

**Statement of Congressman Gerald E. Connolly (VA-11)**  
**Committee on Oversight and Government Reform**  
**Full Committee Business Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 17, 2022**

I thank Chairwoman Maloney for bringing this important legislative agenda to the Committee's attention today. First, the Continuity for Operators with Necessary Training Required for ATC Contract Towers (CONTRACT) Act of 2021 (H.R. 1283) would allow Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) air traffic controllers who have passed the mandatory retirement age to continue working as contractors—without impacting their pensions—to keep air traffic control towers fully and safely staffed. Second, the Vote by Mail Tracking Act (H.R. 1307) would enable the Postal Service to more efficiently and effectively manage mail-in ballots in federal elections. I am proud to cosponsor both bills.

Alternatively, I denounce H. Res. 1412, Of Inquiry Directing the Secretary of the Treasury to Transmit Certain Documents to the House of Representatives Relating to the Projected Inflationary Impact of the Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Build Back Better Act, and the Infrastructure and Jobs Act in Conjunction with the Build Back Better Act. This resolution takes aim at a bill that is a retired agenda item (the Build Back Better Act) and a bill that does not exist (the Infrastructure and Jobs Act), and economists across the political and economic spectrum agree the democratically enacted Inflation Reduction Act, and correctly named Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, do not increase inflation.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to support the critical bills on today's docket.

**H.R. 1283, the CONTRACT Act of 2021**

I am proud to cosponsor the CONTRACT Act. As Chair of the Subcommittee of Government Operations, I am a vocal proponent for the federal workforce and passionate advocate for federal employee pay, leave, and retirement benefits. Representative Julia Brownley, alongside Representative Rodney Davis, bipartisanly introduced H.R. 1283, which would ensure retired federal air traffic controllers can continue to use their expertise after retirement, without economic penalty. The CONTRACT Act would also amend federal law to allow retired federal air traffic controllers who work through the Federal Contract Tower Program to continue collecting their full federal retirement annuity.

Currently, FAA air traffic controllers make enhanced contributions to their retirement accounts throughout their careers because they are mandated to retire at the age of 56. If the retiree's earned income after retirement exceeds a certain limit, the retiree's annuity payments are reduced. Eliminating this reduction in benefits allows retired FAA air traffic controllers to continue dedicating their professional expertise to their country and aviation safety, even after their federal retirement, without punishment. I thank my colleagues in the Senate, Senators Inhofe, Murray, and Moran, for introducing companion bill, S. 419, which the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs already reported favorably.

**H.R. 1307, the Vote by Mail Tracking Act**

I am also proud to cosponsor the Vote by Mail Tracking Act (H.R. 1307). As Chair of the Subcommittee of Government Operations, I am a staunch defender of democratic values, voters' rights, and the preservation of fair, equitable elections for all. H.R. 1307 would require all mail-in ballots to have a Postal Service trackable barcode and additional stylistic requirements to ensure the Postal Service more efficiently and effectively manages mail-in ballots in federal elections.

These changes would make ballots significantly easier to sort and track, which I was proud to highlight yesterday during my Government Operations postal hearing. This Committee previously approved the Vote by Mail Tracking Act as part of the Postal Service Improvement Act (H.R. 3077), a larger package reforms to the Postal Service which has not been considered on the House floor. In addition, the House included and passed the Vote by Mail Tracking Act as a part of the For the People Act (H.R. 1).

**H. RES. 1412, Of Inquiry Directing the Secretary Of The Treasury To Transmit Certain Documents To The House Of Representatives Relating To The Projected Inflationary Impact Of The Implementation Of The Infrastructure Investment And Jobs Act, The Build Back Better Act, And The Infrastructure And Jobs Act In Conjunction With The Build Back Better Act.**

Finally, I condemn the H. Res. 1243, Of Inquiry Requesting the President Transmit Certain Documents in His Possession to the House of Representatives Relating to the Biden Family's International Business Schemes and Related Information. This resolution only stands to fuel economic falsities and partisan, right-wing fantasies. This election has shown provocateurs cannot bully their way into power. I believe in the people of this country and their ability to identify the true roots of inflation including Russia's illegal war in Ukraine, major corporations' price-gouging practices, and lasting effects from the coronavirus.