

Mr. Speaker, I encourage adoption of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7872.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CRITICAL MINERALS IN HEALTHCARE ACT OF 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6395) to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to require the Secretary of the Interior to include the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultations regarding designations of critical minerals, elements, substances, and materials.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6395

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Recognizing the Importance of Critical Minerals in Healthcare Act of 2023”.

##### SEC. 2. REQUIRED CONSULTATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

Paragraphs (4)(C) and (5)(A) of section 7002(c) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(c)(4)(C) and (5)(A)) are each amended by inserting “Health and Human Services,” after “Agriculture.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 6395, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill brings together two agencies that don't usually interact, the United States Geological Survey, USGS, and the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS.

H.R. 6395, the Recognizing the Importance of Critical Minerals in Healthcare Act of 2023, would add HHS as a consulting agency for the development of USGS' critical minerals list.

USGS publishes and updates this list every 3 years and, as directed by the

Energy Act of 2020, consults with the Secretaries of Defense, Commerce, Agriculture, and Energy and the United States Trade Representative in crafting each iteration.

Why is it important to include HHS as a consulting agency? The critical minerals list constitutes a collection of minerals deemed necessary for economic and national security and whose supply chains are vulnerable to disruption.

There are many mineral applications in the healthcare industry. For example, radioisotopes derived from low-enriched uranium are used in over 40,000 imaging procedures in the U.S. daily, enabling diagnoses of cancer and heart disease, and liquid helium is frequently used as a coolant in MRI machines.

By requiring DOI to consult with HHS, H.R. 6395 would ensure that medical uses of these minerals and the ramifications that any supply disruption could have on the healthcare economy are adequately considered when evaluating critical minerals list designations.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) for his hard work in bringing this bill to the floor today, and I thank my friends on the other side of the aisle for recognizing the importance of passing this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6395, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of the Recognizing the Importance of Critical Minerals in Healthcare Act sponsored by my friend and colleague, Representative CURTIS, who I, too, am going to miss when he goes to the other side, but I still plan on working very closely together with him.

This bill would require the United States Geological Survey to consult with the Department of Health and Human Services on the critical minerals list.

The critical minerals list, as folks know, can be quite controversial, but this bill takes a true good-governance approach by increasing intergovernmental coordination.

It is straightforward. The critical minerals list identifies the mineral commodities that are critical to our Nation's economic and national security. Healthcare is, of course, vitally important to our economic and national security.

This bill recognizes the importance of the minerals used by the healthcare sector. Certain platinum metals are used in chemotherapy and cardiac technology. Zinc is used to carry portable oxygen and in defibrillators. Lithium is used in pacemakers and other portable electronics. There are countless examples of lifesaving medicines and medical devices that use critical minerals.

USGS already consults with the Secretaries of Defense, Commerce, Agriculture, and Energy and the U.S. Trade

Representative on the critical minerals list and informally consults with the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Formally consulting with HHS is an appropriate way to ensure minerals used in medical technologies are appropriately evaluated for criticality.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I first would like to return the appreciation to the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee and for the opportunity to work with him. I think he is a great example of what a chairperson should do in Congress. To my good friend from Michigan, I thank her. I am not going that far away, and I look forward to continuing to work with her. She is a wonderful example to me of passion and love for what she does, and the people of Michigan are fortunate to have her represent them.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Recognizing the Importance of Critical Minerals in Healthcare Act. I also thank Congresswoman DEGETTE for her partnership in advancing this important initiative.

This legislation addresses a critical gap in the process for identifying minerals essential to our Nation.

Under current law, the U.S. Geological Survey collaborates with various government agencies to assess and designate critical minerals vital to our national security. However, one key agency is glaringly absent from this process: the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS.

HHS plays a central role in our healthcare system, yet it has been excluded from decisions about minerals critical to the medical technologies and treatments that Americans rely on every day.

For example, helium is necessary for medical imaging. MRIs require nearly 2,000 liters of helium to maintain the magnets that make them functional.

Despite the growing helium shortage, this essential resource was recently removed from the critical minerals list, a decision that underscores the need for better interagency coordination.

By ensuring the healthcare implications of critical minerals decisions are fully considered, this legislation will help safeguard public health and our medical infrastructure.

Whether it is helium or other minerals essential to producing lifesaving medical devices, we must ensure that our decisionmaking process reflects the needs of the healthcare system.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their bipartisan support in recognizing the importance of this issue.

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

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

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

Without the necessary tools, healthcare professionals cannot administer lifesaving care to their patients. While it may not be immediately obvious, these tools include minerals and materials.

From the copper, gold, lithium, titanium, silver, and platinum used in antimicrobial touch surfaces, heart stents, pacemakers, surgical tools, antibiotics, and chemotherapy to the uranium byproducts and liquid helium used in cancer treatments and MRI scans that I mentioned earlier, our healthcare system is only as reliable as our supply chains.

The Energy Act of 2020 was crafted explicitly so USGS would consult with multiple agencies, each providing expertise within their prospective jurisdictions.

Adding HHS as one of these agencies, as H.R. 6395 aims to do, would ensure the mineral needs of the healthcare sector are fully considered as USGS crafts the critical minerals list going forward.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6395.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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#### FISHERY IMPROVEMENT TO STREAMLINE UNTIMELY REGULATORY HURDLES POST EMERGENCY SITUATION ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5103) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to approve or deny spend plans within a certain amount of time, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5103

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Fishery Improvement to Streamline untimely regulatory Hurdles post Emergency Situation Act" or the "FISHES Act".*

#### SEC. 2. SPEND PLANS.

*Section 312(a)(6) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a(a)(6)) is amended—*

*(1) in subparagraph (D), to read as follows:*

*"(D) SPEND PLANS.—*

*"(i) IN GENERAL.—To receive an allocation from funds available under paragraph (9), a requester with an affirmative fishery resource disaster determination shall submit a spend plan to the Secretary, not more than 120 days after receiving notification that funds are available, that shall include the following information, if applicable:*

*"(I) Objectives and outcomes, with an emphasis on addressing the factors contributing to the fishery resource disaster and minimizing future uninsured losses, if applicable.*

*"(II) Statement of work.*

*"(III) Budget details.*

*"(ii) REVIEW.—*

*"(I) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall review a spend plan submitted under clause (i) to determine if it is complete and provide notice within 10 days.*

*"(II) INCOMPLETE SPEND PLAN.—If the Secretary determines that a spend plan submitted under clause (i) is not complete, when providing the notice required by subclause (I), the Secretary shall provide a detailed description of the information that is necessary for the spend plan to be determined complete.";* and

*(2) in subparagraph (F)(i), to read as follows:*

*"(i) AVAILABILITY.—*

*"(I) TIMELINE.—Funds shall be made available to grantees not later than 90 days after the date the Secretary receives a complete spend plan.*

*"(II) REVIEW OF COMPLETED SPEND PLAN AND APPORTIONMENT OF FUNDS.—If so requested, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget may review a completed spend plan concurrently with the Secretary. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget may not delay the timeline described in subclause (I)."*

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5103, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5103, the Fishery Improvement to Streamline untimely regulatory Hurdles post Emergency Situation, or the FISHES, Act.

This legislation, sponsored by the gentleman from Florida, Congressman BYRON DONALDS, will protect States and fishing communities from unnecessary delays in the disaster recovery process.

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, States and communities affected by fishery disasters can petition for funding to assist in response and recovery efforts. However, affected States and communities have experienced delays in obtaining the approvals needed to access these funds. H.R. 5103 requires the Secretary of Commerce to review disaster spending plans submitted by requesters within 10 days.

Additionally, while the legislation allows the Office of Management and Budget to review spending plans, it makes it clear that they may not, and I repeat may not, delay the statutory timelines. This will ensure accountability and consistency in the fishery disaster response process, providing certainty to States and fishing communities in times of recovery.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5103 would speed up the timelines for providing funding to communities affected by fishery disasters.

Coastal communities rely on fisheries for jobs and economic development. However, a fishery's health often depends on environmental conditions. Hurricanes, oil spills, and other disasters can severely impact fisheries and harm coastal economies.

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Congress can appropriate funds for disaster assistance, which the Department of Commerce can then provide in the form of a grant, cooperative agreement, loan, or contract.

After the Secretary of Commerce declares a fishery disaster and Congress appropriates disaster funding, the Office of Management and Budget must approve spend plans before any money can be distributed to recipients. These reviews can also be lengthy.

Delays in processing mean longer wait times for fishers, Tribes, and coastal communities needing relief.

Allowing the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of Commerce to review spend plans concurrently, as this bill proposes, will increase efficiency and speed up the allocation of disaster relief funds, ensuring faster support for impacted communities and more efficient recovery efforts.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS), who is the lead sponsor of the bill.

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, the FISHES Act.

I represent Florida's 19th Congressional District in southwest Florida, which has a significant coastal presence.

In southwest Florida, hurricanes are common, which often bring about significant damage to critical infrastructure, businesses, and communities alike.

When people think about disaster relief, FEMA and the SBA often come to mind. However, we must not forget about the critical disaster relief that NOAA provides in the aftermath of a federally declared fishery disaster.

For background, during the fishery disaster relief process, States must