

- (A) voluntary open membership;
- (B) democratic control;
- (C) owner economic participation;
- (D) autonomy and independence;
- (E) education, training, and information;
- (F) cooperation among cooperatives; and
- (G) concern for community;

Whereas cooperative entrepreneurs can be found in almost every economic sector in the United States, throughout all 50 States and the territories of the United States, and in every congressional district in the United States;

Whereas cooperatives help farmers increase incomes and become more resilient to economic business cycles by working together to plan and prepare for the future, while contributing significantly to the economic activity in the agriculture and food markets of the United States;

Whereas the roughly 1,700 agricultural cooperatives in the United States operate more than 9,500 facilities, employ a record \$111,000,000,000 in assets, and generate more than \$231,400,000,000 in business;

Whereas the majority of the 2,000,000 farmers in the United States belong to an agricultural cooperative;

Whereas agricultural cooperatives offer members the opportunity to access commodity value-added profits throughout the handling, processing, and distribution chains;

Whereas member-owners in agricultural cooperatives are dedicated to providing the highest quality product for consumers;

Whereas agricultural cooperatives add significant benefits to the economic well-being of rural areas of the United States by providing more than 250,000 jobs with annual wages totaling more than \$11,000,000,000;

Whereas agricultural cooperatives provide resources to their member-owners, such as low-cost supplies, effective marketing, and services;

Whereas farmer members in agricultural cooperatives have the opportunity to pool resources and reinvest profits into the communities of the farmer members;

Whereas the principles of cooperation and the cooperative business model help smallholder farmers organize themselves and gain access to local and global markets, training, improved inputs, conservation programs, and aggregated sales and marketing;

Whereas the cooperative business model provides farmers ownership over their economic decisions, a focus on learning, and a broader understanding of environmental and social concerns;

Whereas the cooperative business model has been used throughout the history of the United States to advance civil rights and to help ensure that all people have equal access to economic opportunity;

Whereas cooperative values promote self-determination and democratic rights for all people;

Whereas the comprehensive global food security strategy established under section 5 of the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9304) (commonly known as “Feed the Future”) and the Cooperative Development Program of the United States Agency for International Development use cooperative principles and the cooperative business model to advance international development, nutrition, resilience, and economic security;

Whereas the Interagency Working Group on Cooperative Development—

(1) is an interagency group that is coordinated and chaired by the Secretary of Agriculture to foster cooperative development and ensure coordination with Federal agencies and national and local cooperative organizations that have cooperative programs and interests; and

(2) as of the date of introduction of this resolution, has organized 11 meetings;

Whereas the bipartisan Congressional Cooperative Business Caucus unites Members of Congress to—

(1) create a better-informed electorate and a more educated public on the important role that cooperatives play in the economy of the United States and the world;

(2) promote the cooperative business model because that model ensures that consumers have access to high-quality goods and services at competitive prices and costs that improve the lives of individuals, families, and their communities; and

(3) address and correct awareness challenges among the public and within the Federal Government relating to what cooperatives look like, who participates in cooperatives, where cooperatives are located, and why individuals choose cooperatives;

Whereas the Bureau of the Census, as part of the 2017 and 2022 Economic Censuses, asked each business if the business was organized as a cooperative, and the responses of businesses yielded both quantitative and qualitative data on the effects and importance of cooperatives across the economy of the United States;

Whereas, throughout the rural United States, many utility service providers operate as cooperatives and are tasked with the delivery of public services, such as electricity, water, telecommunications, and broadband, in areas where investor-owned utility companies typically do not operate;

Whereas utility cooperatives have innovated to meet the evolving needs of their member-owners, create more resilient communities, and help rural individuals in the United States prosper;

Whereas electric cooperatives serve 56 percent of the landmass of the United States, including 92 percent of persistent poverty counties, and energy cooperatives power more than 21,500,000 homes, businesses, and schools;

Whereas there are approximately 260 telephone cooperatives in the United States with total annual revenues of \$3,900,000,000;

Whereas, in the financial services sector, cooperatives, including credit unions, farm credit banks, and other financing organizations that lend to cooperatives, provide numerous benefits to the member-owners of those cooperatives;

Whereas, nationally, approximately 4,800 credit unions serve 138,000,000 members;

Whereas member-owners of cooperatives vote in board elections, and earned profits cycle back into cost-saving programs or return as dividend payments;

Whereas purchasing and shared service cooperatives allow independent and franchise businesses to thrive;

Whereas food cooperatives range in size from small, local institutions to multi-store regional giants that compete with chain stores with locations across the United States;

Whereas food cooperatives support local producers in all 50 States and reduce food insecurity;

Whereas, in the housing sector, housing cooperatives and resident-owned communities in which members own the building or land—

(1) are an alternative to conventional rental apartments, manufactured home parks, and condominiums; and

(2) empower each resident with ownership and responsibility;

Whereas housing cooperatives have roots dating to the late 1800s and are increasingly becoming a housing alternative for students at colleges throughout the United States;

Whereas shared equity housing cooperatives are a strategy for preserving long-term, affordable housing;

Whereas cooperatives allow residents of manufactured home communities to collectively purchase the land on which they live, providing stability and the opportunity to self-govern;

Whereas, as of 2023, 309 manufactured home communities are cooperatively owned;

Whereas the growth of worker cooperatives in the United States is allowing more workers to own and have greater control over their businesses;

Whereas many small businesses convert to cooperatives when faced with closure or a buyout, ensuring that such a business can continue to serve its community; and

Whereas the cooperative business model allows business owners to retire and transfer business ownership to employees or consumers, protecting local ownership and supporting local communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of “National Co-Op Month”;;

(2) commends the cooperative business model for—

(A) its contributions to the economy of the United States;

(B) the jobs it creates; and

(C) its positive impacts on local communities;

(3) expresses confidence in, and support for, cooperatives to continue their successes; and

(4) will be mindful in crafting legislation that affects business models that are not the cooperative business model so that the legislation does not adversely affect the cooperative business model.

SENATE RESOLUTION 526—REPEALING STANDING ORDERS RELATING TO FLOWERS IN THE SENATE CHAMBER

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 526

Resolved,

SECTION 1. REPEAL OF RESTRICTION ON FLOWERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Senate Resolution 284 (58th Congress), agreed to February 24, 1905, is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Senate Resolution 221 (98th Congress), agreed to September 15, 1983, is repealed.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1382. Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1381 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill H.R. 2872, of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1383. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1381 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill H.R. 2872, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1384. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1381 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill H.R. 2872, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1385. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1381 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill H.R. 2872, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1382. Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1381 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill H.R. 2872 of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 13, after line 14, add the following:

SEC. 402. EXECUTIVE ORDER MANDATED INFLATION ACCOUNTABILITY AND REFORM.

(a) MANDATORY INFLATION FORECASTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For any major Executive order, the President, acting through the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, shall prepare and consider a statement estimating the inflationary effects of the Executive order, including whether the Executive order is determined to have no significant impact on inflation, is determined to have quantifiable inflationary impact on the consumer or producer price index (including a detailed description of such impact), or is determined likely to have a significant impact on inflation but the amount cannot be determined at the time the estimate is prepared. Any statement prepared under this paragraph shall incorporate the inflationary impact of the debt servicing costs associated with the applicable major Executive order. To the greatest extent practicable, any estimate of the inflationary impact of any major Executive order under this paragraph shall take into account the spending patterns of military personnel and of residents of non-metropolitan areas, including rural areas and farm households.

(2) CPI IMPACT DISAGGREGATED.—If an Executive order is determined to have a quantifiable inflationary impact on the consumer price index under paragraph (1), the statement required by such paragraph shall include the amount of such impact on the consumer price index in total and disaggregated by the Food, Energy, and All Items Less Food and Energy categories of the consumer price index (as such categories are determined by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics).

(b) AGENCY ASSISTANCE.—The head of each agency shall provide to the President, acting through the Director and the Chair, such information and assistance as the President, acting through the Director and the Chair, may reasonably request to assist the President, acting through the Director and the Chair, in carrying out this section.

(c) REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every year thereafter, the President, acting through the Director and the Chair, shall publish on the public website of the Office of Management and Budget and submit to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives a report containing each statement prepared and considered under subsection (a) during the year.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to suggest that the task of combating inflation and bringing down the cost of living is the sole responsibility of the Executive Office of the President, and not also a key pursuit of the Senate during the 118th Congress through thoughtful, productive legislative action.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the meaning given such term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) MAJOR EXECUTIVE ORDER.—The term “major Executive order” means any Executive order that would be projected (in a conventional cost estimate) to cause an annual gross budgetary or economic effect of at least \$1,000,000, but does not include any such measure that—

(A) provides for emergency assistance or relief at the request of any State or local government or any official of a State or local government; or

(B) is necessary for the national security or the ratification or implementation of international treaty obligations.

(3) STATE.—The term “State” means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

SA 1383. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1381 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill H.R. 2872 of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

DIVISION C—SECURING THE BORDER

SEC. 1001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “Secure the Border Act of 2024”.

TITLE I—BORDER SECURITY

SEC. 1101. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) CBP.—The term “CBP” means U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(2) COMMISSIONER.—The term “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(4) OPERATIONAL CONTROL.—The term “operational control” has the meaning given such term in section 2(b) of the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-367; 8 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(6) SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.—The term “situational awareness” has the meaning given such term in section 1092(a)(7) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328; 6 U.S.C. 223(a)(7)).

(7) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term “unmanned aircraft system” has the meaning given such term in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 1102. BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION.—Not later than seven days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall resume all activities related to the construction of the border wall along the border between the United States and Mexico that were underway or being planned for prior to January 20, 2021.

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—To carry out this section, the Secretary shall expend all unexpired funds appropriated or explicitly obligated for the construction of the border wall that were appropriated or obligated, as the case may be, for use beginning on October 1, 2019.

(3) USE OF MATERIALS.—Any unused materials purchased before the date of the enactment of this Act for construction of the border wall may be used for activities related to the construction of the border wall in accordance with paragraph (1).

(b) PLAN TO COMPLETE TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter until construction of the border wall has been completed, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an implementation plan, including annual benchmarks for the construction of 200 miles of such wall and associated cost estimates for satisfying all requirements of the construction of the border wall, including installation and deployment of tactical infrastructure, technology, and other elements as identified by the Department prior to January 20, 2021, through the expenditure of funds appropriated or explicitly obligated, as the case may be, for use, as well as any future funds appropriated or otherwise made available by Congress.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term “tactical infrastructure” includes boat ramps, access gates, checkpoints, lighting, and roads associated with a border wall.

(3) TECHNOLOGY.—The term “technology” includes border surveillance and detection technology, including linear ground detection systems, associated with a border wall.

SEC. 1103. STRENGTHENING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BARRIERS ALONG THE SOUTHERN BORDER.

Section 102 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (Division C of Public Law 104-208; 8 U.S.C. 1103 note) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall take such actions as may be necessary (including the removal of obstacles to detection of illegal entrants) to design, test, construct, install, deploy, integrate, and operate physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology in the vicinity of the southwest border to achieve situational awareness and operational control of the southwest border and deter, impede, and detect unlawful activity.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “FENCING AND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS” and inserting “PHYSICAL BARRIERS”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “FENCING” and inserting “BARRIERS”;

(ii) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) REINFORCED BARRIERS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall construct a border wall, including physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology, along not fewer than 900 miles of the southwest border until situational awareness and operational control of the southwest border is achieved.”;

(iii) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) PHYSICAL BARRIERS AND TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall deploy along the southwest border the most practical and effective physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology available for achieving situational awareness and operational control of the southwest border.”;

(iv) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by amending clause (i) to read as follows: