEC. 307. (a) The Secretary of Energy may not establish any new regional petroleum product reserve unless funding for the proposed regional petroleum product reserve is explicitly requested in advance in an annual budget submitted by the President pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, and approved by the Congress in an appropriations Act.

(b) The budget request or notification shall include—

(1) the justification for the new reserve;

(2) a cost estimate for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the reserve, including funding sources;

(3) a detailed plan for operation of the reserve, including the conditions upon which the products may be released;

(4) the location of the reserve; and

(5) the estimate of the total inventory of the reserve.

SEC. 308. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to draw down and sell petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum

Reserve (1) to any entity that is under the ownership, control, or influence of the Chinese Communist Party; or (2) except on condition that such petroleum products will not be exported to the People’s Republic of China.

SEC. 309. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Energy to award any grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or loan of \$10,000,000 or greater to an entity of concern as defined in section 10114 of division B of Public Law 117–167.

(b) The Secretary shall implement the requirements under subsection (a) using a risk-based approach and analytical tools to aggregate, link, analyze, and maintain information reported by an entity seeking or receiving such funds made available by this Act.

(c) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with the obligations of the United States under applicable international agreements.

(d) The Secretary shall have the authority to require the submission to the agency, by an entity seeking or receiving such funds made available by this Act, documentation necessary to implement the requirements under subsection (a).

(e) Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”), shall not apply to the implementation of the requirements under this section.

(f) The Secretary and other Federal agencies shall coordinate to share relevant information necessary to implement the requirements under subsection (a).

SEC. 310. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to admit any non-United States citizen from Russia or China to any nuclear weapons production facility, as such term is defined in section 4002 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2501), other than areas accessible to the general public, unless 30 days prior to facility admittance, the Department of Energy provides notification to the Committees on Appropriations and Armed Services of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 311. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Energy may be obligated or expended to procure or purchase computers, printers, or interoperable videoconferencing services needed for an office environment in which the manufacturer, bidder, or offeror, or any subsidiary or parent entity of the manufacturer, bidder, or offeror, of the equipment is an entity, or parent company of an entity in which the People’s Republic of China has any ownership stake.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) also applies in cases in which the Secretary has contracted with a third party for the procurement, purchase, or expenditure of funds on any of the equipment and software described in such subsection.

SEC. 312. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to further develop, finalize, administer, implement, or enforce the proposed regulation by the Department of Energy titled “Clean Energy for New Federal Buildings and Major Renovations of Federal Buildings” 87 Fed. Reg. 78382 (December 21, 2022).

SEC. 313. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide a categorical exclusion from the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) for energy storage systems, as described in the Department of Energy’s final rule, part 1021 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 314. None of the funds made available by this Act may be expended to support the Department of Energy Justice40 initiative as defined by or required by Executive Order 14008 of January 27, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 7619; relating to tackling the climate crisis at home and abroad).

SEC. 315. Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) through (c);

(2) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively;

(3) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c), and moving such subsection after subsection (b), as so redesignated;

(4) in subsection (a), as so redesignated, by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows: “(1) The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Commission’) shall have the exclusive authority to approve or deny an application for authorization for the siting, construction, expansion, or operation of a facility to export natural gas from the United States to a foreign country or import natural gas from a foreign country, including an LNG terminal. In determining whether to approve or deny an application under this paragraph, the Commission shall deem the exportation or importation of natural gas to be consistent with the public interest. Except as specifically provided in this Act, nothing in this Act is intended to affect otherwise applicable law related to any Federal agency’s authorities or responsibilities related to facilities to import or export natural gas, including LNG terminals.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d)(1) Nothing in this Act limits the authority of the President under the Constitution, the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), part B of title II of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6271 et seq.), the Trading With the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.), or any other provision of law that imposes sanctions on a foreign person or foreign government (including any provision of law that prohibits or restricts United States persons from engaging in a transaction with a sanctioned person or government), including a country that is designated as a state sponsor of terrorism, to prohibit imports or exports.

“(2) In this subsection, the term ‘state sponsor of terrorism’ means a country the government of which the Secretary of State determines has repeatedly provided support for international terrorism pursuant to—

“(A) section 1754(c)(1)(A) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4318(c)(1)(A));

“(B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

“(C) section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780); or

“(D) any other provision of law.”.

SEC. 316. From the unobligated balances of amounts made available under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Electricity” in title IV of division N of Public Law 117–328 to carry out activities to improve the resilience of the Puerto Rican electric grid, thirty-five hundredths of one percent of the amounts made available under such heading shall be transferred not later than January 1, 2025, to the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Energy to carry out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purpose, to remain available until expended: Provided, That any amounts so transferred that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or a concurrent resolution on the budget are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and shall be available only if the President designates such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i).

SEC. 317. (a) Of the unobligated balances from amounts previously made available to the Department of Energy, the following funds shall be transferred from the following programs in the specified amounts to “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy”, and, in addition to amounts otherwise made available, shall be available for the not more than two competitive awards for Generation 3+ small

modular reactor deployment projects described in section 311(a)(1)(A) of division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-42) and the two awards for demonstration projects made prior to the date of enactment of this Act under the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program, as authorized under section 959A of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16279a)—

(1) \$980,000,000, to remain available until expended, from the unobligated balances under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy” in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), of which \$120,000,000 shall be available in fiscal year 2025 and \$860,000,000 shall be available in fiscal year 2026;

(2) \$1,500,000,000, to remain available until expended, from the unobligated balances under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Carbon Dioxide Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program Account” in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58);

(3) \$1,500,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, from the unobligated balances under section 50141 of Public Law 117-169; and

(4) \$5,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, from the unobligated balances under section 50144 of Public Law 117-169:

Provided, That amounts transferred pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) shall continue to be treated as amounts specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118-5.

(b) Public Law 117-169 is amended—

(1) in section 50141(a) by amending the dollar amount to read as “\$25,000,000,000”; and

(2) in section 50144(b) by amending the dollar amount to read as “\$5,000,000,000”.

TITLE IV

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary to carry out the programs authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, as amended, and for expenses necessary for the Federal Co-Chairman and the Alternate on the Appalachian Regional Commission, for payment of the Federal share of the administrative expenses of the Commission, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, and hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$200,000,000, to remain available until expended.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in carrying out activities authorized by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by Public Law 100-456, section 1441, \$45,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, of which not to exceed \$1,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Delta Regional Authority and to carry out its activities, as authorized by the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000, notwithstanding sections 382F(d), 382M, and 382N of said Act, \$32,100,000, to remain available until expended.

DENALI COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Denali Commission including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment as necessary and other expenses, \$17,000,000, to remain available until expended, notwithstanding the limitations contained in section 306(g) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998: Provided, That funds shall be available for construction projects for which the Denali Commission is the sole or primary funding source in an amount not to exceed 80 percent of total project cost for distressed communities, as defined by section 307 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998

(division C, title III, Public Law 105-277), as amended by section 701 of appendix D, title VII, Public Law 106-113 (113 Stat. 1501A-280), and for Indian Tribes, as defined by section 5304(e) of title 25, United States Code, and in an amount not to exceed 50 percent for non-distressed communities: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding payment of a non-Federal share in connection with a grant-in-aid program, amounts under this heading shall be available for the payment of such a non-Federal share for any project for which the Denali Commission is not the sole or primary funding source, provided that such project is consistent with the purposes of the Commission.

NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Northern Border Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$41,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amounts shall be available for administrative expenses, notwithstanding section 15751(b) of title 40, United States Code.

SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SOUTHWEST BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Southwest Border Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GREAT LAKES AUTHORITY

For expenses necessary for the Great Lakes Authority in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Commission in carrying out the purposes of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 and the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, \$955,368,200, including official representation expenses not to exceed \$30,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of the amount appropriated herein, not more than \$11,435,000 may be made available for salaries, travel, and other support costs for the Office of the Commission, to remain available until September 30, 2026: Provided further, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$807,672,200 in fiscal year 2025 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, and shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2025 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2025 appropriation estimated at not more than \$147,696,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$19,578,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: Provided, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$16,274,000 in fiscal year 2025 shall be retained and be available until September 30, 2026, for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2025 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2025 appropriation estimated at not more than \$3,304,000: Provided further, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading,

\$1,505,000 shall be for Inspector General services for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, as authorized by Public Law 100-203, section 5051, \$4,100,000, to be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund, to remain available until September 30, 2026.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

SEC. 401. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall comply with the July 5, 2011, version of Chapter VI of its Internal Commission Procedures when responding to Congressional requests for information, consistent with Department of Justice guidance for all Federal agencies.

SEC. 402. (a) The amounts made available by this title for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program funding level to increase or decrease by more than \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(b)(1) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission may waive the notification requirement in subsection (a) if compliance with such requirement would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver and shall provide a detailed report to the Committees of such waiver and changes to funding levels to programs, projects, or activities.

(c) Except as provided in subsections (a), (b), and (d), the amounts made available by this title for “Nuclear Regulatory Commission—Salaries and Expenses” shall be expended as directed in the report accompanying this Act.

(d) None of the funds provided for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act.

(e) The Commission shall provide a monthly report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, which includes the following for each program, project, or activity, including any prior year appropriations—

- (1) total budget authority;
- (2) total unobligated balances; and
- (3) total unliquidated obligations.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 501. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 502. (a) None of the funds made available in title III of this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the report accompanying this Act, or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(b) None of the funds made available for any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may be transferred to accounts funded in title III of this Act, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the report accompanying this Act, or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(c) The head of any relevant department or agency funded in this Act utilizing any transfer authority shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a semi-annual report detailing the transfer authorities, except for any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality, used in the previous 6 months and in the year-to-date. This report shall include the amounts transferred and the purposes for which they were transferred, and shall not replace or modify existing notification requirements for each authority.

SEC. 503. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, Tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 504. (a) No federal monies shall be expended in furtherance of any agreement among private entities for consolidated interim storage of spent nuclear fuel that is not specifically authorized under federal law until such time that host state and local governments and any affected Indian tribes have formalized their consent.

(b) Provided that the prohibition provided for in this section shall not apply to facilities presently storing commercial spent nuclear fuel, pursuant to a license issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) For purposes of this section, “spent nuclear fuel” shall have the same meaning as provided in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101).

SEC. 505. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any program, project, or activity that promotes or advances Critical Race Theory or any concept associated with Critical Race Theory.

SEC. 506. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available to implement, administer, apply, enforce, or carry out the Equity Action Plan of the Department of Energy, or Executive Order 13985 of January 20, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 7009, relating to advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the Federal Government), Executive Order 14035 of June 25, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 34593, relating to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the Federal workforce), or Executive Order 14091 of February 16, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 10825, relating to further advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the Federal Government).

SEC. 507. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman.

(b) DISCRIMINATORY ACTION DEFINED.—As used in subsection (a), a discriminatory action means any action taken by the Federal Government to—

(1) alter in any way the Federal tax treatment of, or cause any tax, penalty, or payment to be assessed against, or deny, delay, or revoke an exemption from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of, any person referred to in subsection (a);

(2) disallow a deduction for Federal tax purposes of any charitable contribution made to or by such person;

(3) withhold, reduce the amount or funding for, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any Federal grant, contract, subcontract, cooperative agreement, guarantee, loan, scholarship, license, certification, accreditation, employment, or other similar position or status from or to such person;

(4) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any entitlement or benefit under a Federal benefit program, including admission to, equal treatment in, or eligibility for a degree from an educational program, from or to such person; or

(5) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny access or an entitlement to Federal property, facilities, educational institutions, speech fora (including traditional, limited, and nonpublic fora), or charitable fundraising campaigns from or to such person.

(c) ACCREDITATION; LICENSURE; CERTIFICATION.—The Federal Government shall consider accredited, licensed, or certified for purposes of Federal law any person that would be accredited, licensed, or certified, respectively, for such purposes but for a determination against such person wholly or partially on the basis that the person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction described in subsection (a).

SEC. 508. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce any COVID-19 mask or vaccine mandates.

SEC. 509. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to obligate or award funds, including subgrants and other subawards, to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, including affiliated researchers.

SEC. 510. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to fly or display a flag over or within a facility of the federal government other than the flag of the United States, flag bearing an official U.S. Government seal or insignia, or POW/MIA flag.

SEC. 511. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available to finalize any rule or regulation that meets the definition of section 804(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 512. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to develop or implement guidance related to the valuation of ecosystem and environmental services and natural assets in Federal regulatory decision-making, as directed by Executive Order 14072 of April 22, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 24851, relating to strengthening the Nation’s forests, communities, and local economies).

SEC. 513. The funds made available in this act or any other appropriations act for the purposes of implementing the United States Government Commitments in support of the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding of December 14, 2023, between the United States, the States of Oregon and Washington, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Nez Perce Tribe, and environmental non-profit organizations, that require reimbursement by the Bonneville Power Administration and do not arise from Bonne-

ville’s current reimbursement obligations, shall be limited to the \$300,000,000 Bonneville committed to in such Commitments of December 14, 2023, should Bonneville be required to implement the U.S. Government Commitments in support of the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding of December 14, 2023, between the United States; the States of Oregon and Washington; the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation; the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation; the Nez Perce Tribe; and environmental non-profit organizations.

SEC. 514. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce any of the following rules:

(1) The final rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Distribution Transformers” published by the Department of Energy in the Federal Register on April 22, 2024 (89 Fed. Reg. 29834), or any substantially similar rule.

(2) The final rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Manufactured Housing” published by the Department of Energy in the Federal Register on May 31, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 32728), or any substantially similar rule.

(3) The final rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Room Air Conditioners” published by the Department of Energy in the Federal Register on May 26, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 34298), or any substantially similar rule.

(4) The final rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Conventional Cooking Products” published by the Department of Energy in the Federal Register on February 14, 2024 (89 Fed. Reg. 11434), or any substantially similar rule, including any rule that would directly or indirectly limit consumer access to consumer conventional cooking products, including gas kitchen ranges or ovens.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 515. \$0.

This Act may be cited as the “Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025”.

The CHAIR. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived.

No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part A of House Report 118–602, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of House Resolution 1370, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of that resolution.

Each further amendment printed in part A of the report 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 House Resolution 1370, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

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 amendments printed in part A of House Report 118–602 not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc 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 designees, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of House Resolution 1370, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

During consideration of the bill 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.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MR. FLEISCHMANN OF TENNESSEE

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 1370, I offer amendments en bloc.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc consisting of amendment Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 39, 52, 57, 58, 59 and 65, printed in part A of House Report 118-602, offered by Mr. FLEISCHMANN of Tennessee:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. BEYER OF VIRGINIA

Page 36, line 3, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$40,000,000) (increased by \$40,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. BILIRAKIS OF FLORIDA

Page 39, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$6,000,000) (increased by \$6,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. BLUNT ROCHESTER OF DELAWARE

Page 30, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. COMER OF KENTUCKY

Page 7, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$500,000) (increased by \$500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. COSTA OF CALIFORNIA

Page 16, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 39, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MRS. DINGELL OF MICHIGAN

Page 30, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$25,000,000) (reduced by \$25,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. DUARTE OF CALIFORNIA

Page 4, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (decreased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MS. PEREZ OF WASHINGTON

Page 30, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000) (reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. TONY GONZALES OF TEXAS

Page 39, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 68, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. VICENTE GONZALEZ OF TEXAS

Page 16, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 20, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 6, line 17, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MR. JACKSON OF TEXAS

Page 41, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 42, line 9, after the first dollar amounts, insert “(decreased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. MASSIE OF KENTUCKY

Page 4, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF WEST VIRGINIA

Page 33, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$500,000) (increased by \$500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 6, line 17, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,500,000)”.

Page 39, line 18, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 39, line 18, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 65, line 17, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MOYLAN OF GUAM

Page 3, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$35,000,000) (increased by \$35,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MR. MOYLAN OF GUAM

Page 30, line 18, after dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,500,000) (increased by \$2,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MR. MOYLAN OF GUAM

Page 32, line 1, after dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$15,000,000) (increased by \$15,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 4, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 33 OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

Page 16, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 39, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MR. NEWHOUSE OF WASHINGTON

Page 40, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$100,000,000) (increased by \$100,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES OF TENNESSEE

Page 34, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 52 OFFERED BY MRS. RAMIREZ OF ILLINOIS

Page 36, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$193,000,000) (reduced by \$193,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 57 OFFERED BY MS. SCHRIER OF WASHINGTON

Page 32, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$100,000,000) (increased by \$100,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 58 OFFERED BY MR. SCOTT OF VIRGINIA

Page 36, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$21,000,000) (increased by \$21,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 59 OFFERED BY MR. SCOTT OF VIRGINIA

Page 36, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 65 OFFERED BY MR. WALTZ OF FLORIDA

Page 2, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,500,000)”.

Page 7, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,500,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, this bipartisan en bloc amendment was developed in coordination with the minority. It contains noncontroversial amendments addressing important issues at the agencies funded in this bill that have been agreed to by both sides.

Mr. Chairman, I support the adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment. This en bloc contains noncontroversial amendments from Members of both parties, and I have no objection.

Mr. Chair, I urge support of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the State of Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), who is a member of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman FLEISCHMANN for yielding to me today.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment as part of this en bloc which addresses an important issue in my district as well as the State of Washington.

The Bonneville Power Administration is required to carry out a Fish and Wildlife program to protect, mitigate, and enhance species affected by the development of and operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System.

There has not been an inspector general report in over a decade regarding the effectiveness of the program, which has received significant resources and is supported by rate-paying customers in my district.

I want to ensure transparency and that ratepayer dollars are being used effectively in carrying out the mandates explicitly established by Congress for this program.

My amendment is simple. It highlights the need for a report from the Department of Energy Inspector General on the Bonneville Power Administration's Fish and Wildlife program to ensure it has fulfilled these mandates.

In light of covert efforts to breach the Lower Snake River dams, which are a crucial source of power, irrigation, and transportation in the Pacific Northwest, it is essential that Congress

continue to apply oversight and ensure that all entities involved in the operation of these dams meet their statutory requirements and provide clean, renewable power to our region.

□ 1145

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DUARTE).

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) for yielding time to me.

Mr. Chairman, the last 2 years in California have been very, very wet, and flooding has devastated our valley. I saw firsthand the devastation in Planada, California, when brush and sediment in Miles Creek forced floodwater into neighborhoods that had been flooded from similar events just 5 years prior. My office and I helped displaced families in Planada after their homes were destroyed or damaged by floodwater. The work is still not done.

I am never going to object to Mother Nature blessing our State with rain and snow, but we must better prepare to capture and manage our water coming off of the Sierra Nevada mountains to protect our communities and farms.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment, which I am grateful is included in this package, is very simple. It prioritizes funds for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, one, to study the scope and scale of sediment buildup in the rivers and streams in the San Joaquin watershed and, two, to report to Congress on how to reduce that buildup to protect families and farms from flooding. My amendment has the bipartisan support of Congressmen COSTA, FONG, and HARDER.

As I close, I make one additional important point. Water abundance is affordable energy, food, and housing. Farms create good-paying jobs, stabilize soil, improve air quality, and deliver affordable dinners to working American families. Hydroelectric energy is clean energy when we need it. Houses can only be built where water abundance is available.

Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman FLEISCHMANN for supporting my amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support this en bloc package of amendments.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chair, I am very pleased that this amendment, which I was proud to cosponsor with my colleagues Reps. BEYER and TRAHAN, was made in order. The amendment is quite straightforward. It would ensure that the Department of Energy's total support for fusion materials and fuel cycle R&D at least matches the level of \$105 million proposed in the President's FY 2025 Budget Request (PBR).

The most recent Long Range Plan produced by the Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee recommended significantly increasing support for fusion materials and fuel cycle R&D, as well as for innovative public-private partnerships such as the fusion milestone program, even under constrained budget sce-

narios. H.R. 8997 currently includes \$40 million to support the new Fusion Innovation Research Engine (FIRE) collaboratives proposed by DOE that will focus on addressing fusion materials and fuel cycle R&D in particular. And the bill also includes \$25 million for construction of the Material Plasma Exposure Experiment (MPEX) at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. These are important activities and projects that I certainly support. However, the PBR also proposes \$20 million for fusion materials R&D and \$20 million for fusion fuel cycle R&D beyond the specific work carried out by the FIRE collaboratives. The bill report is currently silent on funding for these critical activities, so this amendment would simply clarify that they would also be supported by this bill.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this amendment. This will help prioritize DOE's fusion efforts with a focus on accelerating the commercialization of this potentially transformational industry here in the U.S. as quickly as possible.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY Mr. BRECHEEN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part A of House Report 118–602.

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Energy to reinstate the general license for export of special nuclear material, source material, and deuterium for nuclear end use to the People's Republic of China or to fund specific licenses for exportation of nuclear materials to the People's Republic of China.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRECHEEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Chairman, this amendment prohibits the Department of Energy from issuing licenses to export nuclear materials to China, closing a loophole that currently allows for the export of some of those products.

Last year, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission rightly suspended the general license for export of nuclear material to China. However, this action left open the possibility that nuclear exporters could be granted a specific license to continue sending nuclear materials to China.

This commonsense amendment is something that should be put forward, as no one wants the United States to give one of our greatest adversaries access to nuclear materials. For years, the People's Republic of China has engaged in a campaign of aggressive economic and political competition with

the United States. China steals our intellectual property; engages in dishonest trade practices; spies on U.S. citizens, to include balloons; and constantly attempts to spread its influence across the United States.

China is openly aggressive in the Asia-Pacific region, making clear its desire for regional dominance.

We should never reward this behavior by giving them dangerous nuclear materials. We cannot allow these materials with a potential for dual use to be sent to our most powerful global adversary. We are engaged in competition with them.

With a People's Republic of China that is not friendly, we cannot allow our trade policies to work to the detriment of our national security.

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

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRECHEEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIR. For what purpose does the gentlewoman from Ohio seek recognition?

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, as the designee of Ms. DeLauro, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Chair, I rise with respect to an amendment that I introduced with Congressman BILIRAKIS that has already been made part of the en bloc, which has been agreed to. I am very appreciative of that, but I just want to put a very few words on the record.

Mr. Chair, that amendment would provide funding to the Department of Energy's Office of International Affairs to establish the U.S.-Eastern Mediterranean Energy Center, a research center for energy innovation and collaboration with our eastern Mediterranean allies, Greece, Cyprus, and Israel.

Building off of the success of the U.S.-Israel Energy Center, the U.S.-Eastern Mediterranean Energy Center was authorized by the bipartisan Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019, which was enacted in appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2020.

In the Department of Energy's own words, this center will strengthen the region's energy security, bring economic growth for countries across the region, deepen geopolitical ties among participating governments, and open commercial opportunities for U.S. companies.

The legislation explicitly notes the earlier legislation that authorized this partnership, that the U.S. Government should establish the United States-Eastern Mediterranean Energy Center, as authorized by section 204 of the Eastern Mediterranean Security and

Energy Partnership Act of 2019. This center would serve as a critical venue to further this collaboration.

I am thankful for the support of the amendment. I thank, in particular, the chair and ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies.

Mr. Chair, I appreciate the opportunity to put these important words on the record.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. FLOOD

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for or to advance the research, development, demonstration, processing, or promotion of alternative proteins.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FLOOD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is simple. It would bar the Department of Energy from spending taxpayer dollars on lab-grown meat.

Under President Biden's radical climate agenda and regulatory regime, the Department of Energy has chosen to target our Nation's food and beverage industry. Hardworking producers across the Nation wake up every day and raise the highest quality livestock in the world, and they are already making significant investments in long-term sustainability.

My home State of Nebraska leads the Nation in beef and veal exports and is among the top-producing States for hogs. Raising our Nation's food is a way of life for many in my home State and across the Nation. Instead of subverting the efforts of farmers and ranchers, the Department of Energy could invest in lowering energy costs, working to regain energy independence, unlocking energy exports, or any number of issues facing everyday Americans.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. The amendment purports to prohibit funding for what is termed "lab-grown meat" at the Department of Energy.

One would normally think of the Department of Agriculture as the place for that to occur. However, the actual

amendment text prohibits funds to be "used for or to advance the research, development, demonstration, processing, or promotion of alternative proteins."

The term "alternative proteins," without getting too deep into the scientific weeds, is very broad, and this would likely have an impact largely beyond the purported intent related to lab-grown meat.

Members probably have seen some of the scientific and medical work being done across our country, for example, in kidney transplantation. There is great crossover between some of the pure sciences and some of the applied sciences in trying to heal and trying to help people live longer and to replace damaged organs and so forth, so we need this science to progress.

This amendment would restrict the work of the Department of Energy, which is a basic science department, and its Office of Science, which is the Nation's largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences.

This amendment would impact work both for the Basic Energy Sciences division and the Biological and Environmental Sciences division. Sometimes these sciences cross over as we become smarter and more able to heal. With supercomputing, we are now going to be moving into an age way beyond where the 20th century was, and we don't want to harm that research.

The Basic Energy Sciences division supports fundamental research to understand, predict, and ultimately control matter and energy at the electronic, atomic, and molecular levels in order to provide the foundations of new energy technologies, which, of course, we are all balls of energy in one way or another.

With supercomputing, we are now going so far beyond where science in the last century went in terms of understanding how we function and how our world functions. For example, within the basic energy sciences, they conduct biosciences and photosynthetic system studies to modify a protein to better understand its function.

This work is deep into high science. This is not producing cattle for market. This is something very different.

The mission of the Biological and Environmental Sciences Research division is to support transformative science to achieve a predictive understanding of complex biological, Earth, and environmental systems, even trying to understand the reaction inside the human body of the biochemical reactions of a nerve sheath, which requires the help of supercomputers.

Understanding proteins, which is a subdivision of understanding how all matter functions, is fundamental to understanding biology.

The unintended consequences of this amendment are widespread and could cripple our Nation's ability to make breakthroughs in biology, bioenergy, decarbonization of the food industry, and human health.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment. I would love to work with the gentleman on trying to meet the challenge my colleague is trying to solve, but this is not the way to do it.

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) sharing her concerns about my amendment.

Every time a Nebraskan farmer wakes up and faces the day, folks on that side of the aisle are looking to shut down confined animal feeding operations. They are looking to different ways to produce meat so that we can't produce what we do in Nebraska, which is the number one beef State in the Nation.

There is no trust. There is no trust with the Biden administration and this Department of Energy that our way of life is going to be protected.

This amendment should send a clear signal to everybody on the other side of the aisle that the producers that feed the world are ready to fight, to stand up for our industry, and to fight for livestock across this country.

This amendment ultimately sends a clear message that it is inappropriate for the Department of Energy to spend taxpayer dollars on lab-grown meat.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I would be more than happy to come to those farmers' farms. I serve on the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. I have farmers in my district that raise cattle. I want to find ways to reuse manure for soil complements and energy. We have other farmers here in this Chamber who care about this very much. The gentleman should know that he has an ally on this side of the aisle.

□ 1200

I just don't want to diminish the high science in the study of proteins that is so valuable to us as a country. Please know, at least this Member doesn't want to do anything to hurt your industry; we only want to help you. We don't want imported meat.

I am very unhappy China owns Smithfield's at this point. I want American producers to succeed, so just know you found a friend, not with this amendment, but with your desire to promote American agriculture in the animal industry.

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FLOOD).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. BEYER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chair, as the designee of Mr. GARAMENDI, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the W87-1 Modification Program.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chair, I rise today to bring forward this amendment pausing wasteful, unnecessary expenditures on the development of the W87-1 warhead.

We are spending billions, yes, billions with a b, on this modernization program, making this the most expensive program of its type. We have increased funding for this one weapon program for reasons that remain murky and unclear, even as the program remains plagued by planning and operational shortcomings.

For those not familiar, this warhead modification program will require building additional nonnuclear and nuclear assemblies to replace the W78 warhead. In what might be a warning as to the wisdom of this program, it was restarted in FY 2019 following a 4½ year pause in its development.

When the program was subjected to scrutiny, there were problems. In fact, both priority recommendations from the GAO, the Government Accountability Office, on this program remain open and unaddressed.

In 2020, the GAO found that the NNSA does not require the program to follow best practices and they lack an integrated master schedule sufficient to manage the program.

Mr. Chair, both failures remain true today. This integrated schedule is particularly important when we consider the challenge of building new facilities. The W87-1 is the first weapon since the end of the Cold War that requires new or remanufactured nuclear and non-nuclear components, so understanding what facilities can be built at what time should be the most basic of requirements.

As it stands, the first production unit for this program is not anticipated until 2029 at the earliest. For those who truly want this program to finish on time, taking a pause and reassessing must be our first step; otherwise, we will continue to watch as the program experiences delays, bloat, and cost overruns. A pause in funding will allow us to be conscientious stewards of the taxpayers' money, to evaluate the program and ensure we aren't getting stuck in another sunk-cost fallacy.

I understand the threats to our country. However unfortunate it may be, I know nuclear weapons are and will re-

main a reality of the world. I also know that we should be leaders for nonproliferation and for reducing the threat that nuclear weapons pose. That is why I, on behalf of Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, am proposing rational steps in our policy, which will demonstrate that we prioritize reason and judgment over hyperbole and haste.

We must demonstrate leadership by showing that we have the wisdom to reassess and readjust when we go astray. A pause would provide time for us to evaluate our nuclear policies and how to best support nuclear nonproliferation worldwide.

Mr. Chair, the bottom line is clear. To support our country's bottom line, we should support this amendment and pause funding on W87-1 so that we can conduct necessary and needed assessments before moving forward on this money pit of a weapon.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, while I appreciate my colleague's interest on these issues, my view is steadfast and the same as it was last year when a similar amendment was offered.

Threats to the United States have changed and technology has advanced, but our ICBM capability has not kept up. The W87-1 modification program will replace the W78 warhead, which is one of the oldest in the stockpile.

This program will improve warhead security, safety, and use control. This amendment puts at risk our ability as a Nation to respond to increasing threats from our adversaries. I strongly oppose the amendment and I strongly urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. BEYER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chair, as the designee of Congressman GARAMENDI from California, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the Savannah River Plutonium Modernization Program.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer a critical amendment pausing wasteful, unnecessary spending on the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility.

I offer 12 different, brief reasons why I offer this amendment.

The first is that it is unnecessary for deterrence. While we recognize the need to preserve a safe, secure, and effective nuclear deterrent, the current modernization plans are not required to maintain a capable deterrent against a nuclear attack on the United States or its allies for the foreseeable future.

The premise of modernizing the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility is to meet a requirement to produce 80 pits per year, a number not grounded in need. America already has more than 4,000 plutonium pits, and we lack scientific data to determine whether or when they need to be replaced without additional plutonium aging studies.

The estimated cost of the Savannah River facility has skyrocketed from \$3.6 billion to nearly \$25 billion since the start of the project. It will likely continue to increase as the program is not scheduled to be completed until 2035, and according to an August GAO report, could be delayed even further until 2038.

Continuing to fund this project without addressing its financial inefficiencies diverts crucial resources from other vital defense and domestic programs.

The project faces numerous technical and operational challenges, which have resulted in delays and increased costs. A July 2024 GAO report found, yet again, that the National Nuclear Security Administration lacks a comprehensive schedule or cost estimate that meets GAO best practices and has not identified all the activities or milestones to achieve an 80-pit-per-year production capability, recommendations that have remained opened and unaddressed.

Similar projects in the past faced similar issues, often resulting in cancellation after significant investments. Learning from these precedents, we should reconsider the current project's viability.

The project's history of delays and technical issues suggests a pattern that is unlikely to be resolved without substantial additional costs and time.

Robust oversight and accountability mechanisms are essential for managing such high-stakes projects. Unfortunately, this project has demonstrated a lack of effective oversight. The Under Secretary for Nuclear Security testified that Congress will not be able to meet the 80-pit production by 2030, highlighting the program's mismanagement.

The construction and operation of the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility poses significant environmental and safety risks. These concerns necessitate a thorough reevaluation of the project's potential impact on the environment and public health.

The project's strategic value should be critically assessed in the context of current and future defense needs. Given the evolving geopolitical landscape, alternative approaches to managing the plutonium stockpile may be more effective and less costly.

There are more cost-effective and technologically feasible alternatives to address the Nation's plutonium processing needs. Investing in these alternatives could achieve the same strategic objectives without the extensive costs and risks associated with the Savannah River project.

Halting this project could bolster U.S. leadership in nuclear nonproliferation efforts, demonstrating a commitment to reducing the global nuclear threat.

It provides an opportunity to redirect efforts for its international cooperation and nonproliferation initiatives. A pause in funding allows for a reevaluation of the project's necessity and fiscal prudence, ensuring taxpayer money is spent responsibly. Avoiding a sunk-cost fallacy is essential. Continuing to pour money into a troubled project does not make strategic or economic sense.

Ensuring national security does not necessitate continuing with flawed and costly projects.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair, this amendment pauses nuclear projects to address cost overruns and mismanagement. If we want responsible development and smart spending, we must pause funding and reassess our approach.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, I thank our chairman, CHUCK FLEISCHMANN, from Tennessee for his leadership.

Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, our Nation's strategic nuclear deterrence is perhaps the best example of peace through strength. With the murderous invasion of Ukraine by war criminal Putin and Russia's recent decision to transport nuclear weapons to Belarus, and with nuclear submarines 60 miles from the United States being in Cuba, which is obviously a threat to our neighbors in Florida, the United States must be ready to face any challenge if provoked.

Plutonium pit production modernization is one of the most critical and pressing national security needs of the United States, which has not had the ability to produce new pits since the

1990s. Employees of the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, with employees from Georgia, are working around the clock, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to bring the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility to life, which will produce the majority of our Nation's supply of plutonium pits online as soon as possible.

As the only Member of Congress who has worked at the Savannah River Site, I know firsthand the dedication and the competence of the Savannah River Site employees, and I am very grateful that Chairman CHUCK FLEISCHMANN visited the site recently and saw the world-class facilities.

The bipartisan program began under the Trump administration and has been rightfully continued under the Biden administration.

Further, Congress correctly rejected this same amendment during consideration in last year's energy and water appropriations bill by a wide margin of 116-303.

I am grateful to represent the site with my Democratic colleague, JIM CLYBURN; with my next-door neighbor, RICK ALLEN of Georgia; and another next-door neighbor, JEFF DUNCAN of South Carolina.

Given the uncertainties regarding plutonium aging and the evolving geopolitical landscape, a current war of dictators invading democracies, the United States cannot postpone reestablishing this critical capability.

Delaying the restoration of this capability could result in significant cost increases and risk to national security. Further, the Savannah River Site will take advantage of its nearly 75 years of successfully manufacturing components for the nuclear weapons stockpile as the right place to complete this mission.

Mr. Chair, I urge a "no" on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN), my neighbor.

□ 1215

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to amendment No. 11 offered by Mr. GARAMENDI, which would prohibit funding for plutonium pit production at the Savannah River Site.

Because of the policies of the current administration, this world is more dangerous today than probably any time in recent history.

The Savannah River Site, also known as SRS, is a Department of Energy site conducting important work to defend our national security. It employs thousands of constituents in Georgia's 12th District.

Currently under construction at the Savannah River Site is the Savannah

River Plutonium Processing Facility. When construction is completed, this facility will produce at least 50 of the 80 new pits per year required by the Department of Defense to sustain the United States' nuclear weapons stockpile. It is called strength through peace or peace through strength.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chair, this short-sighted amendment would critically threaten this urgent national security mission by prohibiting funding for the Savannah River Plutonium Modernization Program, which funds facility construction, workforce development, process design, and other critical functions to ensure SRS can begin producing pits as quickly as possible once the construction is complete.

The Savannah River Site is committed to nuclear modernization to ensure America's nuclear deterrent is safe and reliable. To say otherwise is simply false. This program is critical to our national defense, and I urge a "no" vote on amendment No. 11.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Chair, I want to let JOHN GARAMENDI know we are thinking about him and praying for him.

This amendment threatens to weaken our Nation's defense capability by preventing the critical production of plutonium pits at the Savannah River Site.

Plutonium pits are a key component for nuclear weapons. Due to factors including plutonium aging, safety and security advancements, global risk, and weapons modernization, these pits need to be replaced from time to time.

The United States has not had the ability to produce new pits in the quantities required for the nuclear weapons stockpile since the previous pit production facility at Rocky Flats, Colorado, was shut down in the 1990s.

When construction is complete, the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility will produce at least 50 of the 80 new pits per year required by the Department of Defense to sustain the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile.

This amendment would prohibit funding for the Savannah River Plutonium Modernization Program, which funds facility construction as well as workforce development, process design, and other critical functions so that SRS can begin producing pits as quickly as possible once the construction is complete.

This bipartisan program has been supported by both the current and former Presidential administrations. Similarly, this amendment was soundly rejected during consideration of the fiscal year 2024 Energy-Water Development appropriations bill.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

The amendment was rejected.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 16 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. GRIFFITH

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 17 printed in part A of House Report 118–602.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 33, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$8,750,000)”.

Page 39, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$8,750,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is just plain and simple common sense. It addresses the importance of all types of research and development funding at the Department of Energy—specifically, the energy research conducted at the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management.

In my ideal world, I would have virtual parity between renewable energy and fuels and research on ways to reduce the environmental and climate impacts of fossil fuels.

Any effective plan to counter climate change and handle increased energy demand must take into account our Nation's vast supply of natural resources and our talent for technological innovation.

China is projected to increase its emissions for the foreseeable future and reportedly began construction in 2023 on coal units equivalent to 70 gigawatts of power. This statistic doesn't take into account the large number of coal-fired plants China is financing in Africa and other countries with emerging economies.

Rural folks in India do not have access to reliable, baseload electricity in their homes. India has begun using renewables, but to lift the poorest citizens up, they will have to increase their use of fossil fuels, like the particularly low-grade coal mined in their country.

In the developing world, more energy means more hope and less poverty. More hope and less poverty is a good thing. We really take it for granted in this country when we cut the lights on that we will have lights that turn on. We take that comfort for granted.

I don't blame folks in developing countries for using fossil fuels. Leaders in those countries would have a difficult case to make to choose to condemn their people to poverty because of a lack of energy.

We know that much of the world will continue to use fossil fuels for decades to come, and that is why the United States needs to be a leader in finding new ways to control emissions with carbon capture and better ways to control pollutants.

That is why DOE funding for fossil and renewable research is so important. We need to produce and export better, cleaner, more efficient energy technology.

DOE plays an important role in this R&D, but it can do more for fossil energy. Over the years, this research has borne some fruit, including projects, some at Virginia Tech and some at a company called MOVA in Pulaski County in my district, where researchers have been able to create more advanced filtration systems to be used on smokestacks of all varieties to take out pollutants.

In the past few fiscal years, the spread between the renewable energy research account and the fossil energy office has really gotten off kilter. In the underlying bill, \$1.966 billion is appropriated for energy and efficiency and renewable energy while \$857 million is appropriated for fossil energy.

I applaud Congressman FLEISCHMANN for really closing that spread from the last fiscal year and working toward an increased focus on the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management.

I am advocating with this amendment that we shouldn't ignore our fossil fuel and carbon mitigation research. My amendment increases the fossil energy and carbon mitigation account by \$8.75 million, or 1 percent, with an offset from the departmental expenses account.

I am not against renewable energy. I just believe we shouldn't put most of our eggs into one basket.

To meet expanding energy demand, a comprehensive, all-of-the-above energy policy must include robust funding for R&D at the Federal level. These funds will continue to shorten the timeline to really make clean energy and carbon mitigation technologies available for commercial use.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to support an all-of-the-above energy policy and, more importantly, an all-of-the-above research policy at DOE, and I ask them to vote in favor of this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MS. HAGEMAN

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. JACKSON of Texas). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 18 printed in part A of House Report 118–602.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the Industrial Decarbonization Roadmap published by the Department of Energy and dated September 2022 (DOE/EE–2635).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wyoming.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment, amendment No. 18 to H.R. 8997, which prohibits funds from the Department of Energy's implementation of its proposed Industrial Decarbonization roadmap.

The Industrial Decarbonization roadmap radically reforms four different categories of CO₂ emitters in the residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation sectors.

We have seen this administration target residential carbon emissions by going after everything that works in your home, from gas stoves to washers and dryers to water heaters. Additionally, we have seen this administration go after the transportation sector through tailpipe emission requirements, fuel efficiency standards, and propping up the electric vehicle industry.

The Industrial Decarbonization Roadmap specifically targets a few key industries that significantly contribute to the stability of our Nation's economy and supply chain—namely, the petroleum refining, chemicals, iron and steel, cement, and food and beverage industries.

This so-called roadmap actually recommends the use of less efficient energy sources, including so-called clean energy to ultimately replace the use of affordable and reliable energy resources. This roadmap is anti-energy independence and in favor of forced transition away from fossil fuels.

According to the Department of Energy, this initiative is “critical to equity goals, specifically the administration's Justice 40 initiative.” However, there is nothing just about forcing millions of Americans into energy poverty.

For those of my colleagues who may support this roadmap, remember that it is your fellow Americans who pay for it.

One of the goals mentioned in the roadmap is to “prepare the existing 11.4 million American manufacturing workers and future workforce for the clean energy transition.”

Mr. Chairman, I can tell you this administration is not concerned about our workers. I recently met with coal miners in Wyoming whose livelihoods have been threatened by a recent BLM action. I asked OSMRE and the BLM in a recent hearing what their plans were to mitigate for the tens of thousands of job losses that will result from this regulation, and they couldn't answer.

As the sole Representative of a State whose legacy industries have been undermined by the Federal Government in the name of this so-called transition, I voice my strong opposition to this roadmap.

Mr. Chair, I urge passage of my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, first, let me say that I rise in strong opposition to this amendment, but I understand the gentlewoman's desire to protect the jobs of people in the State that she is sworn to represent. I respect that very much.

Southern Ohio has had a lot of transition in the energy industry, and we understand what it means when you lose jobs. We have a fossil fuel energy research lab in the State of Pennsylvania that actually is looking at products like coal and seeing if, in fact, there aren't rare earths in there that are worth more per ton than traditional mining. I just mention that.

I sadly have to rise in opposition to her amendment because it would essentially prohibit funds to implement the Industrial Decarbonization Roadmap published by the Department of Energy in fiscal year 2022. The purpose of the roadmap is to develop a strategic approach to decarbonizing the Nation's industrial sector.

I come from a major industrial area. I can't tell you how many funerals I have been to, including my own brother's, of people who worked in industry. His situation was as a mechanic on heavy duty equipment, garbage trucks, fire trucks, and police cars, working in garages where the people ingested the fumes.

George Tucker, who was the head of our Local 7 unit in that garage, had a double cancer. He suffered for almost two decades.

Believe me, these are horrendous illnesses that come from working in unsafe conditions.

The purpose of the roadmap is to develop a strategic approach to decarbonizing the Nation's industrial sector, which we need, while simultaneously creating good-paying jobs for American workers, spurring economic growth, developing U.S. leadership in new technologies, and creating a cleaner, more equitable future for all Americans.

For a number of our mechanics, whether they are repairing airplanes or whether they are working in extractive industries, the conditions that they work under are really tragic.

One of the interesting things to look at is, in the different States that we live in, if you look at the occupational safety and health bills that come in the form of healthcare, the money that it costs to take care of sick people who have had to work in these industries, that is not our job in this account, but

I can guarantee you, we hemorrhage money because of the illnesses of people across this country.

This roadmap focused on proven steps for energy technology innovation, advancing early stage research and development, investing in multiple industrial process strategies, scaling through demonstrations, and integrating solutions from that.

Particularly with what is happening to air quality because of the climate crisis, our efforts are even more needed to make the industrial sector more efficient, to position it to be a global leader in innovation as well as clean air and clean circumstances that people work in and to be competitive in the future global clean energy economy.

□ 1230

We really are transitioning to a different world. It will be a healthier one. I really don't want to go back to the 20th century and what these individuals and their families have had to live through. It is really ugly.

While it is clear that we need an all-of-the-above energy strategy that taps domestic oil and gas and invests in clean energy, we must also continue to promote energy innovation in all sectors of our economy. It is just intelligent. It is just a wise thing to do for the country.

The transition will be difficult, and we know that, because people lose jobs and technologies go out of date, but some that come on are just ingenious. America is a country of invention, and I believe that we will work our way forward in this new challenge to decarbonize our Nation's industrial sector, create good-paying jobs, spur economic growth, create a cleaner future for all Americans, and lead the world in these new technologies.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chair, the Biden-Harris administration hasn't been shy about its distaste for American workers who provide affordable and reliable energy to the rest of the country. This administration cares more about filling the pockets of OPEC, Venezuela, and Iran than it does about energy independence, energy affordability, and energy reliability.

The main component of the roadmap is a transition to what they refer to as no-carbon fuels. Not only is such a goal ludicrous and infeasible, but Americans see through these claims. The reality is that this so-called no-carbon fuels receive four times more in subsidies and yet produce only one-fifth of the energy. They are simply unreliable and unaffordable, even with the ridiculous amount of taxpayer money being thrown at them.

This so-called clean energy is completely propped up by the Federal Government. Figures from the U.S. Energy Information Administration show that renewables received at least \$15.6 bil-

lion in subsidies during fiscal year 2022. Ironically, the second largest recipients of subsidies, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration are low-income families, who are struggling to pay their utility bills under this administration.

Why are they struggling? They are struggling because of rising energy prices and rising utility rates that come as the result of forcing this so-called transition—forced energy poverty by an out-of-touch Biden-Harris administration.

We cannot afford to pursue these failed energy policies imposed upon us by this radical administration. I ask my colleagues to join me in defunding the Department of Energy's implementation of its proposed Industrial Decarbonization Roadmap.

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

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MORAN). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MS. HOULAHAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 19 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 32, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$150,000,000) (increased by \$150,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chair, today I rise to urge my colleagues to support my bipartisan amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations Act.

My amendment seeks a commonsense approach to a pressing issue that impacts not only our energy and national security but also the daily lives of millions of Americans, including my constituents, who have struggled with power reliability issues in the wake of increased extreme weather events. Notably, my bipartisan amendment urges the Department of Energy to address domestic shortages of electrical transformers using the existing authorities of the Defense Production Act.

Large power transformers and distribution transformers are the backbone of our Nation's electrical grid. They ensure that power is delivered to homes, businesses, and essential services across our country. Here is the problem: Right now we are facing a significant shortage of these critical pieces of infrastructure due to supply chain challenges. This leaves our grid vulnerable to disruptions, whether from natural disasters or cyberattacks or extreme weather. It also leaves us

dependent on other countries, including our foreign adversaries like China, for these key components. This means that both our energy and our national security are at risk.

In southeastern Pennsylvania, which I am very proud to represent, we have experienced significant electricity reliability issues following extreme weather events. Indeed, just this past week, severe storms caused very prolonged power outages in our community, impacting families, businesses, and essential services like hospitals and emergency response units. In addition, more than 130,000 Pennsylvanians were without power during those heat advisories, some for days and days on end. These outages have highlighted the fragility of our current grid infrastructure, and they underscore the current need to bolster our critical energy supply chains.

My district is not alone in these struggles. Indeed, across the Nation, we have seen the impacts of power outages and grid failures as they become more frequent. They disrupt communities, hinder economic activity, and have even claimed lives. Swiftly addressing the shortage of transformers is about protecting our communities, our economy, our national security, and our American way of life.

Luckily, we have the tools to address this issue. There are existing authorities within the Defense Production Act that could be leveraged to bolster domestic manufacturing to supply and repair transformers and ensure that our grid remains resilient and reliable. In fact, in 2022, President Biden granted the authority to utilize the Defense Production Act to accelerate domestic production of transformers and electric grid components.

In addition, I was proud to vote in favor of the Inflation Reduction Act, which also included \$500 million in funding for the DPA, or Defense Production Act, much of which is still available to bolster these critical supply chains and should be rapidly deployed. This amendment showcases the strong bipartisan support for the Department of Energy to utilize these existing authorities and existing funding for this purpose.

As co-chair of the bipartisan Climate Solution Caucus, I have worked tirelessly with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to secure our energy infrastructure and to combat climate change. This amendment is a testament to that shared commitment to these goals. I thank my co-chair, Representative ANDREW GARBARINO, and caucus members JACK BERGMAN and DON BACON, and Congresswoman KIM SCHRIER for their support on this amendment. By addressing the shortage of transformers, we are not only enhancing our Nation's energy security but also advancing our efforts to build a more resilient energy system that serves all of the American people.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment to

help bolster our grid, to protect families and communities, and to ensure a reliable power supply for all Americans.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MR. JACKSON OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 20 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the National Nuclear Security Administration to halt the construction of a High Explosive Synthesis, Formulation, and Production facility at the Pantex Plant near Amarillo, Texas.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. JACKSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, Amarillo, Texas, is home to the Pantex plant, our Nation's only nuclear weapons assembly and disassembly facility.

The saying within the nuclear enterprise is "all roads lead to Pantex" because this facility in my district is a mandatory stop for every single nuclear weapon within our Navy and Air Force that provides continuous global strategic deterrence.

Despite the critical importance of Pantex, the Biden-Harris administration tried to cancel a key modernization project at the site, the High Explosive Synthesis, Formulation, and Production facility. However, Congress successfully rejected that proposed cut and restored funding for the project in March to help keep it on track.

Well, here we go again. The FY25 budget request once again seeks to pause this important project and provide zero funding for the High Explosive Synthesis, Formulation, and Production facility.

While the underlying bill provides some funding for the project, I believe that we need to take steps to ensure the Department of Energy cannot stop this vital project. That is exactly what my amendment does. It prohibits the administration from halting construction of the much-needed High Explosive Synthesis, Formulation, and Production facility at Pantex.

This major construction project will enhance our nuclear deterrence capability by allowing the National Nuclear Security Administration to modernize and scale its high-explosive production

capabilities to meet the pressing and urgent stockpile requirements.

Right now, Pantex relies on a single, external vendor for large-scale synthesis, formulation, and blending for high-explosive products and, unfortunately, we have seen significant issues with that vendor, including lack of prioritization and late deliveries.

As it stands right now, this reality presents a single point of failure in the nuclear enterprise that could bring our nuclear weapons production to a grinding halt if anything goes wrong.

Once this project is complete, NNSA will be able to meet all long-term high-explosive material needs for the weapons stockpile while successfully mitigating nearly all risks associated with production. The new facility will improve the control systems for formulation and allow for higher confidence in repeatability between batches, something that is incredibly important when you are talking about high explosives combined with nuclear weapons.

Most importantly, I repeat that this will eliminate a single point of failure in our nuclear weapons supply chain that currently exists. We can no longer afford to delay investments in the Pantex plant and the nuclear enterprise. The world is in a dangerous place with constant global threats from China, Iran, Russia, North Korea, nonstate actors, and more, and our nuclear deterrent is quite possibly the most important tool in our arsenal.

Mr. Chair, I urge all Members to support my amendment to prohibit the administration from halting construction on this critical modernization initiative. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment because it would prohibit the National Nuclear Security Administration from halting construction on the HE Synthesis, Formulation and Production facility at the Pantex plant in Texas.

The FY25 bill does provide \$20 million to proceed with activities, so there is funding in the bill. I would ask the gentleman to go back and look and see if that doesn't at least move the project forward. I have long been a champion of ensuring that our country maintains a safe, secure, and credible nuclear deterrent while also addressing the threat of nuclear proliferation and terrorism. We have to do both.

However, as I have said, I continue to be troubled by the unsustainable spending in the Department of Energy's weapons program. The National Nuclear Security Administration needs to improve its program and project management given that more than half of its projects are over cost or behind schedule. I am going to repeat that. Over half of its projects are over cost or behind schedule. There is a problem there. Pantex isn't a complete victim because there is money in the bill for

the facility. However, they have a problem over there, and they need to figure out what can be done to move these programs forward more quickly.

Importantly, we must also face the realities of defense funding gaps. I am on the Defense Subcommittee, as well. We have to begin making important decisions to prioritize within these programs. As one step in the prioritization process, the National Nuclear Security Administration proposed pausing construction of this facility to focus resources on higher priority items, which we have asked them to do, necessary for nuclear weapons modernization efforts.

I would say to the gentleman, one of the things he might want to consider is to talk to some of the folks here who promote these weapons systems, but then the NNSA can't build them fast enough, so we have to be disciplined in the guidance that we give them.

Only through strategic prioritization can the programs achieve success in meeting the needs of stockpile requirements and maintaining our Nation's nuclear deterrent. We should not prohibit the NNSA from pausing certain activities, especially since those issues will be resolved through conferencing funding levels.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1245

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentlewoman from Ohio's comments, and I understand that the government does spend too much money. I am also interested in looking for ways we can stop useless or wasteful spending.

However, I will say that you are right that the money is in the bill for this particular project. I also agree with you that I don't want to take the autonomy away from all of these departments. I think they should have some autonomy to do what they need to with their budget and with their money.

However, I feel strongly about this because, as I mentioned, this is a single point of failure in our nuclear supply chain. I have spent lots of time at Pantex talking to them about the consequences of this, some of the problems with the single-source vendor that we currently have.

I feel like this is important enough that we need an insurance policy in the form of this amendment to make sure that this money that is currently in the bill does not get taken out and used for any other process.

I would be interested in looking at other areas to save money, but I don't think this is the particular area that is in our best interest, from a national security standpoint, to save that money.

Mr. Chair, I appreciate the comments of the gentlewoman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. JACKSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 22 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MRS. LUNA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 23 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce Corps of Engineers memorandum CERE-AP, issued by the South Atlantic division on July 9, 1996, relating to "Approval of Perpetual Beach Storm Damage Reduction Easement as a Standard Estate".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1316, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. LUNA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, the Army Corps has halted beach renourishment projects in Florida due to their perpetual public access easement policy.

This is now affecting more than nine counties in Florida where the Corps has refused to renourish our beaches without stripping property rights from every homeowner, which is an unattainable requirement.

The Corps has renourished Florida beaches for the past two decades, using temporary construction easements to proceed with beach renourishment. The Corps is now going back to enforcing this new policy, purportedly from 1996 but not enforced for the past two decades.

They refuse to address the threat of shore erosion while we continue to watch our beaches disappear before our eyes. We have endangered species on that beach area, as well.

Numerous members of the Florida delegation have reached out to Assistant Secretary Connor at the Corps to resolve this issue. The unelected bureaucrats at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have a different agenda. They have been stonewalling us every step of the way and have neither followed up nor even gone through proceeding with scheduled beach renourishment projects where we are in dire need due to damages from recent hurricanes.

If the Army Corps does not do this, our beaches will continue to dissipate and our homes will be susceptible to destruction. The truth is that the Army Corps did not acquire perpetual easements before, and they do not need them now. The responsibility for the inevitable degradation of Florida's beaches, marine life, and economy will rest entirely on the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Chair, I had another amendment that I had submitted in regard to this that would have required the Army Corps to provide the Committees on Appropriations in the House and Senate a report on the authorized hurricane and storm damage risk reduction projects impacted by hurricanes and other natural disasters over the last several years. Unfortunately, this was not made in order.

I do not know who the Army Corps is working for, but it is clear that they do not work for the American people. The amendment puts the Army Corps on notice for their shameful neglect of Floridians and forces them to work on restoring our beaches.

Again, we have some of the most endangered sea turtles that are nesting in our area. As a result of this habitat destruction, I am concerned that it is actually going to permanently impact our sea turtle population for the entire world.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment, and I have some sense of what is happening in Florida. I live along the Great Lakes, and I see what is happening with our shorelines and the changing climate conditions that are impacting life.

This amendment would prohibit funds for the Army Corps of Engineers to implement or enforce guidance from 1996 called approval of perpetual beach storm damage reduction easement, underline the word "easement," as a standard estate.

What that means is if the government is going to be involved, a private owner has to give them permission to have this easement, to go in and do work. That has to be really hard in Florida because of what is happening along all of your coasts.

While this might sound like a lot of jargon, it is actually an attempt to have some areas of the country treated differently than other areas.

Beach renourishment is an important function. The Army Corps of Engineers plays a major role in that, and it includes the adding of sediment onto or directly adjacent to an eroding beach. The Army Corps of Engineers generally requires that real estate easements are granted when performing work, which makes sense because taxpayers are footing the bill for these improvements that the Corps installs.

Further, it seems particularly of interest to taxpayers that if our taxpayer dollars are improving private property, then there should be an easement provided. In this case, that wasn't required in the past, but the Army Corps of Engineers realized it wasn't following standard procedures and decided to implement that going forward.

I also realize that a sudden change in policy can have impacts on local communities. I support efforts to ensure

that there is adequate time to plan for and adjust to changes in policy. I expect that the final Water Resources Development Act, which is not our job, will address this issue in a way that reduces the negative impacts on local communities while ensuring consistency in implementing the laws and regulations of this country, especially when it comes to projects funded with taxpayer dollars.

However, this amendment is not that balanced approach. This matter should be addressed by the appropriate authorizing committee.

For these reasons, I cannot support this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to vote against it, though I can certainly share the gentlewoman's concern about what is happening on all Florida coasts. The ecosystem is changing greatly, and we are going to have to, as a country, figure out how to handle our coasts.

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

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Chair, I want to put out there that we have been working on this for a number of years, not to mention my predecessors, both Democratic and Republican, have also attempted to work on this only to really be stonewalled by the Army Corps. To have them not even respond to Members of Congress isn't going to fix the issue any time soon.

Mr. Chair, I point out that while we are legislating here in Washington, people are actually losing their homes. To demand that a property owner give up their own property rights so that the Army Corps can go and restore habitat for endangered species and then point to a policy that they haven't enforced—not to mention when we have asked for actual documentation of internal communications, they sent us redacted information because they didn't want us to know about the internal communications that they were having.

I do think that it is political. I had a bipartisan delegation come up from my home. Mayors and local community leaders met with the Biden White House. They said this needs to be fixed, and we will help you. Do you know what? Nothing happened.

I hope that people consider supporting this. I am also concerned about taxpayer dollars, but I see our taxpayer dollars going to support basket-weaving projects in parts of the world that we don't even have an invested interest in. Frankly, when it comes down to it, I think this is a way better use. Not to mention, we also have a military purpose and focus in the State of Florida, and I think this benefits everyone net positive.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. LUNA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MR. MCCORMICK

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 25 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to close the Toto Creek, Bolding Mill, Duckett Mill, Old Federal, Van Pugh South Campground, Sawnee, or Bald Ridge Creek campgrounds located at Lake Sidney Lanier, Georgia.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I rise and offer my amendment No. 25 to H.R. 8997, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025.

My amendment No. 25 prevents the Army Corps of Engineers from closing parks and campgrounds around Lake Lanier. My amendment would ensure these campgrounds are open for my constituents and for people all across the country to enjoy the outdoors in Georgia's Sixth District.

Lake Lanier is the most visited lake of the 464 federally operated lakes in the United States, with well over 10 million visitors from all over the country annually. The Army Corps of Engineers operates the lake and the campgrounds and parks surrounding it.

Over the past year, the Corps suggested they may close some of the campgrounds and parks around the lake, citing a lack of appropriations needed for maintenance. Congress provided \$58.2 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers for fiscal year '24. That amount was \$11.1 billion more than fiscal year '23, an almost 20 percent increase in Federal funding. The Corps has expressed that these appropriations are not enough.

Still, Lake Lanier Army Corps of Engineers leadership took the initiative and started a partnership with many localities in my district to share maintenance, upkeep, and operations activities, which should also ensure that these facilities remain open.

I am excited about this new partnership and hope that the Army Corps continues to rely on local partnerships while ensuring sufficient funds are allocated to the most visited lake in the United States. The more local control, the better.

In today's day and age, when people are hooked on their cell phones and electronics, it is more important than ever to ensure that the families of Georgia-06 and Americans across the country have access to all the beauty Lake Lanier has to offer. These parks must remain open to the benefit of all.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment because it prohibits funds provided by this act from closing campgrounds or parks operated by the Army Corps of Engineers located at or around Lake Sidney Lanier, Georgia.

I can certainly understand the strong interest in preventing the Corps from closing campgrounds and parks in a particular area. I am trying to think if we have any around me. I don't think so. I probably should get them to do some in our area.

The Army Corps of Engineers is one of the Nation's leading Federal providers of outdoor recreation, so you indeed are fortunate. Its recreation sites receive 262 million visitors each year and include more than 400 lake and river projects in 43 States.

Unfortunately, the Army Corps of Engineers recreation funding has been—guess what?—declining in recent years. We know they have to make decisions.

I support the notion that we do not want the Corps to begin closing recreation sites due to lack of funding. However, this is an issue that affects hundreds of sites across dozens of States.

As I said, personally, I don't have a dog in the fight. I do not believe we should begin the practice of using funding prohibitions to carve out special designations but instead should urge and will urge the Corps to develop a comprehensive and fair solution to address the challenge of funding the Corps recreation sites.

For this reason, I oppose the amendment at this time, but I look forward to working with the gentleman and my colleagues to develop a solution to the larger problem. Hopefully, through that, the gentleman's site could be benefited.

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

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I reiterate, my colleague talked about diminishing funds. The funding has increased almost 20 percent, \$11.1 billion more. We didn't close it last year, and we had the same amendment last year because they said the same threat.

I think it is important that we provide these facilities when we are talking about \$58 billion to keep the parks open. When we talk about something that is good for everybody, it doesn't matter if you are a Democrat or Republican, it is something that can be and should be done.

We have actually partnered with local facilities to make sure this happens even through private funding. Why wouldn't we put in a specific thing for the most visited lake in the United States? Ten million visitors annually benefit all districts. It doesn't matter where you are from. I highly encourage

my peers and humbly ask my colleagues to support my amendment No. 25.

Madam Chair, I yield the balance of my time.

□ 1300

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 35 printed in part A of House Report 118–602.

Mr. OGLES. Madam Chair, as the designee of Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to consider the social cost of greenhouse gases in the development and implementation of a budget for a Federal agency, in any Federal procurement processes, or when preparing an environmental review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 43217 et seq.).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Madam Chair, this amendment prohibits the use of funds to consider the social cost of greenhouse gases in the development and implementation of budgets, Federal procurement processes, and environmental reviews.

President Biden is directing agencies to consider the social cost of greenhouse gases in the development and implementation of budgets, the Federal procurement process, and environmental reviews.

Progressive Democrats use these social costs of greenhouse gas metrics to justify sweeping climate policies and stringent regulations that drive up costs. However, the social cost of greenhouse gases is an extremely inefficient policymaking tool. Estimates are based on very questionable, flawed, and uncertain assumptions, and the Biden administration refuses to share any details on how they come up with these numbers.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment which would prohibit the use of funds for the consideration of the social cost of greenhouse gases in the development and implementation of budgets, Fed-

eral procurement processes, and environmental reviews.

As I have said, it is undeniable that we are witnessing growing weather events stemming from climate change occurring in real time before our very eyes. During 2023, there were 28 separate billion-dollar weather events and climate disasters, costing over \$92 billion. There have already been 15 confirmed billion-dollar weather and climate disasters so far this year. In fact, I am sure the gentleman can check with his constituents, but people's home insurance is going up, and there are many places in the country where insurance is no longer offered. The cost of what is happening is rising.

We do not have the luxury to pretend that climate change isn't impacting us or that our actions aren't causing it. We need to understand what is happening to people across this Nation. We just heard from a Member from Florida in terms of requesting funding for beach replenishment in a place where the water is rising and sloshing over the edges of Florida on all coasts.

Tell American citizens who have lost businesses, homes, and loved ones or have lived in structures that have collapsed or disappeared from hurricanes, wildfires, and other recent natural disasters, that there are no costs from climate change. That is wrong.

It is already past time for aggressive action to address climate change and its impacts. It is critical for us to analyze and account for the potential impacts of government actions on the climate, and it is just as important to use that information for positive actions to help heal.

The truth is that climate change is having catastrophic social and economic impacts here and across the globe, and they are real. Pretending that climate change doesn't exist won't make it go away.

Madam Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this harmful amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Madam Chair, I certainly appreciate my colleagues' sentiments, but I think the key here is analysis and the metrics, or the lack thereof, on some of these policies and regulations.

As we assign metrics that can't be quantified to policies and regulations, driving up costs to industry, that is passed to the consumer. As you have more people moving into zones that are prone to tornadoes or hurricanes, you are going to see more incidents, you are going to see more destruction, and you are going to see more costs. Those folks move there knowing that that is the cost-benefit analysis of it.

What I would say is that the current metrics are insufficient. They drive up costs. It is at a time when we have ballooning budgets and at a time when our border is wide open. These are the things that we need to be discussing, not metrics for gases that can't be quantified.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 36 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 36 printed in part A of House Report 118–602.

Mr. OGLES. Madam Chair, as the designee of Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the American Climate Corps.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Madam Chair, this amendment would prohibit funding for the American Climate Corps that the Biden administration established through an executive order last year.

When you understand that we have the power of the purse and that we are the body that is supposed to authorize and appropriate on that executive order alone, this should be dismantled.

The Biden administration describes the American Climate Corps as a workforce training and service initiative for careers in the clean energy and climate reliance economy. As part of the administration's Justice40 goal, the corps will focus on equity and environmental justice.

This cost is around \$30 billion. Madam Chair, I just want to emphasize that we have a border that is overrun. We have deficits that are out of control. Inflation is at an all-time high.

People in our country are struggling, and when I see a line item for equity and environmental justice, I am appalled, just as my constituents are and should be.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment which prohibits funding for the American Climate Corps.

I have long been a champion of engaging young people in the climate corps to teach practical skills, to get them out of their narrow worlds, and to provide more open opportunities as happened many years ago with the Works Progress Administration.

The whole intent of the climate corps is to create capable people and give

them skills to move into ultimately middle-class jobs focused on weatherizing homes in this country, installing solar and other energy infrastructure. Hopefully, we will get some mechanical engineers out of that and some water engineers, hydraulic engineers. To mitigate coastal erosion, maybe we will get some Army Corps of Engineers enlistees. To prevent fires and flooding—you can't go out West and not have an energy company tell you that they are short on people who can climb the poles and try to make repairs after the wildfires out there.

The Coast Guard needs individuals to enlist. We also need people to construct and maintain public trails and more, all these wonderful metro parks we have and national parks. This will be a great experience for America's young adults.

From the West to the Great Plains to the coasts and the Great Lakes, we are witnessing the wreckage brought about by a changing climate whose ferocity knows no bounds.

We just heard from a Member from Florida about beach replenishment. How about putting some of these folks that would be in the climate corps to participate in that effort, if it can be funded.

Our success in tackling climate change will require bold, innovative strategies commensurate with the scope of the threats we have and the younger generation coming up behind us to provide that opportunity for them to gain the skills.

Last year, President Biden announced the American Climate Corps to train a band of young people in high-demand skills for jobs in the clean energy economy.

The programs will give a new generation of Americans the skills necessary to access good-paying jobs that are aligned with high-quality employment opportunities after they complete their training or service program.

We must continue to invest in the American workforce of the future. What a wonderful way to give the young people who would be moving forward in this an opportunity to help repair and build forward their Nation.

Madam Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Madam Chair, I look forward to working with my colleague on how to get the next generation to engage in the workforce. As we see and as she mentioned, we have a shortage of workers in the oilfields. We need people to climb poles, drill for oil, and be captains of ships for the Coast Guard. Teaching them environmental justice isn't what she is talking about.

We need workers to roll up their sleeves and buy into the American Dream of building a life for the future in America. It is not solar panels. It is the oil and gas beneath our feet. We have got to stop pushing the progressive Democrat agenda, which is pulling

us away from the very thing that is part of our national security, which is fossil fuels.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 37 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 37 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. OGLES. Madam Chair, as the designee of Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be made available to the Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Madam Chair, this amendment would prohibit funds from being used by the Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases.

The Interagency Working Group was originally convened by the Obama administration before being disbanded by the Trump administration and reimposed through President Biden's radical climate Executive Order No. 13990.

Progressive Democrats use the social cost of greenhouse gases metrics to justify sweeping climate policies, strict regulations, and like I have said before, it does nothing but drive up costs for the American consumer.

As I have explained, President Biden began directing agencies to consider the social cost of greenhouse gases in the development and implementation of budgets, Federal procurements, and environmental reviews. At a time when we have to get down to the dollars and cents, where we have to be cutting budgets, where we have to be saving dollars, metrics that can't be quantified are not acceptable.

These costs are hard to explain. They are hard to measure. They are not reliable.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1315

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, this amendment would prohibit funds for the Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases.

I don't know where the gentleman lives, but I live in an area where we have very ozone-heavy industrial zones. We have major neighborhoods that are oxygen short. We have areas where methane belches out of old landfills and dumps. We are not the only place in America that has these places, and this amendment would prohibit funds for the Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases.

We are involved in a big tree planting project in our area right now, 10,000 trees to try to replace the old ones that are over 100 years old and try to bring oxygen into oxygen-short areas.

It is very clear that in urban areas coast to coast, there are places that are not healthy to live, and I don't think the countryside should be a dumping ground for waste from industry or any other place, but that has happened in many States in our Union.

The work that is being done by the department is crucial to making sure that the government accounts for the potential impacts of government actions on climate.

I have to say this, and it doesn't relate to gases, but back in the eighties we ruined the freshwater lake of Erie, and we have been cleaning it up ever since. What happened?

The Clean Water Act was passed, and you couldn't dump DDT into the water anymore. We had only two bald eagles left on Lake Erie. Today, we have given rebirth to the American bald eagle population, and they have even flown over to Cleveland and are multiplying now over there.

So we have seen the results of stupidity and ignorance in the past, and we don't intend to be ignorant in the 21st century.

It is critical to analyze and account for the potential impacts of private as well as governmental actions on climate, and it is important to use that information to better ourselves. I wish we had an answer in the Great Lakes right now for dissolved reactive phosphorus. We don't. However, if we are not smart, the greatest freshwater legacy in the world will be ruined for humanity, and that is not acceptable.

There is an old expression: Don't try to fool Mother Nature. I say: Don't ignore Mother Nature when she is telling you something is going wrong.

Mr. Chair, this is one such moment in American history. We can't pretend that the impact of human activity on planet Earth is negligible. There are billions of us now, and there is a draw on Mother Earth, and we have to understand her and hear her.

We must robustly meet the needs of the future and not flounder in the past.

Madam Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this harmful amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Madam Chair, as an Eagle Scout, I truly want to see our community become and be a better place. As someone who lives in a rural area, I am passionate about our rural communities and seeing a better and vibrant rural America.

However, the mistakes of the past don't justify passing regulations that destroy American energy, destroy American industry, and that make it cost prohibitive for R&D to take place so that we do produce cleaner energy and so we do produce chemicals or precious metals in a cleaner and more efficient way for the American consumer. Nonetheless, this working group is designed to undermine American industry.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The amendment was agreed to.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I rise as the designee of the gentlewoman from Connecticut, and I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Madam Chair, as written, this partisan Energy and Water appropriations bill undermines the very programs and principles it purports to uphold. This bill will cut over 5 percent of nondefense spending compared to enacted levels, raising prices and making us less prepared to respond to the growing threat of the climate crisis and related natural disasters.

By slashing the Department of Energy's efficiency and renewable energy programs, Republicans will increase families' energy costs. By reducing the Department of Energy's loans programs by a whopping \$8 billion, Republicans will be killing good-paying jobs, and our capacity to confront the climate crisis will be further hindered. By cutting the weatherization assistance program and prohibiting funding for the Department of Energy's Justice40 Initiative, low-income households will see higher home energy bills.

However, this bill goes beyond just harmful energy policies. House Republicans have made it their mission to insert divisive harmful riders in every single appropriations bill this year, and this one is no different. To name just a few, this bill contains provisions that would prevent the Army Corps of Engineers from renaming items commemorating the Confederacy and its glorification of enslavement, prohibit funding of executive orders aimed at advancing racial equity, and it would allow for firearms on public lands.

The Democratic motion to recommit will strike another provision in this

bill that would allow discrimination against same-sex couples. At every turn, House Republicans are finding creative ways to entrench homophobia and other forms of discrimination in what should be bipartisan, good-faith funding bills. Rather than equip our country and our constituents with the tools needed to fight existential battles like climate change, House Republicans are committing to sending an anti-equality message that hate should win. House Democrats and I will not stand for this.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill.

My amendment would strike the provisions in this bill that would allow for discrimination to same-sex couples, and that would ban the use of Pride flags at facilities.

Madam Chair, I include in the RECORD the text of the amendment.

Ms. Chu moves to recommit the bill H.R. 8997 to the Committee on Appropriations with the following amendment:

Strike section 507.

Ms. CHU. Madam Chair, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 38 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. OGLES. Madam Chair, I rise as the designee for the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN), and I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be made available to the Department of Energy Office of Science's Office of Scientific Workforce Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Madam Chair, this amendment would prohibit funding for policies that advance the Biden administration's radical DEI agenda.

Specifically, this amendment would prohibit the use of funds for the Department of Energy's Office of Scientific Workforce Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

This office's mission is to promote diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplaces.

Now even science must bow to equity and inclusion. Science should be rooted in fact and research, not wokeism.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. This amendment prohibits the use of funds for the Department of Energy's Office of Science's Scientific Workforce Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

This bill already includes harmful riders that show Republicans are not interested in bills that can gain bipartisan support and become law.

The underlying bill includes a provision that prohibits funds related to advancing racial equity and supporting underserved communities—I represent some of those—and related to diversity, equity, and inclusion and accessibility in the Federal workforce.

In addition, the bill includes a provision that prohibits any activities related to critical race theory that, as we heard during markups last year, none of my Republican colleagues could even define.

How many times do my Republican colleagues need to emphasize that they do not like diversity, equity, and inclusion?

I would encourage my friend to go to a website and look up Admiral William McRaven's wonderful, wonderful, speech to a graduating class of the Naval Academy called "Make Your Bed." What was interesting about it is that as a former SEAL, he talked about who actually in his SEAL training were the guys who actually won?

They were the guys who weren't the tallest, and they weren't the biggest, but they were a squad of sort of people who weren't as tall, they weren't as big, but their fierce spirit drove them to victory. I would urge the gentleman to look at that film, and then come back and consider whether he should ever offer an amendment like this again.

I really do not understand why these provisions are necessary on an Energy and Water bill, and I would hope that my colleagues can stop targeting those who may be different from themselves and embrace acceptance or at least tolerance of others. That is the greatness of America.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Madam Chairman, we have seen what happens when the Department of Energy prioritizes diversity and inclusion over all else. It results in hiring nonbinary nuclear officials like Sam Brinton who uses they/them pronouns and steals women's clothes.

From the military to corporations to Federal agencies, we have seen time and time again that the DEI mission fosters tribalism in the workplace. We have seen where corporations, Tractor Supply and John Deere, for examples, have pulled away from DEI policies because they are a failure.

One has to ask when you look at the attempted assassination of President

Trump when the Director put diversity above all else, was that complicit in the fact that a shooter almost killed the former President?

Diversity and inclusion as a priority when it should be based off of metrics, skill set, and who actually deserves the job, that should be the priority.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 40 printed in part A of House Report 118–602.

Mr. OGLES. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Automatic Commercial Ice Makers” published by the Department of Energy in the Federal Register on September 25, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 65628).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Madam Chair, the administration’s war on appliances continues. First, it was gas stoves. Then it was water heaters. Now the Biden-Harris administration apparently wants to go after ice makers because, as everyone knows, ice makers are obviously a major source of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Department of Energy has proposed a rule to impose stringent regulations on commercial automatic ice makers in the name of energy efficiency.

For my fellow Americans watching this amendment debate, if someone knocks on the door of your local business and tells you they are from the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, don’t answer it. Close the door.

What this does is drive up costs to hardworking citizens, people who own restaurants, and it makes the products more expensive, and for what?

Where are the metrics?

This is baloney.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment. The Department of Energy is charged with im-

plementing congressionally directed energy efficiency standards.

I will tell you, Madam Chair, in our home, efficiency standards have made hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of dollars of difference in savings, certainly in the area of the water heater and the refrigerator.

In accordance with the statute, the Department of Energy has published regulations in the code of Federal regulations for more than 60 categories of appliance and equipment types. The Department of Energy drafts the efficiency regulations with the full participation of equipment manufacturers and the public at large. The process includes thorough consideration of all comments and concerns.

These actions result in direct energy savings for American consumers. Look at all the little postcards you get in the mail making unsolicited offers. I got one yesterday for windows. I know we are not talking about windows here, but the difference between different window types and how much energy you can save, consumers look at that.

We have to work toward improving the reliability and performance across household appliances and commercial and industrial equipment.

Efficiency standards are not bans, and they do not impact existing appliances that Americans have purchased.

However, I think it is safe to say that virtually all Americans, let alone all the people in this room, have benefited from these types of efficiency standards over the course of their lifetimes, and I bet the gentleman’s household has, as well.

Again, these actions are required by congressional direction.

Collectively, the Biden administration’s past and planned energy efficiency actions will save Americans \$1 trillion. That is at the household level.

□ 1330

That will save the average family at least \$100 a year through lower utility bills. That amount may not be a lot to some people, but it is a great deal of money to a lot of people.

The Department of Energy estimates that this specific rule would save Americans \$44 million in annual operating costs. It will make us smarter and better as a country.

If Congress does not like these standards, that should be addressed by new laws through the Energy and Commerce Committee, not through funding prohibitions.

With respect to the proposed energy efficiency standards for automatic commercial ice makers, I urge my colleagues with concerns to participate fully in the rulemaking process. That is the appropriate response to a proposed rule that Members oppose.

Congress has vested the Department of Energy with the authority to promulgate these rules. They listen to the American people and let us fully participate in that process.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Madam Chair, to my colleague’s point, we are getting new windows in a couple of weeks, but that is a cost that, as a household, my wife and I decided to expend, and it is a metric that I can quantify for myself over time.

We have seen this play before. In 2014, the Obama administration pushed out a rule to force different sectors of the American economy to comply with more restrictive energy conservation standards. They targeted hotels and hospitals, schools, office buildings, and supermarkets.

The projected cost at that time to manufacturers represented 25 percent of their profits. There is no savings for the American consumer. This is a Marxist-style wealth distribution scheme that forces increased costs on the manufacturer, which ultimately costs the consumer more money.

If someone wants to buy windows for their home and wants to improve the energy standards of their home, that is one thing. For the government to come in and meddle in an industry that is not truly contributing to carbon emissions or gas emissions is ridiculous.

This is absurd. That is why this amendment is offered.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 41 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 41 printed in part A of House Report 118–602.

Mr. OGLES. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Water Heaters” published by the Department of Energy in the Federal Register on May 6, 2024 (89 Fed. Reg. 37778).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Madam Chair, the administration’s war on everyday appliances continues with no end in sight, and it has to be pointed out that the ultimate price of these regulations is and will be paid by the American consumer.

At a time when inflation is higher, when going to the grocery store costs more, when rents have increased, when the dream of buying a home has slipped away for many Americans, and the costs of purchasing and operating a car

have increased, the last thing we need is more government policies that are going to force something that I would consider necessary in every home, which is a water heater. To increase costs on a necessity for the American people at a time when they are already struggling just doesn't make sense.

It is time for government to get out of the way of industry. Let's get back to free market principles and stop forcing radical Marxist agenda items on industry. It didn't work. It doesn't work. This isn't going to work.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, as I have mentioned on other amendments, the Department of Energy is charged with implementing congressionally directed energy efficiency standards. In accordance with the statute, the Department has published regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations for more than 60 categories of appliance and equipment types. The Department of Energy drafts the energy efficiency regulations with the full participation of equipment manufacturers and the public at large.

The results are energy savings for the buyer of the equipment. I have experienced that in my own house, and now that the gentleman is buying an appliance for his house, my colleague is going to experience those savings, too. The gentleman ought to add them up. It makes a difference.

Efficiency standards are not bans, and they do not impact existing appliances in Americans' homes. I think it is safe to assume that virtually all Americans have benefited from these types of efficiency standards over the course of their lifetimes. Also, our environment has benefited.

These actions are required by congressional direction. Laws were passed asking the Department of Energy to do this, and we know that these efficiency standards will save our people over a trillion dollars. That isn't chicken feed. It will save the average family well over \$100 a year through lower utility bills.

The Department of Energy estimates that this specific rule would slash household utility costs by over \$7 billion annually and could save consumers \$1,800 on their energy bills over the life of the appliance.

That helps pay for the appliance. It helps consumers save money for something else they can buy.

If Congress does not like these standards, Members should address it with new laws through the Energy and Commerce Committee, not through funding prohibitions, as the gentleman suggests. Stopping the Department of Energy from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing energy efficiency standards will only create uncertainty for manufacturers and consumers.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Madam Chair, I thank my colleague for her words.

This kind of climate alarmist rule-making isn't about reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It is about control. It is absolutely ridiculous that some bureaucrats at the Department of Energy can impose energy efficiency standards that radically alter the marketplace.

The Biden-Harris climate crusade has gone too far. They have weaponized the Federal rulemaking process to officially place nonelectric technology off the market. My amendment sends a message that the climate cartel running the White House has no claim on our appliances. Enough is enough.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 42 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 42 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce the final rule entitled "Comprehensive Plan and Special Regulations With Respect to High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing; Rules of Practice and Procedure Regarding Project Review Classifications and Fees" published by the Delaware River Basin Commission on April 21, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 20628).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chairman, this amendment prohibits the use of funds to implement or enforce the DRBC's rule to ban hydraulic fracturing within the Delaware River Basin. The best way to combat high natural gas prices that all of us are paying is to produce more natural gas in America, not less.

In places like my home, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the second largest natural gas producer in the Nation, it is unfortunate that unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats at the Delaware River Basin Commission have instituted a hydraulic fracturing ban for a portion of our State, our Commonwealth, stripping away, at the stroke of a pen, property and mineral rights from Pennsylvanians in contravention of the will of their own legislature. These aren't elected officials. These are folks who just have a different idea and have the authority to take.

The result is a prohibition on the development of critical shale plays in eastern Pennsylvania that can bring desperately needed natural gas to market and the unconstitutional taking of the mineral rights of Pennsylvania. That is the result.

To be clear, this amendment simply prohibits the DRBC from implementing or enforcing this hydraulic fracturing ban, but it does not impact the ability of the States in the river basin to regulate hydraulic fracturing as they see fit.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment. This amendment creates a funding prohibition related to the Delaware River Basin Commission.

The Delaware River Basin Commission is a Federal-interstate compact agency charged with managing the water resources of the Delaware River Basin on a regional basis without regard to political boundaries. As established by law, through the Delaware River Basin Compact that went into effect in 1961, the commission consists of the Army Corps of Engineers and four basin State Governors. Those States are Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York. The gentleman is from Pennsylvania, one of the four States.

The Corps of Engineers and these States work as equal partners for planning, development, and regulatory actions for the river basin. Given the commission's statutory mission, it analyzed the risks to water resources posed by high-volume hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling techniques. Through a public rulemaking process, the commission developed regulations on high-volume hydraulic fracturing in rock formations within the Delaware River Basin.

I do not pretend to be an expert on the Delaware River Basin. I trust what these four States have worked on together.

As a reminder, the commission consists of the Governors of the four basin States, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, and the North Atlantic Division commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

It does not strike me as a proper role for Congress, particularly through an appropriations rider, to overrule regional and local governments on this complex matter.

While the commission's work could be further discussed, I am also concerned that this implicates funding provided to the Delaware River Basin Commission as community project funding on behalf of one Member of this body.

Madam Chair, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote against this

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

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, during previous debates on this issue, mistruths were spread about the impact of this policy change on the water reservoirs that serve New York City. These claims are false and easily disproved by the facts, which I am going to lay out right now.

The safety of hydraulic fracturing has been demonstrated through its extensive use across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and across the country, not only over the past two decades but for multiple decades.

The Obama-era EPA—not the current one and not the last one, but the Obama-era EPA—determined that the practice did not pose a threat to drinking water. Simple geography and hydrology make this outcome an impossibility. All New York City reservoirs are upriver from Pennsylvania or on the Hudson River, which does not connect to Pennsylvania, precluding any impact from Pennsylvania from reaching those reservoirs.

The intention of this amendment and its primary impact will be unleashing Pennsylvania's full energy potential by allowing Pennsylvanians in the river basin that they live in to use their property that they bought with their money and their mineral rights that they bought with their money as they see fit, subject to the laws passed by their elected officials, not by some bureaucrat from some other State.

It is time to stop this underhanded attack on property rights, representative government, and State sovereignty and restore American energy security at the same time. Opposition to this amendment essentially is saying my colleagues support a ban on hydraulic fracturing and for higher natural gas prices for Members' constituents.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

□ 1345

AMENDMENT NO. 43 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 43 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 38, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$18,000,000)”.

Page 81, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$18,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, this amendment would eliminate funding for administrative expenses necessary for the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program, which provides loans to companies that make Green New Deal cars, and to manufacture so-called advanced technology vehicles and qualifying components, like car manufacturers in this country need an infusion of cash from taxpayers that are buying their cars.

This law recklessly spends over \$1 trillion, ignoring the fact that the national debt is now \$35 trillion and will likely be \$36 trillion by the end of this year. The package also includes almost \$8 billion in subsidies for electric vehicle chargers, even though profit incentives have driven private actors in the auto industry, independent startups, and utilities across the country to rush to build charging stations on their own. We don't have to subsidize this.

Car dealerships are having trouble moving electric vehicles. Do you know how I know, Madam Chair? Because they come in and tell me, and they beg me to do something about it. They can't get these vehicles off their lots. There is no need to continue throwing good money after bad, coercing private companies to manufacture Green New Deal vehicles that our citizens do not want.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Chair, I rise to oppose the gentleman's amendment.

In my view, the elimination of this funding would hurt Federal oversight of the billions in loans the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Program has already given. These funds are primarily used for portfolio management and financial oversight. No new loan authorities are provided in this bill.

ATVM loans will be repaid for many years in the future. Eliminating this funding puts the ability of the government to receive these payments in jeopardy. We must ensure proper oversight of taxpayer funding. For these reasons, I must oppose the gentleman's amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, many have supported this program, but in recent years, it is even more egregious. Recent legislation removed the \$25 billion cap on loan authority. While some folks say, well, the loans are all out

and we just need to administer them, the cap on loan authority has now opened up. It has opened up the program not just to light-duty vehicle manufacturers, but to medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, trains, and maritime vessels.

What do you think is going to happen when the government is handing out money without a cap on it?

You know what is going to happen, Madam Chair. You go from \$35 trillion to \$36 trillion, and the debt just keeps on climbing a trillion dollars every 100 days.

I know there are people that want this money. Everybody wants government money, but the people that live in this country that pay the bill can no longer afford it.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I thank the chairman of the committee for yielding, and I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

I say to the gentleman who is offering it, I have a lot of respect for the State of Pennsylvania because, like Ohio, you manufacture things. You make things happen in America.

Right now, in the vehicular sector, especially in new electric drivetrains, the leading nation in the world for that is not the United States of America. The leading nation is China, and to a great degree, if you look at the figures. I don't have them here with me on the floor, but what China has done in other sectors is it manufactures over what the market needs.

Let's take steel, for example. Pennsylvania used to be a great steelmaking State, and it still has shreds of that left. China manufactured four times what the world needs and then it dumped them. It does the same in pharmaceuticals.

We understand what they are going to do next: cars. The cars they are manufacturing, millions of them, much more than this country, they are going to dump them here too because that is what is happening inside the world of global trade in the automotive sector.

I oppose the gentleman's amendment because I want America to be able to compete and to have all the componentry here, including the batteries, in order to move our population. Hybrids are selling. I don't think the all-electric vehicle is as popular. He is correct. There were subsidies provided for that, but we are building a supply chain in the automotive sector, and we could lose it. We could definitely lose it because our trade laws are weak.

We are an open country. Other places are not. The Chinese can manufacture because they have billions of hands, really, to work with. It is a much greater population, and they will strategically target. I would just ask the gentleman to take a look at that.

The funding in this bill includes, with the people applying, \$19 billion in active applications for loans, and there is also the administration of another \$19 billion in loans that are either active or have conditional commitments.

Let me just go through a couple of them. There is a \$2.5 billion loan that just closed in November to support 6,000 construction jobs and an estimated 5,100 permanent jobs at three newly constructed lithium-ion battery cell manufacturing facilities in Spring Hill, Tennessee, not that far from Pennsylvania and Ohio; also, Lansing, Michigan; and Lordstown in my home State of Ohio near the Pennsylvania border.

There is a \$9.2 billion conditional commitment to finance the construction of three manufacturing plants to produce batteries. We are behind, even with all the money we put into research and everything in order to make batteries more efficient. The Ford Motor Company and their future Ford and Lincoln electric vehicles are estimated to support 5,000 construction jobs and 7,500 operation jobs in Kentucky and Tennessee once the plants are opened and running.

We just dedicated in my hometown to working with the Koreans, the South Koreans, a Mobis battery facility to serve the Jeep Gladiator, which is going to have a hybrid electric offering to the marketplace. This is all new.

From automotive America, I cannot accept the gentleman's amendment because we want to beat the Chinese, we want to be the best, and we have to have the help of the government in that because we have to move these technologies faster.

There was an \$850 million loan commitment announced in June of this year to help finance the construction of KORE Power, an advanced battery cell manufacturing facility in Buckeye, Arizona, to support up to 700 construction jobs and 1,250 operation jobs once the facilities are open.

In all of our labs at the Department of Energy, we are trying to push battery technology to a level never seen before. This takes time, but it is happening. Believe me, there are other countries that are ahead of us. We are in a catch-up mode, and we are in a predumping mode.

I completely disagree with the gentleman's amendment and urge a vote against it.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 44 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 37, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$55,000,000)".

Page 81, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$55,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, the Federal loan guarantee program is exactly what it says. They are loans that are guaranteed by the Federal Government. Of course, that just transfers the risk of those loans to the taxpayers.

As with any government subsidy, they reduce the market discipline of loan recipients. Recipients get the loan, they know the Federal Government is going to pay the bill if it fails, and when it fails that is exactly what happens.

Now there is a checkered past in the Department of Energy's Loan Guarantee Program, and it demonstrates that it is not immune from these concerns. As it currently stands today, it hasn't been reformed; it hasn't been revamped. We are just going to keep on loaning money. Among the most egregious examples of title 17 loan failures are Solyndra, Fisker Automotive, and A123 Systems. All three entities received hundreds of millions of dollars in loan guarantees before filing for bankruptcy and leaving the taxpayer holding the bag.

They filed for bankruptcy, by the way, because they produced things that the American people didn't want but were forced on them. To add insult to injury, A123 Systems and Fisker Automotive were purchased by, you guessed it, Chinese companies for pennies on the dollar.

You pay the bill; they get the money. Meaning, the CCP, the Communist Party of China, was the ultimate beneficiary of our tax dollars and the good people that are working hard every day to pay those loans.

Both companies also received subsidies from the Michigan State government under then-Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Now, you might not care about that because it was in Michigan. Maybe you don't live in Michigan where Fisker Automotive and A123 Systems were located, went bankrupt, took your money, and then were sold to the Chinese, but the integrity of these programs is heightened by the fact that Secretary of Energy Granholm's leadership position is now at that Department and will oversee these loans.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Chair, much like the gentleman's last amendment, I respectfully think the result of his amendment would be the opposite of his intent.

There is no new loan authority provided in this bill. Existing title 17 loans, however, will be repaid for many years in the future. Eliminating the funding in this bill puts the ability of the government to receive these repayments in jeopardy. In my view, we must ensure proper oversight of this taxpayer funding. For these reasons, I must respectfully oppose the amendment.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, I must disagree. The so-called Inflation Reduction Act, I don't know if anyone's keeping score, but when I go to the grocery store since the Inflation Reduction Act, prices are higher. When I go to the gas station, prices are higher. It hasn't really reduced inflation, but that is another story.

Since the Inflation Reduction Act provides approximately \$11.7 billion for the loan program office to issue new loans, we are going to keep going. We are going to burden the taxpayer with the potential for these loans to go bad, and they have gone bad.

This additional funding raises significant concerns that the program will, once again, be used as a piggy bank for any administration and the Secretary to reward politically-favored industries.

Madam Chair, my bosses, my constituents, can't afford this continued grifting. We have to stop the gravy train for these failed green energy companies on the backs of taxpayers. If private industry wants to invest, God bless them, but the taxpayers shouldn't be forced to.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

□ 1400

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding time. I obviously rise in opposition to this amendment.

If you want to increase fraud and hinder the ability of the Federal Government to quickly and efficiently interact with private businesses, then, by all means, vote for this gentleman's amendment.

However, I will vote against it because we must continue to invest in the manufacturing prowess of this country.

We have to catch up. So many of our jobs were outsourced to penny-wage environments in very undemocratic countries, and we lost manufacturing in small towns and big cities across America. So we are in a catch-up mode right now to domestic onshoring and reshoring of vital economic activities, including the manufacturing of vehicles that all of us use to get to work and to conduct the business of this country.

I urge my colleagues to vote for America against this misguided amendment.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, continue to invest. Continue to invest. It is going to continue unless this amendment passes. We are going to keep throwing good money after bad.

We are going to continue to invest in Chinese slave labor. It needs to be understood that the material that makes these batteries—even though the material that comes to the United States of America, we don't produce any of our own material here; it is not allowed—is going to come from slave labor in China.

If that is not bad enough, the raw material is going to come from child slave labor in Africa promoted by the Chinese. You are going to continue to invest because you are going to be forced to continue to invest in them.

This is an easy one, Madam Chair. The American people are sick of investing in these things that are immoral and unaffordable. I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 45 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 45 printed in part A of House Report 118–602.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 65, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$35,000,000)”.

Page 81, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$35,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman

from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, this amendment cuts \$35 million from this bill for the Appalachian Regional Commission, lowering the funding level in this bill to \$165 million.

The IJA provided the Appalachian Regional Commission with an advanced appropriation of \$200 million every single year, the entirety of its authorization level for fiscal year 2022 through 2026, meaning every dollar provided under this bill is more than the authorized level.

This Congress said this is the level at which you can spend. We are spending way above that. In other words, under this amendment, the ARC would still receive \$365 million for the fiscal year rather than \$400 million provided by the underlying bill.

Even with this minimal cut under this amendment, the program's funding is still extremely bloated, and its effectiveness remains unclear. It doesn't really remain unclear. It is completely unknown. I know. I sat in and presided over the hearing regarding this commission and all the commissions where, literally, the metric they use to determine success was we get loan applications. People want to receive loans and grants. That is their measure of success.

Where I live in Pennsylvania, the Appalachian Trail comes right through the district, and people in Appalachia certainly sorely need help, but they don't need a bunch of throwaway things from contractors outside of their area coming in to make a bunch of money off the government and leave them with whatever is left over.

This commission's programs are duplicative of other Federal development economic programs and are better addressed at the State and local levels where those States know exactly what is needed.

In fact, the FY18 budget justification identified the Appalachian Regional Commission failed to show a strong link between grants and a positive impact on the community they serve. They are giving out money, but they can't justify any of it through metrics or through any performance evaluation whatsoever.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment would cut funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission, which supports hundreds of cost-shared projects, partnering with private industry to bring needed jobs to this depressed region.

The underlying energy and water bill maintains funding for the ARC at the fiscal year 2024 level of \$200 million, which was the same as the fiscal 2023 enacted level.

These communities cannot afford to lose the millions of dollars in private investment this commission leverages. I respectfully urge a “no” vote on the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, that might be all well and good, but last year, the commission's inspector general—not PERRY, not this Congress, the inspector general identified the massive increase in the commission's funding over recent years as a threat to its ability to evaluate grant proposals, measure program performance, and conduct appropriate oversight, meaning this spike in funding threatens to worsen an already tenuous link between funding and success.

Mr. Chair, these commissions are populated by the politically connected to hand out money to those that are connected to them. That is what they are for. That is what they do. They don't do much else other than that, and they are certainly no measure of success.

Again, I presided over the hearing where we asked them for their metric, their measure of success. Again, Mr. Chair, it was that they received a lot of applications for grants and loans.

People want money. That is your measure of success? That is pathetic. We certainly must bring the funding level for the ARC down to ensure that it has the capacity to ensure if you are going to spend the money—I am not getting rid of the commission. I am just saying if you are going to spend the money, let's do it wisely and actually prove that it does something to help the people that you allegedly are helping as opposed to the people that sit on the commission and dole out the tax dollars.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) the distinguished chair emeritus of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. The Appalachian Regional Commission has been an invaluable partner for Appalachia since its inception in 1965. ARC investments have propelled our region forward, especially after the decline of the coal industry.

Thanks to the ARC, the regional poverty rate has been cut by more than half. Additionally, the number of high-poverty counties has been cut by more than 60 percent.

In fact, in just the past year, the ARC has supported the creation or retention of over 50,000 jobs and served over 50,000 households with improved critical infrastructure. That is real, impactful economic development. Last year in Kentucky, the ARC supported 74 projects, supporting nearly 900 jobs.

Mr. Chair, cutting off ARC funding back to the fiscal year '19 levels will

slow progress in our region when we need it most. We can't turn our back on Appalachia, not now, not ever.

I urge opposition to this amendment.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. ROSENDALE). The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, since 1965, which is a long time ago now, they say the poverty rate has been cut in half, but the general poverty rate across the country has been cut in half since 1965. The general rate. None of that can be attributed to the ARC.

By the way, the map that we had provided by the ARC at the hearing showed one county in all of the region, in all of the States had improved. One. This is not a cut.

As a result of the IIJA, it is well above what they were supposed to be appropriated, and everyone in here knows it. Everyone knows it, but they will take the money anyhow.

I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 46 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 46 printed in part A of House Report 118–602.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 66, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,100,000)”.

Page 81, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$7,100,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment reduces the funding to the Delta Regional Commission by \$6.1 million, back to the FY19 level. In FY17, the Obama administration sought to cut funding for the Delta Regional Commission by \$3 million. The FY18, FY19, FY20, and FY21 budgets all sought to eliminate funding for the Delta Regional Commission, identifying it as duplicative of other Federal economic development programs.

Where have we heard that before?

The FY21 budget pointed out that the Delta Regional Commission, like others, is set aside for special geographic designations rather than applied across the country, based on objective criteria indicating local areas' levels of distress.

Well, that is what States are for. That is not the Federal Government. If you don't live there, this isn't going to help you at all, but you are going to pay for it.

We are \$35 trillion in debt, Mr. Chair. We simply can't continue to allow for the rapid growth of parochial commissions. They probably do wonderful things for the people that are there, probably, but they duplicate other Federal programs, and they continue undeterred. Federal programs that are likely doing the work that States and local governments should be doing.

We wonder how did we get to \$35 trillion in debt? Well, I don't know. Everybody got a commission, a handout, money. At a minimum, we should return the funding of this program to prepandemic FY19 levels. We need to find somewhere in this budget some sanity, so that our taxpayers aren't footing the bill for things they can't afford to pay for.

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

□ 1415

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, while I appreciate my colleague's interest in keeping the Federal spending in check, I would note that the 12 bills reported by the Appropriations Committee collectively adhere to the Fiscal Responsibility Act.

How funds are allocated within that top line may be different than it was in previous years, but cutting these regional commissions won't actually reduce overall spending. It would just result in spending somewhere else, maybe even somewhere more objectionable to my colleague.

As with the previous amendment, I respectfully urge a “no” vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, this actually does reduce the spending. This is actually an amendment that does reduce spending. As far as the FRA is concerned, my goodness, just saying it meets FRA, well, FRA spends more than last year. Every year we spend more than the year before. We never see a year where we actually cut any spending.

Maybe this is a small account. Mr. Chair, \$6 million is pretty small in the face of trillions of dollars and billions of dollars, I agree. We have got to start somewhere.

Again, the FY18, FY19, FY20, and FY21 budgets all sought to eliminate funding for the Delta Regional Com-

mission, eliminate it. Not me. That is what the budget wanted to do then. I am saying in 2024, let's just reduce it to FY19 and try to live within our means, just like my bosses and your bosses and our bosses have to do at home. They don't get more money every single year regardless of what happens.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HUIZENGA). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 47 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 47 printed in part A of House Report 118–602.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 66, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 81, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, this amendment reduces funding for the Denali Commission by \$2 million, to the FY19 prepandemic level.

The Denali Commission's mission of providing job training and other economic development services in rural Alaska can better be served by the 29 other Federal programs with which it duplicates. There are 29 other programs doing this.

The Obama administration sought to eliminate funding for the commission in FY12 because it was duplicative and did not select projects based on competition or merit. Again, we are just handing out money, but we have a fancy name.

In 2013, the inspector general for the Denali Commission called for the elimination of the program. The elimination of the program. I am just saying, let's take it to FY19, \$2 million. The inspector general stated that he recommended that Congress put its money elsewhere.

Well, it is not our money. It is their money. It is our bosses' money. You might go to Alaska. I don't know if you need a job training program if you go there. Maybe if you plan to go, you

should—well, that is another story. The Trump administration, likewise, sought to eliminate the commission in FY18, FY19, FY20, and FY21.

Again, it seems imprudent to continually fund yet another parochial commission in the face of two administrations. It seems like that to me; it might not to you, but these are both parties. People say, well, you folks up there can't get along, can't agree on anything. Well, here two parties on either side of the aisle said the same thing, and the inspector general's recommendations were that we cease funding.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, this regional commission helps distressed communities across Alaska with basic infrastructure, like water and sewage systems and power generation. For similar reasons as the previous amendments, I respectfully urge a “no” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, at a bare minimum, we should pass this amendment just to keep the Denali Commission where it is, at its pre COVID-19 level, and not allow for its continued growth in the face of trillions of dollars of debt while our people can't afford gas, groceries, daycare, their electricity bills.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 48 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 48 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 67, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$19,750,000)”.

Page 81, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$19,750,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer my amendment to reduce funding for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, the SCRC, to prepandemic, fiscal year 2019 levels.

Yet again, this commission serves as a duplicative slush fund for parochial interests, this time for projects in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. I have many friends in those locations.

From FY 2010 to FY 2020, the SCRC received \$250,000 annually, all without having an appointed Federal co-chair. There was nobody in charge. There was nobody running the thing, but they still got \$250,000. I know in the face of trillions, \$250,000 isn't much. Where I come from, my bosses would love to have \$250,000 every single year and not have to account for it because nobody is in charge.

After a co-chair was appointed in December 2021—again, conveniently, with close ties to political leadership—the number is now a whopping \$20 million in this bill. From \$250,000 with nobody in charge to somebody politically connected to \$20 million.

There is absolutely no reason for that dramatic increase in funding—well, there is one, but you are probably not going to like it—especially when these projects fund both projects with no national nexus, like electric vehicle charging stations.

We have to have a regional commission to do that? We just had an amendment where you are telling me the Department of Energy has got to pay for that, but now the regional commission pays for that also.

In addition to the charging stations, they also fund stormwater management and green infrastructure. Stormwater management is a problem, I am sure, in every State, but here again, is that the Federal Government's role? According to the SCRC's 2023-2027 strategic plan, that is what they are going to spend the money on.

Our constituents, our bosses, do not have money for these projects that have no impact on their lives, and in many cases drive up the cost of living for them.

Mr. Chair, I urge support of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, my objections to this amendment mirror my objections to the previous amendments to cut funding for regional commissions. I respectfully urge a “no” vote on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Again, Mr. Chair, we are just spending dollars. This government agency, this program does it, and here is another one. The last, the Denali Commission, there were 29 separate programs. This is not much different. I

didn't count them up, but I assure you, there are other Federal programs that do the same thing. A question that hasn't been answered here is: Is it the role of the Federal Government?

I ask my bosses, my constituents, the people on this floor how many gas stations did they pay for through Federal appropriations? There are a bunch of gas stations around the country, everyone stops at them, we know their names. We bought them because we bought gasoline. Somebody invested in that, and we bought gasoline, and that paid for it, but in this case, we are going to pay for electric vehicle charging stations through our taxes, whether or not we have an electric vehicle. Whether or not that vehicle pays any highway taxes, we are going to pay for it.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 49 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 49 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 67, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$21,000,000)”.

Page 81, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$21,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer this amendment to reduce funding for the Northern Border Regional Commission, or the NBRC, to prepandemic fiscal year 2019 levels.

Like other regional commissions, the NBRC provides economic development assistance to projects in various States, in this case, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

I don't know if you are seeing a theme here. You want extra money from the Federal Government, and you are not getting enough, just create a commission. Get your buddies in other States to create a commission, and in comes the money.

These commissions simply serve as a slush fund for parochial and regional projects with little or actually no national nexus. They don't belong in the

purview of the Federal government. They belong in State and local governments.

Let's take a look at some of the funded programs taken from the 2022 annual report, which is the latest report available, 2022:

\$304,000 to purchase a sound system for an auditorium in New Hampshire. I am sure it is wonderful. If I get to New Hampshire, maybe I will get to hear it, but in the meantime I am going to pay for it, and so are you.

Over \$350,000 to expand rail yard capacity in upstate New York. I don't know, I am paying for freight costs. We have all kinds of incentives for railroads in this country. I know, Mr. Chair, I am on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. We have \$350,000 coming from this commission to pay for that, as well.

Another \$350,000 for a sailing center on Lake Champlain. I am sure it is wonderful. I am sure it is lovely. I live in Pennsylvania. I am not getting up to the lake too often.

These projects are all well and good. Some of them ought to be funded by private investment and others should be funded by States or localities.

Mr. Chair, our taxpayers are broke, and our country is broke. Somebody has to do something about it. Somebody has to make the hard decisions.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, for the same reasons as the previous amendments, I respectfully urge a "no" vote. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, instead of pandering to special interest groups, we have got to pare back these wasteful programs that oftentimes serve as a boondoggle for a limited number of folks in a limited location.

This amendment does not zero out the commission's funding. It doesn't say we have got to get rid of the commission. Other administrations have done that. This doesn't say that. It simply reduces the funding to pre-COVID, pre-Biden spending levels where, quite honestly, most of our bosses, our constituents are living. That is where their paychecks are. They are back there, and we are up here, taking their money and spending it on things that are already being spent on that should be spent by somebody else.

They should be attached to accountability at State and local elected officials, but they are not. They are attached to regional commissions that most people don't know who exist, have no idea who runs them or what they do.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gen-

tleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

□ 1430

AMENDMENT NO. 50 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 50 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 68, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,500,000)".

Page 81, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,500,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I am going to sound like a broken record here, so I will keep it short. I am not picking winners and losers or favorites here. First, the Great Lakes Authority has only been authorized since 2022. It is 2024 now. It still does not have a Federal co-chair. It has no website. It has no programs funded. There is nobody there.

Yet, strangely, it is still receiving Federal dollars, to the tune of \$5 million, for projects supposedly in the watershed regions of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. I don't know because there is no one to ask.

Mr. Chair, we have seen how other commissions have gone. President Trump urged the elimination of three of them, and President Obama recommended cuts and elimination for the Denali Commission, making it bipartisan.

With that level of bipartisan criticism of existing commissions, I don't see why we need to dig ourselves even deeper with yet another commission. My goodness, Pennsylvania is covered by two of them. That is my home State. You have to call the balls and strikes.

I know people in this building will scoff at the difference between \$2.5 million and \$5 million. We are saying \$2.5 million, which is pretty bad for me. I am saying to spend \$2.5 million on a commission that doesn't have a co-chair, has no website, and has no programs funded, not \$5 million.

It is still \$2.5 million being sent to who knows where for who knows what, but it is \$2.5 million less going toward

a commission that cannot even begin operations without any Senate-confirmed Federal co-chair.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, in terms of the Great Lakes, for all the States it covers and with the enormous interests of the Great Lakes region, one that we share with Canada, we move into some really complex developmental questions in a region that has lost so many jobs.

I see what the gentleman's point is, but I don't agree with him. I stand up in support of all the commissions. I invite the gentleman to travel to these regions and see and meet with the co-chairs of these panels around our country.

This is off the subject in a way, but the gentleman's region was heavily impacted by what happened in East Palestine. I haven't seen the gentleman say anything on the floor in support of the mayor of that town or the people of that town.

If that had happened in my town, I would have been doing everything in my power to try to move the people out of that region who didn't want to stay there anymore and build them a better community in which to live and find the funds to do that, working with the railroads. I don't see the gentleman addressing issues of concern in his own region.

By the way, the part of Pennsylvania that drains into Lake Erie is covered by the Great Lakes Authority, so the gentleman is actually speaking against the interests of his own State on this amendment and a prior one. That is really shocking to me.

Mr. Chair, I don't support the gentleman's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, with all due respect, Pennsylvania can handle itself. We don't need some commission to do our work. We understand where the water from Lake Erie goes, to the Great Lakes. We understand it is complex.

I looked at the list, and I have been to all of these States. I would be happy to meet with the Federal co-chair, but there isn't one. There isn't any. I would be happy to see what they are doing, but that person doesn't exist.

Do you know what exists? Millions of dollars going to this organization where there isn't anybody there. That is what exists. That is what we are trying to rectify. We are not even saying take all of it. Just take some of it so we don't spend as much on an organization with no website, no co-chair, no plan.

All of us know it is not going to stop at \$5 million for this commission, just like the rest. It will all balloon up to tens of millions of dollars if Congress, using the power of the purse, doesn't put its foot down.

I love Pennsylvania. I love my home State. We want to handle our business. We don't need unelected bureaucrats not from Pennsylvania telling us how to do things in Pennsylvania. That is what they are going to do with this.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 51 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 51 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 68, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,500,000)".

Page 81, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,500,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I know you can't believe it, but there is one left. Like I said, we are equal opportunity here. We are going to take a look at all of them.

This amendment would halve the funding of the Southwest Border Regional Commission. This commission, which only had its first chairman confirmed in 2022 and was funded only starting in fiscal year 2021, funds projects in the southern border regions of Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas.

Incidentally, the first chairman was previously the director of economic development and special initiatives for Senator HEINRICH, which continues this theme of political connection to the chairmen of these regional commissions.

I don't know if everyone is getting that, but I bet those not appointed to the regional commission who live in those States get it.

Look, I know folks on the other side of the aisle care about the border. Well, I hope they do. I know our side sure does.

However, the answer to solving border problems is to actually enforce our Nation's immigration laws, not to give \$5 million to a commission that has not published a strategic plan and does not even appear to have a website.

We are going to give \$5 million to them to fix the border. We can't even fix it at the Federal level. Well, we can, but we refuse to. The commission received \$250,000 in FY21 but is now being funded at \$5 million in this bill for FY24. For what results? If they are there to fix the border, I would argue they have done a pretty poor job, but we are going from \$250,000 to \$5 million.

This amendment doesn't get rid of the commission. That argument can be made, but this amendment just says we are going to take it from \$5 million to a still exorbitant \$2.5 million.

I suspect we are going to hear from some of my colleagues from Texas about how they want to use this opportunity to fix the border, but this regional commission isn't the answer.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, for the same reasons with the previous amendments, I respectfully urge a "no" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, for all the reasons so stated amendment after amendment with all of these commissions duplicating Federal programs, which are specious to begin with, again, it is irrelevant to regions of the country or commissions. I am not picking on one as opposed to another, not trying to pick the winners and losers.

Our citizens can't afford their bills. This Federal Government can't afford its bills. Every dollar that we are talking about in this appropriations bill, every single dollar, is borrowed money.

Let's not borrow as much. Let's not borrow \$2.5 million as much. That is all this is saying. Still borrow a whole bunch, all of it as a matter of fact, but just not \$2.5 million more.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 53 OFFERED BY MR. ROSENDALE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 53 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to transfer or delegate control or maintenance responsibility of the Lower Yellowstone Fish Bypass Channel to any non-Federal entity.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Chair, my amendment No. 53 to the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025, would prohibit funds from being used to transfer or delegate control or maintenance responsibility of the Lower Yellowstone fish bypass channel to any non-Federal entity.

The Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project was established in 1902 and was designed solely to provide irrigation water to the farmers in eastern Montana and western North Dakota. The project specializes in water distribution, not managing fish bypass channels for endangered species like the pallid sturgeon. The fish bypass channel introduced in 2007, over 100 years after this project was built, was meant to address species conservation, and the Yellowstone River location was selected over the Lower Missouri River because of the huge cost savings.

Now, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation are trying to shift costs and responsibilities to the irrigators even after its shoddy construction, which has required additional work immediately following its completion and will continue to require expensive maintenance going forward. This is despite there being no formal agreement and the bypass channel having no operational connection to the project's irrigation duties.

Our farmers are already struggling with economic pressures and cannot afford this additional burden.

This amendment ensures that Federal agencies cannot offload their responsibilities onto local communities. It is time for the Federal Government to be accountable for its decisions and not unjustly and unilaterally transfer those costs to those who are unprepared and financially stretched.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, this amendment prevents funds from being used to transfer or delegate control or maintenance responsibility of the Lower Yellowstone fish bypass channel to any non-Federal entity.

Essentially, the gentleman wants the Corps and Bureau of Reclamation to continue paying for this after over 100 years. If folks don't agree with the authorities, laws, and policies of the Bureau of Reclamation, then this is the type of matter that should be properly

vetted through the regular order of committees of jurisdiction in this House, not through a funding prohibition.

For these reasons, I cannot support this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote against it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Chair, the fish bypass channel is a complete separate structure that is not connected to the irrigation facilities that have been in place for over 100 years. This new facility was just constructed within the last 10 years, and the Army Corps of Engineers constructed it. They funded that construction, and they took care of that construction. The irrigation project is a Bureau of Reclamation project.

The only reason that the Army Corps of Engineers stepped in to do this work on the Yellowstone River was because they wanted to mitigate the pallid sturgeon because of the Endangered Species Act, and they found the cost much more reasonable to do that on the Yellowstone River, where the population is so much lower. Also, they could accomplish it easier than to go on the Lower Missouri, where they truly had the problem. They were mitigating this off-site.

Now, they are trying to transfer those costs to the local farmers and ranchers, to the 350 families available. It is just not right. It is just not fair to unilaterally make that decision.

Mr. Chair, I appreciate the support of my colleagues for this amendment. It is critically important for the folks in eastern Montana, and it sets a good precedent going across the Nation.

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

□ 1445

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 54 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 54 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce Order No. 1920 published by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on May 13, 2024.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, the amendment I have at the desk is designed to prohibit funds for FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which subsidizes transmission to renewables. There is a certain order number, order No. 1920.

The thing is, a lot of Americans don't really know what the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is or does, but it plays a massive role in their lives. It is an agency that regulates interstate transmission of natural gas, oil, and electricity, to which President Biden has appointed a lot of commissioners to advance his climate agenda.

In May, FERC approved order No. 1920 which will force everyday Americans to subsidize the cost of transmission lines so renewable energy developers can reap the benefits of billions of dollars in Federal subsidies.

Just so everybody can understand what is going on, Congress, in its infinite wisdom, while we are \$35 trillion in debt, while our economy was reeling in the wake of a massive economic shutdown in response to the pandemic, in Congress' infinite wisdom, it passed the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, in which we massively subsidize and fund predominantly Chinese companies and billion-dollar companies here in the United States to advance openly what our colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to advance with respect to pushing their climate agenda.

We are going to subsidize our enemies, undermine our natural resources and strengths to produce American natural gas, American oil, American cars, the internal combustion engine, and in doing so, we are going to drive up the cost of all American families' goods and services and their ability to carry out their lives.

Now, in order to carry out the fantasy that our radical, progressive Democratic colleagues want to push on the American people—much like when they tried to jam the metric system on me when I was in elementary school—they want to jam this absurdity onto the American people.

They are going to say now not only do you have to eat a more expensive electric vehicle, not only do you have to have an unreliable grid, not only do you have to subsidize China and our enemies, oh, no, you get to go even further. This is going to force electricity rate payers—that means Americans—to pay for the cost of transmission lines to renewable projects which will make unreliable energy allegedly more available.

Guess what? On a cloudy, windless day, you still need that wonderful natural gas, coal, and nuclear power to power your homes or power all of your magic unicorn electric vehicles that power you around the country. Mean-

while, those electric vehicles are piling up on the lots of dealerships.

Now, you are reading articles where 50 percent of the people who own electric vehicles today are saying: Oh, gosh, I don't think I will do that anymore. I am going to sell them.

Yet, we also have this administration about to jam the American people with a rule saying you are going to have to have two-thirds of the fleet in our country be electric by 2032.

This is an administration, and these are radical, progressive, Democratic colleagues who are at war with the American family. I believe we should defund this. That is what my amendment does.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, the first thing I would like to say to the gentleman from Texas is that our country is probably going to have 400 million people by 2050, and we are going to have to make some changes to accommodate them. We may not agree on what those are, but we can't live in 1950. It just simply isn't that Nation anymore.

This amendment prohibits funds for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission order No. 1920. That is a transmission and cost allocation rule that requires the Nation's transmission providers to plan for the transmission we know we will need in the future.

I live in a region that was wiped out back in about the early 2000s. What happened was one energy company goofed and turned off a switch, and it blacked out the entire Midwest, Northeast, and Canada, costing us \$9 billion in economic activity and nine lives that were lost.

Now, it was upsetting that the grid was so integrated that we couldn't save the Ohioans that were damaged in that situation. I felt the transmission was old back then, and I know it is old now.

The FERC order 1920 is a transmission and cost allocation rule that requires the Nation's providers, the transmission providers, to plan for the transmission we know we will use in the future. Frankly, we need it right now.

This rule adopts specific requirements addressing how transmission providers must conduct long-term planning for regional transmission facilities and determine how to pay for them so that the needed transmission is built.

This rule was the first time in more than a decade that FERC has addressed the regional transmission policy. Boy, can we be a witness to that in the Midwest. We know when it wasn't there. We could see the lines just sag when the outage occurred.

To maintain a reliable electric grid and ensure that we meet our growing clean energy demands, studies show we

may need to expand transmission by 60 percent by 2030. A resilient and reliable energy grid is also critical in confronting extreme weather and climate events that will only increase in severity. We see them every month. It is clear that we need to improve how our country plans, pays for, and builds the electric grid of the future.

Finally, this rule was developed and voted on by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which is an independent agency that regulates the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and so on.

The final rule reflected more than 15,000 pages of comments from nearly 200 stakeholders, the ones that could understand how to submit comments.

This rule is one step in the much larger, complex puzzle to ensure that we have a reliable and efficient electric grid as our Nation's energy needs change in the coming decades.

A lot of people around this country are producing on property now. They don't need to go up to the grid. Maybe if things happen on their property, they have to bring down power from the grid. That ability has to be there, too.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this harmful amendment and help us prepare for the future, for heaven's sake.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, I would note that FERC Commissioner Mark Christie exposed this rule for what it is: "The final rule inflicts staggering costs on consumers by promoting the construction of trillions of dollars of transmission projects, not to serve consumers in accordance with the Federal Power Act, but to serve a major policy agenda never passed by Congress, to serve the profit-making interests of developers of politically preferred generation, primarily wind and solar, and to serve corporate 'green energy' preferential purchasing policies."

CHUCK SCHUMER basically admitted this, saying the order is: "... what we need to see the clean energy revolution, we catalyze with the IRA come to fruition."

This is an agenda. This is not about 1950. This is about 2050. You need clean-burning natural gas to actually power our homes, our hospitals, and our lives. You need to have reliable power. We ought to have more nuclear power. We can do that, and we are working on that, but you shouldn't be having these fanciful energy policies being put out there, mandated on the American people, that are crippling families.

That is the truth. In the quest for this radical agenda, you are empowering our enemies and absolutely destroying the American family who can't afford an electric vehicle that costs \$17,000 more than the internal combustion engine.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 55 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 55 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement any of the following Executive orders:

(1) Executive Order 13990, relating to Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science To Tackle the Climate Crisis.

(2) Executive Order 14008, relating to Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad.

(3) Section 6 of Executive Order 14013, relating to Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs To Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration.

(4) Executive Order 14030, relating to Climate-Related Financial Risk.

(5) Executive Order 14057, relating to Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability.

(6) Executive Order 14082, relating to Implementation of the Energy and Infrastructure Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

(7) Executive Order 14096, relating to Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, the amendment that I have put forward here would prohibit any of the funding in the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill from being used to carry out President Biden's executive orders on climate change.

Now, we have successfully gotten this amendment adopted in numerous appropriations bills last year and this year, and I hope we will again. The executive orders serve as the catalyst to—as I was referring to CHUCK SCHUMER a minute ago—some of the Department of Energy's most radical actions.

The Justice40 Initiative is a radical environmental justice initiative that directs 40 percent of the Federal clean energy and energy efficiency spending based on race, migrant status, and other characteristics.

DOE's transition to carbon pollution-free energy sources, a zero-emissions fleet, and a net-zero building portfolio make our Federal agencies wholly dependent on China for energy and wasting taxpayer dollars in the process.

DOE's overall efficiency standards for almost every household appliance, from washing machines to dishwashers to refrigerators to gas stoves, all of this is designed with a purpose. It is all designed to advance this radical agenda by radical, progressive Democratic colleagues who are more interested in worshipping at the altar of this so-called climate agenda than they are at advancing human flourishing, as God gave us the resources to do, and to develop wisely and appropriately for the betterment of civilization and to make our world a better place.

We manage climate change. We don't run from it. We actually protect our people. We allow people to advance, to be able to live in heat and cool, to be able to move around the planet and engage in commerce and lift people up, create economic opportunity.

We don't do that by hiding. We don't do that by empowering our enemies. We don't do that by undermining prosperity and undermining all that made this country great, with the available and abundant resources God gave us in this great continent of North America. We don't do that.

That is what our radical, progressive Democratic colleagues want to do. That is what they are doing. They are sending us back to the Stone Age and making people suffer. They are making the American people suffer. They are driving up the price of goods and services. They are making it harder to afford a car. They are making it harder for a plumber or small business man or business woman to do their job or take care of their families.

The goal here is to say these orders have no place. Congress has a role here in telling the administration: You have yet again overstepped your bounds. You are ignoring the Court on student loans. You are making up policies on a daily basis, endangering Americans with wide-open borders. You are allowing Americans to get killed, fentanyl to pour into our communities, and here, with this radical agenda, you are bankrupting the hardworking American family who made this country great. That is the purpose of the amendment.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

America can't live in the past. We have to adapt to the new reality.

During 2023, just last year, there were 28 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters costing over \$92 billion.

I say to my colleague from Texas, he has had some rough weather down there, too. Not just rough weather, but coming off the Gulf, those fierce incidents that occurred in Texas. I don't know how much it cost, but they are part of that \$92 billion.

□ 1500

You have had some real energy problems down there with shutoffs and all. I don't know what it is like to live in Texas. I have visited there a couple of times. You can't deny reality.

I don't know what has happened to property insurance rates in Texas, but I can tell you what, every single bill that I get has gone up for our house insurance, the property insurance and so forth. Some places in Florida, they are not even selling insurance anymore. They can't get insurance on their property.

These incidents are severe, and there have already been 15 confirmed billion-dollar weather and climate disasters this year.

Let's look at reality. Tell the American citizens who lost businesses, homes, and loved ones from hurricanes, wildfires, and other natural disasters that there are no costs from climate change. Are you kidding?

We have to adapt to a new reality and help our people, not turn our backs on them. We must maintain American leadership also in the clean energy field because otherwise we cede it to China and to other places, and we are weakened by that as a country. We have to embrace the future reality.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this harmful amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, this is not about looking backwards. It is about looking forward. That is the whole point. We are going to talk about, oh, we are going to have 400 million people or 450 million people, great. Fine. We should grow as a country. By the way, we should have more kids. That is a different conversation and a different debate. Let's grow as a country. Fantastic.

Do you know what you need? Power. Do you know what building we are sitting in right now?

One powered by natural gas.

Do you know what most of the hospitals and places in Texas that are functioning right now in the great State of Texas are powered by?

Natural gas.

Do you know what we could be powered more by?

Nuclear.

Do you know why we are not?

Crazy ideas mostly from radical, progressive Democrats who don't want to deal with the fact that we could actually safely have nuclear power.

The fact is, instead, we want to litter our continent with wind farms and solar farms which are inefficient and unreliable, demonstrably and proven to be so. That is the truth.

The fact here is we just want to have reliable power.

Even if you accept this trope that somehow we are having significantly more storms—

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROY. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Texas has a lot of wind farms and so forth.

Are you saying none of them are any good?

Mr. ROY. Reclaiming my time. Yes, we do. Yes, Texas has significantly more wind and solar than a lot of other places in the world because we embrace the all-of-the-above approach, and, no, I don't believe that is a good thing. No, I don't believe that one-third of our grid in Texas should be wind and solar.

Do you want to know why Texas is now more wind and solar?

Yes, we started it. But guess what?

The Feds are subsidizing the hell out of it. They are making it so it is not cost-effective to be able to go build more natural gas and coal, and that is destroying our country. The Federal Government is making it where Texas and other States cannot have reliable power. That is the truth. You are causing taxes on the American people, making our grid unreliable, and this trope about storms is garbage.

The fact is over the last century, many, many more lives have been saved because of the availability of reliable power than there were a century ago when, for example, a hurricane demolished Galveston long before there was any kind of fossil fuel issues.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 56 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 56 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 30, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,960,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, my amendment fully defunds the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, EERE.

I offered this amendment because we cannot, in my view, continue to fund the destruction of United States energy to satisfy the climate agenda that I have been describing over the last 15 minutes.

I do want to say, with all due respect, I believe that the Appropriations Committee did a good job in trying to pare this back, and they limited the funding of this particular office knowing that it deserves to be reduced.

I just want to take it a step further. I think when our country is \$35 trillion in debt, I think when our country is bleeding \$2 trillion a year, I think that our country needs to pinch every penny

we can. I think we should pinch those pennies in offices that are designed, frankly, to undermine the very productivity and economic growth we need to drive ourselves out of the debt that this incompetent Congress and incompetent government created for the American people.

The fiscal year 2024 minibus, that is last year's spending bill, gave this office \$3.5 billion. Again, I want to applaud the Appropriations Committee for reducing that down to about \$2 billion, \$1.96. I would like to strike it to zero. That is what this amendment would do.

This office's mission is to "equitably"—that is already a big strike. Just start with equitably.

This office's mission is to equitably transition America to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions economy-wide by no later than 2050. It funds wind and solar which are actively destroying the power grids which I just described a minute ago, undermining the ability to have reliable energy, despite the Department of Energy claiming they would lead to "enhanced reliability." They don't.

On EVs, it funds zero-emissions vehicles which I already described are significantly beneficial to the wealthy. Today, only the wealthy can afford them. Fifty percent of them are saying they don't even want them. They are piling up on dealerships' lots. We have the government now saying that you have to have two-thirds of the fleet being available by 2032. We shouldn't be funding an office to advance the thing that is already being advanced by a Congress that is messing up the ability of the American people to live.

Third, it is woke. It actively promotes divisive concepts like "energy equity and environmental justice," whatever the hell that means, which allocates taxpayer dollars based on immutable characteristics.

This is, again, your glorious government at work, picking winners and losers, dividing us up by race, making up all kinds of policies in the name of wokeism while destroying our economy in the name of pursuing their climate activist agenda.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I share some of my colleague's concern about excess spending in EERE. EERE received over \$16 billion from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, of which there are billions in unobligated balances remaining. These reasons are exactly why, and my colleague from Texas alluded to this in his amendment, we reduced EERE spending by \$1.5 billion below fiscal year 2024.

In fact, the House bill has reduced funding for EERE below the fiscal 2016 level. However, respectfully, my colleague's amendment goes too far in my view by eliminating funding for EERE.

I am actually a supporter of EERE. The work that they do advances research and development on renewable technologies, advanced manufacturing, and battery improvement. That includes essential work on critical minerals that will help lay the groundwork for technologies that will reduce our reliance on foreign supplies.

I think that is an issue we all can support.

I support strategic reductions to EERE, but I am not in favor of eliminating the account and walking away from its ongoing work.

Mr. Chair, for those reasons I must oppose my colleague's amendment, I urge my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROY. I respect the gentleman from Tennessee, and I appreciate the cuts as I already stipulated. I am glad to see it reduced by \$1.5 billion. I still say that is \$2 billion too many. I don't even know where we are getting the \$2 billion. I won't engage the gentleman on that, but nobody on this floor can tell me where we are getting the \$2 billion.

Mr. Chair, do you know what we are really doing? We are borrowing money from China. Believe it or not, in the appropriations bill this last go-round, we actually subsidized China. We borrow from China, we pay interest, and then we turn around and we subsidize China. That is what the geniuses of the congressional body do for the American people while we rack up \$35 trillion in debt.

Let's move off of the fanciful, radical climate agenda that is destroying American entrepreneurial capability and abilities and driving down prosperity, and let's move straight on to debt.

What in the hell are we going to cut if you can't cut this?

Who on this floor is going to stand up and talk about Social Security and Medicare and everything else?

No. Everybody is going to preen and posture about it. Meanwhile, we are destroying the greatest country in the history of the world by putting a tax on the American people in the form of what? Inflation.

We are killing our own country while we spend money. Mr. Chair, \$2 billion more is going to go to have this office advancing more of the very radical agenda destroying our ability to produce wealth and drive ourselves out of the debt. We are going to borrow \$2 billion more so that we can advance energy, equity, and environmental justice and try to drive toward "zero-emissions vehicles" that I already described only the wealthy are driving that cost \$17,000 more than the internal combustion engine, and we are going to drive up the price of a used internal combustion engine so that a plumber in 2030 is going to collapse. That is what is going to happen.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to

the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. The bill already cuts 43 percent in this account for energy efficiency and renewable energy. I don't really understand the gentleman from Texas, a lot of the things that he throws out there.

If you look at where agriculture is going in my part of the country, where it is going is John Deere is on track to make a 100 percent ethanol-powered tractor.

If I had said that to the gentleman 25 years ago, he would say: Well, I can't think about that. That can't happen.

Guess what? It is happening.

For the eight counties I represent, the rural parts of those counties, one-half of soybeans and corn go into making that fuel. We are very proud of it. We are very proud of it. It is renewable energy.

In terms of solar, you say: Why do you need this?

When solar first got started in my area by individual entrepreneurs—okay, inventors—the Federal Government, the Department of Energy didn't even know about what they were doing. They took their technology to the Department of Energy. Now they laud what the people were doing.

Guess what their problem was. It was getting financing and getting help to bring their technology forward because they weren't a big company, and they didn't have any of those angel investors like Texas has.

Out where I live, the people have made it forward by their own creativity and hard work.

We flew the first biofuel F-16 out of our National Guard base in Ohio. It didn't come out of Texas. It didn't come out of Tucson, it came out of our area because of the creativity our people.

Where this Department comes in and where this program comes in is for the Americans who are out there today who are inventing something new and need a little bit of help in order to get it across the finish line. I want to help them, and I am looking toward advances in biofuels, in hydrogen, and hydrogen fuel cells. Yes, in solar. I am not against solar. Wind energy, you have more of that. We have quite a bit in Ohio now, too. Geothermal, thermal heat recovery, advanced manufacturing efficiencies, we are seeing those every day. Weatherization and building materials, I can't get into all of that in the brief time I have.

It is a revolution, and it is exciting. It is exciting to be a part of America's future.

Our dominance in the solar industry, if we can get there, could result in an up to \$1.3 trillion market and 500,000 jobs. We are up to about 200,000 jobs right now in that field, and we need more people to specialize in the electricity of solar.

We can choose to give up American leadership in these technologies by cutting further innovations, or we can embrace the future of the global energy economy, and that is what I want to do.

Therefore, Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" against this harmful amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, I will just add this. Every time I get my gas can out and I have to use the stupid spout that spills all over the place because it has been regulated by the Federal Government—we messed up an actual gas can—and then I have to stick the gas in with ethanol into it that goes into the engine that then clogs up the frigging fuel pump that I then have to replace because of all that garbage, I would just tell you that none of that stuff is there if it is not subsidized. That is the truth.

The American people are tired of the Federal Government subsidizing less than optimal energy, and that is what we are doing. Without those subsidies, they die.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

□ 1515

AMENDMENT NO. 60 OFFERED BY MS. TENNEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 60 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm a salary that exceeds \$1.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my amendment No. 60 to reduce the salary of Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm to \$1.

Since taking office in January 2021, Secretary Granholm has violated the Hatch Act multiple times. She owned

Proterra stock while her boss, President Biden, repeatedly promoted the company. Her husband owned Ford stock while she personally promoted the company's work with official resources. She cashed in on millions of dollars after these illegal transactions and a failure to disclose obvious conflicts were revealed.

Most critically, she lied under oath to Congress, claiming that she did not own any individual stocks when, in fact, she did. Anyone disputing these charges should consult the following articles: Reuters, "U.S. Energy Secretary Granholm violated ethics law, watchdog says"; CNN, "Biden touts electric car company potentially worth millions for his Energy Secretary"; Washington Free Beacon, "Energy [Secretary's] husband held stock in Ford as admin approved billions in electric vehicle subsidies"; and FOX News, "Biden Energy Secretary Granholm admits false testimony about owning stocks."

Secretary Granholm has also promoted the Biden administration's disastrous energy policies that are crippling our country and preventing us from maximizing our energy independence and the all-of-the-above strategy.

Energy security is national security, and Secretary Granholm is directly jeopardizing our national security and violating our laws under the Hatch Act.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in defunding Secretary Granholm's salary by voting for this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, this amendment raises serious constitutional issues and may amount to an unconstitutional bill of attainder.

This is not the way to handle policy disputes with Secretary Granholm, who is a very highly qualified, dedicated public servant.

I have never actually heard this. These are serious charges, and this amendment prioritizes legislative theater over the American people and has no chance of becoming law.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this harmful amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chair, I heard the assertions made by my colleague. As I indicated, I cited actual news sources. The Secretary actually testified before Congress, and it was determined that she lied under oath.

Violating the Hatch Act is a crime under Federal statutes. It is time that Ms. Granholm either resign or we should reduce her salary. We have the right under Congress with our power of the purse to reduce her salary, and that is exactly what we are doing here under the Holman rule.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN).

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Chair, I respectfully rise to oppose the amendment. While I completely understand some of the frustrations my colleagues may experience with some of the dealings with the executive branch, I don't believe reducing salaries to \$1 is likely to solve the problem. I think it may create a more challenging environment.

Mr. Chair, I respectfully ask for a "no" vote.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. GARBARINO). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 61 OFFERED BY MS. TENNEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 61 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out Executive Order 14019 (863 Fed. Reg. 13623; relating to promoting access to voting), except for sections 7, 8, and 10 of such Order.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer my amendment No. 61 to the Energy-Water Development appropriations bill to prohibit funding for President Biden's Executive Order No. 14019, titled: "Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting."

This executive order requires Federal agencies to use their power, influence, resources, and Federal funding to enter into agreements with nongovernmental agencies and organizations to conduct voter registration and other mobilization activities.

Mr. Chairman, this executive order is nothing more than a blatant attempt to transform the Federal Government into a partisan get-out-the-vote machine for Democrats.

The Department of Energy should be nonpartisan, and Federal agencies should not be using taxpayer funds to actively engage in get-out-the-vote operations that have nothing to do with the agencies' core missions, not to mention the obvious mission creep and Hatch Act violations this activity would trigger.

Mr. Chair, President Biden should not be using American taxpayer dollars

to weaponize the Federal Government to manipulate and steer our election in a partisan manner. As the cofounder and chair of the Election Integrity Caucus, it is my privilege to introduce this amendment to restore transparency and confidence in our democratic process while keeping partisan Federal bureaucrats and the swamp from deliberately tipping the balance at the ballot box.

I stand firmly behind the concept of one citizen, one vote, as enshrined in our Constitution. However, I do not support this blatantly partisan mobilization of the Federal Government for political purposes. No citizen should have their vote diluted by Federal bureaucrats.

While our energy infrastructure and independence are at risk, and so many communities in our districts do not have safe, clean drinking water, the funds in this bill should be spent for the purpose they are appropriated, not implementing a partisan get-out-the-vote initiative.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment, which will preserve election integrity and stop the Biden administration from transforming the people's government into a get-out-the-vote machine for partisan Democrats. Let's make voting great again.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, the gentlewoman's amendment is another example of the majority proposing language that is not germane to an energy bill. It is yet an additional illustration of how Republicans are not interested in bills that can gain bipartisan support and become law.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this harmful amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chair, unfortunately, my colleague is not correct on this. The Biden administration put out Executive Order No. 14019 and tasked all Federal agencies, including all the agencies that are included in this appropriations bill, to get involved with third parties in order to get out the vote, moving away from providing the core missions we described that each of these agencies under their appropriated designations are required to perform under law.

They are not allowed to get engaged in political processes, a direct violation of the Hatch Act. That is why this bill is germane, and that is why I urge all of my colleagues to actually support this bill.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 62 OFFERED BY MR. VAN DREW

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 62 printed in part A of House Report 118–602.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations of the Department of Energy.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in favor of my amendment No. 62. It would prohibit funds from being used for the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations within the Department of Energy. I know that sounds like a wonderful title and Members think what could be wrong with that. I am going to explain, Mr. Chairman, what is wrong with it.

This Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations is going to have an equitable energy transition. Let's talk in real words about what that means. It means that Americans who don't want this are going to be forced to have this transition, and they are going to be forced into spending their taxpayer dollars for it.

I will point out what Americans are tired of. They are tired of being told what to do by politicians and those in certain positions of power. I think we forget sometimes that Americans don't work for us. The politicians, the Members of Congress, the Members of the Senate, and the President of the United States work for them. So often, we forget that.

What does this all mean, what this Department does, this group of people who supposedly know so much? It means less reliable energy. It means continued higher energy prices. It means less energy independence.

Many of the technologies that this office uses and advocates for rely on countries, particularly China, a country with a track record of human rights violations, such as what goes on in Congo. Mr. Chair, I want everybody to listen to this. That is where modern-day slavery is in effect, forcing hundreds of thousands of Africans to work in subhuman conditions in order to mine the cobalt needed for electric vehicles.

How wrong is that? While we are driving around in our fancy electric vehicles, mostly wealthier folks, these people are scratching the dirt, trying to just survive, and we think that is a good thing. That is not the American way.

It is also important to note, even if my colleagues do believe in it, that America has these resources and is quite blessed with rare earth minerals. This administration continues to prevent our ability to actually mine them, so we depend on China more than ever.

Members couldn't make this stuff up. Members can't believe it, but it is true. It forces us to purchase from China.

It is unfair, unethical, and, I would maintain, un-American to continue forcing to pay this money, to continue forcing taxpayers to subsidize it, to continue forcing Americans to have this shoved down their throats when they don't want it.

We need to end the subsidization of clean energy in this form. Let the marketplace take effect. Let's have the competition. Let's see if nuclear is the best. Let's see if we can really build and supply more solar panels in the United States of America but not rely on other countries.

Eliminating offices like these is a step in the right direction. It is the right thing to do for so many reasons. I have just outlined a few of them.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations is responsible for managing more than \$25 billion for large-scale pilot programs and demonstrations across numerous energy technologies. It is our responsibility to be good stewards of taxpayer funds, which is why the House bill includes no funding for the office to conduct new demonstrations.

Instead, the only funds provided to the office in this bill are for staff to provide project management oversight. My colleague's amendment, respectfully, would prohibit funds for that oversight function, preventing the office from ensuring programs are being properly administered.

That would directly impact the success of important programs within the office's jurisdiction, like the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program and the small modular reactor program. These programs, which have strong bipartisan support, are essential to ensuring our Nation's energy security and regaining U.S. leadership in nuclear energy.

We can't abandon our oversight responsibilities and risk the success of programs like these. For these reasons, I must oppose the amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

□ 1530

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Chair, I respect my colleague, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, tremendously. It is one of those few times we will have to agree to disagree, but I

think it is so important that we make a statement here.

There are some good things that office does, but they do so many things that we don't agree with. This is the conundrum that we always find ourselves in in Congress. In order to get a modicum of good things done, we have to vote for the whole package and the whole thing moves forward, and so many of those initiatives are not good, and that is the problem here.

Let's do this right. I believe in nuclear. I believe solar can have a role. I don't believe wind can do well, especially out in the ocean, but the point is, let the marketplace of ideas be the ones that dictate what we should do here. This office does so much that it shouldn't do, yet we are told we have to vote for this because they do a few things we agree with. I respectfully disagree.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment and say that I can still recall in this country when the first Arab oil embargo occurred in the late 1970s, and this country was shut down because we were not energy independent inside our borders. When they chose to close the spigot, unemployment in my area shot up to nearly 20 percent.

During this war in Ukraine that we are experiencing now, what does Russia do? It tries to divert its oil shipments here and many other places around the world in order to use that power to achieve its political ends.

Energy is vital, and it can be used as a weapon. We have to be energy independent inside these borders. The Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations was established in order to scale up emerging technologies. We cannot just rely on the past. This is an agile country. We have to build the future.

This office focuses on advanced nuclear, for example. It focuses on carbon capture and energy improvements, both in rural or remote areas as well as the reclaiming of former mine lands. We are looking at smaller nuclear reactors in some of those places, industrial demonstrations, working with the steel industry. They have made a revolution in energy savings. It is exciting to see.

Their strategy includes energy storage demonstrations, regional clean hydrogen hubs, which I hope someday to get in my area because I so believe in hydrogen fuel cells, but we have to push the technology further than it is and others yet to be invented, certainly in the thermal energy recapture field.

Mr. Chair, we must continue to invest in an all-of-the-above strategy to make this country energy independent in perpetuity. We cannot lose our momentum, and, unfortunately, I believe

your amendment does exactly that, loses momentum. It helps to throttle scientific innovation, which is what the Department of Energy has in all of our 17 labs, everything that is being done. The average business that is out there can't do some of what the Department of Energy can help them do with a supercomputing capacity and with its ability to deal with rare minerals and so forth.

The amendment may be well-intentioned in the offering, but I have to oppose it, however, because I really think it drives America backward, and that is not where we need to be at this moment in history.

Mr. Chair, I urge Members to vote against this amendment.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Chair, just quickly to wrap it up, we are less energy independent now than we were 4 years ago. I agree we should look at nuclear, look at carbon capture, look at all these things, but don't make us more dependent on other countries.

The wind turbines they want to build in our beautiful oceans are going to make us more dependent on energy from foreign countries. What we are forcing on the American public with the EVs, the electric vehicles, will make us more dependent on China.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 63 OFFERED BY MR. VAN DREW

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 63 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. The salary of Jigar Shah, Director of the Loan Programs Office, shall be reduced to \$1.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Chair, I rise today in favor of my amendment, No. 63, which would reduce the salary of Director Shah of the Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office to \$1.

Director Shah receives the allocation of grants and loans for clean energy initiatives funded through both the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. I voted for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, so it particularly disturbs me.

As this administration continues to prioritize dubious green initiatives, American energy prices have gone up, not down, our strategic reserves have been depleted, and reliable energy sources are being overlooked in favor of less reliable energy sources.

Mr. Shah has played a critical role in that decline and he has hurt America.

Beyond his advocacy for the Green New Deal, Mr. Shah's conflict of interest and questionable business practices are deeply troubling.

Let me explain. Mr. Shah was the president of Generate Capital. He provided a \$100 million loan to Plug Power, a company that develops hydrogen fuel cells.

Later, as director of the Loan Programs Office, Mr. Shah proceeded to give Plug Power a \$1.66 billion loan guarantee, but this came from the Department of Energy, our tax dollars. Mr. Chair, it came from your tax dollars and the tax dollars of Americans.

In 2023, Plug Power proceeded to report over \$1.3 billion in losses.

This raises serious concerns about Mr. Shah's ability to conduct proper risk assessment and the decision-making process that he has as director, as well as concerns over his potential undue influence and favoritism within the loan process for companies he has relationships with.

Again, that is what Americans are tired of. They are tired of the good old boy system. They are tired of money going to people that are connected.

Mr. Shah also approved a \$3 billion partial loan guarantee to a company we have heard of: Sunnova. It is a solar company with a history of questionable and aggressive sales tactics and some ethical issues, including pressuring vulnerable customers into expensive, long-term contracts that they didn't want or need.

It highlights another example of Mr. Shah's questionable financial oversight ability, but it also breaches the public trust when such companies receive billions upon billions of dollars that are taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Shah has also admitted under oath—and I want everybody to listen to this one; he said it under oath—he attended paid conferences where he got paid where applicants to the Loan Programs Office were present, and they paid to be there to hear Mr. Shah speak. We have got to wonder about that one.

It raises serious pay-to-play concerns and is another example of his potential conflict of interest playing a role where he allocates loans as the director.

In light of these serious concerns, it is imperative that we take decisive action to restore public trust in govern-

ment. We work for the public. They don't work for us. We have got to punish bad behavior, and this administration does not.

By passing my amendment, which reduces his salary to \$1, Congress will send a clear message that ethical lapses are not tolerated, and conflicts of interest are not tolerated and will not be accepted.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. NORMAN). The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, this amendment raises serious constitutional issues and may amount to an unconstitutional bill of attainder. This is not the way to handle policy disputes with Jigar Shah, director of the Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office. The amendment prioritizes legislative theater again over the American people, and it has no chance of becoming law.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this harmful amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Chair, I haven't seen any decision or anything that says that it is unconstitutional. I do not agree. I urge people to vote for my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 64 OFFERED BY MR. VAN DREW

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 64 printed in part A of House Report 118-602.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 30, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$10,000,000)".

Page 32, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Chair, I rise today in favor of my amendment No. 64.

This amendment would increase funding at the Department of Energy

to enhance the security of existing electrical transformers from both physical and cyber threats.

Few parts of our Nation's infrastructure are more critical to everyday life and national security than our electrical grid, and it is under an alarming increase in threats over the past several years, as we all know.

In 2022 alone, a decade-high surge in attacks occurred with 101 incidents being reported in August alone. While some of these instances amounted to petty vandalism, some of the threats were serious. They were real. They were coordinated efforts to cause widespread power outages to all of our American citizens.

One such effort in Moore County, North Carolina, left nearly 50,000 people without power after two Duke Energy substations were shot at.

In 2023, extremists plotted to attack multiple energy substations in Maryland with the goal of literally destroying Baltimore.

In Michigan, this year alone, 14 different incidents of gunshot damage to transformers, regulators, and other electrical equipment have occurred.

These are clearly not isolated incidents, Mr. Chair, but rather a concerning and growing trend across the United States of America.

Perpetrators of these attacks have been part of extremist groups, including neo-Nazi groups, and have admitted to seeking to sow unrest and disrupt our infrastructure system to destroy and create anarchy in our country.

While States have begun to act on this issue, it is far past time our Federal Government got involved, ensuring that these critical pieces of infrastructure are secured from all types of threats.

This amendment seeks to build off existing efforts by increasing funding to go toward advancing security measures, increasing our efforts to better detect, deter, and to respond to these attacks.

□ 1545

This is not just a matter of infrastructure improvement. It is an investment in our Nation's security and the well-being of our citizens.

I don't even have to say this, but I will. Electricity is a modern necessity of life. Mr. Chair, this is what the American people want us to do. This is what our job is supposed to be, to make sure that we are safe and secure.

This amendment is a vital step toward protecting it from threats, both domestic and abroad, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I claim the time opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

I rise in reluctant opposition to this amendment. It transfers \$10 million to

the grid deployment account from the energy efficiency and renewable energy account for the purposes to enhance the security of existing electrical transformers from cyber threats and from physical attacks from individuals.

While I very much support the intent behind this amendment to enhance the security of existing electrical transformers from cyber threats and physical attacks, I cannot support the source of the funds for the amendment, the energy and efficiency and renewable energy accounts, which have already been cut by 43 percent.

Further cutting these programs, even for noble purposes, is not in our Nation's interest. We can choose to give up American leadership in these technologies by cutting further innovation, or we can embrace the future of the global energy economy on all levels.

I point out that the Department of Energy's work to support and secure the transformer supply chain spans across the Office of Electricity, Grid Deployment, and Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response with other programs also contributing.

I hope the gentleman can continue to work toward his objective, but we will oppose this particular amendment. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentlewoman's remarks. However, I respectfully disagree. We are moving from one account, which is basically forcing people to accept something that they do not want and have clearly said that does not help America.

I also respectfully will disagree with her that we are not showing American leadership. Maybe it is Chinese leadership or foreign countries leadership. We are not energy independent now. We were. We can be unbelievably energy independent. We can export energy and not only fossil fuels.

Americans lead. Americans are great. Americans have the ability to ensure that our country is number one. There is nothing wrong with American exceptionalism and being the best and doing the most.

This is part of it. We have to make sure that we do what really truly helps the American public, which is to make sure that we are safe and secure and not forcing them to accept something that is going to be very expensive and cause us to rely on foreign countries more than we ever have in our American history of entrepreneurship and exceptionalism.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey will be postponed.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW) having assumed the chair, Mr. NORMAN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration 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, had come to no resolution thereon.

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 3 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 8997.

Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. FERGUSON) kindly take the chair.

□ 1631

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further 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, with Mr. FERGUSON (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 64, printed in part A of House Report 118-602, offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) had been postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part A of House Report 118-