

the United States and liberty-loving people require military alliances that can counter and defeat willful aggression by rogue states.

The Secretary of Defense is in a critical position that requires a sacred trust, especially the trust of our brave servicemembers, that they will be led capably; the trust of our Nation, that we will maintain the security of the American people; and the trust of our allies and partners, that America will continue to stand strong as a shield of freedom and liberty for all.

The consequences of betraying that sacred trust are both dire and lasting. We must choose wisely.

AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I have one final topic this evening on the question of American energy independence, which is so vital to our domestic security and our international security.

We well know, when the United States became dependent on imported oil, we fell into deep recession during the 1970s, and we spent the last half century trying to catch up to become energy independent here at home in perpetuity. It is a major objective for the safety and security of our people, and we are making great progress.

With the radiant lights above us here in the Chamber tonight, I am here to speak about that force that illuminates every facet of our daily lives: energy. Not just any energy, but American energy. Energy infuses life into our Nation, energy powers our homes, energy fuels our industries, and energy safeguards our independence.

My message is clear: Our Nation must aim forcefully toward American energy independence in perpetuity.

In northwest Ohio, you don't have to look far to see the embodiment of an all-encompassing energy strategy. From the majestic wind turbines that dot our western agricultural basin landscape, especially in the agricultural regions, to our premier domestic solar manufacturing companies, to the advanced nuclear and hydrogen future we imagine, our region is a living testament to the strength and potential of our skilled technicians and industrious innovators.

America can't and shouldn't play the piano with just one key. We need every key on the energy board: oil and gas, wind, solar, hydrogen, thermal recovery, biofuels, advanced nuclear, and systems yet to come.

Energy is essential and innovative. It creates high-paying jobs in multiple energy sectors, ensuring that the lights stay on for energy and power systems and allowing our holiday trees to sparkle a little brighter. Energy allows families to gather in warm homes, bake holiday treats, and make good memories.

Over the last 4 years, our Nation has made enormous strides toward energy independence. We are increasing energy production across all sectors. In 2023, the United States set all-time

records for both crude oil production and natural gas exports.

As time goes on, those resources will diminish, and we simply must invent our way forward to be energy independent forever. This is not easy, but it is the struggle we are in.

At the same time, renewable energy production continues to grow with the shocking statistic of wind and solar power now contributing close to 15 percent of our electricity. That is just in modern history, and we have a long way to go. These technologies are revolutionizing our accomplishment of energy independence at the start of this 21st century's new energy age.

Yet, as we make strides in energy diversity and security, we face new political whims that mustn't threaten to derail the progress that we have made. Politics should never jeopardize the security of the American people or play games with energy independence. We must keep our pedal on the metal, pushing forward, not backward.

To the new administration in Washington, I say: Embrace an all-of-the-above energy policy. Leave no sector behind. "Clean energy" is not a dirty word. We must maintain a balanced portfolio to ensure American energy independence going far into the future.

The farm bill that has been held back by the leadership of this House, that we could pass this week, has a special section that is built into it, and that includes the continuing resolution that it is a part of an E15 inclusion for our country in perpetuity. It is just magnificent as we try to use every key on the piano to help our country produce new, good jobs in the energy sector and one that uses all of our talents.

Come to northwest Ohio. See firsthand how a comprehensive energy strategy operates. See the innovation and dedication that fuels our community and our country. We are inventing the future.

Just this week, the village of Pioneer in Williams County, Ohio, has shown remarkable vision and determination to harness the power of clean energy with new funding announced for a solar field through a \$10.5 million Federal loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Pioneer will deliver tangible benefits for northwest Ohio residents, including lowering energy costs, strengthening infrastructure, and promoting energy independence for decades to come.

I commend the Pioneer community leadership in pursuing this opportunity to power its future with better and lower costs through renewable energy. Northwest Ohio is the solar capital of America, and I encourage other communities across our region to follow the pioneering lead of Pioneer, Ohio, in building solar fields that can harness the renewable energy of the Sun that shines bright over our region.

Let's not throttle down on American progress in any sector. Instead, let's do what America does best: invent the future and adapt to changing conditions.

Let's accelerate energy innovation. Let's champion it. Let's support it and propel it into the future. We have a duty to safeguard our energy independence to ensure security so that every American family, community, and business can continue to thrive.

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

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 7 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YAKYM) at 10 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

HOURLY OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Kevin F. McCumber, Acting Clerk of the House, reported that on December 17, 2024, the following bills were presented to the President of the United States for approval:

H.R. 7872 To amend the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to modify certain requirements applicable to salinity control units, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6960 To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children program.

H.R. 6829 To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize and support the creation and dissemination of cardiomyopathy education, awareness, and risk assessment materials and resources to identify more at-risk families, to authorize research and surveillance activities relating to cardiomyopathy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5301 To amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3801 To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to streamline and improve the employer reporting process relating to health insurance coverage and to protect dependent privacy.

H.R. 3797 To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an alternative manner of furnishing certain health insurance coverage statements to individuals.

H.R. 3254 To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a process to review applications for certain grants to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1097 To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the Nation.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-6409. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's final guidance — Guidance for Resolution Plan Submissions of Foreign Triennial Full Filers [Docket No.: OP-1817] received December 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-6410. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's final guidance — Guidance for Resolution Plan Submissions of Domestic Triennial Full Filers [Docket No.: OP-1816] received December 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-6411. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's final rule — Federal Reserve Bank Capital Stock [Regulation I; Docket No.: R-1844] (RIN: 7100-AG85) received December 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-6412. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Truth in Lending (Regulation Z) Annual Threshold Adjustments (Credit Cards, HOEPA, and Qualified Mortgages) received December 11, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-6413. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Fair Credit Reporting Act Disclosures received December 11, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-6414. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the 2023 Victims of Child Abuse Act Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-6415. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Personal Protective Equipment in Construction [Docket No.: OSHA-2019-0003] (RIN: 1218-AD25) received December 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-6416. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Sixteenth Annual Report on Delays in Approvals of Applications Related to Citizen Petitions and Petitions for Stay of Agency Action: FY 2023, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 355(q)(3); June 25, 1938, ch. 675, Sec. 505(q)(3) (as amended by Public Law 110-85, Sec. 914(a)); (121 Stat. 956); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6417. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) (RIN: 0955-AA07) received December 11, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6418. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2023 Nursing Workforce Report to Congress; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6419. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Office of State and Community Energy Programs, State Energy Programs, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Mandatory Transmission and Distribution Planning Support Activities (RIN: 1930-AA01) received December 16, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6420. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6421. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress covering the six-month period ending September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6422. A letter from the Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period ending September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6423. A letter from the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report, pursuant to 6 U.S.C. 345(b); Public Law 107-296, Sec. 705; (116 Stat. 2219); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6424. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6425. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress, covering the period ending September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6426. A letter from the Director, Office of Communication and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2024 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6427. A letter from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress, covering the period from April 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6428. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period April 1, 2024, through, September 30, 2024 and the Management Report on Final Actions for the Six-Month Period Ending September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6429. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2024, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6430. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6431. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's Semiannual Management Report to Congress, covering the period April 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6432. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Management Response for the period of April 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6433. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Privacy Act Regulation; Exemption for Legal Case Management Records (RIN: 1212-AB59) received December 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6434. A letter from the Chair of the Board, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6435. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2024, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6436. A letter from the Biologist, Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Swale Paintbrush [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2022-0173; FXES111090FEDR-256-FF09E21000] (RIN: 1018-BF79) received December 13, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6437. A letter from the Biologist, Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for the Peñasco Least Chipmunk and Designation of Critical Habitat [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2020-0042; FXES111090FEDR-245-FF09E21000] (RIN: 1018-BD94) received December 16, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.