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6 MARKUP OF

7 H.R. 1343, FEDERAL BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT TRACKING ACT;

8 H.R. 1588, FACILITATING DIGITAL APPLICATIONS ACT;

9 H.R. 1665, DIGITAL APPLICATIONS ACT;

10 H.R. 1681, EXPEDITING FEDERAL BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT ACT;

11 H.R. 1731, STANDARD FEES ACT;

12 H.R. 6046, BROADBAND AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS RAIL ACT;

13 H.R. 2289, AMERICAN BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT ACT OF 2025;

14 H.R. 3474, FEDERAL MECHANICAL INSULATION ACT;

15 H.R. 3699, ENERGY CHOICE ACT;

16 H.R. 5184, AFFORDABLE HOUSING OVER MANDATING EFFICIENCY

17 STANDARDS (AFFORDABLE HOMES) ACT;

18 H.R. 4690, RELIABLE FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE ACT;

19 H.R. 4593, SAVING HOMEOWNERS FROM OVERREGULATION WITH

20 EXCEPTIONAL RINSING (SHOWER) ACT;

21 H.R. 4758, HOMEOWNER ENERGY FREEDOM ACT;

22 H.R. 4626, DON'T MESS WITH MY HOME APPLIANCES ACT; AND

23 H.R. 1355, WEATHERIZATION ENHANCEMENT AND READINESS ACT OF

24 2025

25 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025

26 House of Representatives,

27 Committee on Energy and Commerce,

28 Washington, D.C.

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32 The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:04 a.m. in
33 Room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Brett Guthrie
34 [chair of the committee] presiding.

35 Present: Representatives Guthrie, Latta, Griffith,
36 Bilirakis, Hudson, Carter of Georgia, Palmer, Dunn, Crenshaw,
37 Joyce, Weber, Allen, Balderson, Fulcher, Pfluger,
38 Harshbarger, Miller-Meeks, Cammack, Obernolte, James, Bentz,
39 Houchin, Fry, Lee, Langworthy, Kean, Rulli, Evans, Goldman,
40 Fedorchak; Pallone, DeGette, Schakowsky, Matsui, Castor,
41 Tonko, Clarke, Ruiz, Peters, Dingell, Veasey, Kelly,
42 Barragan, Soto, Schrier, Trahan, Fletcher, Ocasio-Cortez,
43 Auchincloss, Carter of Louisiana, Menendez, Mullin, Landsman,
44 and McClellan.

45 Staff Present: Clara Cargile, Professional Staff
46 Member; Jessica Donlon, General Counsel; Michael Essington,
47 Chief Counsel; Andrew Furman, Professional Staff Member;
48 Sydney Greene, Director of Finance and Logistics; Jay
49 Gulshen, Chief Counsel; Christen Harsha, Senior Counsel;
50 Natalie Hellman, Professional Staff Member; Annabelle
51 Huffman, Clerk; Calvin Huggins, Clerk; Megan Jackson, Staff
52 Director; Noah Jackson, Clerk; Daniel Kelly; Press Secretary;

53 Sophie Khanahmadi, Deputy Staff Director; Alex Khlopin,
54 Policy Analyst; Brayden Lacefield, Special Assistant; Giulia
55 Leganski, Chief Counsel; John Lin, Senior Counsel; Mary
56 Martin, Chief Counsel; Sarah Meier, Counsel and
57 Parliamentarian; Joel Miller, Chief Counsel; Ben Mullaney,
58 Press Secretary; Elaina Murphy, Professional Staff Member;
59 Seth Ricketts, Special Assistant; Dylan Rogers, Professional
60 Staff Member; Jackson Rudden, Clerk; Chris Sarley, Member
61 Services/Stakeholder Director; Peter Spencer, Senior
62 Professional Staff Member; Matt VanHyfte, Communications
63 Director; Jane Vickers, Press Assistant; Hannah Anton,
64 Minority Policy Analyst; Giancarlo Ceja, Minority Staff
65 Assistant; Parul Desai, Minority Chief Counsel, CAT; Waverly
66 Gordon, Minority Deputy Staff Director and General Counsel;
67 Tiffany Guarascio, Minority Staff Director; Jackson Hall,
68 Minority Intern; Perry Hamilton, Minority Member Services and
69 Outreach Manager; Dan Miller, Minority Professional Staff
70 Member; Shae Reinberg, Minority Intern; Emma Roehrig,
71 Minority Staff Assistant; Kylea Rogers, Minority Policy
72 Analyst; Michael Scurato, Minority FCC Detailee; Andrew
73 Souvall, Minority Director of Communications, Outreach, and
74 Member Services; Johanna Thomas, Minority Counsel; Hannah
75 Treger, Minority Staff Assistant; and Tuley Wright, Minority
76 Staff Director, ENG.

77

78 *Mr. Dunn. [Presiding.] The committee will come to
79 order, and the chair recognizes Chairman Guthrie for an
80 opening statement.

81 *The Chair. Thank you. Thank you all for being here
82 this morning as we consider vital legislation to support
83 connectivity, address burdensome regulations, and lower costs
84 for Americans.

85 Across the country Americans are confronting the issue
86 of affordability. Today our committee will aim to improve
87 consumer choice, secure our grid, lower prices for the
88 communities we all represent. For example, the Homeowner
89 Energy Freedom Act would help address home affordability by
90 repealing several costly programs from the misnamed Inflation
91 Reduction Act.

92 Under the Biden-Harris Administration the Department of
93 Energy issued efficiency regulations for every appliance in
94 American households. Energy efficiency is important as a
95 general matter, but it is a major problem when regulations
96 are drafted to meet arbitrary standards, despite diminishing
97 returns on actual cost effective gains and efficiency. Don't
98 Mess With my Home Appliance Act addresses this issue, for
99 example, by requiring DoE to consider appliances' full life
100 cycle costs, including maintenance, when determining if a new
101 standard is justified.

102 We cannot allow ill-considered standards to hurt our

103 ability to power Federal facilities like VA hospitals. The
104 Reliable Federal Infrastructure Act will repeal the required
105 phase-out of fossil fuel it used in Federal buildings, which
106 would jeopardize our national security. It is essential that
107 we don't turn away from needed reliable and affordable
108 baseload power sources.

109 Similarly, closing the digital divide and expanding
110 access to reliable broadband will further drive American
111 wireless and AI leadership. I see this firsthand in parts of
112 my district that still lack the service they need to take
113 full advantage of the digital economy. NTIA has now signed
114 off nearly 30 states and territories' broadband plans in the
115 BEAD program. And with billions of dollars heading out the
116 door to get shovels in the ground and finally close the
117 digital divide, we must also remove other barriers to
118 deployment.

119 Unpredictable timeliness, expensive and sometimes
120 duplicative reviews, and lack of transparency all contribute
121 to deployment delays. The bills we are marking up today put
122 timelines on state and local permitting reviews, limit
123 application fees, exempt certain projects from redundant
124 environmental and historic preservation reviews, encourage
125 Federal agencies to prioritize broadband applications, and
126 provide transparency into the opaque Federal permitting
127 review process.

128 I want to thank each sponsors of these bills, both
129 Republicans and Democrats, for their commitment to ensuring
130 that every American has access to connectivity. We continue
131 our technological leadership through AI and other exciting
132 new technologies. As we address the need to lower costs,
133 secure our grid, and streamline broadband permitting, today's
134 markup is a chance to work on the issues that matter most to
135 the American people.

136 I appreciate the chair -- vice chair -- for the
137 recognition, and I will yield back.

138 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back, and I recognize
139 the gentleman from New Jersey, Ranking Member Representative
140 Pallone, for five minutes for an opening statement.

141 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Chairman.

142 Today the committee will consider 15 bills that were
143 marked up last month by two of our subcommittees. We will
144 consider seven bills that were marked up by the
145 Communications and Technology Subcommittee. Six of the bills
146 are bipartisan and aim to provide common-sense solutions to
147 issues that cause unnecessary delays and difficulty in the
148 permitting process, and I applaud members on both sides of
149 the aisle for their bipartisan leadership of these bills that
150 will update antiquated Federal agency application systems,
151 implement standard and transparent fee structures across
152 Federal agencies, and remove barriers to deploying broadband

153 across or near railroad infrastructure.

154 Unfortunately, our Republican colleagues have also
155 decided to proceed with consideration of H.R. 2289, their
156 partisan permitting bill. It is important to emphasize that
157 this is the same package of partisan bills that Republicans
158 pushed last Congress and ultimately went nowhere because it
159 is full of bad ideas that are unpopular with both Democrats
160 and Republicans.

161 Putting arbitrary deadlines on state, local, and tribal
162 governments to start and finish complicated permit reviews is
163 opposed across the board by local officials who are
164 responsible for doing this work. Other provisions would gut
165 any local community's ability to protect historic and
166 culturally significant sites, especially for tribal
167 communities.

168 These bills also went nowhere because they don't
169 meaningfully address true barriers to broadband deployment.
170 For instance, this legislation shows our colleagues would
171 rather force unfunded mandates on state, local, or tribal
172 agencies that make even a modest investment to help those
173 offices hire a sufficient number of qualified staff to speed
174 up permit reviews. And so I urge all members to oppose H.R.
175 2289.

176 We will also mark up a series of energy bills out of our
177 Energy Subcommittee that exacerbate the affordability crisis,

178 threaten our power grid, and hurt our ability to compete with
179 China in the artificial intelligence race.

180 Now, congressional Republicans and the Trump
181 Administration spent this year targeting efficiency standards
182 through numerous Congressional Review Act resolutions,
183 gutting clean energy incentives in their big, ugly bill,
184 keeping expensive fossil fuel plants online, and imposing
185 costly tariffs that are super-charging inflation. From the
186 grocery store to health care costs to their monthly utility
187 bills, hard-working American families are bearing the brunt
188 of rising costs at the hands of Republicans. Yet my
189 colleagues continue to turn a blind eye to the affordability
190 crisis and double down on their polluters-over-people agenda,
191 leaving American families to foot the bill.

192 I have to tell, it should be obvious that we are in an
193 affordability crisis and the Republicans have no plan to
194 address it, in my opinion. In fact, just yesterday President
195 Trump called the issue of affordability a con job by the
196 Democrats. He should tell that to the families all across
197 the nation that are struggling to make ends meet.

198 And not only do Republicans have no plan, they are
199 actually moving bills today that will make the affordability
200 crisis worse. That is how out of touch House Republicans are
201 with the needs of everyday Americans. Most of the bills we
202 are marking up today cut energy efficiency programs, make

203 buildings use more energy, and revoke assistance meant to
204 help with the upfront costs of appliances and building code
205 adoption. These bills only serve to further increase monthly
206 energy bills at a time when American families can least
207 afford it. Electricity prices are already up 11 percent
208 across the country, climbing twice as fast as inflation. And
209 this jump is even bigger in some parts of the country.

210 And instead of bolstering common-sense energy efficiency
211 measures that help to both lower costs and help us meet the
212 growing demand for power driven by AI data expansion or data
213 center expansion, Republicans are attempting to completely
214 dismantle them.

215 So Republicans, I think, are just paying lip service to
216 lowering costs for American families. Their real priorities
217 lie with corporate polluters and keeping President Trump
218 happy, all at the expense of both American competitiveness
219 and Americans' wallets.

220 So with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of
221 my time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

222 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. The chair
223 reminds members that, pursuant to the committee rules, all
224 members' opening statements will be made part of the record.
225 Are there any further opening statements?

226 *Mr. Latta. Mr. Chairman?

227 *Mr. Dunn. The chairman recognizes Chairman Latta from

228 Ohio for three minutes.

229 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

230 Over the last several months the Energy Subcommittee has
231 focused on developing legislative solutions to address
232 appliance and home affordability, consumer choice,
233 unnecessary regulatory structures, and energy efficiency.
234 The legislation before the committee today does not reflect
235 abstract issues that rarely impact the day-to-day lives of
236 Americans; these policies have a real impact on the
237 availability of necessities for families and businesses, and
238 they will have an outsized positive impact on low-income
239 communities.

240 The Homeowner Energy Freedom Act will repeal Biden-era
241 Inflation Reduction Act programs that have had a chilling
242 effect on home building in adopting states, exacerbating the
243 housing affordability crisis, and making the dream of home
244 ownership unattainable for millions of Americans.

245 The SHOWER Act codifies the definition of a showerhead
246 to end the constant, unnecessary regulatory changes that
247 result in a lower quality of products for consumers.

248 H.R. 4626, the Don't Mess With My Home Appliance Act,
249 reforms a statutory process for energy efficiency standards
250 for appliances. It ensures future standards will be cost
251 effective, prevents the weaponization of standards to pursue
252 fuels restrictions, and strengthens statutory directives for

253 consumer protections.

254 H.R. 1355, led by the gentleman from New York,
255 reauthorizes the Weatherization Assistance Program to
256 continue reducing energy costs for low-income homes by
257 improving the energy efficiency of those envelopes.

258 The Energy Choice Act of -- H.R. 3699 prioritizes
259 consumer choice over the activist government regulation by
260 prohibiting policies that effectively ban or severely limit
261 energy services based on the source of energy.

262 The committee will also be considering legislation to
263 improve building -- Federal buildings and facilities, saving
264 taxpayer dollars and bolstering our national security. H.R.
265 3474, led by the gentleman from Texas, the vice chair of the
266 Energy Subcommittee, requires an assessment to determine
267 whether mechanical insulation should be updated or installed
268 during comprehensive energy and water evaluations of Federal
269 buildings. As the largest consumer of energy, it is
270 important that the Federal Government prioritizes efficiency
271 measures during routine audits.

272 Lastly, H.R. 4690, the Reliable Federal Infrastructure
273 Act, repeals requirements to phase out all fossil fuel-
274 generated energy consumption in Federal buildings. Just like
275 consumers, Federal facilities, including military
276 installations, should not be forced to move away from
277 reliable energy sources. Today the committee has an

278 opportunity to make statutory reforms that truly prioritize
279 energy efficiency, cost savings for the taxpayer, and
280 consumer choice.

281 These Republican solutions, along with the gentleman
282 from New York's, will help lower American electricity bills
283 and make home ownership more attainable for Americans across
284 the country. I urge my colleagues to support these pieces of
285 legislation.

286 And I yield back.

287 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Are there any
288 further opening statements?

289 I recognize Madam Matsui for three minutes for her
290 opening statement.

291 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad we are
292 taking up bipartisan broadband permitting bills today because
293 broadband is an essential service. If you can't get online
294 or can't afford to stay online, you are shut up -- shut out
295 of modern life.

296 As we begin this markup, our job is to clear real
297 barriers to broadband deployment and maintain safeguards for
298 communities. We can do both, but we need real solutions, not
299 rubber stamps. Local permitting departments, many of them
300 under-staffed, are bracing for a once-in-a-generation wave of
301 broadband construction. Instead of supporting that, the
302 Trump Administration has thrown BEAD into chaos, freezing

303 funds, forcing states to redo plans, and ripping out
304 affordability protections.

305 And now President Trump is threatening to illegally
306 freeze more than \$20 billion in BEAD non-deployment funds
307 unless states scrap their AI safeguards. This would force
308 states to choose between closing the digital divide and
309 protecting the residents from AI harms like rogue mental
310 health chat bots force pushing our children to hurt
311 themselves [sic].

312 Once again, the Trump Administration is pushing for
313 changes that cause delays and cost consumers. We see the
314 consequences in my district. California is investing big to
315 close the digital divide, including over \$38 million in last-
316 mile grants for Sacramento County alone. But we still need
317 BEAD dollars to finish the job, to reach the dead zone just
318 outside of Sacramento, and to connect the delta farming
319 communities stuck without reliable service. If we take one
320 step forward on permitting while this Administration pushes
321 BEAD two steps back, we will only widen the digital divide.

322 Now, I am encouraged by today's bipartisan bills that
323 respect local input while making permitting more predictable
324 and coordinated. The Digital Applications Act, which I co-
325 lead, would create a one-stop online portal for broadband
326 permitting on Federal lands so providers can get timely
327 decisions.

328 On the other hand, I oppose the hyper-partisan American
329 Broadband Deployment Act, which would slap local governments
330 with rigid deadlines without added capacity, and then
331 automatically approve projects when the clock runs out. That
332 may look like a shortcut, but it sidelines communities and
333 risks more errors and delays.

334 The real drag in deployment, the Trump Administration's
335 constant disruptions to BEAD, were Republicans fixate [sic]
336 on outlier permitting horror stories instead of the big
337 picture. Families in Sacramento and across our districts
338 just want this to work, and we can deliver that if we choose
339 to by advancing bipartisan solutions and rejecting efforts to
340 undermine local communities so we can finally get shovels in
341 the ground and give every household a fair shot in the
342 digital economy.

343 With that I yield back the balance of my time.

344 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. Are there any
345 further opening statements?

346 The chair recognizes the gentlelady from Florida,
347 Representative Castor, for three minutes.

348 *Ms. Castor. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

349 Colleagues, the American people are facing an
350 affordability squeeze, especially when it comes to their
351 energy bills. All of that squeeze is being made worse by the
352 policies of the Trump Administration and Republicans here in

353 Congress. Household energy bills are up 11 percent this
354 year. And in October the President arbitrarily canceled over
355 300 clean energy projects across the country that would have
356 helped keep energy bills low, lower. They are essentially
357 taking money away, taking savings away from hard-working
358 American families.

359 And today Republicans on this committee are going to
360 continue to play ostrich. They are offering the same bills
361 they have introduced and failed to pass year after year,
362 heaping higher costs on our neighbors back home. This
363 Republican energy agenda is not helping people. It is making
364 them sicker and poorer. It is taking away important tools
365 that help consumers save money, like energy-efficient
366 appliances and code upgrades. This is a continuation of what
367 they have been doing all year.

368 In July this committee passed out the big, ugly bill.
369 Every Republican in the committee voted to gut home energy
370 efficiency tax credits that were helping Americans lower
371 their energy bills. It has continued. The President has
372 offered a budget for this year which zeroes out funding for
373 the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program after the
374 President already laid off everyone that works in that office
375 to help hard-working Americans.

376 And on energy efficiency, existing law is very clear.
377 The Energy Policy and Conservation Act requires the

378 Department of Energy to adopt efficiency standards that
379 reduce household and business utility bills while ensuring
380 that consumers will continue to enjoy an abundance of models
381 and project features where they have broad choices.

382 So while American families back home are clamoring for
383 help from the Congress to help them lower the cost of living,
384 Republicans are simply offering them inferior products. They
385 are saying consume more energy. Why? So they can cater to
386 their big oil and gas interests and the President's vanity
387 projects.

388 Modern energy efficient appliances, lower energy costs,
389 and they will help us power AI competition. Studies show
390 that household energy electric upgrades like rooftop solar
391 and storage or heat pumps, they help. They could help meet
392 the -- 100 percent of the projected electricity demand growth
393 from data centers while cutting bills for families and
394 strengthening the grid.

395 American families deserve so much better than what the
396 GOP majority is offering, and we are going to make that plain
397 today.

398 Thank you, and I yield back.

399 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. And are there
400 any other further opening statements?

401 All right, the chair calls up H.R. 1343, and asks the
402 clerk to report.

403 *The Clerk. H.R. 1343, a bill to require the Assistant
404 Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to
405 submit to Congress a plan for the Assistant Secretary --

406 *Mr. Dunn. Without objection, the first reading of the
407 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for any
408 amendment at any point.

409 So ordered.

410 [The bill follows:]

411

412 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

413

414 *Mr. Dunn. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
415 bill?

416 We recognize the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Pfluger, for
417 five minutes to speak.

418 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I speak in
419 support of my bipartisan bill, H.R. 1343, the Federal
420 Broadband Deployment Tracking Act, which I am also co-leading
421 with my friend from Florida, Congressman Soto.

422 I am proud that this is the first of many bipartisan
423 bills to be considered in today's markup, and I hope that
424 this committee can come together to deliver some solutions on
425 energy efficiency and broadband permitting that deliver real
426 results for the American people. We have been talking about
427 this a long time, but now I think this is the first step in
428 actually making progress.

429 This common-sense bill would improve broadband
430 deployment, transparency, and efficiency by streamlining the
431 acceptance, processing, and disposal of Form 299 for
432 Communications Use Authorization. Form 299 is the common
433 Federal application used to request access to rights of way
434 or site broadband facilities such as fiber and towers on
435 Federal lands and buildings.

436 At the broadband permitting hearing we heard several
437 examples that underscored the need for this particular
438 legislation. Several broadband infrastructure providers

439 detailed instances in which they had crews ready and
440 equipment purchased and Federal funds allocated, but were
441 left waiting for permits for extraordinarily long amounts of
442 time.

443 Last Congress the House of Representatives unanimously
444 passed the Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act.
445 Passing this Act would be a crucial step towards fixing the
446 process and closing the digital divide, creating a more
447 connected future for all Americans. I urge both sides of the
448 aisle to support this legislation, as Americans cannot afford
449 to be left behind any longer.

450 And I yield back.

451 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
452 further discussion on the bill?

453 We recognize the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Soto, for
454 five minutes.

455 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Chairman. And, you know, we have
456 talked about getting permitting reform done. There have been
457 some big bills proposed, but it seems like it doesn't seem to
458 happen. And so here is an opportunity to get something that
459 could actually move forward, some permitting reform in the
460 area of rural broadband, a good bipartisan bill with
461 Representative Pfluger from Texas. I appreciated working
462 with him on that.

463 We have \$42 billion in rural broadband that is supposed

464 to be there to help our ranchers and our farmers and other
465 rural businesses. And there has been a 10-month delay even
466 under the new administration. We know we have to get this
467 money out there, and so streamlining permitting on Federal
468 lands, areas like Avon Air Force Base, Cape Canaveral, and
469 Ocala National Forest in central Florida, among other Federal
470 lands across Florida, are absolutely critical.

471 So it is time to get this done, and I appreciate and
472 hope everybody would support it.

473 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
474 further discussion on the bill?

475 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
476 1343, as amended. A roll call vote has been requested, and
477 the clerk will call the roll.

478 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

479 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

480 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

481 Mr. Griffith?

482 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

483 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

484 Mr. Bilirakis?

485 [No response.]

486 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

487 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

488 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

489 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
490 [No response.]
491 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?
492 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
493 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
494 Mr. Dunn?
495 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
496 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
497 Mr. Crenshaw?
498 [No response.]
499 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
500 [No response.]
501 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?
502 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
503 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
504 Mr. Allen?
505 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
506 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
507 Mr. Balderson?
508 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
509 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
510 Mr. Fulcher?
511 *Mr. Fulcher. Aye.
512 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
513 Mr. Pfluger?

514 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
515 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
516 Mrs. Harshbarger?
517 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
518 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
519 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
520 [No response.]
521 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
522 [No response.]
523 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
524 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
525 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
526 Mr. James?
527 *Mr. James. Aye.
528 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
529 Mr. Bentz?
530 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
531 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
532 Mrs. Houchin?
533 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
534 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
535 Mr. Fry?
536 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
537 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
538 Ms. Lee?

539 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
540 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
541 Mr. Langworthy?
542 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
543 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
544 Mr. Kean?
545 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
546 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
547 Mr. Rulli?
548 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
549 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
550 Mr. Evans?
551 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
552 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
553 Mr. Goldman?
554 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
555 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
556 Mrs. Fedorchak?
557 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
558 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
559 Mr. Pallone?
560 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
561 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
562 Ms. DeGette?
563 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

564 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
565 Ms. Schakowsky?
566 [No response.]
567 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?
568 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
569 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
570 Ms. Matsui?
571 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
572 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
573 Ms. Castor?
574 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
575 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
576 Mr. Tonko?
577 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
578 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
579 Ms. Clarke?
580 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
581 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
582 Mr. Ruiz?
583 [No response.]
584 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters?
585 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
586 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
587 Mrs. Dingell?
588 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

589 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
590 Mr. Veasey?
591 [No response.]
592 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
593 [No response.]
594 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
595 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
596 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
597 Mr. Soto?
598 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
599 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
600 Ms. Schrier?
601 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
602 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
603 Mrs. Trahan?
604 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
605 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
606 Mrs. Fletcher?
607 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
608 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
609 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
610 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
611 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
612 Mr. Auchincloss?
613 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

614 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
615 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
616 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
617 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
618 Mr. Menendez?
619 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
620 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
621 Mr. Mullin?
622 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
623 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
624 Mr. Landsman?
625 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
626 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
627 Ms. McClellan?
628 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
629 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
630 Chairman Guthrie?
631 [No response.]
632 *Mr. Dunn. How is Mr. Crenshaw recorded?
633 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw is not recorded.
634 *Mr. Joyce. How is Mr. Joyce is not recorded?
635 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce is not recorded.
636 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.
637 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
638 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. How is Carter recorded?

639 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.

640 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

641 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

642 *Mr. Dunn. Anybody else?

643 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.

644 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.

645 *Mr. Dunn. How is Dr. Ruiz recorded?

646 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz is not recorded.

647 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

648 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

649 *Voice. Mr. Veasey.

650 *Mr. Dunn. Who?

651 *Voice. Mr. Veasey.

652 *Mr. Dunn. How is Mr. Veasey recorded?

653 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.

654 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.

655 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

656 *Mr. Dunn. Are there any other votes?

657 The clerk will report the call, roll call.

658 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 49
659 yeas and 0 nays.

660 *Mr. Dunn. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.
661 We now call up H.R. 1588, and ask the clerk to report.

662 *The Clerk. H.R. 1588, a bill to require the Assistant
663 Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to

664 report to Congress on any barriers to establishing an
665 online --

666 *Mr. Dunn. Without objection, the first reading of the
667 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
668 amendment at any point.

669 So ordered.

670 [The bill follows:]

671

672 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

673

674 *Mr. Dunn. Does anyone wish to be recognized on the
675 bill?

676 Yes, Mrs. Dingell, please, you are recognized for five
677 minutes.

678 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
679 strike the last word.

680 To fully realize our broadband investments we must make
681 smart, targeted improvements to our permitting process.
682 Modernizing these systems will ensure an efficient,
683 transparent, and equitable path to deploy broadband quickly
684 for all Americans, and that is why I am leading this
685 bipartisan legislation with Congresswoman Miller-Meeks to
686 expedite and improve the tracking of broadband deployment on
687 Federal lands.

688 Our Facilitating Digital Application Act requires NTIA
689 to report to Congress on whether the Department of the
690 Interior and Agriculture have established online portals to
691 accept and process the broadband application for deployments
692 on Federal property. It updates the outdated, paper-based
693 process by directing both departments to move to digital
694 porters, and requires NTIA to provide Congress with updates
695 every 60 days. Streamlining this process will reduce delays,
696 improve transparency, and accelerate broadband and cell
697 service, especially in rural communities that have waited far
698 too long for reliable connectivity.

699 The Department of the Interior has already taken steps
700 by enabling electronic submissions, and I believe USDA should
701 follow suit. It is a simple fix. It just makes sense.
702 Moving from paper to an online system finally brings Federal
703 permitting into the 21st century and helps providers deploy
704 service faster, where it is needed most.

705 I want to thank my colleague, Congresswoman Miller-
706 Meeks, for her leadership on this issue, and I look forward
707 to working with everyone on this committee to get this bill
708 to the House floor.

709 Thank you, and I yield back.

710 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
711 further discussion on the bill? Further discussion on the
712 bill?

713 All right. Is there anybody who wishes to offer an
714 amendment to the bill?

715 All right, seeing none, the question now occurs on
716 adopting 1588. A roll call vote has been requested, and the
717 clerk will call the roll.

718 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

719 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

720 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

721 Mr. Griffith?

722 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

723 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

724 Mr. Bilirakis?
725 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.
726 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
727 Mr. Hudson?
728 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.
729 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
730 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
731 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
732 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
733 Mr. Palmer?
734 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
735 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
736 Mr. Dunn?
737 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
738 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
739 Mr. Crenshaw?
740 [No response.]
741 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
742 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
743 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
744 Mr. Weber?
745 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
746 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
747 Mr. Allen?
748 *Mr. Allen. Aye.

749 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
750 Mr. Balderson?
751 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
752 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
753 Mr. Fulcher?
754 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher, aye.
755 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
756 Mr. Pfluger?
757 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
758 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
759 Mrs. Harshbarger?
760 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
761 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
762 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
763 [No response.]
764 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
765 [No response.]
766 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
767 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
768 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
769 Mr. James?
770 [No response.]
771 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
772 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
773 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.

774 Mrs. Houchin?
775 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
776 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
777 Mr. Fry?
778 [No response.]
779 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
780 [No response.]
781 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
782 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
783 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
784 Mr. Kean?
785 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
786 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
787 Mr. Rulli?
788 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
789 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
790 Mr. Evans?
791 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
792 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
793 Mr. Goldman?
794 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
795 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
796 Mrs. Fedorchak?
797 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
798 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.

799 Mr. Pallone?
800 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
801 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
802 Ms. DeGette?
803 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
804 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
805 Ms. Schakowsky?
806 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
807 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
808 Ms. Matsui?
809 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
810 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
811 Ms. Castor?
812 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
813 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
814 Mr. Tonko?
815 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
816 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
817 Ms. Clarke?
818 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
819 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
820 Mr. Ruiz?
821 [No response.]
822 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters?
823 *Mr. Peters. Aye.

824 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
825 Mrs. Dingell?
826 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
827 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
828 Mr. Veasey?
829 [No response.]
830 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
831 [No response.]
832 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
833 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
834 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
835 Mr. Soto?
836 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
837 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
838 Ms. Schrier?
839 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
840 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
841 Mrs. Trahan?
842 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
843 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
844 Mrs. Fletcher?
845 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
846 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
847 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
848 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

849 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
850 Mr. Auchincloss?
851 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
852 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
853 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
854 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
855 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
856 Mr. Menendez?
857 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
858 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
859 Mr. Mullin?
860 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
861 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
862 Mr. Landsman?
863 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
864 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
865 Ms. McClellan?
866 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
867 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
868 Chairman Guthrie?
869 [No response.]
870 *Mr. Dunn. How is Mr. James recorded?
871 *The Clerk. Mr. James is not recorded.
872 *Mr. James. James votes aye.
873 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.

874 *Mr. Dunn. How is Ms. Lee reported?
875 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee is not recorded.
876 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
877 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
878 *Mr. Dunn. How is Mrs. Miller-Meeks, Dr. Miller-Meeks,
879 recorded?
880 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks is not recorded.
881 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
882 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
883 *Mr. Dunn. Dr. Ruiz, how is he recorded?
884 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz is not recorded.
885 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
886 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
887 *Mr. Dunn. And Mr. Veasey?
888 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.
889 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.
890 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
891 *Mr. Dunn. Oh, and how is Mr. Crenshaw recorded?
892 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw is not recorded.
893 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
894 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.
895 *Mr. Dunn. The clerk will report the roll call.
896 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 50
897 ayes and 0 noes.
898 *Mr. Dunn. The ayes have it. The bill is adopted.

899 The chair now calls up H.R. 1665, and asks the clerk to
900 report.

901 *The Clerk. H.R. 1665, a bill to require the Department
902 of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture to
903 establish online portals to accept --

904 *Mr. Dunn. Without objection, the first reading of the
905 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
906 amendment at any point.

907 So ordered.

908 [The bill follows:]

909

910 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

911

912 *Mr. Dunn. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
913 bill?

914 Ms. Matsui, you are recognized for five minutes.

915 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
916 the last word.

917 Reliable, affordable broadband is no longer a luxury; it
918 is a necessity. As we work to close the digital divide, the
919 Federal Government must be a partner, not an obstacle to
920 deploying broadband. That is why I am proud to co-lead the
921 DIGITAL Applications Act with Congresswoman Cammack. This
922 bill creates a one-stop online portal to accept, process, and
923 track broadband permitting applications on Federal lands.
924 This tackles one of the challenges slowing broadband
925 deployment: the parts of Federal permitting that are
926 fragmented and outdated.

927 Right now, companies deploying broadband on Federal
928 lands often face a maze of inconsistent timelines, forms, and
929 agencies. By making this process more transparent,
930 predictable, and accountable, we help providers focus on what
931 matters most: getting broadband built for families, small
932 businesses, schools, and health clinics. This is real
933 streamlining: practical, efficient, and respectful of
934 safeguards and local needs. It is exactly the type of
935 bipartisan, targeted solution we should be advancing to close
936 the digital divide and ensure every community can fully

937 participate in our digital economy.

938 With that I yield my colleagues to -- I urge my
939 colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance
940 of my time.

941 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
942 further discussion on the bill? Further discussion?

943 Any amendments to the bill?

944 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adoption of
945 1665, as amended. A roll call has been requested, and the
946 clerk will call the roll.

947 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

948 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

949 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

950 Mr. Griffith?

951 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

952 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

953 Mr. Bilirakis?

954 [No response.]

955 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

956 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

957 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

958 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

959 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

960 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

961 Mr. Palmer?

962 [No response.]
963 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?
964 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
965 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
966 Mr. Crenshaw?
967 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
968 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.
969 Mr. Joyce?
970 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
971 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
972 Mr. Weber?
973 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
974 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
975 Mr. Allen?
976 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
977 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
978 Mr. Balderson?
979 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
980 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
981 Mr. Fulcher?
982 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
983 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
984 Mr. Pfluger?
985 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
986 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.

987 Mrs. Harshbarger?
988 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
989 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
990 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
991 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Yes.
992 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
993 Mrs. Cammack?
994 [No response.]
995 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
996 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
997 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
998 Mr. James?
999 [No response.]
1000 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
1001 [No response.]
1002 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin?
1003 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
1004 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
1005 Mr. Fry?
1006 [No response.]
1007 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
1008 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
1009 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
1010 Mr. Langworthy?
1011 [No response.]

1012 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?
1013 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
1014 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
1015 Mr. Rulli?
1016 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
1017 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
1018 Mr. Evans?
1019 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
1020 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
1021 Mr. Goldman?
1022 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
1023 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
1024 Mrs. Fedorchak?
1025 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
1026 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
1027 Mr. Pallone?
1028 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
1029 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
1030 Ms. DeGette?
1031 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
1032 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
1033 Ms. Schakowsky?
1034 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
1035 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
1036 Ms. Matsui?

1037 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
1038 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
1039 Ms. Castor?
1040 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
1041 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
1042 Mr. Tonko?
1043 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
1044 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
1045 Ms. Clarke?
1046 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
1047 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
1048 Mr. Ruiz?
1049 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
1050 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
1051 Mr. Peters?
1052 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
1053 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
1054 Mrs. Dingell?
1055 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
1056 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
1057 Mr. Veasey?
1058 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
1059 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
1060 Ms. Kelly?
1061 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

1062 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
1063 Ms. Barragan?
1064 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
1065 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
1066 Mr. Soto?
1067 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
1068 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
1069 Ms. Schrier?
1070 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
1071 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
1072 Mrs. Trahan?
1073 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
1074 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
1075 Mrs. Fletcher?
1076 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
1077 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
1078 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
1079 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
1080 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
1081 Mr. Auchincloss?
1082 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
1083 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
1084 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
1085 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
1086 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

1087 Mr. Menendez?
1088 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
1089 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
1090 Mr. Mullin?
1091 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
1092 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
1093 Mr. Landsman?
1094 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
1095 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
1096 Ms. McClellan?
1097 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
1098 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
1099 Chairman Guthrie?
1100 [No response.]
1101 *Mr. Dunn. How is Mr. Bentz recorded?
1102 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz is not recorded.
1103 *Mr. Bentz. Bentz votes aye.
1104 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
1105 *Mr. Dunn. How is Chairman Palmer recorded?
1106 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.
1107 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
1108 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
1109 *Mr. Dunn. How is Chairman Bilirakis recorded?
1110 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis is not recorded.
1111 *Mr. Bilirakis. Votes aye.

1112 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
1113 *Mr. Dunn. Is Mrs. Cammack --
1114 *Voice. No, James.
1115 *Mr. Dunn. Mr. James, are you recorded?
1116 Is Mr. James recorded?
1117 *The Clerk. Mr. James is not recorded.
1118 *Mr. James. Aye.
1119 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
1120 *Mr. Dunn. Mr. Langworthy?
1121 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy is not recorded.
1122 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
1123 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
1124 *Voice. We are good.
1125 *Mr. Dunn. All right. The clerk will report the vote.
1126 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 51
1127 ayes and 0 noes.
1128 *Mr. Dunn. The ayes have it. The bill is adopted.
1129 We now call up H.R. 1681 and ask the clerk to report.
1130 *The Clerk. H.R. 1681, a bill to require the Assistant
1131 Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to
1132 establish an interagency strike force to ensure that certain
1133 Federal land management agencies, including --
1134 *Mr. Dunn. Without objection, the first reading of the
1135 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
1136 amendment at any point.

1137 So ordered.

1138 [The bill follows:]

1139

1140 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1141

1142 *Mr. Dunn. Does anyone wish to be recognized on the
1143 bill?

1144 *Mr. Evans. Mr. Chairman?

1145 *Mr. Dunn. Oh, okay, Mr. Evans from Colorado, you are
1146 recognized for five minutes.

1147 *Mr. Evans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I speak today in
1148 strong support of my bill, the Expediting Federal Broadband
1149 Deployment Review Act.

1150 This bipartisan legislation, which I am proud to lead
1151 with Representative Angie Craig from Minnesota, will help
1152 streamline broadband expansion to deliver fast, reliable
1153 internet to communities who need it most by creating a new
1154 system for broadband deployment requests on Federal land.
1155 This legislation increases expansion by directing the
1156 National Telecommunications and Information Administration to
1157 establish an interagency strike force to support Federal land
1158 management agencies' review of requests to deploy broadband
1159 over Federal land.

1160 Colorado is the heart of the Rocky Mountain west, with
1161 more than 24 million acres of Federal land. Roughly 36
1162 percent of the total acreage of our state is Federal land
1163 serving multiple purpose uses from conservation to recreation
1164 to commercial activity. Of course, these diverse uses mean
1165 that Federal land is also under the jurisdiction of multiple
1166 Federal agencies: the National Park Service, the Forest

1167 Service, the Bureau of Land Management. And these agencies
1168 often have different and duplicative permitting processes
1169 that can result in what should be a simple, broadband permit
1170 being delayed due to red tape.

1171 Rural and ski communities on our western slope are often
1172 surrounded by Federal lands, meaning they face greater
1173 difficulty in building out basic infrastructure such as
1174 broadband. This results in communities which are sometimes
1175 left behind compared to other places in Colorado. And in
1176 this day and age, reliable, high-speed internet should not be
1177 considered a luxury. Families, students, and small
1178 businesses need to be able to access this important service.

1179 In addition, as a former cop for 10 years, I know that
1180 modern law enforcement relies on broadband access to quickly
1181 identify and interdict threats in our communities. Without
1182 reliable service, public safety operations would be less
1183 coordinated as emergency responders face delays, and this can
1184 derail public assistance.

1185 By law, Federal agencies are required to grant or deny
1186 broadband installation applications within 270 days. But
1187 unfortunately, these deadlines are often missed. In fact,
1188 the U.S. Government Accountability Office reports that
1189 roughly half the communications use applications submitted to
1190 BLM and the Forest Service from fiscal year 2018 to 2022
1191 either exceeded the 270-day deadline or just didn't have

1192 enough data to say whether the deadline had even been met.

1193 And the result is broadband developers report that
1194 deployments in rural areas are taking an average of 5 to 10
1195 years to complete. I live in a rural area. I know
1196 personally about the challenges of getting access to
1197 broadband, and it is completely unacceptable that rural
1198 communities who are already underserved are facing these
1199 challenges. And so I am proud to lead -- to serve as a
1200 leading voice for permitting reform for not just broadband,
1201 but also a wide variety of energy generation and other
1202 infrastructure projects.

1203 The bill we are considering today is an important part
1204 of this broader work in the permitting space, and so I urge
1205 my colleagues to join me in this bipartisan legislation and
1206 yield back.

1207 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Is there further
1208 discussion on the bill?

1209 Seeing none, is there any amendments for the bill?

1210 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
1211 1681, as amended. A roll call vote has been requested, and
1212 the clerk will call the roll.

1213 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

1214 [No response.]

1215 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

1216 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

1217 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
1218 Mr. Bilirakis?
1219 [No response.]
1220 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?
1221 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.
1222 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
1223 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
1224 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
1225 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
1226 Mr. Palmer?
1227 [No response.]
1228 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?
1229 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
1230 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
1231 Mr. Crenshaw?
1232 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
1233 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.
1234 Mr. Joyce?
1235 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
1236 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
1237 Mr. Weber?
1238 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
1239 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
1240 Mr. Allen?
1241 *Mr. Allen. Aye.

1242 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
1243 Mr. Balderson?
1244 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
1245 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
1246 Mr. Fulcher?
1247 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
1248 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
1249 Mr. Pfluger?
1250 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
1251 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
1252 Mrs. Harshbarger?
1253 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
1254 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
1255 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
1256 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Yes.
1257 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
1258 Mrs. Cammack?
1259 [No response.]
1260 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
1261 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
1262 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
1263 Mr. James?
1264 [No response.]
1265 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
1266 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.

1267 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
1268 Mrs. Houchin?
1269 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
1270 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
1271 Mr. Fry?
1272 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
1273 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
1274 Ms. Lee?
1275 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
1276 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
1277 Mr. Langworthy?
1278 [No response.]
1279 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?
1280 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
1281 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
1282 Mr. Rulli?
1283 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
1284 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
1285 Mr. Evans?
1286 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
1287 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
1288 Mr. Goldman?
1289 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
1290 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
1291 Mrs. Fedorchak?

1292 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
1293 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
1294 Mr. Pallone?
1295 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
1296 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
1297 Ms. DeGette?
1298 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
1299 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
1300 Ms. Schakowsky?
1301 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
1302 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
1303 Ms. Matsui?
1304 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
1305 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
1306 Ms. Castor?
1307 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
1308 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
1309 Mr. Tonko?
1310 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
1311 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
1312 Ms. Clarke?
1313 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
1314 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
1315 Mr. Ruiz?
1316 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

1317 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
1318 Mr. Peters?
1319 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
1320 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
1321 Mrs. Dingell?
1322 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
1323 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
1324 Mr. Veasey?
1325 [No response.]
1326 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
1327 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
1328 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
1329 Ms. Barragan?
1330 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
1331 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
1332 Mr. Soto?
1333 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
1334 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
1335 Ms. Schrier?
1336 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
1337 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
1338 Mrs. Trahan?
1339 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
1340 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
1341 Mrs. Fletcher?

1342 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
1343 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
1344 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
1345 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
1346 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
1347 Mr. Auchincloss?
1348 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
1349 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
1350 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
1351 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
1352 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
1353 Mr. Menendez?
1354 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
1355 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
1356 Mr. Mullin?
1357 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
1358 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
1359 Mr. Landsman?
1360 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
1361 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
1362 Ms. McClellan?
1363 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
1364 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
1365 Chairman Guthrie?
1366 [No response.]

1367 *Mr. Dunn. How is Mr. Latta recorded?
1368 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.
1369 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
1370 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.
1371 *Mr. Dunn. How is Chairman Palmer recorded?
1372 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.
1373 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
1374 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
1375 *Mr. Dunn. How about -- how is Mr. James recorded?
1376 *The Clerk. Mr. James is not recorded.
1377 *Mr. James. Aye.
1378 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
1379 *Mr. Dunn. Mr. Langworthy?
1380 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy is not recorded.
1381 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
1382 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
1383 *Mr. Dunn. How is Mr. Veasey recorded?
1384 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.
1385 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.
1386 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
1387 *Mr. Dunn. The clerk will report the ayes and nays.
1388 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 51
1389 ayes and 0 noes.
1390 *Mr. Dunn. The ayes have it. The bill is adopted.
1391 The chair calls up H.R. 1731 and asks the clerk to

1392 report.

1393 *The Clerk. H.R. 1731, a bill to amend the Middle Class
1394 Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 to establish a
1395 uniform fee schedule applicable to --

1396 *Mr. Dunn. Without objection, the first reading of the
1397 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
1398 amendment at any point.

1399 So ordered.

1400 [The bill follows:]

1401

1402 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1403

1404 *Mr. Dunn. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
1405 bill?

1406 Mr. Palmer, you are recognized for five minutes.

1407 *Mr. Palmer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to
1408 speak in support of the Standard FEES Act.

1409 The application process for placing communications
1410 facilities on Federal property has long been characterized by
1411 complex and often ambiguous fees. The Federal Government
1412 manages a significant amount of land near unserved
1413 communities. Closing the digital divide requires deploying
1414 on this land. The Standard FEES Act is an important step
1415 forward in streamlining our nation's permitting process for
1416 telecommunications infrastructure.

1417 If passed, the Standard FEES Act would establish a
1418 common fee for processing of applications for deploying
1419 communication facilities on Federal property. The fee would
1420 be competitively neutral and would be allowed to cover the
1421 cost of granting an easement, right of way, or lease. A
1422 standard fee schedule will help providers as they plan
1423 deployment and help control the cost of deployment. This fee
1424 schedule will ensure that Federal broadband money is wisely
1425 spent, and that providers are focusing their resources on
1426 closing the digital divide.

1427 I am pleased to be joined by my colleague from New York,
1428 Mr. Ryan, on this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to

1429 support the bipartisan bill, and I yield back.

1430 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
1431 further discussion on the bill, further discussion?

1432 Seeing none, is there -- are there any amendments to the
1433 bill?

1434 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
1435 1731, as amended. A roll call vote has been requested, and
1436 the clerk will call the roll.

1437 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

1438 [No response.]

1439 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

1440 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

1441 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

1442 Mr. Bilirakis?

1443 [No response.]

1444 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

1445 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

1446 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

1447 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

1448 [No response.]

1449 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

1450 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

1451 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

1452 Mr. Dunn?

1453 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

1454 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
1455 Mr. Crenshaw?
1456 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
1457 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.
1458 Mr. Joyce?
1459 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
1460 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
1461 Mr. Weber?
1462 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
1463 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
1464 Mr. Allen?
1465 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
1466 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
1467 Mr. Balderson?
1468 [No response.]
1469 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher?
1470 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
1471 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
1472 Mr. Pfluger?
1473 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
1474 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
1475 Mrs. Harshbarger?
1476 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
1477 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
1478 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

1479 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
1480 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
1481 Mrs. Cammack?
1482 [No response.]
1483 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
1484 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
1485 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
1486 Mr. James?
1487 [No response.]
1488 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
1489 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
1490 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
1491 Mrs. Houchin?
1492 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
1493 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
1494 Mr. Fry?
1495 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
1496 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
1497 Ms. Lee?
1498 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
1499 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
1500 Mr. Langworthy?
1501 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
1502 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
1503 Mr. Kean?

1504 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
1505 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
1506 Mr. Rulli?
1507 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
1508 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
1509 Mr. Evans?
1510 [No response.]
1511 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
1512 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
1513 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
1514 Mrs. Fedorchak?
1515 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
1516 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
1517 Mr. Pallone?
1518 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
1519 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
1520 Ms. DeGette?
1521 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
1522 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
1523 Ms. Schakowsky?
1524 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
1525 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
1526 Ms. Matsui?
1527 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
1528 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

1529 Ms. Castor?

1530 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

1531 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

1532 Mr. Tonko?

1533 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

1534 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

1535 Ms. Clarke?

1536 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

1537 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

1538 Mr. Ruiz?

1539 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

1540 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

1541 Mr. Peters?

1542 *Mr. Peters. Aye.

1543 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

1544 Mrs. Dingell?

1545 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

1546 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

1547 Mr. Veasey?

1548 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

1549 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

1550 Ms. Kelly?

1551 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

1552 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.

1553 Ms. Barragan?

1554 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
1555 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
1556 Mr. Soto?
1557 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
1558 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
1559 Ms. Schrier?
1560 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
1561 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
1562 Mrs. Trahan?
1563 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
1564 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
1565 Mrs. Fletcher?
1566 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
1567 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
1568 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
1569 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
1570 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
1571 Mr. Auchincloss?
1572 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
1573 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
1574 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
1575 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
1576 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
1577 Mr. Menendez?
1578 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

1579 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
1580 Mr. Mullin?
1581 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
1582 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
1583 Mr. Landsman?
1584 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
1585 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
1586 Ms. McClellan?
1587 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
1588 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
1589 Chairman Guthrie?
1590 [No response.]
1591 *Mr. Dunn. How is Mr. Latta recorded?
1592 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.
1593 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
1594 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.
1595 *Mr. Dunn. How is Mr. James recorded?
1596 *The Clerk. Mr. James is not recorded.
1597 *Mr. James. Aye.
1598 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
1599 *Mr. Dunn. How is Mr. Balderson recorded?
1600 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson is not recorded.
1601 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
1602 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
1603 *Mr. Dunn. Anybody else seeking to be -- how is Mr.

1604 Carter of Georgia?

1605 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.

1606 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

1607 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

1608 *Mr. Dunn. All right. The clerk will report the ayes
1609 and nays.

1610 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 49
1611 ayes and 0 noes.

1612 *Mr. Dunn. The ayes have it. The bill is adopted.

1613 We now call up H.R. 6046 and ask the clerk to report.

1614 *The Clerk. H.R. 6046, a bill to amend the
1615 Communications Act of 1934 to streamline the deployment of
1616 telecommunications or broadband services facilities in the
1617 public right of ways and the right of way of railroad
1618 carriers, and for other purposes.

1619 *Mr. Dunn. Without objection, first reading of the bill
1620 is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for amendment at
1621 any point.

1622 So ordered.

1623 [The bill follows:]

1624

1625 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1626

1627 *Mr. Dunn. Does anyone wish to be recognized on the
1628 bill?

1629 The gentleman from Pennsylvania, Dr. Joyce, is
1630 recognized for five minutes to discuss the bill.

1631 *Mr. Joyce. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1632 The timely deployment of affordable, high-speed internet
1633 to our rural communities is a critical matter for all of
1634 America. In communities across our country like the district
1635 that I proudly represent in Pennsylvania, high-speed internet
1636 access is a pre-requisite for accessing critical health care,
1637 economic and government services. And without it, our
1638 families, our farms, our hospitals, our schools, and,
1639 actually, all businesses are put at a complete disadvantage.
1640 And that is why we are here today to consider legislation
1641 that will advance the public interest by working to eliminate
1642 the inefficiencies, the redundancies, and unnecessary red
1643 tape that has slowed down broadband deployment to date.

1644 H.R. 6046, this bipartisan, bicameral legislation that I
1645 was proud to work on with my colleague from California, Mr.
1646 Peters, and my colleague from Ohio, Mr. Landsman, eliminates
1647 existing hurdles in two ways.

1648 First it makes clear that when a broadband provider
1649 wishes to deploy along a public right of way, which our bill
1650 defines as a public street, highway, route, or road, then the
1651 appropriate governmental authority with jurisdiction over

1652 that roadway is responsible for defining the permitting
1653 approval process. This includes setting the terms for
1654 appropriate safety reviews, as well as any costs and fees
1655 that might be assessed by affected third parties, including
1656 rail carriers that might cross the roadway at a designated
1657 crossing.

1658 This is a simple, straightforward, common-sense
1659 clarification that empowers local and state governments to
1660 ensure that their communities have access to affordable
1661 broadband while avoiding costly, dilatory, and completely
1662 arbitrary prohibitions on broadband deployment that are
1663 currently imposed by third parties which share the public
1664 right of way.

1665 Second, this legislation creates a responsible framework
1666 that sets guidelines and guardrails for an application in
1667 petition review process for instances where broadband
1668 provider seeks to deploy high-speed internet along or across
1669 a railroad right of way. The current patchwork structure is
1670 not working. Communities are losing out on available funds
1671 and, worse, they are losing valuable time to connect with
1672 their constituents because of capricious and unclear
1673 standards.

1674 Let's be clear. The framework set out in our
1675 legislation does not cap or limit the costs or fees that a
1676 railroad might receive related to a broadband provider. In

1677 fact, H.R. 6046 requires that the entire cost associated with
1678 broadband deployment be borne by the provider -- by the
1679 broadband provider -- again, not the railroad. This includes
1680 actual costs incurred, opportunity costs, and the costs
1681 required to comply with safety provisions.

1682 Let's reemphasize. H.R. 6046 explicitly requires
1683 interagency coordination between the Federal Rail
1684 Administration and the FCC in setting a process and
1685 appropriate regulatory framework to address safety concerns
1686 and adjudicate disputes between rail carriers and broadband
1687 providers. The FCC currently engages in similar structures
1688 with the USDA and the NTIA as part of its broadband
1689 deployment mission.

1690 H.R. 6046 does not deviate from the current standards of
1691 interagency cooperation and coordination. The FRA has an
1692 explicit seat at the table when it comes to safety in this
1693 regulation.

1694 Regardless of any feelings about the structure or
1695 enactment to date of BEAD and other broadband deployment
1696 programs, the success of these efforts depends on
1697 collaboration, collaboration among Federal, state, and local
1698 partners, and collaboration among agencies within the Federal
1699 Government. H.R. 6046 provides necessary clarity and a
1700 reasonable framework to allow for this collaboration without
1701 undue, unjust, or unnecessary interference which has led to

1702 costly delays and has disadvantaged rural communities across
1703 America.

1704 The deployment of affordable, high-speed internet to
1705 rural America is essential to the future of our communities,
1706 and time is of the essence.

1707 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I yield back.

1708 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
1709 further discussion on the bill?

1710 I recognize Mr. Peters from California --

1711 *Mr. Peters. Thank you --

1712 *Mr. Dunn. -- for five minutes.

1713 *Mr. Peters. -- Mr. Chairman.

1714 I am proud to co-lead the bipartisan Broadband and
1715 Telecommunications RAIL Act with Representatives Joyce and
1716 Landsman. Over the past few months, members of this
1717 committee have grappled with ways to speed up broadband
1718 deployment to connect our constituents to the internet. The
1719 Broadband and Telecom RAIL Act allows us to make progress on
1720 this goal.

1721 So we hear that when broadband companies try to build
1722 out telecommunications infrastructure along railroad
1723 crossings, the costs and approval times skyrocket. It is not
1724 acceptable that high costs and lengthy delays keep our
1725 constituents from connecting to the internet, and the delays
1726 only expand the digital divide in America.

1727 So to streamline the deployment process between
1728 broadband providers and railroad carriers, our bill would
1729 implement firm timelines, conflict resolution processes, and
1730 fee scales to help the Federal Communications Commission move
1731 faster in support of the public interest. It would outline
1732 the responsibility of each party and give the FCC authority
1733 where it previously had none. This bill solves a real
1734 problem we face in helping our constituents get connected to
1735 the internet.

1736 In the age of technology it is more important than ever
1737 for Americans to be connected as quickly as possible so that
1738 they can access employment opportunities, education,
1739 telehealthcare, and information. By streamlining broadband
1740 deployment and speeding up access to a fast, reliable, and
1741 affordable internet connection, we can work toward bridging
1742 the digital divide, ensuring equal access to educational and
1743 economic opportunity.

1744 Thanks to my colleagues, Representatives Joyce and
1745 Landsman, for their dedication here for working with us on
1746 this bipartisan bill. I look forward to continuing to work
1747 with you both as we continue to move this legislation
1748 forward.

1749 And I thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

1750 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
1751 further discussion on the bill, further discussion?

1752 Mr. Landsman, you are recognized for five minutes to
1753 comment on the bill.

1754 *Mr. Landsman. Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the last
1755 eight months we have worked really closely with Dr. Joyce and
1756 Mr. Peters to get this important bipartisan bill to this
1757 point. I want to thank both of them for their good-faith
1758 partnership and incredible leadership on this issue.

1759 Dr. Joyce has been fully committed to accomplishing this
1760 permitting reform in a thoughtful, bipartisan manner, and has
1761 been a great partner in this work, and so has his staff.

1762 Mr. Peters is a leading expert in permitting reform, and
1763 I appreciate the opportunity to work with him on such an
1764 important issue. We have all worked to speed up broadband
1765 deployments while making no sacrifices on safety or labor.

1766 The RAIL Act addresses a very important issue. You may
1767 have a broadband line running for dozens of miles that can't
1768 make a crossing of as little as 30 feet because a railroad
1769 company claims they own the land. It is actually owned by
1770 the public. This land, the public right of way, serves as
1771 the purpose of connecting Americans, especially rural
1772 Americans, to gas, electricity, water, and, of course,
1773 broadband.

1774 Broadband isn't just for watching Netflix or playing
1775 video games, Rob. Broadband is a critically -- is a critical
1776 lifeline to the world. Employment, health care, social

1777 interactions, and other essentials often require sufficient
1778 connection. The people who lack this connection suffer
1779 economic, health, and emotional consequences. And the
1780 solution is simple: broadband everywhere to connect
1781 everyone. We have the technology and we know who needs it.
1782 We also have the bipartisan support necessary to get a lot of
1783 it done.

1784 So let's remove the pointless and meritless
1785 obstructions, get from point A to point B, connect the
1786 unserved and underserved, and help all Americans realize the
1787 opportunity and benefits of being online.

1788 Thank you, and I yield back.

1789 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
1790 further discussion on the bill, any further discussion?

1791 Are there any amendments to the bill?

1792 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adoption of H.R.
1793 6046. A roll call vote has been requested, and the clerk
1794 will call the roll.

1795 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

1796 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

1797 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

1798 Mr. Griffith?

1799 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

1800 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

1801 Mr. Bilirakis?

1802 [No response.]

1803 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

1804 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

1805 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

1806 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

1807 [No response.]

1808 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

1809 [No response.]

1810 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

1811 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

1812 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.

1813 Mr. Crenshaw?

1814 [No response.]

1815 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

1816 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

1817 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

1818 Mr. Weber?

1819 *Mr. Weber. Yes.

1820 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.

1821 Mr. Allen?

1822 *Mr. Allen. Aye.

1823 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.

1824 Mr. Balderson?

1825 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

1826 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.

1827 Mr. Fulcher?
1828 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
1829 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
1830 Mr. Pfluger?
1831 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
1832 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
1833 Mrs. Harshbarger?
1834 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
1835 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
1836 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
1837 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
1838 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
1839 Mrs. Cammack?
1840 [No response.]
1841 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
1842 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
1843 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
1844 Mr. James?
1845 *Mr. James. Aye.
1846 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
1847 Mr. Bentz?
1848 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
1849 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
1850 Mrs. Houchin?
1851 [No response.]

1852 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
1853 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
1854 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
1855 Ms. Lee?
1856 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
1857 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
1858 Mr. Langworthy?
1859 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
1860 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
1861 Mr. Kean?
1862 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
1863 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
1864 Mr. Rulli?
1865 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
1866 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
1867 Mr. Evans?
1868 [No response.]
1869 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
1870 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
1871 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
1872 Mrs. Fedorchak?
1873 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
1874 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
1875 Mr. Pallone?
1876 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

1877 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
1878 Ms. DeGette?
1879 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
1880 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
1881 Ms. Schakowsky?
1882 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
1883 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
1884 Ms. Matsui?
1885 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
1886 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
1887 Ms. Castor?
1888 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
1889 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
1890 Mr. Tonko?
1891 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
1892 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
1893 Ms. Clarke?
1894 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
1895 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
1896 Mr. Ruiz?
1897 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
1898 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
1899 Mr. Peters?
1900 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
1901 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

1902 Mrs. Dingell?
1903 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
1904 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
1905 Mr. Veasey?
1906 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
1907 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
1908 Ms. Kelly?
1909 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
1910 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
1911 Ms. Barragan?
1912 [No response.]
1913 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto?
1914 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
1915 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
1916 Ms. Schrier?
1917 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
1918 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
1919 Mrs. Trahan?
1920 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
1921 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
1922 Mrs. Fletcher?
1923 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
1924 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
1925 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
1926 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

1927 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
1928 Mr. Auchincloss?
1929 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
1930 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
1931 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
1932 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
1933 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
1934 Mr. Menendez?
1935 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
1936 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
1937 Mr. Mullin?
1938 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
1939 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
1940 Mr. Landsman?
1941 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
1942 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
1943 Ms. McClellan?
1944 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
1945 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
1946 Chairman Guthrie?
1947 [No response.]
1948 *Mr. Dunn. How is Chairman Bilirakis recorded?
1949 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis is not recorded.
1950 *Mr. Dunn. How is Chairman Carter?
1951 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.

1952 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

1953 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

1954 *Mr. Dunn. Chairman Palmer?

1955 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.

1956 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

1957 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

1958 *Mr. Dunn. Is Crenshaw there?

1959 *Voice. Mrs. Houchin.

1960 *Mr. Dunn. How is Mrs. Fedorchak recorded?

1961 *Voice. Houchin.

1962 *Mr. Dunn. Houchin.

1963 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin is not recorded.

1964 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.

1965 *Mr. Dunn. Okay.

1966 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.

1967 *Mr. Dunn. How is Mr. Crenshaw recorded?

1968 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw is not recorded.

1969 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.

1970 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw --

1971 *Mr. Dunn. How is Mrs. Cammack recorded?

1972 *The Clerk. -- votes aye.

1973 Mrs. Cammack --

1974 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.

1975 *The Clerk. -- is not recorded.

1976 Mrs. Cammack votes aye.

1977 *Mr. Dunn. Anybody?

1978 *Voice. Ms. Barragan.

1979 *Mr. Dunn. How is Dr. Ruiz recorded?

1980 *Voice. No, no.

1981 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

1982 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz is recorded as aye.

1983 *Voice. Ms. Barragan, Ms. Barragan.

1984 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

1985 *Mr. Dunn. How is Ms. Barragan recorded?

1986 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan is not recorded.

1987 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

1988 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

1989 *Voice. Anybody else?

1990 *Mr. Dunn. The clerk will report the roll call.

1991 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 51

1992 ayes and 0 noes.

1993 *Mr. Dunn. The ayes have it. The bill is adopted.

1994 The chair now calls up H.R. 2289 and asks the clerk to

1995 report.

1996 *The Clerk. H.R. 2289, a bill to provide that an

1997 eligible facilities request under section 6409(a) of the

1998 Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 --

1999 *Mr. Dunn. Without objection, the first reading is

2000 dispensed with, and the bill will be open for amendment at

2001 any point.

2002 So ordered.

2003 [The bill follows:]

2004

2005 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2006

2007 *Mr. Dunn. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
2008 bill?

2009 Mr. Carter of Georgia, you are recognized for five
2010 minutes.

2011 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike
2012 the last word.

2013 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to express my
2014 support for my bill, the American Broadband Deployment Act of
2015 2025. This bill brings together proposals from my Republican
2016 colleagues to cut red tape and speed broadband deployment.
2017 It streamlines approvals for new infrastructure by ensuring
2018 fees reflect actual costs, setting clear and timely
2019 permitting deadlines, and giving providers relief if they are
2020 wrongfully denied access.

2021 It also simplifies upgrades to existing infrastructure
2022 like adding 5G, replacing copper with fiber, and deploying
2023 Open RAN, especially in areas that have already undergone
2024 environmental or historic reviews.

2025 Finally, it removes unnecessary environmental reviews
2026 for projects in previously disturbed rights of way and for
2027 replacing untrusted Chinese equipment, reducing delays that
2028 often take years on Federal lands.

2029 These reforms will accelerate investment, lower
2030 barriers, and help connect all Americans. I urge my
2031 colleagues to support this bill.

2032 And I yield back.

2033 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Dr. Ruiz, you
2034 are recognized for five minutes.

2035 *Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we consider
2036 these permitting bills today, I want to raise serious
2037 concerns about provisions in this bill, H.R. 2289, that would
2038 create broad exemptions to the National Historic Preservation
2039 Act, exemptions that could put tribal history, cultural
2040 sites, and sacred lands at real risk.

2041 The National Historic Preservation Act is one of the few
2042 safeguards that ensures tribal nations have a voice when
2043 Federal actions or major projects threaten places of deep
2044 cultural, spiritual, and historical significance. Weakening
2045 those protections would undermine that voice and diminish the
2046 Federal commitment to tribal consultation.

2047 And there is a troubling contradiction here. You know,
2048 you can't say you respect tribal sovereignty while advancing
2049 legislation that strips away their sovereignty by removing
2050 tribal participation and tools to protect their lands and
2051 heritage.

2052 Streamlining Federal processes is a goal many of us
2053 share, but efficiency cannot come at the expense of stripping
2054 tribes of their sovereignty, their self-determination, and
2055 sacred cultural and historic sites. It cannot come at the
2056 expense of cultural preservation, and it cannot come at the

2057 expense of the nation-to-nation relationship that defines our
2058 trust responsibility.

2059 Tribal sovereignty is not a procedural inconvenience.
2060 It is a matter of justice and fairness, and it is encoded in
2061 our Constitution. It reflects centuries of history and
2062 commitments made by the Federal Government, commitments that
2063 require transparency, consultation, and partnerships. Moving
2064 forward with this legislation that affects tribal lands
2065 without ensuring tribal participation, ensuring their
2066 sovereignty, strong protections, adequate resources, and
2067 meaningful consultation is not just misguided, it is
2068 inconsistent with the values and responsibilities that
2069 Congress is obligated to uphold.

2070 If we truly want to support tribal nations, then our
2071 policies must reflect that commitment. That means upholding
2072 their sovereignty, respecting their history, and ensuring
2073 that Federal permitting decisions are made with tribal
2074 governments, not around them. That is how we achieve
2075 progress that lifts all communities instead of leaving some
2076 behind.

2077 I yield back.

2078 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Is there further
2079 discussion on the bill?

2080 For what purpose does the gentleman from Pennsylvania
2081 seek to be recognized?

2082 *Mr. Joyce. Mr. Chairman, I wish to be recognized on
2083 the underlying legislation.

2084 *Mr. Dunn. You are recognized for five minutes.

2085 *Mr. Joyce. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2086 My legislation, H.R. 5273, the Broadband Competition and
2087 Efficient Deployment Act, was included in Representative
2088 Carter's American Broadband Deployment Act of 2025. The
2089 Broadband Competition and Efficient Deployment Act removes
2090 the requirement to prepare an environmental or historic
2091 preservation review in order to add or upgrade wireline
2092 facilities. It is critical that we remove these unnecessary
2093 review requirements that tend to delay or even prevent
2094 broadband deployment in the rural areas where it is most
2095 needed.

2096 Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Representative Carter, for
2097 your hard work on this important legislation that takes the
2098 next step in ensuring broadband access for all Americans. I
2099 urge my colleagues to support this bill.

2100 Thank you, and I yield back.

2101 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Is there further
2102 discussion on the bill?

2103 Mr. Fry, you are recognized for five minutes.

2104 *Mr. Fry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
2105 the last word.

2106 [Pause.]

2107 *Voice. Tell him he is recognized. Tell him he is
2108 recognized.

2109 *Mr. Dunn. You are recognized.

2110 *Mr. Fry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to
2111 highlight a key provision of -- within H.R. 2289, which is my
2112 legislation, the Trusted Broadband Networks Act.

2113 Across the country, as we have seen, small and rural
2114 broadband providers are working to remove telecommunications
2115 equipment that the Federal Government has deemed and
2116 determined is a national security risk. These providers want
2117 to replace that gear with trusted, secure equipment, but they
2118 are being slowed down not because of technical challenges,
2119 but because of Federal red tape.

2120 Right now providers must navigate full-blown
2121 environmental and historic preservation reviews simply to
2122 remove equipment that has already been designated as
2123 insecure. That makes no sense. If something in our networks
2124 is confirmed to be a national security threat, it should not
2125 take months of paperwork to get it out.

2126 The Trusted Broadband Networks Act solves this problem.
2127 When a provider removes insecure equipment and replaces it
2128 with a -- replaces it with trusted equipment, that action
2129 should not be treated as a significant Federal action that
2130 triggers lengthy NEPA and NHPA reviews. That is it. This
2131 provision is very narrow, it is targeted, it is fully aligned

2132 with existing Federal authorities, and it applies only to
2133 equipment identified under Federal law as insecure.

2134 This is especially critical for the small and rural
2135 networks that serve communities like those I represent in
2136 South Carolina. These providers don't have extra crews
2137 sitting around waiting for permits. They are trying to
2138 comply with Federal requirements and protect their customers.
2139 They should not be punished with more delays for doing
2140 exactly what the Federal Government told them to do in the
2141 first place.

2142 Every month of delay is another month adversary-linked
2143 technology stays in American networks. This provision puts
2144 national security ahead of bureaucracy, ensures rip-and-
2145 replace happens on schedule as Congress intended, and helps
2146 rural America stay connected and, most importantly, secure.
2147 I am proud to have this language included in H.R. 2289, and I
2148 strongly support its passage.

2149 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

2150 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
2151 further discussion on the bill?

2152 Mr. Hudson of North Carolina, you are recognized for
2153 five minutes.

2154 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2155 Listen, before Thanksgiving the Communications and
2156 Technology Committee marked up dozens of bipartisan bills to

2157 fold into this package, all with the same effort of
2158 expediting permitting to enable better access for all
2159 Americans in all communities.

2160 In a community like mine, spanning from Fort Bragg to
2161 the business districts of Greensboro with rural areas and
2162 small towns in between, you have to have broadband access to
2163 -- for work, for education, for health care, even checking in
2164 with loved ones. Too many folks in our community have been
2165 waiting way too long to get broadband access. The BEAD
2166 funding is great, and that funding is finally getting out the
2167 door after years of delay under the Biden Administration, but
2168 -- money is one thing, but if you have to wait years through
2169 duplicative processes, the money is not enough.

2170 And so what we are saying is we are not taking away
2171 environmental reviews. We want to protect the environment.
2172 We want to protect our citizens. And the issue my colleague
2173 on the other side raised, tribal sovereignty, is an important
2174 issue to us. And so we preserved all of those reviews. All
2175 we are saying is you shouldn't have to duplicate them. You
2176 shouldn't have to do them more than once. If you have got a
2177 tower, and you need to replace the antenna on it, you
2178 shouldn't have to wait years to do a new environmental
2179 review. All you are doing is unscrewing one antenna and
2180 screwing another one in. But under the status quo sometimes
2181 that takes years of delays. We want -- we don't want to do

2182 anything to interfere with tribal sovereignty. We don't
2183 change anything about the review processes. We just put a
2184 shot clock on it. So you -- a tribe can certainly deem that
2185 something is not safe for the environment or for their
2186 people, but all we are saying is let's provide a shot clock,
2187 let's give a time limit so there is a little bit of certainty
2188 so that we can get this broadband in the ground.

2189 So I look forward to seeing broadband to more Americans
2190 very quickly with the passage of this legislation, and I urge
2191 my colleagues to support it. Thank you.

2192 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. The gentlelady
2193 from Virginia, Ms. McClellan, is recognized for five minutes.

2194 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, speaking to
2195 the bill.

2196 Today I wish that we were considering bills that
2197 addressed all of the real and pressing challenges in
2198 deploying our broadband infrastructure, which we all agree
2199 needs to be done as quickly as possible so that no community
2200 is left behind. Yet this bill does not reflect the
2201 seriousness of all of those challenges or the bipartisan
2202 cooperation that they demand.

2203 We should be working in a meaningful way in which both
2204 sides have input, and the final legislative product reflects
2205 our shared values and priorities. Instead, this package is
2206 one-sided policies that will lead to burdensome and likely

2207 infeasible regulations and requirements on state and local
2208 government permitting officials that amount to an unfunded
2209 mandate.

2210 I am sure that you heard during the committee hearings
2211 that the biggest barriers to broadband deployment are
2212 inconsistent pole attachment processes, disputes over rights
2213 of way, and a lack of sufficient personnel that are the real
2214 barriers that delay broadband project timelines, increase
2215 deployment costs, and undermine the timelines for getting
2216 communities connected. This bill does not address those
2217 issues.

2218 The only path forward is a common-sense, bipartisan
2219 Federal framework that supports cost transparency,
2220 establishes predictable and fair joint use protocols and
2221 timelines, and ensures adequate investment and state and
2222 local permitting staff who are already overburdened by other
2223 jobs, particularly in our rural areas, trying to meet all of
2224 the requests that they get with insufficient personnel. This
2225 bill puts even more of a barrier on them without any
2226 additional resources.

2227 There are practical solutions that would remove these
2228 recurring obstacles, accelerate build-out, and provide long-
2229 term scalability, and I remain ready and willing to work with
2230 the majority to produce legislation that addresses all of
2231 these issues that remain barriers. Hopefully, we can get

2232 that done, but this bill doesn't do it.

2233 I yield back.

2234 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
2235 further discussion on the bill?

2236 Ms. Barragan, you are recognized for five minutes.

2237 *Ms. Barragan. Thanks. I move to strike the last word.

2238 Mr. Chairman, two weeks ago I raised serious concerns
2239 about the deemed granted provisions in this bill. These
2240 provisions impose rigid Federal shot clocks on state, local,
2241 and tribal governments. Miss the deadline and the
2242 application is automatically approved, no matter the risks or
2243 the consequences for the people who live in these
2244 communities. My Republican colleagues advanced this bill out
2245 of the subcommittee anyway, without a single change to
2246 protect local communities.

2247 Let me share a few real-world examples that illustrate
2248 why these shot clocks don't work in practice.

2249 My office recently heard from a Wyoming county
2250 commissioner who explained exactly why the FCC should not
2251 become the prime decision-maker for broadband installation in
2252 their public rights of way. Anyone who has driven through
2253 rural America knows this well: rural roads are often narrow,
2254 uncurved [sic], and maintained by part-time crews. Drainage
2255 ditches run along nearly every township road, and underground
2256 agricultural systems are highly vulnerable to accidental

2257 cuts. In places like this one mistake can wash out a road,
2258 flood a field, or take out the infrastructure a whole
2259 community depends on.

2260 This commissioner, responsible for a county covering
2261 about 4,000 square miles and 600 miles of roads, describes
2262 the stakes -- and I am quoting -- "This makes it challenging
2263 to monitor the activities inside rights of way, especially if
2264 the county is not the decision-maker concerning placement and
2265 installation of infrastructure. If this potential law is
2266 codified, the county would, in essence, no longer be in
2267 charge of our roads' rights of way. We would essentially be
2268 at the mercy of infrastructure owners as to how we might go
2269 about performing our statutory defined duties associated with
2270 roadways and our counties. When a private party can dictate
2271 the operations of the government agency responsible for
2272 roadways, something has failed. The people who elect county
2273 officials expect those officials to perform their duties
2274 without seeking permission from private enterprise.'`

2275 This isn't just a theory. This county commissioner is
2276 telling us that Federal shot clocks would give private
2277 companies more control over local roads than the elected
2278 officials responsible for them. These are the same rural
2279 counties that my Republican colleagues claim to champion.
2280 That should alarm every member of the committee.

2281 We also heard from a suburban county in the Midwest.

2282 They typically complete permit reviews for simple broadband
2283 infrastructure projects in about 15 working days. This is
2284 not a slow county. They are efficient and proactive. But as
2285 their county commissioner explained, BEAD-funded broadband
2286 infrastructure projects are far from simple. They can
2287 stretch for miles across multiple jurisdictions, and a single
2288 contractor could submit multiple massive applications at
2289 once, covering entire highways and segments.

2290 Local officials need time to make sure that digging
2291 doesn't damage roads, disrupt water or sewer lines, or create
2292 safety hazards for drivers. Federal shot clocks would force
2293 these officials to rush approvals on large, complex projects,
2294 ignoring local expertise and putting communities at risk.
2295 The lesson is clear: the bill assumes local governments are
2296 too slow. But even in efficient counties, rigid Federal
2297 deadlines could create real-world risk and unsafe outcomes.

2298 These are real stories from real counties, rural and
2299 suburban. They all show the same truth: the Federal shot
2300 clocks force local governments to gamble with public safety
2301 and surrender control to private companies. We should
2302 empower local communities, not strip them of authority. We
2303 should respect local expertise, not override it. And we
2304 should never put local governments at the mercy of private
2305 companies. For these reasons I strongly oppose this bill and
2306 urge my colleagues to do the same.

2307 I yield back.

2308 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
2309 further discussion?

2310 Mr. Griffith from Virginia, you are recognized for five
2311 minutes.

2312 *Mr. Griffith. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

2313 I understand the concerns of local government, but for
2314 some reason the local governments sometimes have failed to
2315 read the full text of the bill because it says they must
2316 approve or deny. And if they deny, then they need to state a
2317 reason. So in the examples recently given, if there were in
2318 fact a problem with having been inundated by one company with
2319 hundreds of requests, they could deny a significant number of
2320 them claiming that they need more time; they could deny them
2321 based on the fact that they think that it may cause them a
2322 problem with their road areas, that they need to be able to
2323 look into how this will impact narrow roads if it is a rural
2324 area where the roads are narrow or they have got other
2325 infrastructure issues.

2326 The problem has been is that they get no answer.
2327 Somebody files the request and there is no answer. It is not
2328 a yes answer, it is not a no answer, it is just a non-answer.
2329 If there is some information that the county or the local
2330 government needs in order to process further, they can deny
2331 it and say we can't process it at this point and must deny

2332 because we need more information on erosion if you are going
2333 to be digging, or we need more information on how your
2334 installation will affect our local road system. All of that
2335 is permissible.

2336 This bill doesn't change any of that. It just says,
2337 instead of placing the request into a black hole, you have to
2338 give us an answer. You can answer yes, you can answer no.
2339 If you choose to put the application or the request for the
2340 permit into an obscure box somewhere and never get around to
2341 answering it, then the answer is going to be a yes under this
2342 bill. That is true. But they do not lose the ability to say
2343 no because we need more information on erosion; on impacts on
2344 our road system; on X, Y, or Z. All that is permissible. It
2345 just says tell us why.

2346 Because what I suspect may happen is that, if the
2347 request or the concern is one that can be answered by the
2348 permit applicant, they may go out and spend the money to get
2349 data to help the county make that decision. But right now
2350 they don't have a clue. They don't know why they are not
2351 getting an answer, they just know they are not getting an
2352 answer, and that leads them to suspect, Mr. Chairman, it
2353 leads them to suspect that maybe they just don't want to deal
2354 with the issue at all, or maybe they have other interests in
2355 mind.

2356 I mean, there are some of our public utilities that also

2357 provide internet. Are they afraid of competition? Maybe.
2358 Those aren't legitimate. But concerns about roads, concerns
2359 about other infrastructure, concerns about erosion if there
2360 is digging taking place, nobody is going to question that
2361 those are legitimate. And they can deny with this. And
2362 then, if those issues can be resolved, the applicant can
2363 reapply at a later date.

2364 So these are not unreasonable and they don't force an
2365 automatic yes if you give a negative answer. It only forces
2366 the automatic approval if you choose not to respond at all.

2367 I yield back.

2368 *The Chair. [Presiding.] The gentleman yields back. Is
2369 there further discussion on the bill?

2370 The gentleman from New Jersey, you are recognized to
2371 speak on the bill.

2372 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Chairman, and here we are
2373 again. The party that claims to be in favor of small
2374 government and states' rights is once again explicitly
2375 undermining state and local governments' authority to protect
2376 their communities from harm.

2377 Automatic approvals hold the potential to threaten the
2378 safety of local communities and the workforce installing this
2379 infrastructure. Republicans are imposing unrealistic
2380 timeframes on understaffed local governments to conduct
2381 permit application reviews which, if not met, are

2382 automatically deemed approved without granting them any
2383 additional resources.

2384 House Republicans are doing nothing to support local and
2385 state governments after imposing these unrealistic shot
2386 clocks. That is probably why organizations that represent
2387 local government such as the United States Conference of
2388 Mayors, the National League of Cities, the National
2389 Association of Counties, and the National Association of
2390 Telecommunications Officers and Advisors strongly oppose the
2391 American Broadband Deployment Act, as they believe it
2392 represents another attempt by this Republican majority to
2393 take away authority and power from local governments to do
2394 that which they see is best.

2395 And so, you know, I have been hoping for consistency
2396 from my friends across the aisle. They have yet to show it.
2397 This party is going to harm all of the municipalities,
2398 counties, and states that we work with and have the good
2399 fortune of representing. And for that reason I will be a no
2400 and urge my colleagues to vote no as well.

2401 I yield back.

2402 I would yield to my colleague from California.

2403 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you. I just wanted to respond to
2404 the argument that was made that the local government could
2405 just deny it. They are not forced to approve it, they could
2406 just deny it. Under this argument they won't have the

2407 ability to say, hey, we need more time.

2408 You are just saying keep denying these applications and
2409 they are going to have to reapply every 60 to 150 days until
2410 they have enough time in the process? That would be an
2411 expensive ordeal. And talk about inefficiency.

2412 So I think that is just a poor argument and why I
2413 continue to oppose.

2414 With that I yield back to the gentleman.

2415 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, and I would just ask my
2416 colleague from Virginia, you know, he talked about all these
2417 instances where these requests are put into a black box. I
2418 am just wondering what data he is looking at that shows what
2419 percentage of these requests end up with no response, and
2420 what percentage of time that these requests are made does
2421 that happen, and if he has that information that he can
2422 provide to all of us on this committee.

2423 [Pause.]

2424 *Mr. Menendez. Can we use names? I don't know if I can
2425 use names of colleagues.

2426 *The Chair. Are you looking for an amendment?

2427 *Mr. Menendez. No, I am asking my colleague. He had
2428 made a series of points about -- that there is all these
2429 instances where things go into a black box. And I am just
2430 asking if he has data available to share with the committee
2431 members --

2432 *The Chair. Oh.

2433 *Mr. Menendez. -- as to how often that happens, and
2434 what percentage of requests receive --

2435 *The Chair. He's asking you a question.

2436 *Mr. Menendez. -- no response.

2437 *The Chair. Yes, you will yield him time to answer the
2438 question?

2439 *Mr. Menendez. Yes, of course.

2440 *The Chair. Okay.

2441 *Mr. Griffith. I would say to the gentleman that I
2442 don't have specific data, but that the complaints are
2443 numerous and it is a consistent problem, and it is part of
2444 what we are trying to solve in the bill is to make it so that
2445 broadband is more accessible in large parts of the country,
2446 particularly in areas like mine that are extremely rural and
2447 have less opportunities and less competition. We are trying
2448 to bring more competition and more opportunities to have
2449 broadband available. It is still going to be difficult to
2450 get it to every part of my district, but all of the
2451 impediments you have heard of in this bill are ones that are
2452 addressed to try to make this a smoother process.

2453 And I would just have to say that that is the reasoning
2454 behind this and understand that if there is a denial, the
2455 denial has to come with a reason for that denial so that
2456 there is some understanding of what is going on.

2457 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, and I will just reclaim my
2458 time. Do you have -- you mentioned that there -- do you have
2459 one instance, specific instance, from your district where
2460 this -- there is an impediment that you could share with us?

2461 *Mr. Griffith. And I would say to the gentleman,
2462 because I am not in the business of doing this, I can only
2463 share what has been brought to me by various companies. But
2464 it has been a consistent issue in several areas.

2465 Now, there are other areas where --

2466 *Mr. Menendez. I will reclaim my time.

2467 *Mr. Griffith. -- where we get great cooperation with
2468 the utility --

2469 *Mr. Menendez. I reclaim my time. It is always --
2470 prefer to speak with specificity.

2471 I yield to my colleague from Virginia.

2472 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2473 I would argue that in many of the rural areas,
2474 particularly in Virginia and the gentleman's district, the
2475 biggest impediment is the lack of funding, which we are
2476 working to address; difficulties in getting access to polls
2477 to attach the facilities you need to run the equipment, which
2478 this bill doesn't address; the railroad crossings, which we
2479 have addressed.

2480 But putting more of a burden on local zoning officials
2481 without giving them more resources to address this is not

2482 going to make broadband go out in those districts any faster.

2483 I yield back.

2484 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back, his
2485 time is expired. Is anyone seeking discussion on the bill?

2486 Seeing no further discussion on the bill -- on the bill?

2487 On the bill?

2488 Seeing no discussion on the bill, for what purposes --
2489 so amendments are in order. So for what purpose does the
2490 gentleman from Louisiana seek recognition?

2491 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I have an
2492 amendment --

2493 *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment. Oh,
2494 you --

2495 *Voice. Specify the amendment.

2496 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
2497 have an amendment at the desk labeled PROVISIONAL_01.

2498 *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

2499 *The Clerk. Amendment to the committee print for H.R.
2500 2289 offered by Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Add at the end the
2501 following.

2502 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
2503 amendment is dispense with.

2504

2505

2506

2507 [The amendment of Mr. Carter of Louisiana follows:]

2508

2509 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2510

2511 *The Chair. And the gentleman from Louisiana is
2512 recognized for five minutes in support of his amendment.

2513 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2514 My amendment would ensure that the National
2515 Telecommunications Information Administration follow the law
2516 and connect all Americans to high-speed, reliable internet as
2517 required by Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program,
2518 or BEAD.

2519 Specifically, my amendment would require NTIA to certify
2520 that all BEAD projects that has approved -- that has -- that
2521 it has approved can meet the needs of the future and build
2522 networks that are fast and reliable, and it requires NTIA to
2523 provide evidence to support those decisions.

2524 In January of this year Louisiana became the first state
2525 in the nation to secure Federal approval for plans to deploy
2526 \$1.3 billion in BEAD funding. This achievement is a
2527 testament to the bipartisan nature of Louisiana's approach to
2528 universal connectivity. The state was already -- was ready
2529 to have shovels in the ground in March, and completed its
2530 plan under Republican Governor Jeff Landry, who called the
2531 program "a generational investment that will create thousands
2532 of jobs, drive billions in economic growth, and transform
2533 Louisiana's communities in all 64 parishes.'`

2534 Unfortunately, the Trump Administration has spent the
2535 last 12 months sabotaging the BEAD program, upending years of

2536 planning, and forcing all states, including Louisiana, to
2537 scrap their work and to start over. The Trump Administration
2538 has increasingly veered away from the statutory language of
2539 the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, changing the BEAD program
2540 to prioritize short-term cost savings and Elon Musk's
2541 Starlink over faster, more reliable, future-proof
2542 connectivity of fiber networks.

2543 While Louisiana's new plan for BEAD-funded
2544 infrastructure deployment has finally been approved again,
2545 under the Trump Administration's new rules many Louisianans
2546 will now receive second-tier internet service. Our country's
2547 wireless spectrum constraints are bad enough as it is. I
2548 cannot see the wisdom in adding millions of additional
2549 households to our capacity-constrained networks, especially
2550 given the fact that there are other, better options at our
2551 disposal.

2552 My amendment is about preventing waste, fraud, and abuse
2553 of taxpayers' dollars that come with very specific
2554 instructions from Congress.

2555 Additionally, an estimated \$800 million in BEAD funding
2556 allocated to Louisiana that the state has planned to use for
2557 non-deployment initiatives remains in limbo, awaiting further
2558 guidance from NTIA. This is truly unacceptable. Everyone,
2559 regardless of zip code, deserves access to affordable,
2560 reliable, high-speed internet, especially in rural and

2561 underserved communities that have already gone far too long
2562 without it.

2563 My dear colleagues, I urge you to vote yes on my
2564 amendment.

2565 And I yield back.

2566 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
2567 further discussion on the amendment?

2568 For what purpose does the gentleman from North Carolina
2569 seek recognition?

2570 *Mr. Hudson. I wish to speak against the amendment.

2571 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized to speak on the
2572 amendment.

2573 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you, Chairman, and I want to thank
2574 my friend and colleague from Louisiana. I know he and I
2575 share the same goal, which is to get as many people on
2576 broadband, get as much access, particularly in the rural
2577 areas that he and I represent in North Carolina and
2578 Louisiana, and so I appreciate the spirit with which he
2579 offered this amendment. But I think it is -- I think that we
2580 should oppose this amendment.

2581 Look, the BEAD program was authorized by the
2582 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. It was written to be
2583 technology neutral so states could determine which
2584 technologies work best for them to close the digital divide.
2585 Unfortunately, the Biden-Harris Administration did not run

2586 the program in a technology neutral way, delaying the program
2587 for years and adding burdensome regulations that added
2588 billions of dollars in cost and did nothing to help connect
2589 Americans. The Trump Administration's NTIA course-corrected,
2590 returning the program to tech neutrality. As part of the
2591 state broadband plan, states made determinations about what
2592 technologies best reliably serve their communities based on
2593 their unique challenges.

2594 BEAD funds are already on the way out the door. In
2595 fact, 29 states and territories' broadband plans have been
2596 approved by NTIA. Delaying enactment of legislation would
2597 keep our constituents from getting the connectivity they
2598 need. So I oppose this amendment and I encourage my
2599 colleagues to vote no.

2600 And I yield back.

2601 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
2602 further discussion on the amendment?

2603 *Ms. Matsui. Chairman?

2604 *The Chair. For what purpose does the gentlelady from
2605 California seek recognition?

2606 *Ms. Matsui. I move to strike the last word and speak
2607 in support of the --

2608 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

2609 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you.

2610 This common-sense amendment makes sure the billions of

2611 dollars that Congress invested in the BEAD program do their
2612 job delivering long-lasting, high-quality internet and the --
2613 to the tens of millions of Americans still without a reliable
2614 connection. It is simple. It holds the Trump Administration
2615 to the law. It stops NTIA from ignoring the Bipartisan
2616 Infrastructure Law's rules that BEAD-funded networks deliver
2617 fast, dependable, and scalable broadband.

2618 This amendment should be an easy yes for my Republican
2619 colleagues. But once again they would rather bend the knee
2620 to Trump, letting him give handouts to his buddies with the
2621 cheapest technologies while turning their backs on the
2622 evolving connectivity needs of their constituents, families,
2623 and businesses. Trump's NTIA -- steamrolling states and
2624 local experts, strong-arming them into rebidding broadband
2625 projects at rates that result in under-delivering service
2626 while keeping the cost calculations mostly in the dark.

2627 Americans deserve better. We need smart broadband
2628 investments that will last, not short-term fixes that leave
2629 communities behind and cost taxpayers more in the long run.
2630 That is especially clear in my district, where communities in
2631 the California Delta are still living with dead zones and
2632 unreliable service even as they power our state's
2633 agricultural economy. BEAD was intended to change that by
2634 finally delivering stable, high-quality broadband these
2635 families can count on day in and day out. But instead of

2636 focusing on what matters, programs like BEAD, the real
2637 backbone of our national broadband strategy, Republicans are
2638 focusing on permitting rubber stamps.

2639 We must get BEAD back on track and hold NTIA's feet to
2640 the fire when it comes to directing our Federal dollars
2641 toward fast, reliable networks that can keep up with
2642 Americans' changing connectivity needs. With that I urge my
2643 colleagues to support the amendment.

2644 And I yield back the balance of my time.

2645 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
2646 further discussion of the amendment?

2647 Is there any discussion -- further discussion on the --
2648 the gentlelady from Virginia, for what purpose do you seek --
2649 is recognized to speak on the amendment.

2650 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wanted to
2651 remind my colleagues that when the BEAD program was
2652 established, Congress also mandated that federally-funded
2653 broadband networks must be scalable and reliable, that they
2654 must meet the ever-growing upload and download needs of
2655 businesses and consumers. And that is why the statute
2656 directed NTIA to define a priority project as one that is
2657 scalable to meet current and future broadband needs and
2658 support 5G and 6G technologies.

2659 And while the Trump Administration now prefers a low-
2660 cost alternative, not all technologies are created equal.

2661 Not all technologies are capable of meeting the ever-
2662 increasing upload and download needs of consumers and
2663 businesses. Technologies like Starlink and fixed wireless,
2664 in many cases, are inadequate to meet these needs. And in
2665 fact, when Elon Musk builds a factory, he doesn't connect it
2666 with Starlink. He connects it with the fiber connection.
2667 And particularly in our rural communities, they want fiber,
2668 not satellite or fixed wireless, because they say that that
2669 is what meets their needs, and they have the experience of
2670 getting the short end of the stick.

2671 And so, yes, the BEAD program is supposed to be
2672 technology neutral, but it also needs to make sure that that
2673 technology is scalable, reliable, and will meet the needs not
2674 just of today, but of tomorrow. And so including this
2675 amendment to make sure that NTIA certifies that whatever
2676 technology is used for broadband projects will be scalable is
2677 basically saying, NTIA, do the job that Congress told you to
2678 do when we created BEAD to begin with, not follow the Trump
2679 Administration's desire to solely use a low-cost alternative.

2680 Because the fact of the matter is the areas of this
2681 country that are not yet connected, they are not connected
2682 because it is more expensive to connect them. But that
2683 doesn't mean that they should have a technology that does not
2684 give them the same reliability that other parts of the
2685 country give back. And I think this amendment is a

2686 reasonable way to strike that balance.

2687 And I yield back.

2688 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The gentleman
2689 from Texas is recognized to speak on the amendment.

2690 *Mr. Crenshaw. Thank you. I move to strike the last
2691 word.

2692 Look, I am not on the subcommittee where this bill came
2693 out of, but I have been listening to this debate, and I find
2694 it interesting when I see debates where folks are just
2695 talking past each other like you are playing tennis in two
2696 different courts.

2697 I don't feel like anybody has addressed Mr. Griffith's
2698 points, and they are very -- it is really simple. The shot
2699 clock just, you know, it means you can deny it. Nobody has
2700 addressed that very simple point. And by the way, that is
2701 within 150 days. This isn't like a two-week shot clock.
2702 This isn't some unreasonable idea. This is a measure to
2703 force communication between entities, which is often a
2704 problem we see across government. This is why we use the
2705 whole shot clock policy idea on many fronts, because it
2706 forces a conversation. As Mr. Griffith has pointed out, the
2707 local government can simply deny it and say you need more
2708 information.

2709 This is not an infringement on local rights. It is
2710 trying to help people get what they need, which I thought we

2711 all agreed upon, and I fail to see why this is such a
2712 contested issue. I really do.

2713 I yield back.

2714 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
2715 further discussion on the amendment?

2716 Seeing no discussion on the amendment, the question now
2717 occurs on adopting the amendment. A roll call vote has been
2718 requested, and the clerk shall call the roll.

2719 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

2720 [No response.]

2721 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

2722 *Mr. Griffith. No.

2723 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

2724 Mr. Bilirakis?

2725 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

2726 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

2727 Mr. Hudson?

2728 *Mr. Hudson. No.

2729 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

2730 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

2731 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

2732 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

2733 Mr. Palmer?

2734 [No response.]

2735 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

2736 *Mr. Dunn. No.
2737 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
2738 Mr. Crenshaw?
2739 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.
2740 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
2741 Mr. Joyce?
2742 *Mr. Joyce. No.
2743 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
2744 Mr. Weber?
2745 *Mr. Weber. No.
2746 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
2747 Mr. Allen?
2748 *Mr. Allen. No.
2749 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
2750 Mr. Balderson?
2751 *Mr. Balderson. No.
2752 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
2753 Mr. Fulcher?
2754 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
2755 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
2756 Mr. Pfluger?
2757 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
2758 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
2759 Mrs. Harshbarger?
2760 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.

2761 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
2762 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
2763 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
2764 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
2765 Mrs. Cammack?
2766 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
2767 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
2768 Mr. Obernolte?
2769 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
2770 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
2771 Mr. James?
2772 [No response.]
2773 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
2774 *Mr. Bentz. No.
2775 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
2776 Mrs. Houchin?
2777 [No response.]
2778 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
2779 *Mr. Fry. No.
2780 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
2781 Ms. Lee?
2782 *Ms. Lee. No.
2783 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
2784 Mr. Langworthy?
2785 *Mr. Langworthy. No.

2786 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
2787 Mr. Kean?
2788 [No response.]
2789 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?
2790 *Mr. Rulli. No.
2791 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
2792 Mr. Evans?
2793 *Mr. Evans. No.
2794 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
2795 Mr. Goldman?
2796 *Mr. Goldman. No.
2797 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
2798 Mrs. Fedorchak?
2799 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
2800 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
2801 Mr. Pallone?
2802 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
2803 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
2804 Ms. DeGette?
2805 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
2806 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
2807 Ms. Schakowsky?
2808 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
2809 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
2810 Ms. Matsui?

2811 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
2812 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
2813 Ms. Castor?
2814 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
2815 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
2816 Mr. Tonko?
2817 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
2818 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
2819 Ms. Clarke?
2820 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
2821 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
2822 Mr. Ruiz?
2823 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
2824 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
2825 Mr. Peters?
2826 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
2827 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
2828 Mrs. Dingell?
2829 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
2830 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
2831 Mr. Veasey?
2832 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
2833 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
2834 Ms. Kelly?
2835 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

2836 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
2837 Ms. Barragan?
2838 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
2839 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
2840 Mr. Soto?
2841 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
2842 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
2843 Ms. Schrier?
2844 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
2845 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
2846 Mrs. Trahan?
2847 [No response.]
2848 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan?
2849 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
2850 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
2851 Mrs. Fletcher?
2852 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
2853 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
2854 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
2855 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
2856 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
2857 Mr. Auchincloss?
2858 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
2859 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
2860 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

2861 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
2862 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
2863 Mr. Menendez?
2864 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
2865 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
2866 Mr. Mullin?
2867 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
2868 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
2869 Mr. Landsman?
2870 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
2871 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
2872 Ms. McClellan?
2873 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
2874 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
2875 Chairman Guthrie?
2876 *The Chair. No.
2877 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
2878 *The Chair. How is Mr. Latta recorded?
2879 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.
2880 *Mr. Latta. Latta votes no.
2881 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
2882 *The Chair. Mr. James?
2883 *The Clerk. Mr. James is not recorded.
2884 *Mr. James. No.
2885 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.

2886 *The Chair. Mrs. Houchin?

2887 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin is not recorded.

2888 *Mrs. Houchin. No.

2889 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.

2890 *The Chair. Is anyone on the Democrat side seeking
2891 recognition to vote?

2892 Everybody -- oh -- seeing none, the clerk will report
2893 the result.

2894 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 24
2895 ayes and 28 noes.

2896 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
2897 further amendments?

2898 The gentlelady from California, for what purpose do you
2899 seek recognition?

2900 *Ms. Barragan. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
2901 desk. It is labeled --

2902 *The Chair. Identify the amendment.

2903 *Ms. Barragan. -- CONSUMER_02.

2904 *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

2905 *The Clerk. Amendment to the committee print for H.R.
2906 2289. Page 100, after line 18 --

2907 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
2908 amendment is dispensed with.

2909

2910

2911 [The amendment of Ms. Barragan follows:]

2912

2913 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2914

2915 *The Chair. And the gentlelady from California is
2916 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

2917 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you. I am offering this amendment
2918 today to ensure that American families share in the cost
2919 savings created by this bill.

2920 If Congress is helping companies cut costs, then
2921 families should see lower bills each month. And that is
2922 important because in today's digital age home internet access
2923 is not a luxury; it is a basic necessity. It is essential
2924 for students' success. Homework, class materials, and
2925 tutoring are all online not just during the school day, but
2926 in the evenings, on weekends, and over breaks.

2927 Broadband also serves as a lifeline to health care.
2928 Telehealth allows patients, especially in rural communities,
2929 to see providers without traveling hours or waiting months
2930 for an appointment with the nearest specialist. It opens
2931 doors to job searchers -- searches, online applications,
2932 remote work, and the digital economy.

2933 We all agree high-speed internet is critical for
2934 participation in modern life. Yet in 2025 nearly 6.8 million
2935 households still lack reliable internet. Why? Because most
2936 families simply cannot afford it.

2937 Let me tell you about Terry Johnson, a dedicated mother
2938 determined to keep her daughter, Quintona, on track at
2939 school. In 2020 the COVID pandemic hit, and Quintona's

2940 entire world shifted online. She tried to keep up in virtual
2941 school using her cell phone, but her data plan wasn't up to
2942 the task. So Terry took Quintona and her three small
2943 children to a McDonald's parking lot, where the whole family
2944 sat for hours so that her oldest daughter could connect to
2945 free internet to do her school work. Schools like this are
2946 all too common.

2947 Since COVID a lot has happened. Congress created the
2948 Affordable Connectivity Program, providing a \$30-per-month
2949 subsidy so low-income families could finally afford home
2950 internet. But Republicans refused to work with Democrats to
2951 keep the program funded, and those subsidies vanished. Under
2952 a Democratic FCC chair, the FCC helped schools and libraries
2953 lend out mobile internet devices free of charge, a program
2954 that Trump's FCC chair quickly eliminated. My home state of
2955 California stepped up with a \$30 state internet service
2956 subsidy, but most states don't offer anything similar. And
2957 at the Federal level the only assistance available to low-
2958 income families is 9.25 per month. The average home internet
2959 bill in the U.S. is \$78, but we all know it is much higher in
2960 so many places across the country, and our Federal
2961 affordability solution is \$9.25. That is unacceptable.

2962 Right now Congress is debating how to reform the FCC's
2963 Universal Service Fund, a fund designed for one purpose. It
2964 is to ensure that every American can access high-speed

2965 internet. There is a simple way to achieve that goal: make
2966 sure people can afford it. That is why I urge you to support
2967 this amendment.

2968 To my colleagues across the aisle, if this committee is
2969 going to give companies new savings, then we owe it to
2970 families to make sure those savings show up on their bills.
2971 It is not partisan. It is about doing the right thing when
2972 we -- for the people that we represent. Families are
2973 struggling with the cost of everything, including internet
2974 service. They shouldn't have to wait any longer for Congress
2975 to get this back -- to get this right.

2976 I yield back.

2977 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
2978 other further discussion on the amendment?

2979 The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for five
2980 minutes on the amendment.

2981 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2982 Listen, this -- I know this amendment is well-intended,
2983 but it looks a lot like rate regulation. And the last thing
2984 the Federal Government needs to be doing is telling providers
2985 how to set their own rates.

2986 Additionally, many providers already have affordable
2987 plans available for those who need it. Many of the areas
2988 that will benefit from the reforms here are currently
2989 unserved. That would mean there is no cost savings to offer

2990 them, should this amendment be adopted anyway. And that is
2991 really what we are focusing on, is how do we get to those
2992 unserved areas, how do we get broadband access to the folks
2993 who have been waiting too long?

2994 Cutting red tape and accelerating deployment will reduce
2995 deployment costs and ensure that providers can offer services
2996 at the best possible rates so that mothers like Terry don't
2997 have to go to McDonald's to get internet access, that they
2998 can have access to broadband in their homes. That is the
2999 whole point. And so we want to get Terry -- people like
3000 Terry in rural areas across this country that access as
3001 quickly as possible.

3002 So I oppose this amendment. I encourage my colleagues
3003 to vote no.

3004 And I yield back.

3005 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
3006 further discussion on the amendment?

3007 Seeing none, the question is on the amendment. A roll
3008 call has been requested, and the clerk will call the roll.

3009 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

3010 *Mr. Latta. No.

3011 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

3012 Mr. Griffith?

3013 [No response.]

3014 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?

3015 [No response.]

3016 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

3017 *Mr. Hudson. No.

3018 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

3019 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

3020 [No response.]

3021 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

3022 [No response.]

3023 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

3024 *Mr. Dunn. No.

3025 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

3026 Mr. Crenshaw?

3027 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.

3028 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.

3029 Mr. Joyce?

3030 *Mr. Joyce. No.

3031 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

3032 Mr. Weber?

3033 *Mr. Weber. No.

3034 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

3035 Mr. Allen?

3036 *Mr. Allen. No.

3037 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

3038 Mr. Balderson?

3039 *Mr. Balderson. No.

3040 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
3041 Mr. Fulcher?
3042 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
3043 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
3044 Mr. Pfluger?
3045 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
3046 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
3047 Mrs. Harshbarger?
3048 [No response.]
3049 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
3050 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
3051 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
3052 Mrs. Cammack?
3053 [No response.]
3054 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
3055 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
3056 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
3057 Mr. James?
3058 *Mr. James. No.
3059 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
3060 Mr. Bentz?
3061 *Mr. Bentz. No.
3062 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
3063 Mrs. Houchin?
3064 [No response.]

3065 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
3066 [No response.]
3067 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
3068 *Mr. Fry. No.
3069 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry no.
3070 Ms. Lee?
3071 *Ms. Lee. No.
3072 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
3073 Mr. Langworthy?
3074 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
3075 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
3076 Mr. Kean?
3077 [No response.]
3078 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?
3079 *Mr. Rulli. No.
3080 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
3081 Mr. Evans?
3082 [No response.]
3083 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
3084 *Mr. Goldman. No.
3085 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
3086 Mrs. Fedorchak?
3087 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
3088 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
3089 Mr. Pallone?

3090 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
3091 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
3092 Ms. DeGette?
3093 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
3094 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
3095 Ms. Schakowsky?
3096 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
3097 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
3098 Ms. Matsui?
3099 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
3100 *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.
3101 Ms. Castor?
3102 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
3103 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
3104 Mr. Tonko?
3105 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
3106 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
3107 Ms. Clarke?
3108 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
3109 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
3110 Mr. Ruiz?
3111 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
3112 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
3113 Mr. Peters?
3114 *Mr. Peters. Aye.

3115 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
3116 Mrs. Dingell?
3117 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
3118 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
3119 Mr. Veasey?
3120 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
3121 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
3122 Ms. Kelly?
3123 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
3124 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
3125 Ms. Barragan?
3126 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
3127 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
3128 Mr. Soto?
3129 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
3130 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
3131 Ms. Schrier?
3132 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
3133 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
3134 Mrs. Trahan?
3135 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
3136 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
3137 Mrs. Fletcher?
3138 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
3139 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

3140 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

3141 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

3142 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

3143 Mr. Auchincloss?

3144 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

3145 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

3146 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

3147 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

3148 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

3149 Mr. Menendez?

3150 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

3151 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

3152 Mr. Mullin?

3153 [No response.]

3154 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin?

3155 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

3156 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

3157 Mr. Landsman?

3158 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

3159 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

3160 Ms. McClellan?

3161 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

3162 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

3163 Chairman Guthrie?

3164 *The Chair. No.

3165 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
3166 *The Chair. How is Griffith --
3167 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith is not recorded.
3168 *Mr. Griffith. No.
3169 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
3170 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. How is Carter recorded?
3171 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.
3172 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
3173 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
3174 *Mr. Palmer. How is Palmer --
3175 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.
3176 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer vote no.
3177 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
3178 *Mr. Hudson. [Presiding.] How is Mrs. Harshbarger
3179 recorded?
3180 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger is not recorded.
3181 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
3182 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
3183 *Mr. Hudson. How is Mrs. Cammack --
3184 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack is not recorded.
3185 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
3186 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
3187 *Mr. Hudson. Okay. Is that everybody?
3188 The clerk will report the result.
3189 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 24

3190 ayes and 26 noes.

3191 *Mr. Hudson. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
3192 further amendments?

3193 *Voice. That is it.

3194 *Mr. Hudson. Great.

3195 *Mr. Pallone. We want a roll call.

3196 *Mr. Hudson. The question now occurs on adopting H.R.
3197 2289. A roll call vote has been requested. The clerk will
3198 call the roll.

3199 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

3200 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

3201 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

3202 Mr. Griffith?

3203 [No response.]

3204 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?

3205 [No response.]

3206 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

3207 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

3208 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

3209 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

3210 [No response.]

3211 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

3212 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.

3213 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

3214 Mr. Dunn?

3215 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
3216 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
3217 Mr. Crenshaw?
3218 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
3219 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.
3220 Mr. Joyce?
3221 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
3222 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
3223 Mr. Weber?
3224 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
3225 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
3226 Mr. Allen?
3227 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
3228 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
3229 Mr. Balderson?
3230 [No response.]
3231 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher?
3232 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
3233 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
3234 Mr. Pfluger?
3235 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
3236 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
3237 Mrs. Harshbarger?
3238 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
3239 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.

3240 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
3241 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
3242 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
3243 Mrs. Cammack?
3244 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
3245 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
3246 Mr. Obernolte?
3247 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
3248 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
3249 Mr. James?
3250 *Mr. James. Aye.
3251 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
3252 Mr. Bentz?
3253 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
3254 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
3255 Mrs. Houchin?
3256 [No response.]
3257 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
3258 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
3259 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
3260 Ms. Lee?
3261 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
3262 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
3263 Mr. Langworthy?
3264 [No response.]

3265 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?
3266 [No response.]
3267 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?
3268 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
3269 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
3270 Mr. Evans?
3271 [No response.]
3272 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
3273 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
3274 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
3275 Mrs. Fedorchak?
3276 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
3277 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
3278 Mr. Pallone?
3279 *Mr. Pallone. No.
3280 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.
3281 Ms. DeGette?
3282 *Ms. DeGette. No.
3283 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.
3284 Ms. Schakowsky?
3285 *Ms. Schakowsky. No.
3286 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.
3287 Ms. Matsui?
3288 *Ms. Matsui. No.
3289 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.

3290 Ms. Castor?

3291 *Ms. Castor. No.

3292 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.

3293 Mr. Tonko?

3294 *Mr. Tonko. No.

3295 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.

3296 Ms. Clarke?

3297 *Ms. Clarke. No.

3298 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.

3299 Mr. Ruiz?

3300 *Mr. Ruiz. No.

3301 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.

3302 Mr. Peters?

3303 *Mr. Peters. No.

3304 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.

3305 Mrs. Dingell?

3306 *Mrs. Dingell. No.

3307 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.

3308 Mr. Veasey?

3309 *Mr. Veasey. No.

3310 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.

3311 Ms. Kelly?

3312 *Ms. Kelly. No.

3313 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.

3314 Ms. Barragan?

3315 *Ms. Barragan. No.
3316 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.
3317 Mr. Soto?
3318 *Mr. Soto. No.
3319 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.
3320 Ms. Schrier?
3321 *Ms. Schrier. No.
3322 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.
3323 Mrs. Trahan?
3324 *Mrs. Trahan. No.
3325 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.
3326 Mrs. Fletcher?
3327 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.
3328 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.
3329 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
3330 [No response.]
3331 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss?
3332 *Mr. Auchincloss. No.
3333 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes no.
3334 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
3335 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. No.
3336 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes no.
3337 Mr. Menendez?
3338 *Mr. Menendez. No.
3339 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.

3340 Mr. Mullin?

3341 *Mr. Mullin. No.

3342 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.

3343 Mr. Landsman?

3344 [No response.]

3345 *Mr. Hudson. Perfect.

3346 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan?

3347 *Ms. McClellan. No.

3348 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.

3349 Chairman Guthrie?

3350 *The Chair. Aye.

3351 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

3352 *Mr. Hudson. How is Mr. Griffith recorded?

3353 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith is not recorded.

3354 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

3355 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

3356 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. How is Carter recorded?

3357 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.

3358 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

3359 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

3360 *Mr. Hudson. How is Mr. Balderson recorded?

3361 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson is not recorded.

3362 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

3363 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.

3364 *Mr. Hudson. Mr. Langworthy?

3365 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy is not recorded.

3366 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.

3367 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.

3368 *Mr. Hudson. How is Ms. Ocasio-Cortez recorded?

3369 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez is not recorded.

3370 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.

3371 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.

3372 *Mr. Hudson. How is Mr. Landsman recorded?

3373 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman is not recorded.

3374 *Mr. Landsman. No.

3375 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes no.

3376 *Mr. Hudson. Is there anybody else?

3377 The clerk will report the tally.

3378 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 26
3379 ayes and 24 noes.

3380 *Mr. Hudson. The ayes have it. The bill is adopted.

3381 The chair calls up H.R. 3474 and asks the clerk to
3382 report.

3383 *The Clerk. H.R. 3474, a bill to clarify that the
3384 installation of mechanical insulation property is an energy
3385 or water efficiency measure that may be used in Federal
3386 buildings for purposes of section --

3387 *Mr. Hudson. Without objection, the first reading of
3388 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
3389 amendment at any point.

3390 So ordered.

3391 [The bill follows:]

3392

3393 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3394

3395 *Mr. Hudson. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

3396 For what purpose does Mr. Weber seek recognition?

3397 [Pause.]

3398 *Mr. Hudson. Thirty-four seventy-four.

3399 *Mr. Weber. Thank you, Mr. --

3400 *Mr. Hudson. The gentleman is recognized for five
3401 minutes to speak on the bill.

3402 *Mr. Weber. I appreciate that, and sorry you all caught
3403 me texting with my wife. And if I didn't, I was going to be
3404 in trouble.

3405 [Laughter.]

3406 *Mr. Weber. So I am just telling it like it is, guys.

3407 H.R. 3474, the Federal Mechanical Insulation Act, is a
3408 bipartisan, practical effort to strengthen the energy
3409 efficiency of Federal buildings while reducing costs for
3410 taxpayers.

3411 The bill takes a straightforward approach. During a
3412 Federal buildings comprehensive energy and water evaluation,
3413 it requires an assessment of whether mechanical insulation
3414 should be updated or installed. Remember, I was in the air
3415 conditioning business for 35 years. This is a simple
3416 addition to an already existing process and, to be clear, it
3417 does not create a mandate or -- on private property or impose
3418 new requirements on the American people.

3419 The need for the bill is evident. The Federal

3420 Government is the largest energy consumer in the nation, and
3421 much of that demand comes from more than 300,000 federally-
3422 owned buildings. Too many of these facilities operate with
3423 insufficient mechanical insulation, leading to wasted energy
3424 and unnecessary taxpayer expenses. By ensuring that Federal
3425 buildings evaluate the benefits of improving their
3426 insulation, we can build a pathway to more efficient and
3427 responsible operations.

3428 This Federal Mechanical Insulation Act prioritizes true
3429 energy efficiency, and I urge my colleagues to support this
3430 legislation.

3431 And Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

3432 *Mr. Hudson. Does anyone seek recognition to speak on
3433 the bill?

3434 Mr. Carter, you are recognized for five minutes to speak
3435 on the bill.

3436 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
3437 move to strike the last word.

3438 Mr. Chairman, I am proud to cosponsor and support H.R.
3439 3474, the Federal Mechanical Installation Act -- Insulation
3440 Act introduced by Representative Weber. This is a smart,
3441 targeted, and cost-effective bill that strengthens the
3442 Federal Government's own energy efficiency standards by
3443 making sure we are not overlooking one of the simplest ways
3444 to cut waste: mechanical insulation.

3445 Right now, when Federal agencies conduct comprehensive
3446 energy and water evaluations on their buildings, they review
3447 a range of systems, but mechanical insulation is not included
3448 even though it is one of the most proven tools for reducing
3449 energy loss. This bill fixes that gap by requiring agencies
3450 to evaluate whether mechanical insulation should be installed
3451 or updated as part of their review. This is truly a common-
3452 sense, bipartisan policy that will save money.

3453 Federal buildings are among the largest energy consumers
3454 in the country, and too often the government pays for wasted
3455 energy to escape through uninsulated pipes, ducts, and
3456 equipment. By modernizing these standards we can reduce
3457 Federal energy costs, which ultimately saves taxpayers money.
3458 Better insulation means systems run more efficiently, use
3459 less fuel, and emit fewer greenhouse gases. This is one of
3460 the lowest-cost ways to lower emissions without interrupting
3461 operations or requiring expensive overhauls.

3462 Importantly, this legislation supports well-paying jobs
3463 for skilled workers, particularly pipefitters, insulators,
3464 and other union trades who are essentially -- who are
3465 essential to uplift -- upgrading our Federal infrastructure.
3466 These are stable, long-term jobs rooted in technical
3467 expertise, and this bill ensures that workers remain at the
3468 center of our modernization efforts.

3469 At its core, H.R. 3474 is about being responsible

3470 stewards of the taxpayers' dollars, reducing waste, and
3471 investing in efficient Federal operations. I am proud to
3472 stand behind this bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me
3473 in supporting it.

3474 I yield back.

3475 *Mr. Hudson. I thank the gentleman. Do any further
3476 members wish to be recognized?

3477 Seeing none, if there is no further discussion the vote
3478 occurs on the -- the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
3479 3474. A roll call vote has been requested, and the clerk
3480 will call the roll.

3481 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

3482 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

3483 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

3484 Mr. Griffith?

3485 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

3486 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

3487 Mr. Bilirakis?

3488 [No response.]

3489 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

3490 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

3491 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

3492 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

3493 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

3494 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

3495 Mr. Palmer?
3496 [No response.]
3497 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?
3498 [No response.]
3499 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
3500 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
3501 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.
3502 Mr. Joyce?
3503 [No response.]
3504 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?
3505 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
3506 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
3507 Mr. Allen?
3508 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
3509 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
3510 Mr. Balderson?
3511 [No response.]
3512 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher?
3513 [No response.]
3514 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger?
3515 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
3516 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
3517 Mrs. Harshbarger?
3518 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
3519 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.

3520 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
3521 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
3522 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
3523 Mrs. Cammack?
3524 [No response.]
3525 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
3526 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
3527 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
3528 Mr. James?
3529 [No response.]
3530 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
3531 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
3532 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
3533 Mrs. Houchin?
3534 [No response.]
3535 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
3536 [No response.]
3537 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
3538 [No response.]
3539 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
3540 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
3541 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
3542 Mr. Kean?
3543 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
3544 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.

3545 Mr. Rulli?
3546 [No response.]
3547 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
3548 [No response.]
3549 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
3550 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
3551 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
3552 Mr. Goldman?
3553 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
3554 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
3555 Mrs. Fedorchak?
3556 [No response.]
3557 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
3558 *Mr. Pallone. Votes aye also.
3559 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
3560 Ms. DeGette?
3561 [No response.]
3562 *Mr. Hudson. It is that reflex.
3563 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?
3564 [No response.]
3565 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui?
3566 [No response.]
3567 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor?
3568 [No response.]
3569 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko?

3570 *Ms. Castor. Yes.

3571 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

3572 Mr. Tonko?

3573 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

3574 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

3575 Ms. Clarke?

3576 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

3577 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

3578 Mr. Ruiz?

3579 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

3580 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

3581 Mr. Peters?

3582 *Mr. Peters. Aye.

3583 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

3584 Mrs. Dingell?

3585 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

3586 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

3587 Mr. Veasey?

3588 [No response.]

3589 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?

3590 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

3591 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.

3592 *Mr. Hudson. No, Chairman, you can't.

3593 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?

3594 [No response.]

3595 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto?
3596 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
3597 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
3598 Ms. Schrier?
3599 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
3600 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
3601 Mrs. Trahan?
3602 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
3603 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
3604 Mrs. Fletcher?
3605 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
3606 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
3607 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
3608 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
3609 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
3610 Mr. Auchincloss?
3611 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
3612 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
3613 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
3614 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
3615 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
3616 Mr. Menendez?
3617 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
3618 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
3619 Mr. Mullin?

3620 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

3621 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

3622 Mr. Landsman?

3623 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

3624 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

3625 Ms. McClellan?

3626 [No response.]

3627 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan?

3628 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

3629 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

3630 Chairman Guthrie?

3631 *The Chair. Aye.

3632 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

3633 *Mr. Hudson. How is Ms. Matsui recorded?

3634 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

3635 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui is not recorded.

3636 Ms. Matsui votes aye.

3637 *Mr. Hudson. How is Ms. DeGette?

3638 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette is not recorded.

3639 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

3640 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

3641 *Mr. Hudson. How is Ms. Barragan recorded?

3642 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan is not recorded.

3643 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

3644 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

3645 *Mr. Hudson. Okay, how is Mr. Veasey recorded?
3646 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.
3647 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.
3648 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
3649 *Mr. Hudson. Do we have any on this side?
3650 Mr. Palmer, how is Mr. Palmer recorded?
3651 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.
3652 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.
3653 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
3654 *Mr. Hudson. Good.
3655 *Mr. Dunn. Dunn?
3656 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn is not recorded.
3657 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
3658 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
3659 *Mr. Fry. How is Fry --
3660 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry is not recorded.
3661 *Mr. Fry. Yes.
3662 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
3663 *Mr. Hudson. I will ask him.
3664 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce?
3665 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce is not recorded.
3666 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
3667 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
3668 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher?
3669 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher is not recorded.

3670 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
3671 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
3672 *Mr. Balderson. How is Balderson --
3673 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson is not recorded.
3674 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
3675 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
3676 *Mr. Hudson. Ms. Schakowsky.
3677 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack is not recorded.
3678 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
3679 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
3680 *Mr. James. James?
3681 *The Clerk. Mr. James is not recorded.
3682 *Mr. James. Aye.
3683 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
3684 *Ms. Lee. Lee?
3685 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee is not recorded.
3686 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
3687 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
3688 Mrs. Fedorchak is not recorded.
3689 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
3690 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
3691 *Mr. Hudson. Is Mrs. Cammack recorded?
3692 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack is recorded as aye.
3693 *Mr. Hudson. Is Ms. Schakowsky recorded?
3694 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky is not recorded.

3695 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

3696 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

3697 *Mr. Hudson. The clerk will report.

3698 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 51
3699 ayes and 0 noes.

3700 *Mr. Hudson. The ayes have it, the bill is adopted.

3701 The chair calls up H.R. 3699 and asks the clerk to
3702 report.

3703 *The Clerk. H.R. 3699, a bill to prohibit states or
3704 local governments from prohibiting or limiting the
3705 connection, reconnection, modification --

3706 *Mr. Hudson. Without objection, the first reading of
3707 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
3708 amendment at any point.

3709 So ordered.

3710 [The bill follows:]

3711

3712 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3713

3714 *Mr. Hudson. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
3715 bill?

3716 *Mr. Langworthy. Mr. Chairman?

3717 *Mr. Hudson. For what purpose does the gentleman from
3718 New York seek to be recognized?

3719 *Mr. Langworthy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to
3720 speak on H.R. 3699.

3721 *Mr. Hudson. You are recognized for five minutes to
3722 speak on the bill.

3723 *Mr. Langworthy. As we begin the full committee
3724 consideration of the Energy Choice Act, let's remember what
3725 this bill is fundamentally about. It is protecting
3726 affordability, preserving choice, preventing government from
3727 banning energy options that American families, businesses,
3728 schools, hospitals, and first responders depend on every
3729 single day. This legislation doesn't tell states what energy
3730 they must use, it stops them from telling Americans what
3731 energy they cannot use because when governments start banning
3732 energy sources, they don't make energy any cheaper, they make
3733 it more expensive.

3734 And the numbers couldn't be clearer. According to the
3735 National Association of Home Builders, full electrification
3736 mandates add between 15,000 and \$22,000 for just the
3737 construction costs on a new home. That comes at a time when
3738 75 percent of American households cannot afford a median-

3739 priced home. And every \$1,000 increase in construction costs
3740 prices out roughly 140,000 families.

3741 And after families move in, the monthly bills tell an
3742 even harsher reality. A typical household using natural gas
3743 for winter heat pays about \$602. The same home forced to
3744 rely solely on electric heat pays over \$1,000, a 42 percent
3745 cost increase every single year, according to the U.S. Energy
3746 Information Administration's Winter Fuel Outlook. Even
3747 NYSERDA, New York's own energy authority, acknowledges that
3748 converting an existing home to full electrification costs
3749 between 18,000 and \$28,000 in retrofit costs and panel
3750 upgrade costs alone.

3751 These affordability problems aren't limited to
3752 homeowners, schools, businesses, farms, and hospitals. They
3753 face even steeper climbs. According to the U.S. Department
3754 of Energy, heating a classroom with electricity costs 85
3755 percent more than using natural gas. Restaurants forced to
3756 switch from gas to electric cooking face nearly a three times
3757 higher annual energy cost, according to the EPA.

3758 And farmers are hit especially hard. Nearly 80 percent
3759 of farm operations rely on propane, natural gas, or diesel
3760 for grain drying, greenhouse heating, irrigation pumps, and
3761 livestock protection. And switching to electric can double
3762 or triple those energy costs during harvest or cold snaps,
3763 leading to increased prices at the grocery store.

3764 And for hospitals, nursing homes, emergency shelters,
3765 facilities that cannot afford to lose power when lives are on
3766 the line, the Department of Energy's resilience assessment
3767 shows that electric-only backup power can be 10 to 15 times
3768 more expensive to install and maintain than propane, diesel,
3769 or natural gas systems.

3770 Energy bans don't lower costs. They eliminate the most
3771 affordable options first. And when government removes
3772 choices, families, small businesses, and critical
3773 institutions are the ones left paying more for less
3774 reliability.

3775 And let's be clear. Protecting energy choice does not
3776 strip states or localities of their authority. They still
3777 control siting, permitting, zoning, land use, safety,
3778 environmental review, every single tool that they have today.
3779 What this bill prevents is something different: the outright
3780 banning of a lawful energy source sold in interstate commerce
3781 that is essential to regional reliability and economic
3782 stability.

3783 When one state restricts an energy source, it doesn't
3784 just affect their residents. It spills across borders, it
3785 disrupts regional grids, and it drives up costs for families
3786 hundreds of miles away. That is exactly why the Constitution
3787 protects interstate commerce, to stop one jurisdiction from
3788 imposing energy policies that harm others.

3789 The Energy Choice Act protects affordability,
3790 reliability, and the rights of Americans to decide what
3791 energy works best for them. And when government bans
3792 choices, people pay prices. And that is what this bill
3793 prevents.

3794 And I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

3795 *The Chair. [Presiding.] The gentleman yields back. Is
3796 there discussion on the bill?

3797 The gentlelady from California seeks recognition on the
3798 bill? Ms. Matsui, you were -- okay, I am sorry. I was --

3799 *Ms. Matsui. Wait a minute.

3800 *The Chair. I will go to Mr. Carter. I will be back.

3801 *Ms. Matsui. Okay, thank you.

3802 *The Chair. Does the gentleman from Louisiana seek
3803 recognition on the bill?

3804 The gentleman is recognized.

3805 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
3806 move to strike the last word. Mr. Chairman, I must voice
3807 strong opposition to H.R. 3699, the so-called Energy Choice
3808 Act which is anything but.

3809 For all of the rhetoric in Congress about small
3810 government, smaller government, states' rights, and
3811 empowering local decision-making, this bill does the exact
3812 opposite. It is a sweeping, big government Federal power
3813 grab that strips state and local governments of their core

3814 authorities to keep their residents safe. This bill would
3815 prohibit cities, counties, and states from adopting or
3816 enforcing any building codes, safety standards, or local
3817 policies that directly or indirectly affect access to an
3818 energy source, whether it is gas, propane, hydrogen,
3819 gasoline, or electricity.

3820 This is about all the implications. Think about all the
3821 implications here. That language can be so broad that it can
3822 override everything from fire safety codes to resilience
3823 standards to decisions about how communities rebuild after
3824 disasters, something that can be incredibly detrimental in my
3825 district in south Louisiana. Local officials know the needs
3826 of their communities best. They are the first people
3827 residents call when there is an explosion, a carbon monoxide
3828 leak, a pipeline accident, a wildfire, or a grid failure.
3829 But under this bill those same local officials would be
3830 prevented from providing protection in place that fit their
3831 community [sic]. This bill doesn't create choice. It takes
3832 choice away from the people on the ground who understand
3833 their communities and their risk best.

3834 It is also important to underscore that this bill would
3835 raise energy costs for families that are already stretched
3836 thin. State utility commissions exist for one reason: to
3837 protect ratepayers from unnecessary or unreasonable utility
3838 spending. But if this commission -- if a commission wants to

3839 reject a costly, wasteful, obsolete infrastructure project,
3840 this bill would stop them. When these commissions can't do
3841 their jobs, those costs don't disappear, they get passed
3842 straight to the customer in higher monthly energy bills.

3843 At a time when families are already struggling with
3844 higher energy costs, Congress should strengthen ratepayer
3845 protections, not handcuff the very entities responsible for
3846 holding utilities accountable. There is nothing small
3847 government about a Federal law that preempts local control,
3848 undermines safety standards, handcuffs state regulators, and
3849 blocks communities from choosing the energy system that works
3850 best for them. If anything, this bill is Washington at its
3851 worst, imposing a one-size-fits-all mandate on every
3852 community in America.

3853 The truth is simple: local leaders, not Federal
3854 politicians, know how to keep their communities safe. They
3855 know what infrastructure makes sense for them. They know
3856 what risks exist. They know how to balance reliability,
3857 affordability, and public health. This bill strips that
3858 judgment away and concentrates power in Washington instead of
3859 in the communities that know it best. Trust our local
3860 government. That is why they are there.

3861 For these reasons I urge my colleagues to reject this
3862 bill, protect local authority, protect public health and
3863 safety, protect ratepayers, and vote no on this legislation.

3864 I yield.

3865 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back and the chair
3866 recognizes Mr. Carter from Georgia to speak on the bill.

3867 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike
3868 the last word.

3869 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

3870 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to
3871 cosponsor H.R. 3699, the Energy Choice Act, and I thank my
3872 friend, Representative Langworthy, for introducing this bill.

3873 This common-sense legislation prohibits states and local
3874 governments from banning energy service connections,
3875 modifications, or expansions based on the source of energy
3876 that is to be delivered. The American public deserves
3877 affordable, reliable energy. Limiting what sources of energy
3878 can be used is foolish, foolish.

3879 In a time where AI is on the rise and electricity demand
3880 is forecast to skyrocket across the country, we must look at
3881 all-of-the-above solutions for energy. We truly need every
3882 electron available to power our growth. Top-down green new
3883 energy scam -- energy regulations will halt growth and raise
3884 energy prices. H.R. 3699 ensures that American citizens and
3885 businesses have the right to choose what sources of energy
3886 best fit their needs.

3887 I want to thank Representative Langworthy for
3888 introducing this legislation, and urge my colleagues to vote

3889 for this bill.

3890 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

3891 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. For what
3892 purpose does the gentlelady from -- is there anyone to speak
3893 on the bill?

3894 The gentleman from -- the gentlelady from California is
3895 recognized for five minutes to speak on the bill.

3896 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
3897 the last word and speak in --

3898 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

3899 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you. As my colleagues have pointed
3900 out, the broad and vague wording of this bill would
3901 inadvertently eliminate many of the critical safety
3902 regulations that state and local governments use to protect
3903 our communities.

3904 In California and across the West we know all too well
3905 that energy policy is a matter of life and death when it
3906 comes to wildfires. And because of this risk, we have given
3907 the California Public Utilities Commission the authority to
3908 order a public safety power shutoff during high-risk
3909 conditions to prevent power lines from sparking a
3910 catastrophic wildfire. Unfortunately, this bill is drafted
3911 so broadly it would prohibit public safety power shut-offs,
3912 putting communities across California at unnecessary and
3913 extreme risk.

3914 And it doesn't stop there. This same language would be
3915 used to attack emergency safety shut-offs during earthquakes.
3916 It could ban building codes that help prevent electrical
3917 fires. This is not a trivial matter. In California we need
3918 every tool available to prevent deadly fires and keep
3919 families safe. This bill would rip those tools away and tie
3920 the hands of state and local officials who are working hard
3921 to keep us safe.

3922 I urge my Republican colleagues to put public safety
3923 ahead of the needs of their oil and gas buddies, and oppose
3924 this bill.

3925 I yield back the balance of my time.

3926 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The gentleman
3927 -- does anyone seek recognition to speak on the bill?

3928 The gentleman from Texas is recognized for five minutes
3929 to speak on the bill.

3930 *Mr. Crenshaw. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
3931 strike the last word.

3932 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

3933 *Mr. Crenshaw. The Energy Choice Act, it restores
3934 balance in our energy policy.

3935 First, it protects energy choice. It ensures consumers
3936 decide how they heat their homes, cook their meals, and power
3937 their homes and businesses. The bill does not pick energy
3938 source winners and losers. It ensures energy access remains

3939 diverse and competitive.

3940 Well, why do we feel like we need this? Because across
3941 the country in states like California and New York, they are
3942 pushing misguided bans on natural gas hookups and other
3943 reliable and affordable energy sources. So, of course, the
3944 wealthy elites in these states, they can afford to virtue
3945 signal with their luxury policy beliefs. Why? Because they
3946 don't even look at their electric bills. You know who does?
3947 Regular, middle-class families and businesses. So these top-
3948 down mandates force families into higher cost options instead
3949 of choosing what works best for their needs and their
3950 budgets.

3951 And so, for too long our country has fallen victim to
3952 this radical environmentalism instead of rational
3953 environmentalism, where an alarmist climate change world view
3954 is divorced from reality because the truth is that cutting
3955 off energy options in an era where we need way more energy,
3956 not less, does nothing to help the environment and does
3957 everything to hurt regular Americans trying to pay their
3958 bills. That is why I urge my colleagues to support the
3959 Energy Choice Act to protect energy freedom, secure energy
3960 dominance for our country, and promote prosperity for our own
3961 people.

3962 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

3963 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone

3964 seeking discussion on the bill?

3965 The gentlelady from Texas is recognized for five minutes
3966 to speak on the bill.

3967 *Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you so much, Chairman Guthrie. I
3968 move to strike the last word.

3969 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

3970 *Mrs. Fletcher. Great, thank you.

3971 As co-chair of the Natural Gas Caucus, I understand how
3972 damaging arbitrary bans on energy sources can be to
3973 providers' ability to supply dependable, affordable energy.
3974 And as energy prices are projected to increase, as we have
3975 talked about repeatedly on this committee, and as extreme
3976 weather events that disrupt energy delivery become more
3977 common, as we have also discussed in this committee, it is
3978 really crucial that we on this committee and everyone in this
3979 Congress work to ensure that our energy system becomes more
3980 durable and can deliver the energy our constituents need.
3981 Arbitrary bans on resources do not serve this purpose,
3982 whether they are for traditional energy sources like oil and
3983 gas, or whether they are on renewables like wind and solar.
3984 And since President Trump's inauguration, he has led an
3985 unrelenting and pointless attack on renewable energy.

3986 In Texas we have seen the devastating impacts of extreme
3987 weather events and a dramatic loss in energy supply. And my
3988 friends here from Texas know -- we all experienced it

3989 together during Winter Storm Uri, which I have talked about
3990 several times in this committee -- we lost more than 200
3991 Texans, one of them a little boy who froze to death in his
3992 bed not far from where I live.

3993 And I think it is really important to understand that we
3994 live in fear of the risk of grid failures. And that is why,
3995 you know, one of the things that Texas has done in the last
3996 couple of years is connected power generation assets to the
3997 grid at record pace. It is the diversification of our
3998 resources on the grid that gives the grid flexibility and
3999 strength. This year lots of different studies ranked Texas
4000 as among the highest-risk states for power outages over the
4001 summer. And yet, thanks to this really aggressive addition
4002 of battery storage and solar generation capacity, the grid
4003 managed the high demand without emergencies.

4004 So I sincerely hope that other states and local
4005 governments will see that the variety that we have in Texas
4006 of energy supply is a good model. Maybe it is the model for
4007 the benefits of an all-of-the-above energy strategy, which we
4008 talk about a lot on this committee. And so if we look at
4009 that and we avoid arbitrary bans on resources like the
4010 President has instituted, I think we would all be much better
4011 off.

4012 But in this committee it is our responsibility to ensure
4013 that our energy system is positioned to deliver and provide

4014 durable, affordable energy. And unfortunately, I think the
4015 bill that we are considering right now falls short of that
4016 goal. The amendments that were adopted in subcommittee
4017 actually made the bill more vague and ambiguous. And as it
4018 stands now, it really strips away state and local authority.
4019 Several of my colleagues have talked about that already
4020 today. But it takes away the authority for the people
4021 closest to the challenges, whether they are weather
4022 challenges or other challenges, to create safety standards
4023 for energy delivery that keep communities safe. And that is
4024 what they are there to do.

4025 As the bill is written, it could prevent local
4026 governments from enforcing local building, fire, and
4027 electrical safety codes; from ordering emergency shut-offs
4028 during wildfires, floods, or grid failures; and from
4029 regulating neighborhood gas lines to prevent leaks and
4030 explosions. And so, you know, since these activities could
4031 be seen as limiting the use of energy, this bill could
4032 prevent local governments from keeping our communities safe.

4033 It also conflicts with established laws that rely on
4034 partnership with state authorities, like the Clean Air Act
4035 and pipeline safety laws, creating a legal and regulatory
4036 framework, and that really creates a lot of uncertainty.

4037 So, you know, as I see it, the President's approach to
4038 energy and the tariff policies are already creating extreme

4039 uncertainty and confusion for energy industry stakeholders.
4040 I think we are all hearing that in different ways. And
4041 adding to that confusion and adding to that uncertainty
4042 really isn't going to help deliver dependable, affordable
4043 energy that we need.

4044 So I hope the committee can come together and work on
4045 real solutions for these issues. We talked about them, we
4046 have had a lot of hearings on them, and I think that we know
4047 the issues we are facing. Certainly, we need to address
4048 them. Things like this bill don't help us move forward.
4049 Other things that we need to do can help us move forward and
4050 help our local governments keep our communities safe.

4051 So thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that I yield back.

4052 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back. Is
4053 there any discussion on the bill?

4054 The gentlelady from Florida is recognized for five
4055 minutes to speak on the bill.

4056 *Ms. Lee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield my time to
4057 the gentleman from New York, Mr. Langworthy.

4058 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

4059 *Mr. Langworthy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4060 Let's set the record straight. The Energy Choice Act
4061 does not trample over any local control over permitting,
4062 zoning, siting, or public safety. States and local
4063 governments still have full authority to decide where a

4064 project goes, how it is reviewed, what environmental
4065 standards it must meet, and whether an application is
4066 approved or rejected. They can deny a project for traffic
4067 impacts, noise, wetlands, height restrictions, community
4068 character. Every traditional land use and permitting
4069 rationale remains fully intact, as does the public safety
4070 components.

4071 What this bill prevents is something entirely different:
4072 a blanket ideological ban on an entire energy source that
4073 exists in interstate commerce. That is the key distinction.
4074 This legislation doesn't touch permitting, it doesn't touch
4075 zoning, it doesn't touch siting, it doesn't touch NEPA or
4076 state environmental review. Localities can still reject a
4077 solar project. They can still reject a wind turbine. They
4078 can still deny a pipeline or a substation if it violates
4079 zoning or environmental rules. What they can't do is outlaw
4080 the underlying fuel itself. Permitting authority stays with
4081 the states. Zoning authority stays with the localities.
4082 Land use authority stays exactly where it is today. The only
4083 thing that this bill stops is the use of bans to eliminate
4084 lawful, affordable, reliable energy sources and to force
4085 every family and business into a single, more expensive
4086 option.

4087 I may share some of your -- some of the views of my
4088 colleague from Texas if I lived in Texas, but my state has

4089 decided to arbitrarily ban safe and reliable fuels that have
4090 created a life-and-death situation for people that live in my
4091 cold-weather community. This is not preemption of local
4092 review. It is protection against energy and prohibition.

4093 I mean, and also on the idea of natural disaster being
4094 in danger here, the -- I lived this in one of the harshest
4095 blizzards in my community. And as we see across upstate New
4096 York on a regular basis, that is what has created this
4097 dilemma for the people of the State of New York, where we had
4098 hurricane-force winds and six feet of snow all at once. And
4099 the grid went down and people froze to death in their homes.
4100 And now we have a state that, in their infinite wisdom, has
4101 banned future buildings having anything but fully electrical
4102 heat. Those people would have gotten a death sentence, and
4103 our death toll would have been 10 if not 100 times higher.
4104 So this is a life-and-death matter for my constituents and
4105 many constituencies across the United States of America.

4106 And I want to thank the gentlelady from Florida for
4107 yielding me her time, and I yield back.

4108 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back?

4109 *Ms. Lee. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

4110 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
4111 further discussion on the bill?

4112 The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for five
4113 minutes on the bill.

4114 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Chairman. I just want to --
4115 I appreciate my colleagues across the aisle, but my colleague
4116 from Georgia said that limiting sources of energy would be
4117 "foolish.'" Well, I agree. That is why I am surprised, when
4118 President Trump canceled Revolution Wind, that Republicans
4119 were all silent on it. He even spoke to -- that we need an
4120 all-of-the-above strategy in energy production. We have had
4121 a Secretary right here who has said he does not believe in
4122 all-of-the-above strategy.

4123 So when the Administration is not here you guys speak to
4124 the power of an all-of-the-above strategy on energy
4125 production. When you have the opportunity to press them on
4126 why they are canceling offshore wind, why they are rolling
4127 back investments in renewable energy that create greater
4128 energy production, you have nothing to say. Even our
4129 colleague from Texas was critical of "cutting off energy
4130 options.'" That is exactly what the Trump Administration is
4131 doing.

4132 So where is the criticism of the Trump Administration
4133 when they are taking us in the wrong direction, limiting
4134 options that states like Rhode Island, New Jersey, North
4135 Carolina want to have? You guys are all silent then. We
4136 know that we need more energy production, but we need to
4137 press the Administration to stop picking winners and losers
4138 like you suggest that they do.

4139 And an important reminder from my colleague from Texas,
4140 who was talking about New York and California and all these
4141 woke states, Texas must be the most woke state because 30
4142 percent of their energy production comes from renewable
4143 energy. So why wouldn't we want that across the country? It
4144 is just ridiculous.

4145 But I am glad they are finally saying the right things.
4146 I hope they say it when the Administration is here, and I
4147 hope they push back on all the harm that this Administration
4148 is doing not just when it is convenient.

4149 And with that I yield back.

4150 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
4151 further discussion on the bill?

4152 Does the gentlelady from Florida seek recognition on the
4153 bill, or have --

4154 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
4155 amendment at the desk.

4156 *The Chair. So it is an appropriate time for amendments
4157 since there is no further discussion, and the lady has an
4158 amendment at the desk. You report your -- or identify the
4159 amendment --

4160 *Ms. Castor. It is labeled MN_03. Zero three.

4161 *The Chair. Does -- the clerk will report.

4162 *The Clerk. Amendment to the committee print for H.R.

4163 3699 --

4164 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
4165 amendment is dispensed with, and the gentlelady from Florida
4166 is recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

4167 *Ms. Castor. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4168 My amendment seeks to address some of the very serious
4169 flaws with the bill. The bill is overly broad. It has a
4170 very disruptive preemption of local and state policies. It
4171 is a concerning threat to the health and safety of our
4172 neighbors back home. And it really does nothing to address
4173 lowering costs for people back home. It likely makes it
4174 worse.

4175 And I want to thank my colleagues on this side of the
4176 aisle who have spoken with great clarity -- Mr. Carter, and
4177 Ms. Matsui, Mrs. Fletcher, and Mr. Menendez -- for laying out
4178 the flaws in the bill.

4179 My Republican colleagues have portrayed the bill as an
4180 effort to promote community energy choice, to push back
4181 against so-called gas bans. But if you read the text of the
4182 bill, in reality this is much more complicated. There is no
4183 energy choice. That is a misnomer. The bill is a sweeping
4184 Federal power grab that overrides state and local rights. It
4185 impedes safety standards, and it makes it harder for utility
4186 commissions to fairly assign costs. It is full of vague
4187 language that would upend decades of established practice
4188 meant to protect the public, and it will create chaos when

4189 they go to implement it.

4190 This bill would make our communities less safe. My
4191 neighbors in Florida know how quickly our local utilities
4192 must respond to emergencies like Hurricanes Helene and Milton
4193 which devastated my community last year. So in many
4194 communities that face other catastrophes, whether it is
4195 floods or wildfires or grid failures, utilities will order
4196 shut-offs. But this bill could block cities and counties
4197 from doing that. And municipalities often have other
4198 protections to deny high-risk hydrogen or propane
4199 installations near homes and schools, hospitals. But this
4200 bill would block those protections.

4201 This bill could prevent local governments from enforcing
4202 local building fire and electrical safety codes. It could
4203 interfere with approving or siting new gas stations, and it
4204 could make it harder to regulate neighborhood gas lines to
4205 prevent leaks and explosions. You know, builders and
4206 inspectors, utilities all depend on stable Federal regulation
4207 to provide clear rules. But if this bill removes those
4208 rules, local officials will not have the guidance they need
4209 to approve permits or conduct inspections. States will have
4210 to enforce other Federal laws like the Natural Gas Pipeline
4211 Safety Act and the Clean Air Act, but this bill will conflict
4212 with those provisions.

4213 So all of this creates too much confusion. And as a

4214 result, projects will be stalled and costs will go up for
4215 homeowners and businesses.

4216 Speaking of costs, let's look at the text of the bill.
4217 A state or local government may not adopt, implement, or
4218 enforce a law or regulation that prohibits or limits the
4219 connection, reconnection, modification, or access to an
4220 energy service based on the type or source of energy. We
4221 discussed this in the Energy Subcommittee. This creates a
4222 lot of problems. For example, this could prevent state
4223 utility regulators from setting certain electricity rates for
4224 data centers, or allowing incentives for curtailable loads.
4225 That could lead to slower AI build-out and higher rates for
4226 everybody.

4227 So my amendment helps alleviate some of this confusion.
4228 It clarifies the bill's scope, but it would still outlaw
4229 state and local -- or local governments from direct
4230 prohibition of an energy service like implementing a natural
4231 gas ban. It would make the bill do what the majority
4232 actually says that it does.

4233 My amendment would also explicitly preserve the
4234 authorities of local governments and regulators to implement
4235 energy rates and tariffs and the safety of energy
4236 infrastructure.

4237 These are common-sense clarifications that we should all
4238 agree on. State and local leaders know how to keep their

4239 communities safe. We should trust them to do that, not tie
4240 their hands and take choices away from them. So if my
4241 friends across the aisle are serious about defending local
4242 control and public safety and fair, responsible energy
4243 governance, they should support my amendment.

4244 In the end, the American people want cleaner, cheaper
4245 energy, safe energy. Don't -- let's not move in the opposite
4246 direction through this bill and heap higher costs on families
4247 back home. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

4248 And I yield back my time.

4249 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
4250 discussion on the amendment?

4251 The gentleman from New York is recognized to speak on
4252 the amendment.

4253 *Mr. Langworthy. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the
4254 last word and speak on --

4255 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized to speak on the
4256 amendment.

4257 *Mr. Langworthy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4258 Once again, states do not lose a single ounce of their
4259 regulatory power under this bill, not one. The Energy Choice
4260 Act does not interfere with the states' ability to regulate
4261 utilities, prevent price gouging, hold rate cases, or protect
4262 consumers from unfair billing practices. States retain full
4263 authority over rate-setting, utility commissions, service

4264 reliability standards, billing transparency, consumer
4265 protections, and emergency shut-down protocols.

4266 Every tool state regulators use today, they keep
4267 tomorrow. Public utility commissions will still be able to
4268 investigate abuses, enforce price caps during emergencies,
4269 crack down on predatory pricing, and regulate exactly how
4270 energy is delivered, billed, financed, and supplied. All of
4271 them remain untouched because this bill isn't about
4272 deregulating utilities, it is about stopping governments from
4273 banning entire energy sources based solely on what they are,
4274 not how they -- how safely or reliably they operate.

4275 Regulating for safety, pricing, reliability is
4276 constitutional and appropriate. Politically-motivated fuel
4277 bans that distort interstate commerce are not. So yes,
4278 states can still regulate prices, audit utilities, impose
4279 consumer protections, intervene during emergencies, enforce
4280 competitive rates, and order shut-downs when needed. Nothing
4281 in this bill changes any of that. The Energy Choice Act
4282 protects access to lawful energy. It does not deregulate it.
4283 It preserves every state-level authority that ensures
4284 transparency, oversight, affordability, and consumer
4285 protection.

4286 I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment because it
4287 is a distraction to the underlying legislation and
4288 unnecessary. This amendment would undermine the intent of

4289 this legislation to drive competition and to protect consumer
4290 choice to ensure lower costs for hard-working American
4291 families.

4292 States and localities across the country have
4293 responsibly enacted energy choice protections that ensure
4294 competition, and there has been no discernible effect on
4295 safety or rate schedules for the end use sale of energy. In
4296 fact, states and localities that have enacted energy choice
4297 protections have seen lower energy costs for families and
4298 more affordable housing. The Energy Choice Act is critical
4299 to addressing affordability for the nation, and I urge my
4300 colleagues to oppose this amendment.

4301 And I yield back.

4302 *Mr. Griffith. [Presiding.] The gentleman yields back.
4303 Is anyone else seeking recognition on the amendment?

4304 Seeing none, the --

4305 *Mr. Pallone. A roll call.

4306 *Mr. Griffith. You want a roll call?

4307 *Mr. Pallone. Yes.

4308 *Mr. Griffith. All right. We will now take a vote on
4309 this, and a roll call has been requested. So if we could
4310 have a roll call vote, please.

4311 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

4312 [No response.]

4313 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

4314 *Mr. Griffith. No.
4315 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
4316 Mr. Bilirakis?
4317 [No response.]
4318 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?
4319 [No response.]
4320 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?
4321 [No response.]
4322 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?
4323 *Mr. Palmer. No.
4324 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
4325 Mr. Dunn?
4326 *Mr. Dunn. No.
4327 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
4328 Mr. Crenshaw?
4329 [No response.]
4330 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
4331 *Mr. Joyce. No.
4332 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
4333 Mr. Weber?
4334 *Mr. Weber. No.
4335 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
4336 Mr. Allen?
4337 *Mr. Allen. No.
4338 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

4339 Mr. Balderson?
4340 *Mr. Balderson. No.
4341 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
4342 Mr. Fulcher?
4343 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
4344 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
4345 Mr. Pfluger?
4346 [No response.]
4347 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
4348 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
4349 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
4350 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
4351 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
4352 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
4353 Mrs. Cammack?
4354 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
4355 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
4356 Mr. Obernolte?
4357 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
4358 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
4359 Mr. James?
4360 *Mr. James. No.
4361 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
4362 Mr. Bentz?
4363 *Mr. Bentz. No.

4364 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
4365 Mrs. Houchin?
4366 [No response.]
4367 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
4368 *Mr. Fry. No.
4369 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
4370 Ms. Lee?
4371 *Ms. Lee. No.
4372 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
4373 Mr. Langworthy?
4374 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
4375 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
4376 Mr. Kean?
4377 *Mr. Kean. No.
4378 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
4379 Mr. Rulli?
4380 *Mr. Rulli. No.
4381 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
4382 Mr. Evans?
4383 *Mr. Evans. No.
4384 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
4385 Mr. Goldman?
4386 *Mr. Goldman. No.
4387 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
4388 Mrs. Fedorchak?

4389 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.

4390 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.

4391 Mr. Pallone?

4392 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

4393 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

4394 Ms. DeGette?

4395 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

4396 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

4397 Ms. Schakowsky?

4398 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

4399 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

4400 Ms. Matsui?

4401 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

4402 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

4403 Ms. Castor?

4404 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

4405 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

4406 Mr. Tonko?

4407 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

4408 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

4409 Ms. Clarke?

4410 [No response.]

4411 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?

4412 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

4413 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

4414 Mr. Peters?

4415 *Mr. Peters. Aye.

4416 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

4417 Mrs. Dingell?

4418 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

4419 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

4420 Mr. Veasey?

4421 [No response.]

4422 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?

4423 [No response.]

4424 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?

4425 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

4426 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

4427 Mr. Soto?

4428 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

4429 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

4430 Ms. Schrier?

4431 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

4432 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

4433 Mrs. Trahan?

4434 [No response.]

4435 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher?

4436 [No response.]

4437 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

4438 [No response.]

4439 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss?
4440 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
4441 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
4442 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
4443 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
4444 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
4445 Mr. Menendez?
4446 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
4447 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
4448 Mr. Mullin?
4449 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
4450 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
4451 Mr. Landsman?
4452 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
4453 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
4454 Ms. McClellan?
4455 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
4456 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
4457 Chairman Guthrie?
4458 *The Chair. No.
4459 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
4460 *Mr. Latta. Mr. Chairman?
4461 *Mr. Griffith. How is Mr. Latta recorded?
4462 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.
4463 *Mr. Latta. Latta votes no.

4464 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

4465 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. How is Carter recorded?

4466 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.

4467 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

4468 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

4469 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Crenshaw?

4470 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw is not recorded.

4471 *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes no.

4472 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.

4473 *Mr. Griffith. Mrs. Trahan?

4474 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan is not recorded.

4475 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

4476 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

4477 *Mr. Griffith. Mrs. Fletcher?

4478 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher is not recorded.

4479 *Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes aye.

4480 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

4481 *Mr. Griffith. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

4482 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez is not recorded.

4483 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

4484 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

4485 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Pallone, are you recorded?

4486 He got recorded, okay. Is anyone else seeking

4487 recognition so their vote can be recorded?

4488 All right, seeing none, if the clerk would report the

4489 vote, please.

4490 [Pause.]

4491 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 21
4492 ayes and 26 noes.

4493 *Mr. Griffith. Twenty-one ayes, twenty-six noes, the
4494 amendment is not agreed to. Are there further amendments?
4495 Seeing no further amendments, it is on passage of the
4496 bill.

4497 All those in favor, say aye.

4498 No?

4499 *Mr. Pallone. It is a roll call.

4500 *Mr. Griffith. Oh, a roll call has been requested. If
4501 the clerk will please call the roll.

4502 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

4503 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

4504 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

4505 Mr. Griffith?

4506 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

4507 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

4508 Mr. Bilirakis?

4509 [No response.]

4510 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

4511 [No response.]

4512 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?

4513 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

4514 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
4515 Mr. Palmer?
4516 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
4517 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
4518 Mr. Dunn?
4519 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
4520 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
4521 Mr. Crenshaw?
4522 [No response.]
4523 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
4524 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
4525 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
4526 Mr. Weber?
4527 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
4528 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
4529 Mr. Allen?
4530 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
4531 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
4532 Mr. Balderson?
4533 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
4534 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
4535 Mr. Fulcher?
4536 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
4537 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
4538 Mr. Pfluger?

4539 [No response.]

4540 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?

4541 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

4542 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.

4543 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

4544 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Yes.

4545 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

4546 Mrs. Cammack?

4547 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.

4548 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.

4549 Mr. Obernolte?

4550 [No response.]

4551 *The Clerk. Mr. James?

4552 *Mr. James. Aye.

4553 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.

4554 Mr. Bentz?

4555 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.

4556 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.

4557 Mrs. Houchin?

4558 [No response.]

4559 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?

4560 *Mr. Fry. Aye.

4561 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.

4562 Ms. Lee?

4563 *Ms. Lee. Aye.

4564 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
4565 Mr. Langworthy?
4566 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
4567 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
4568 Mr. Kean?
4569 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
4570 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
4571 Mr. Rulli?
4572 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
4573 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
4574 Mr. Evans?
4575 [No response.]
4576 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
4577 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
4578 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
4579 Mrs. Fedorchak?
4580 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
4581 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
4582 Mr. Pallone?
4583 *Mr. Pallone. No.
4584 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.
4585 Ms. DeGette?
4586 *Ms. DeGette. No.
4587 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.
4588 Ms. Schakowsky?

4589 *Ms. Schakowsky. No.
4590 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.
4591 Ms. Matsui?
4592 *Ms. Matsui. No.
4593 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
4594 Ms. Castor?
4595 *Ms. Castor. No.
4596 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.
4597 Mr. Tonko?
4598 *Mr. Tonko. No.
4599 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
4600 Ms. Clarke?
4601 [No response.]
4602 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?
4603 *Mr. Ruiz. No.
4604 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.
4605 Mr. Peters?
4606 *Mr. Peters. No.
4607 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.
4608 Mrs. Dingell?
4609 *Mrs. Dingell. No.
4610 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.
4611 Mr. Veasey?
4612 [No response.]
4613 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?

4614 [No response.]

4615 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?

4616 *Ms. Barragan. No.

4617 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.

4618 Mr. Soto?

4619 *Mr. Soto. No.

4620 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.

4621 Ms. Schrier?

4622 *Ms. Schrier. No.

4623 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.

4624 Mrs. Trahan?

4625 *Mrs. Trahan. No.

4626 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.

4627 Mrs. Fletcher?

4628 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.

4629 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.

4630 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

4631 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.

4632 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.

4633 Mr. Auchincloss?

4634 *Mr. Auchincloss. No.

4635 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes no.

4636 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

4637 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. No.

4638 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes no.

4639 Mr. Menendez?
4640 *Mr. Menendez. No.
4641 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.
4642 Mr. Mullin?
4643 *Mr. Mullin. No.
4644 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
4645 Mr. Landsman?
4646 *Mr. Landsman. No.
4647 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes no.
4648 Ms. McClellan?
4649 *Ms. McClellan. No.
4650 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.
4651 Chairman Guthrie?
4652 *The Chair. Aye.
4653 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.
4654 *Mr. Griffith. How is Mr. Crenshaw recorded?
4655 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw is not recorded.
4656 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
4657 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.
4658 [Pause.]
4659 *Mr. Griffith. All right, the clerk will report the
4660 vote.
4661 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 24
4662 ayes and 21 noes.
4663 *Mr. Griffith. Twenty-four ayes, twenty-one noes, the

4664 bill is agreed to and forwarded on to the floor.

4665 The chair now calls up H.R. 5184 and asks the clerk to
4666 report.

4667 *The Clerk. H.R. 5184, a bill to prohibit the Secretary
4668 of Energy from enforcing energy efficiency standards
4669 applicable to manufactured housing, and for other purposes.

4670 *Mr. Griffith. Without objection, the first reading of
4671 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
4672 amendment at any time.

4673 So ordered.

4674 [The bill follows:]

4675

4676 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4677

4678 *Mr. Griffith. All right, does anyone wish to speak on
4679 the measure?

4680 I recognize the gentlelady from Indiana, Mrs. Houchin,
4681 for five minutes.

4682 *Mrs. Houchin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
4683 strike the last word.

4684 Thank you to Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member
4685 Pallone. I am speaking today in support of my bill, H.R.
4686 5184, the Affordable HOMES Act, which I introduced with
4687 Congressman Mike Flood.

4688 Across the country the housing market continues to
4689 tighten, and families are feeling the impact. Manufactured
4690 housing is a proven, cost-effective solution serving first-
4691 time home-buyers, young families, and seniors. Yet
4692 Washington has created conflicting regulatory regimes that
4693 increase compliance costs and slow production. That is what
4694 the Affordable HOMES Act aims to fix. It is straightforward
4695 and common sense. It restores HUD's longstanding role as the
4696 single regulator for manufactured housing construction
4697 standards, and removes DoE's overlapping authority.

4698 The bill also reflects bipartisan collaboration. We
4699 adopted an amendment to allow DoE to retain an advisory role,
4700 ensuring agencies can share technical expertise without
4701 creating conflicting or unworkable requirements. The goal is
4702 clarity, not chaos, so manufacturers can build more homes and

4703 families can afford them.

4704 The bottom line is when standards are clear, homes get
4705 built. The Affordable HOMES Act delivers that clarity, and I
4706 urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5184, the Affordable HOMES
4707 Act.

4708 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

4709 *Mr. Griffith. The gentlelady yields back. I now
4710 recognize the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Pallone, for
4711 five minutes.

4712 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4713 Americans know all too well that we are in the midst of
4714 a housing crisis. Not only are we facing a shortage of
4715 housing, but also historically high home prices that
4716 Americans are struggling to afford. Manufactured homes,
4717 however, are an important component of our affordable housing
4718 stock. And I appreciate my Republican colleague's concern
4719 for the cost of buying a new home. The current housing
4720 affordability crisis and shortage is concerning, and it is
4721 crushing American families' dreams.

4722 However, H.R. 5184 is far from a real solution to
4723 solving this crisis. In fact, I am concerned it will only
4724 make matters worse. The bill attempts to revoke the
4725 Department of Energy's May 2022 energy conservation standard
4726 for manufactured housing. Supporters of this bill suggest
4727 that DoE's standards for manufactured homes are negatively

4728 impacting affordability, and I think nothing could be further
4729 from the truth. What is really impacting housing
4730 affordability is Trump's disastrous tariffs on essential
4731 building materials and appliances, not energy efficiency
4732 standards that lower monthly energy bills.

4733 In reality, the Department of Energy worked with the
4734 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to balance
4735 up-front costs with long-term affordability, and to revoke
4736 the rule is just robbing families of significant and much-
4737 needed energy cost savings.

4738 When talking about affordability, it is imperative that
4739 we also consider the cost of actually living in these homes,
4740 and energy use is a big part of that. This is even more
4741 important at a time when electricity costs are spiking across
4742 the country.

4743 The bill also removes DoE's authority to set efficiency
4744 standards for manufactured homes and shirks the
4745 responsibility to HUD. Not only does this give away energy
4746 and commerce jurisdiction, which always concerns me, but it
4747 also jeopardizes cost savings for millions of Americans. In
4748 the years that HUD was previously responsible for setting
4749 energy efficiency standards for manufactured homes, prior to
4750 2007, the agency failed to act. So it is no wonder that
4751 energy costs for manufactured homes are 70 percent more per
4752 square feet higher compared to site-built homes.

4753 So DoE's May 2022 standard was long-overdue.
4754 Manufactured housing residents had gone without an updated
4755 standard for nearly 30 years before the Department of Energy
4756 final rule. Now, why should we trust HUD to safeguard
4757 manufactured housing residents from exorbitantly high energy
4758 bills now, after so many years of inaction?

4759 While the bill was amended during the subcommittee
4760 markup to allow DoE to make efficiency recommendations to HUD
4761 on energy conservation standards, which HUD, I think, is
4762 likely to ignore, that amendment still failed to address the
4763 fatal flaws in the underlying bill. The bill still nullifies
4764 DoE's manufactured housing rule, jeopardizing billions in
4765 savings for families, and this is entirely unacceptable. We
4766 should be fighting to raise the standard of living of
4767 manufactured housing residents, not lowering it.

4768 So I still strongly oppose this bill, and I support
4769 making housing more affordable for Americans. But I don't
4770 think that H.R. 5184 is the solution, Mr. Chairman. I yield
4771 back.

4772 *Mr. Griffith. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone
4773 else seeking recognition on the bill?

4774 [Pause.]

4775 *Mr. Pallone. A roll call -- Jake wants to speak, Jake
4776 Auchincloss.

4777 *Mr. Griffith. Thank you. Mr. Auchincloss is

4778 recognized for five minutes.

4779 *Mr. Auchincloss. Thank you, Chair. I appreciate the
4780 majority and the congresswoman from Indiana's willingness to
4781 work together on this issue and for supporting my amendment,
4782 which preserved the advisory role for the Department of
4783 Energy while giving HUD final authority to adopt standards
4784 for manufactured housing. That final authority and sole
4785 authority will create streamlined, clear regulations, and
4786 that is critical because housing is the single largest
4787 expense for American households, and decreasing housing costs
4788 is the most important domestic economic issue we face as a
4789 country.

4790 We need to build five million new units of housing this
4791 decade, and we are woefully behind. That is why I support
4792 this amended bill. Manufactured and modular housing promises
4793 to be a critical way to ensure housing supply at scale at the
4794 same time as we are building out an industry that promises a
4795 lot of good jobs, but only if we remove the regulatory
4796 barriers to building manufactured housing at that scale. And
4797 streamlined regulations are a critical part of that.

4798 With the inclusion of my amendment, the bill will retain
4799 the Department of Energy's input on energy efficiency
4800 standards in an advisory capacity, as is appropriate for the
4801 Department that has those experts on energy efficiency. So
4802 that means that DoE experts at the national labs will be able

4803 to provide input and research into creating those standards.
4804 Ultimately, though, HUD is going to have the final say on
4805 adopting the recommendations from DoE. That is appropriate
4806 because overall housing affordability takes precedence over
4807 just one component of affordability. HUD should be the
4808 agency that evaluates the overall impact on housing
4809 affordability for consumers.

4810 I am absolutely in favor of ensuring that appliances in
4811 houses are efficient and saving money on total cost of
4812 ownership. There is a lot of factors that go into that total
4813 cost of ownership, construction and housing costs as well as
4814 the overall energy usage. And HUD should be able to look at
4815 all of those factors holistically, taking in input from
4816 Department of Energy, and making a determination that will
4817 save consumers the most money, including factoring in that
4818 expanded production of modular housing will save those
4819 consumers money.

4820 Boosting manufactured and modular housing is an
4821 opportunity to build our way out of our current housing
4822 crisis, and we should support common-sense reform that will
4823 unleash housing production. I support my colleague -- I urge
4824 my colleagues to support this bill, and I would reserve the
4825 balance of my time, Chairman.

4826 *Mr. Griffith. Well, you can yield it. I am not sure
4827 you can reserve it.

4828 *Mr. Auchincloss. I can't, like, hold on to it in case
4829 someone says something else?

4830 [Laughter.]

4831 *Mr. Griffith. No, but I think --

4832 *Voice. I --

4833 *Mr. Griffith. I think that was a good effort.

4834 *Voice. I will yield you my time.

4835 *Mr. Griffith. I like the ingenuity.

4836 [Laughter.]

4837 *Mrs. Houchin. Will the gentleman yield?

4838 *Mr. Auchincloss. Then I will yield it.

4839 *Mrs. Houchin. Will the gentleman -- oh, I was going to
4840 say, would the gentleman yield to me?

4841 *Mr. Auchincloss. Yes. Can I?

4842 *Mr. Griffith. The gentleman yields.

4843 *Mr. Auchincloss. Can I grab it back?

4844 *Mrs. Houchin. Thank you. I just want to thank Mr.
4845 Auchincloss for working with us on this bill. I do think
4846 that the amendment made an improvement to this, the language
4847 that we had, and I think it is going to be a good first step
4848 toward trying to get us into more housing around which we
4849 will ultimately reduce housing costs. So thank you.

4850 I yield back.

4851 *Mr. Griffith. The gentlelady yields back to the
4852 gentleman. What would the gentleman like to do at this

4853 point?

4854 *Mr. Auchincloss. I would yield to the gentleman from
4855 Ohio.

4856 *Mr. Landsman. Can I?

4857 *Mr. Griffith. The gentleman from Ohio.

4858 *Mr. Landsman. Thank you, Mr. Chair. So I have a
4859 couple of questions. Just two.

4860 The May 22 standard question, which is -- so obviously,
4861 the goal here is to build more housing, less-expensive
4862 housing, which I support. And having the clear standard
4863 makes sense. The DoE advisory role is very smart. So I want
4864 to thank both of you.

4865 I guess the concern that folks are going to have is on
4866 utility costs. So just -- the May 22 standard, which
4867 obviously plays a role in reducing, ultimately, the utility
4868 costs for those folks who then buy a -- you know, this
4869 manufactured home, is that in jeopardy?

4870 And if so, what are the ways in which we should tackle
4871 what would be a real challenge if people are going to have to
4872 start paying higher utility bills?

4873 *Mr. Griffith. So the gentleman from Ohio is yielding
4874 back to the gentleman from Massachusetts, who --

4875 *Mr. Landsman. I yield back to --

4876 *Mr. Griffith. -- will now yield to the gentlelady from
4877 Indiana to answer the question.

4878 *Mr. Landsman. Thanks.

4879 *Mr. Auchincloss. I will yield to her first. Yes,
4880 sure.

4881 *Mrs. Houchin. I was just going to say that my view,
4882 which is why we -- one of the reasons why I brought the bill
4883 is that when we are trying to get people in homes -- yes, do
4884 we want to get to energy efficiency standards? We do. But
4885 if they are adding to the cost of the ultimate purchase, then
4886 the consumer should be able to choose the price level at
4887 which they can get into the home. And that might be getting
4888 into the home as a priority over the necessary energy
4889 efficiency standards which may be able to go back to a
4890 budgeting issue later in a household.

4891 So I am trying to get people into homes. I think -- not
4892 that we are not concerned about energy efficiency, but we
4893 certainly, in my view, need to prioritize getting the cost
4894 down, and this is a way to do that.

4895 *Mr. Griffith. The gentlelady from Indiana yields back
4896 to the gentleman from Massachusetts, who now yields the
4897 remainder of his time to the gentleman from Ohio.

4898 *Mr. Auchincloss. You yield back?

4899 *Mr. Griffith. Back to Massachusetts. Sorry.

4900 *Mr. Auchincloss. Thank you. At the core of this bill
4901 is just the question of who decides, right? So Energy
4902 Department put out these standards, and HUD can adopt them if

4903 they want to. The question is, who makes the comprehensive
4904 decision about the total cost of ownership for these houses.
4905 And the former, the status quo before, was nobody, right? It
4906 was DoE and HUD debating it, and that created a very
4907 predictable bureaucratic confusion.

4908 What this bill does is it says HUD decides. Now, HUD,
4909 you have to go ask Department of Energy for their input, but
4910 ultimately, HUD, we trust you to take into account both
4911 energy efficiency issues, which matter for total cost of
4912 ownership, and the potential increase in cost of production
4913 and distribution, which also matters for total cost of
4914 ownership. And you, HUD, should balance that to lower
4915 overall costs for consumers.

4916 I yield back.

4917 *Mr. Griffith. The gentleman yields back. Do we have
4918 anyone else seeking recognition on -- the gentleman from Ohio
4919 is recognized for five minutes.

4920 *Mr. Landsman. I just want to thank you both again. I
4921 do appreciate the intent here, and I am on the fence,
4922 legitimately on the fence. And you know, I appreciate the
4923 argument and the work. Now, clearly, standardizing the
4924 process here makes a lot of sense, and I know that the cost
4925 to build is a big part of why we have a housing crisis. And
4926 the cost of housing is so much higher than it should be.

4927 The utility cost piece does worry me. Obviously, I know

4928 it worries all of you. So I guess the question is not one to
4929 be answered in -- today, but, you know, what should we be
4930 doing to monitor, right, to make sure that this isn't leading
4931 to folks going into homes where they are then paying, you
4932 know, much higher utility rates, and if there is a way in a
4933 bipartisan manner to work on helping folks if that is the
4934 case, right?

4935 So we want people to be able to make that decision, I
4936 get that, and get into that home. I appreciate that.

4937 *Mr. Pallone. Could I ask the gentleman to yield to me
4938 when he is --

4939 *Mr. Landsman. It is a real debate now.

4940 *Mr. Pallone. -- finished?

4941 *Mr. Landsman. Yes, of course.

4942 *Mr. Pallone. Okay. I just wanted you to know that the
4943 Department of Energy worked with HUD to set the 2022 energy
4944 conservation standard for manufactured housing. And the
4945 standard is projected to save consumers \$5 billion in costs,
4946 even when you include the upfront costs.

4947 Now, while there is a slight increase in the upfront
4948 purchase price of manufactured housing, that cost is spread
4949 over the life of the mortgage, and homeowners will
4950 immediately see energy savings on their monthly bills. So
4951 the benefits in energy savings to the consumer offsets the
4952 increase in the purchase price, in my opinion.

4953 So I didn't want you to think that we -- you know, that
4954 this wasn't a concerted effort to address affordability both
4955 with the actual energy monthly bill as well as with the cost
4956 of the home when you buy it.

4957 *Mr. Landsman. Yes --

4958 *Mr. Pallone. I yield back to the --

4959 *Mr. Auchincloss. Would the gentleman from Ohio yield?

4960 *Mr. Landsman. One moment. I appreciate that. I do
4961 realize, though, that it does increase the cost, right? And
4962 so for some folks maybe it priced them out of that home. We
4963 don't -- I don't have any of this data in front of me, but --
4964 I suspect that is probably true.

4965 I do think, assuming this passes, that one thing we
4966 should work on together is at least monitoring, figuring out
4967 how to track this, but appreciating that it probably will
4968 lead to folks having to pay more in utility costs and what is
4969 it that we should be doing together to ease that burden,
4970 which I think we can do.

4971 I yield to -- Mr. Chair, can I yield my --

4972 *Mr. Griffith. He yields to the gentleman from
4973 Massachusetts.

4974 *Mr. Auchincloss. I would just reiterate nothing stops
4975 HUD from adopting those standards, again, if they want to.

4976 *Mr. Landsman. Right.

4977 *Mr. Auchincloss. This bill is not actually about any

4978 specific standard. It is about who decides and who is best
4979 positioned to take into account total cost of ownership. And
4980 when it is total cost of ownership for a house, I think the
4981 Department of Housing and Urban Development is best
4982 positioned to do that.

4983 I totally agree with you about the question of overall
4984 utilities costs. I think they are the biggest impact we are
4985 going to have, frankly, is on, you know, transmission and
4986 generation questions that we are working on in this
4987 committee, as well. And so we don't want to try to boil the
4988 ocean in this one bill.

4989 *Mr. Landsman. Fair enough.

4990 I yield back.

4991 *Mr. Griffith. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone
4992 else seeking recognition?

4993 Seeing none, we will now vote on H.R. 5184, and a
4994 recorded vote is requested.

4995 All those in favor say aye.

4996 The clerk will call the roll.

4997 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

4998 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

4999 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

5000 Mr. Griffith?

5001 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

5002 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

5003 Mr. Bilirakis?
5004 [No response.]
5005 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?
5006 [No response.]
5007 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?
5008 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
5009 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
5010 Mr. Palmer?
5011 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.
5012 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
5013 Mr. Dunn?
5014 [No response.]
5015 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
5016 [No response.]
5017 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
5018 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
5019 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
5020 Mr. Weber?
5021 *Mr. Weber. Yea.
5022 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
5023 Mr. Allen?
5024 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
5025 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
5026 Mr. Balderson?
5027 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

5028 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
5029 Mr. Fulcher?
5030 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
5031 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
5032 Mr. Pfluger?
5033 [No response.]
5034 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
5035 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
5036 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
5037 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
5038 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
5039 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
5040 Mrs. Cammack?
5041 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
5042 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
5043 Mr. Obernolte?
5044 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
5045 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
5046 Mr. James?
5047 *Mr. James. Aye.
5048 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
5049 Mr. Bentz?
5050 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
5051 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
5052 Mrs. Houchin?

5053 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
5054 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
5055 Mr. Fry?
5056 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
5057 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
5058 Ms. Lee?
5059 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
5060 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
5061 Mr. Langworthy?
5062 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
5063 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
5064 Mr. Kean?
5065 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
5066 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
5067 Mr. Rulli?
5068 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
5069 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
5070 Mr. Evans?
5071 [No response.]
5072 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
5073 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
5074 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
5075 Mrs. Fedorchak?
5076 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
5077 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.

5078 Mr. Pallone?
5079 *Mr. Pallone. No.
5080 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.
5081 Ms. DeGette?
5082 *Ms. DeGette. No.
5083 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.
5084 Ms. Schakowsky?
5085 *Ms. Schakowsky. No.
5086 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.
5087 Ms. Matsui?
5088 *Ms. Matsui. No.
5089 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
5090 Ms. Castor?
5091 *Ms. Castor. No.
5092 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.
5093 Mr. Tonko?
5094 *Mr. Pallone. Oh, really?
5095 *Mr. Tonko. No.
5096 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
5097 Ms. Clarke?
5098 [No response.]
5099 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?
5100 *Mr. Ruiz. No.
5101 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.
5102 Mr. Peters?

5103 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
5104 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
5105 Mrs. Dingell?
5106 *Mrs. Dingell. No.
5107 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.
5108 Mr. Veasey?
5109 [No response.]
5110 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
5111 [No response.]
5112 *Mr. Pallone. Is there one right before --
5113 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
5114 [No response.]
5115 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto?
5116 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
5117 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
5118 Ms. Schrier?
5119 *Ms. Schrier. No.
5120 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.
5121 Mrs. Trahan?
5122 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
5123 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
5124 Mrs. Fletcher?
5125 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.
5126 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.
5127 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

5128 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.
5129 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.
5130 Mr. Auchincloss?
5131 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
5132 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
5133 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
5134 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. No.
5135 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes no.
5136 Mr. Menendez?
5137 *Mr. Menendez. No.
5138 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.
5139 Mr. Mullin?
5140 *Mr. Mullin. No.
5141 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
5142 Mr. Landsman?
5143 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
5144 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
5145 Ms. McClellan?
5146 *Ms. McClellan. No.
5147 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.
5148 Chairman Guthrie?
5149 *The Chair. Aye.
5150 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.
5151 *Mr. Pallone. So it is still British.
5152 *Mr. Dunn. How is Dunn recorded?

5153 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn is not recorded.
5154 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
5155 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
5156 *Mr. Griffith. Is anyone else not recorded?
5157 Ms. Barragan?
5158 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan is not recorded.
5159 *Ms. Barragan. No.
5160 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.
5161 *Mr. Griffith. Is anyone else not recorded?
5162 All right, the clerk will report the roll.
5163 *Mr. Pallone. Let me just do one thing here on mine, as
5164 well.
5165 [Pause.]
5166 *Mr. Griffith. Yes, sir?
5167 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 30
5168 ayes and 16 noes.
5169 *Mr. Griffith. Thirty ayes, sixteen noes, the bill is
5170 agreed to.
5171 [Pause.]
5172 *The Chair. [Presiding.] The chair calls up H.R. 4690
5173 and asks the clerk to report.
5174 *The Clerk. H.R. 4690, a bill to amend the Energy
5175 Conservation and Production Act to repeal certain Federal
5176 buildings energy efficiency performance standards, and for
5177 other purposes.

5178 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
5179 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
5180 amendment at any point.

5181 So ordered.

5182 [The bill follows:]

5183

5184 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

5185

5186 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
5187 bill?

5188 The gentleman from New York is recognized for five
5189 minutes to speak on the bill.

5190 *Mr. Langworthy. Thank you, Chairman Guthrie.

5191 This legislation is about restoring something Washington
5192 has been losing for far too long, which is common sense.
5193 When taxpayers fund Federal buildings, they rightfully expect
5194 those buildings to be powered by the most reliable,
5195 affordable, and resilient energy systems available, not by
5196 whatever technology happens to be politically fashionable at
5197 the time. Unfortunately, that is exactly what current
5198 Federal policy pushes agencies towards.

5199 Under existing standards written into the Energy
5200 Independence and Security Act and reinforced through DoE
5201 regulations, agencies are effectively told to avoid fossil
5202 fuels, even when those fuels are the best engineering choice,
5203 the cheapest option, and the only reliable source during
5204 emergencies. These mandates create a government-wide bias
5205 toward one preferred energy pathway regardless of whether it
5206 works everywhere, regardless of whether the grid can support
5207 it, and regardless of what it costs the American taxpayers.

5208 Let's be clear. This is not about efficiency. It isn't
5209 about innovation. It is about ideology dictating
5210 infrastructure decisions that should be based on strictly

5211 performance and mission needs.

5212 And the consequences aren't just theoretical. These
5213 rigid rules drive up construction costs at the exact moment
5214 when Federal agencies are already struggling with backlogs,
5215 inflation, and procurement delays. They restrict proven
5216 technologies like natural gas systems that provide dependable
5217 heat, hot water, and backup generation, technologies that
5218 keep facilities operating through winter storms, extreme
5219 heat, cyber incidents, and grid failures.

5220 When the power grid goes down, electrification mandates
5221 don't keep a hospital warm or a secure facility online.
5222 Resilient, diversified energy systems do. Think about the
5223 buildings affected: VA hospitals where veterans receive
5224 lifesaving care; military installations that underpin our
5225 national defense; research laboratories that handle complex,
5226 sensitive, and sometimes dangerous work; emergency operations
5227 centers that coordinate responses in the worst moments.
5228 These buildings cannot afford to hope for the best. They
5229 cannot rely solely on an electric grid that is already
5230 strained and increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather and
5231 foreign adversaries. Yet current policy treats reliable
5232 fuels as outdated relics instead of essential components of a
5233 resilient energy strategy.

5234 Taxpayers are paying more and getting less reliability
5235 in return, not because of engineering necessity but because

5236 some policy-makers in Washington that -- think that they
5237 should be picking winners and losers in our energy markets.
5238 This approach is not responsible governance. It is not
5239 fiscally conservative. It certainly does not reflect the
5240 priorities of Americans who expect their government buildings
5241 to function in all conditions, not just when the weather is
5242 mild and the grid is stable.

5243 The Reliable Infrastructure Act corrects course, it
5244 restores neutrality in Federal building standards, ensuring
5245 that agencies can evaluate all energy options based on cost,
5246 performance, and reliability. The bottom line is simple:
5247 reliability is not partisan, affordability is not partisan,
5248 and protecting taxpayer dollars is not partisan. The bill
5249 reflects all three. I urge my colleagues to support this
5250 bill.

5251 And I yield back.

5252 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
5253 seeking to speak on the amendment -- I mean on the bill?

5254 Mr. Tonko from New York, you are recognized for five
5255 minutes to speak on the bill.

5256 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike the
5257 last word.

5258 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

5259 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you. I believe it is appropriate for
5260 us to expect that the actions of our Federal Government carry

5261 with them some extra responsibility, that we should hold
5262 ourselves to a higher standard, and we should want our
5263 agencies to operate efficiently and as good stewards of
5264 taxpayers' dollars. We should want our agencies to lead by
5265 example, helping to support the use of innovative, American-
5266 made technologies. We should want our private sector and
5267 individual citizens to believe that following the best
5268 practices of the building operations and management of our
5269 Federal Government is worth considering for their own
5270 purposes. And that really was the intent of section 433 of
5271 the Energy Independence and Security Act when it was enacted
5272 in 2007.

5273 We heard at the subcommittee markup, both during the
5274 debate on this bill as well as Mr. Weber's bill, that the
5275 Federal Government is the largest property owner, as well as
5276 the largest energy consumer in the United States. Shouldn't
5277 we want our government to take steps to operate their
5278 buildings more efficiently, to reduce their operational
5279 costs, to reach to innovation? Section 433 requires new and
5280 renovated Federal buildings to make incremental progress
5281 toward phasing out their use of fossil fuels.

5282 And while the Department of Energy had been slow to
5283 implement the requirement since 2007, there has been so much
5284 recent progress to make these goals achievable. In the
5285 nearly two decades since this section's enactment, there have

5286 been technological advancements in the design and in the
5287 operations of buildings. There are cost effective, well-
5288 performing alternatives for space heating, water heating, and
5289 many appliances. Heat pumps work. Their costs have come
5290 down and their performance has improved significantly,
5291 including in colder climates.

5292 We should be excited for the possibility of American-
5293 made heat pumps heating and cooling our public buildings.
5294 Instead, this bill wants to lock us into the past, regardless
5295 of how much technological innovation does occur. If we can
5296 encourage reasonable steps for the Federal Government to
5297 reduce its wasteful consumption of fossil fuels, we should do
5298 so.

5299 I encourage members to oppose this bill and, with that,
5300 Mr. Chair, I yield back.

5301 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
5302 further discussion on the bill?

5303 Seeing none, are there any amendments to the bill?

5304 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
5305 4690. A roll call has been requested by my friend from New
5306 Jersey, and the clerk will call the roll.

5307 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

5308 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

5309 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

5310 Mr. Griffith?

5311 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
5312 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
5313 Mr. Bilirakis?
5314 [No response.]
5315 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?
5316 [No response.]
5317 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?
5318 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
5319 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
5320 Mr. Palmer?
5321 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
5322 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
5323 Mr. Dunn?
5324 [No response.]
5325 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
5326 [No response.]
5327 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
5328 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
5329 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
5330 Mr. Weber?
5331 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
5332 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
5333 Mr. Allen?
5334 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
5335 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.

5336 Mr. Balderson?

5337 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

5338 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.

5339 Mr. Fulcher?

5340 *Mr. Fulcher. Aye.

5341 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.

5342 Mr. Pfluger?

5343 [No response.]

5344 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?

5345 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

5346 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.

5347 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

5348 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

5349 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

5350 Mrs. Cammack?

5351 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.

5352 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.

5353 Mr. Obernolte?

5354 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

5355 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.

5356 Mr. James?

5357 *Mr. James. Aye.

5358 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.

5359 Mr. Bentz?

5360 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.

5361 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
5362 Mrs. Houchin?
5363 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
5364 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
5365 Mr. Fry?
5366 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
5367 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
5368 Ms. Lee?
5369 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
5370 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
5371 Mr. Langworthy?
5372 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
5373 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
5374 Mr. Kean?
5375 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
5376 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
5377 Mr. Rulli?
5378 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
5379 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
5380 Mr. Evans?
5381 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
5382 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
5383 Mr. Goldman?
5384 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
5385 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.

5386 Mrs. Fedorchak?
5387 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
5388 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
5389 Mr. Pallone?
5390 *Mr. Pallone. No.
5391 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.
5392 Ms. DeGette?
5393 *Ms. DeGette. No.
5394 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.
5395 Ms. Schakowsky?
5396 *Ms. Schakowsky. No.
5397 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.
5398 Ms. Matsui?
5399 *Ms. Matsui. No.
5400 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
5401 Ms. Castor?
5402 *Ms. Castor. No.
5403 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.
5404 Mr. Tonko?
5405 *Mr. Tonko. No.
5406 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
5407 Ms. Clarke?
5408 [No response.]
5409 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?
5410 *Mr. Ruiz. No.

5411 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.
5412 Mr. Peters?
5413 *Mr. Peters. No.
5414 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.
5415 Mrs. Dingell?
5416 *Mrs. Dingell. No.
5417 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.
5418 Mr. Veasey?
5419 [No response.]
5420 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
5421 [No response.]
5422 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
5423 *Ms. Barragan. No.
5424 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.
5425 Mr. Soto?
5426 *Mr. Soto. No.
5427 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.
5428 Ms. Schrier?
5429 *Ms. Schrier. No.
5430 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.
5431 Mrs. Trahan?
5432 *Mrs. Trahan. No.
5433 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.
5434 Mrs. Fletcher?
5435 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.

5436 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.
5437 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
5438 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.
5439 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.
5440 Mr. Auchincloss?
5441 *Mr. Auchincloss. No.
5442 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes no.
5443 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
5444 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. No.
5445 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes no.
5446 Mr. Menendez?
5447 *Mr. Menendez. No.
5448 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.
5449 Mr. Mullin?
5450 *Mr. Mullin. No.
5451 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
5452 Mr. Landsman?
5453 *Mr. Landsman. No.
5454 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes no.
5455 Ms. McClellan?
5456 *Ms. McClellan. No.
5457 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.
5458 Chairman Guthrie?
5459 *The Chair. Aye.
5460 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

5461 *Mr. Dunn. How is Dunn recorded?

5462 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn is not recorded.

5463 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

5464 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.

5465 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.

5466 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger is not recorded.

5467 Mr. Pfluger votes aye.

5468 *The Chair. Is anyone on the Democrat side seeking
5469 recognition for voting in the roll call?

5470 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

5471 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 27
5472 ayes and 21 noes.

5473 *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

5474 The chair calls up H.R. 4593 and asks the clerk to
5475 report.

5476 *The Clerk. H.R. 4593, a bill to amend the Energy
5477 Policy and Conservation Act to revise the definition of a
5478 showerhead.

5479 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
5480 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
5481 amendment at any point.

5482 So ordered.

5483

5484

5485

5486 [The bill follows:]

5487

5488 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

5489

5490 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
5491 bill?

5492 For what purpose does the gentleman from South -- or,
5493 excuse me, South Carolina -- the gentleman from South
5494 Carolina is recognized to speak on the bill for five minutes.

5495 *Mr. Fry. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

5496 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

5497 *Mr. Fry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last -- at the
5498 subcommittee level I think some of my colleagues on the other
5499 side were a little bit bothered by some of the punny jokes
5500 that we had in the -- in my remarks, so I made sure to add
5501 more.

5502 There is nothing quite like a SHOWER Act in December.
5503 Let it flow, let it flow, let it flow.

5504 Some of our colleagues may want to freeze debate on this
5505 bill, but today we are actually going to talk about common
5506 sense. Under the previous administration we witnessed
5507 Federal bureaucrats take something as ordinary and
5508 uncontroversial as a showerhead, and quite literally reinvent
5509 the definition of it, resulting in these pointless
5510 showerheads that sprinkle water on your head. Only in a
5511 bureaucracy could you create a rule that makes you spend a
5512 longer time in the shower using more water while still
5513 feeling less clean when you when you leave.

5514 Everyday Americans never ask for this, plumbers never

5515 asked for this. Manufacturers certainly did not. But
5516 Washington regulators decided to start splashing around in
5517 micromanagement. And when bureaucrats start changing the
5518 meaning of everyday household products, families and
5519 businesses pay the price.

5520 And no one likes weak showerheads. Literally, nobody
5521 likes weak showerheads. Weak showers are for sad motels and
5522 gyms built in the 1970s. If we wanted a gentle mist as our
5523 shower, we would just stand in front of a humidifier. So
5524 that is why I introduced the SHOWER Act, because no one wants
5525 to be waterboarded by a trickle at 6:00 a.m. in the morning.

5526 This bill does one thing. It codifies the industry
5527 standard definition of a showerhead, the same one used
5528 nationwide by engineers, plumbers, and manufacturers.
5529 Nothing new, nothing exotic at all. No taxpayer burden, just
5530 clarity.

5531 Why does this matter? Because when political control
5532 changes hands, regulations shouldn't ricochet back and forth
5533 like a ping pong match.

5534 Now, we have heard loud and clear that some on the other
5535 side of the aisle think that this bill is a "waste of time."'
5536 I understand the political theater, I guess. But the
5537 opposition isn't really about plumbing; it is about politics.
5538 If the bill weren't supported by voices outside of this room
5539 that they don't like -- and I will give you one guess who

5540 that might be -- Democrats would probably be tripping over
5541 themselves to take credit for streamlining consumer
5542 standards. So let's not pretend this is about water
5543 pressure; it is about political pressure.

5544 But the bottom line is simple: the SHOWER Act restores
5545 common sense, protects consumer choice, reins in needless
5546 bureaucracy, and costs the taxpayers exactly \$0. It doesn't
5547 leave anyone high and dry, except maybe the regulators who
5548 wanted to keep rewriting the script.

5549 For consumers that choose a low-flow, trickle
5550 showerhead, let them make that choice. That is up to them.
5551 For the rest of America, let them pick something that gets
5552 the job done. Your hair and your shampoo shouldn't require a
5553 four-year evacuation plan.

5554 I urge my colleagues to support this straightforward
5555 bill, and with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

5556 *The Chair. Thank you. We appreciate --

5557 [Applause.]

5558 *The Chair. We applaud you showering us with your
5559 wisdom. We appreciate it very much.

5560 [Laughter.]

5561 *The Chair. So does anyone want to speak, anybody else
5562 wanting to speak on the bill?

5563 The gentlelady from Florida is recognized for five
5564 minutes to speak on the bill.

5565 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought about
5566 filing an amendment to rename the bill the Completely Out of
5567 Touch Act, but I think that is fairly obvious.

5568 This bill and most of the energy bills before us today
5569 simply demonstrate how out of touch the policies of
5570 Republicans in Congress are. You know, you would have
5571 thought that after two months, when the Speaker shut down the
5572 House of Representatives and members were at home for two
5573 months, that they would have rushed back to the Congress to
5574 work on anything to lower the cost of living. But alas, no.
5575 Their priority is to talk about showerheads.

5576 I know the President doesn't want to talk about
5577 affordability. He said that explicitly. In fact, yesterday
5578 he said this whole affordability thing is a con job. The
5579 President and House Republicans appear to be completely
5580 distracted from what is important. The President has focused
5581 on giving the White House a makeover. He tore down the
5582 entire East Wing to make way for a 90,000-square-foot, \$300
5583 million ballroom funded by corporations who have something to
5584 gain from this Administration. That ballroom has gone from
5585 500 square feet to 650 square feet to 999 square feet. Now
5586 it is proposed to over 1,300 square feet. This -- you can't
5587 make this up. He has covered the Oval Office and seemingly
5588 every surface he can find with bargain bin gold gilding.
5589 Have you heard about the arc de Trump that he is planning to

5590 construct between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National
5591 Cemetery for over \$100 million? And his latest project has
5592 been renovating the Lincoln bathroom, complete with golden
5593 showerheads. Yes, this tells you exactly what President
5594 Trump and Republicans care about.

5595 Meanwhile, our neighbors back home are facing a holiday
5596 season with much higher costs, higher inflation. Inflation
5597 has gone up just about every month of the Trump
5598 Administration. His import taxes and tariffs now are the
5599 highest since 1935. It is estimated that all of the tariffs
5600 now are adding about \$1,700 per household across the country,
5601 and you laugh. You laugh. Ha, ha, showerheads. This is
5602 what we should focus on. And you have completely abdicated
5603 any responsibility to push back on these arbitrary illegal
5604 tariffs.

5605 Meanwhile, you refuse to discuss any solution to the
5606 health care cliff that 40 million Americans are facing. Over
5607 four million of my Florida neighbors now feel like they are
5608 being pushed off the cliff by Republicans in Congress who
5609 refuse to develop a solution. But showerheads, showerheads,
5610 that is important.

5611 Besides health care cost hikes, 80 million Americans are
5612 struggling to pay their utility bills. They are forced to
5613 make the impossible choice between paying for housing,
5614 medicine, food, or to keep the lights on. Under the

5615 Republican big, ugly bill, electricity prices will increase
5616 61 percent over the next decade. That is on top of the \$29
5617 billion in electricity bills rate hike. In Florida, Florida
5618 Power and Light and Teco and Duke Energy have all gotten
5619 price hikes. They have called them the largest in the
5620 history of the country, billions of dollars in rate hikes.
5621 But showerheads.

5622 You know, there are real problems that we can solve
5623 together. People deserve so much better than what this
5624 Republican Congress is providing. This committee should
5625 serve the American people, not genuflect to the President
5626 over his showerheads. We don't need to redefine what
5627 constitutes a showerhead.

5628 The only thing that this bill does is create more
5629 regulatory uncertainty could lead to rollbacks. It is
5630 contrary to the law, the Energy Policy and Conservation Act.
5631 It likely will benefit foreign manufacturers. This bill also
5632 requires enforcement at the Department of Energy, but the
5633 President has gutted -- has fired arbitrarily public servants
5634 who served there. Well over 3,500 employees have left us.

5635 And, you know, there is one simple solution. It is
5636 called going down to your hardware store to address the lime
5637 build-up in your line. You don't need to pass a law. You
5638 don't need to ignore the real needs of our families and small
5639 businesses back home. You don't need to laugh and bring

5640 this, and turn a blind eye to the grift and corruption that
5641 runs deep in this Administration. We can work together and
5642 solve real problems. I am not going to give up hope on that,
5643 but this pushes us farther away from that goal today.

5644 I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill, and I yield
5645 back.

5646 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back. Is
5647 there further discussion on the bill?

5648 The gentlewoman from Iowa, you are recognized for five
5649 minutes to speak on the bill.

5650 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5651 Despite my petite stature, I use more water per square
5652 inch than most members. And despite the gentlelady from
5653 Florida putting a damper on this bill, I would say you won't
5654 get in hot water by voting, so I encourage my colleagues to
5655 support it.

5656 *Voice. Ms. Schrier.

5657 *Mr. Dunn. [Presiding.] The gentlelady yields back. We
5658 recognize Dr. Schrier for five minutes.

5659 *Ms. Schrier. Well, thank you. I probably won't throw
5660 in any puns today because I don't think this is all that
5661 funny. I mean, I appreciate the puns, but I am looking
5662 across the aisle at a party who used the expression "waste,
5663 fraud, and abuse" to slash Medicaid, to kick people off
5664 their health insurance, to cut SNAP benefits.

5665 And today's hearing -- I mean today's markup, if there
5666 were one word to define today, it is wastefulness. It is no,
5667 don't have energy-efficient appliances, don't have low-flow
5668 water heads -- showerheads. I mean, I just don't understand
5669 where, at a time when people are struggling to pay their
5670 water bills and their energy bills, why in the world would we
5671 -- would they be fighting efficiency standards when that is
5672 one of the things that helps people use less and have to
5673 spend less on their utility bills?

5674 I will tell you, as somebody from the West Coast, we
5675 have drought so we really don't think that low-flow
5676 showerheads are bad idea. We think it is a really good idea
5677 so that we can conserve resources.

5678 And then, with all of the talk that we have -- and it is
5679 legitimate talk -- about shortage of energy, and the need to
5680 keep the lights on, and what AI is doing to demand for
5681 energy, you know what? It takes energy to clean the water
5682 that we drink and it takes energy to run a wastewater
5683 treatment plant. And so I just want to highlight the
5684 hypocrisy here. Why in the world would my colleagues be
5685 advocating for wastefulness? I think it is important to
5686 conserve our natural resources, and I think it is a great
5687 idea to have low-flow showerheads.

5688 Thank you; I yield back.

5689 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any

5690 further discussion on the bill?

5691 Mrs. Houchin, do you have a comment?

5692 *Mrs. Houchin. I --

5693 *Mr. Dunn. You are recognized for five minutes to speak
5694 on the bill.

5695 *Mrs. Houchin. Mr. Chairman, I am going to yield my
5696 time to Mr. Fry.

5697 *Mr. Fry. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
5698 further discussion?

5699 *Voice. No, no, no, no, no.

5700 *Mr. Dunn. Oh, I am sorry.

5701 *Voice. She yielded to Mr. Fry.

5702 *Mr. Dunn. Oh, Mr. Fry, I am sorry.

5703 *Mr. Fry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5704 I would just like to remind my colleague on the other
5705 side that went off on the Trump Administration the
5706 affordability issue was caused by the Biden Administration
5707 and congressional Democrats turning a blind eye to what was
5708 happening in America when inflation rose 11, 12, 20 percent.
5709 They turned a blind eye to inflation rising faster than
5710 incomes to meet it. They turned a blind eye to a President
5711 who literally slept-walked through his entire presidency, and
5712 the American people suffered for it.

5713 They turned -- it is because of Democrats that we are
5714 even in a health care discussion right now, because Obamacare

5715 was told that premiums would rise if you pass it. And guess
5716 what? It did. And Democrat votes passed it again in the
5717 COVID era, before my time here in Congress, when everyone
5718 said, if you do this, premiums will rise. And guess what?
5719 They did. So this entire first year, to the member from
5720 Florida, is correcting the big mistakes that Democrats have
5721 made at the expense of the American people.

5722 So they can make this cute with the President putting a
5723 showerhead on. But again, this is about personal choice.
5724 Why is it Washington D.C.'s prerogative to come in and tell
5725 the rest of the country on this small bill or anything big
5726 that they should have one standard for the entire country?
5727 People should make that personal choice.

5728 Most people that I talk to want real showers. If they
5729 want to be spritzed like a potted plant, they can go get that
5730 showerhead. But that is not what we are about. This is
5731 about personal choice. It is about responsibility. And the
5732 distraction and the rhetoric about the failures of the Trump
5733 Administration, I just find that really rich coming from a
5734 party that caused the health care problem that we are in
5735 right now, and caused the economic damage that the American
5736 people currently feel.

5737 With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

5738 *Mrs. Houchin. I yield back.

5739 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. I recognize Ms.

5740 Ocasio-Cortez for five minutes.

5741 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you. All right, I will bite.

5742 [Laughter.]

5743 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. I have a -- I have two points, two
5744 questions here. One, as a person who has installed their own
5745 showerheads, who has, you know, encountered this, if you are
5746 having a dribbly shower, is this not a water pressure issue
5747 in your home?

5748 I mean, generally, like, mechanically. I am trying to
5749 engage this in good faith, like, genuinely.

5750 And secondly, it seems as though we are blaming the
5751 showerhead on a water pressure issue. And in doing so, we
5752 are deregulating a piece of hardware that actually drives
5753 people's water bills up.

5754 And if we want to talk about affordability, and if we
5755 want to be in touch with working people's lives, my hope is
5756 that we have had that experience, that we know the things
5757 that we are legislating. And why would we make this
5758 affordability problem worse?

5759 I mean, I am really trying to approach this earnestly.
5760 And if we can solve this problem by addressing a water
5761 pressure issue, there is no need to be changing regulations
5762 that increase people's water bills in the name of "personal
5763 choice." This is how our health care system got
5764 deregulated, too, people talking about, oh, Americans should

5765 have the personal choice of getting totally fleeced by their
5766 health insurance companies; Americans should have the
5767 personal choice of having industries deregulated to the point
5768 that they are unloading costs onto everyday working people.

5769 And so, you know, I appreciate the efforts put into the
5770 limericks and such here. But really, as someone who is
5771 trying to approach this matter in good faith, I am -- I
5772 genuinely try not to approach legislation of just being
5773 reflexively anti, you know, Republican. But as a person who
5774 does care about costs, I worry that these weakened standards
5775 are going to drive up people's water bills. I worry about
5776 the environmental impact of it. Drought is genuinely a
5777 problem, and I kind of don't -- I mean, it really may be a
5778 water pressure issue, genuinely.

5779 And so I say this because I just kind of want to give
5780 credence to the concerns that are put around this, and I am
5781 not sure that those underlying concerns have been addressed.
5782 And with that I yield back.

5783 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
5784 further discussion?

5785 Mr. Menendez from New Jersey, you are recognized for
5786 five minutes.

5787 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Chairman.

5788 You know, when I am back home, the issues that people
5789 want to talk about are the health care crisis, the trillion

5790 dollars in cuts that Republicans supported to Medicaid, the
5791 largest cut to SNAP in the program's history. People are
5792 devastated by Trump's immigration enforcement tearing
5793 families apart, apprehending U.S. citizens, and all of the
5794 harm that this President is causing.

5795 So I would just ask -- and I am curious if the sponsor
5796 of the bill from South Carolina would be willing to answer --
5797 how many in-person town halls he has hosted this year? I
5798 asked the question. I would yield my time if he wants to
5799 answer the question, how many in-person town halls you have
5800 hosted this year.

5801 *Mr. Pfluger. Come on, man, what does this have to do
5802 with the bill?

5803 *Mr. Menendez. My point is that -- how responsive we
5804 are to the issues of our constituents. And what we seem to
5805 agree on is there is an affordability crisis. And I have not
5806 had one person in my district come to me in the town halls I
5807 have had both in person, virtually, and say showerheads are
5808 the pressing issue that they have. So that is what I am
5809 hearing, and so I was just curious if the sponsor wanted to
5810 volunteer -- and I will yield my time -- how many in-person
5811 town halls he has had, because there seems to be a disconnect
5812 from what we are hearing from our constituents, who we engage
5813 with directly, versus what you may be hearing.

5814 But if you choose not to, that is fine, because there

5815 was also criticism of the last administration. But an
5816 Economic Policy Institute report from March of this year said
5817 that "South Carolina is experiencing an economic boom" --
5818 that is great -- "fueled by massive Federal investments from
5819 the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed into law by
5820 President Biden; the Inflation Reduction Act, signed into law
5821 by President Biden; and the CHIPS and Science Act, signed
5822 into law by President Biden."

5823 Meanwhile, Republicans, including the sponsor of the
5824 bill, voted for Trump's reconciliation bill that repealed the
5825 investments and tax credits from the very bills that are
5826 driving the economic boom in South Carolina. So maybe we
5827 could show some appreciation for a President who actually
5828 delivered for the American people instead of trying to
5829 appease a President who is consistently more worried about
5830 showerhead pressure than he is the quality of life for all
5831 Americans.

5832 And with that I yield back.

5833 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Is there further
5834 discussion on the bill?

5835 I recognize Mr. Soto from Florida for five minutes.

5836 *Mr. Soto. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

5837 President Trump promised to lower prices on day one, but
5838 yesterday he called the affordability issue a Democratic
5839 hoax. How far we have come in about 11 months. He also

5840 snoozed through half the meeting. So I think the
5841 sleepwalking comment is pretty interesting and timely.

5842 Health care rates spiking 200 to 300 percent right now.
5843 And what do we see the House Republican majority doing?
5844 Nothing. We have a couple of members who are moderates who
5845 are trying to help with the proposal, but I don't know that
5846 it is ever going to come to the floor because the Speaker is
5847 dead set against it.

5848 We see energy rates spiking and Trump cancels renewable
5849 energy projects, wind projects, hydro projects, solar
5850 projects, all at a time when demand is spiking because of
5851 data centers which we should be supporting with more all-of-
5852 the-above energy.

5853 And then food costs are rising, but no farm bill since
5854 2018. Tariffs are decimating farmers and ranchers. But
5855 don't worry, they will oppose trickle-down showerheads and
5856 support trickle-down economics.

5857 Big, ugly law gets passed. Record cuts to Medicaid and
5858 SNAP to fund tax breaks for billionaires. The irony is we
5859 are begging for us all to work together to resolve some of
5860 these issues, and all it takes is a few folks to have courage
5861 to sign the discharge petition that is literally on the floor
5862 right now. Four Republicans can join that and we could at
5863 least address the health care issue that this committee and
5864 this Congress has failed to address.

5865 I have the second-most Obamacare of any district in the
5866 nation. There are more Republicans on the ACA than
5867 Democrats, especially in Florida and Texas. And so, you
5868 know, I am sure we could have great debates over showerheads,
5869 but the real issue is health care costs right now, and that
5870 is what we should be working on.

5871 And I yield back.

5872 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Is there further
5873 discussion on the bill, further discussion on the bill?

5874 Are there any amendments for the bill?

5875 No amendments, all right. The question now occurs on
5876 adopting H.R. 4593, as -- well, the roll call has been
5877 requested, and the clerk will call the roll.

5878 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

5879 [No response.]

5880 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

5881 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

5882 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

5883 Mr. Bilirakis?

5884 [No response.]

5885 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

5886 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

5887 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

5888 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

5889 [No response.]

5890 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?
5891 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
5892 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
5893 Mr. Dunn?
5894 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
5895 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
5896 Mr. Crenshaw?
5897 [No response.]
5898 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
5899 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
5900 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
5901 Mr. Weber?
5902 [No response.]
5903 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?
5904 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
5905 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
5906 Mr. Balderson?
5907 [No response.]
5908 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher?
5909 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
5910 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
5911 Mr. Pfluger?
5912 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
5913 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
5914 Mrs. Harshbarger?

5915 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
5916 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
5917 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
5918 [No response.]
5919 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
5920 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
5921 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
5922 Mr. Obernolte?
5923 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
5924 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
5925 Mr. James?
5926 *Mr. James. Aye.
5927 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
5928 Mr. Bentz?
5929 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
5930 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
5931 Mrs. Houchin?
5932 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
5933 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
5934 Mr. Fry?
5935 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
5936 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
5937 Ms. Lee?
5938 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
5939 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.

5940 Mr. Langworthy?
5941 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
5942 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
5943 Mr. Kean?
5944 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
5945 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
5946 Mr. Rulli?
5947 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
5948 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
5949 Mr. Evans?
5950 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
5951 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
5952 Mr. Goldman?
5953 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
5954 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
5955 Mrs. Fedorchak?
5956 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
5957 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
5958 Mr. Pallone?
5959 *Mr. Pallone. Votes no.
5960 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.
5961 Ms. DeGette?
5962 *Ms. DeGette. No.
5963 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.
5964 Ms. Schakowsky?

5965 *Ms. Schakowsky. No.
5966 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.
5967 Ms. Matsui?
5968 *Ms. Matsui. No.
5969 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
5970 Ms. Castor?
5971 *Ms. Castor. No.
5972 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.
5973 Mr. Tonko?
5974 *Mr. Tonko. No.
5975 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
5976 Ms. Clarke?
5977 [No response.]
5978 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?
5979 *Mr. Ruiz. No.
5980 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.
5981 Mr. Peters?
5982 [No response.]
5983 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?
5984 *Mrs. Dingell. No.
5985 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.
5986 Mr. Veasey?
5987 [No response.]
5988 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
5989 [No response.]

5990 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
5991 *Ms. Barragan. No.
5992 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.
5993 Mr. Soto?
5994 *Mr. Soto. No.
5995 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.
5996 Ms. Schrier?
5997 *Ms. Schrier. No.
5998 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.
5999 Mrs. Trahan?
6000 *Mrs. Trahan. No.
6001 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.
6002 Mrs. Fletcher?
6003 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.
6004 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.
6005 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
6006 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.
6007 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.
6008 Mr. Auchincloss?
6009 *Mr. Auchincloss. No.
6010 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes no.
6011 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
6012 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. No.
6013 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes no.
6014 Mr. Menendez?

6015 *Mr. Menendez. No.

6016 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.

6017 Mr. Mullin?

6018 *Mr. Mullin. No.

6019 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.

6020 Mr. Landsman?

6021 *Mr. Landsman. No.

6022 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes no.

6023 Ms. McClellan?

6024 *Ms. McClellan. No.

6025 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.

6026 Chairman Guthrie?

6027 *The Chair. Aye.

6028 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

6029 *Mr. Latta. Mr. Chairman? How is Latta recorded?

6030 *Mr. Dunn. How is Mr. Latta recorded?

6031 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.

6032 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

6033 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

6034 *Mr. Dunn. How is Mr. Carter?

6035 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.

6036 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

6037 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

6038 *Mr. Weber. [Inaudible.]

6039 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber is not recorded.

6040 *Mr. Weber. Aye.

6041 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.

6042 *Mr. Dunn. Mr. Balderson?

6043 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson is not recorded.

6044 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

6045 *Mr. Balderson. Mr. Balderson votes aye.

6046 *Mr. Dunn. Dr. Miller-Meeks?

6047 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks is not recorded.

6048 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

6049 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

6050 *Mr. Dunn. Does anybody else seek recognition for
6051 recording their vote?

6052 The clerk will report the roll call.

6053 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 28
6054 ayes and 20 noes.

6055 *Mr. Dunn. The ayes have it. The bill is adopted.

6056 We are now taking up -- calling up the -- H.R. 4758 and
6057 ask the clerk to report.

6058 *The Clerk. H.R. 4758, a bill to repeal provisions of
6059 Public Law 117-169 relating to taxpayer subsidies for home
6060 electrification, and for other purposes. Section 1, short
6061 title. This Act may be cited as the Homeowner Energy Freedom
6062 Act.

6063 *Mr. Dunn. Without objection, the first reading of bill
6064 is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for amendment at

6065 any point.

6066 So ordered.

6067 [The bill follows:]

6068

6069 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6070

6071 *Mr. Dunn. Does anyone seek to be recognized?

6072 *Mr. Goldman. Mr. Chairman?

6073 *Mr. Dunn. Mr. Goldman, you are recognized for five
6074 minutes to discuss the bill.

6075 *Mr. Goldman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6076 For many Americans, the price of a home is simply too
6077 high. Recent reporting finds that the average first-time
6078 home buyer is now 40 years old. In their rush to impose
6079 unpopular Green New Deal policies, the Biden Administration
6080 spent billions in taxpayers' dollars to mandate that green
6081 energy appliances must be installed in their new homes. Some
6082 home builders estimate that these policies have increased the
6083 cost of a new home by \$31,000. These policies push home
6084 ownership and the American dream out of the reach for many
6085 families and many Americans.

6086 My bill, the Homeowner Energy Freedom Act, would help
6087 address some -- would address home affordability by repealing
6088 several costly and burdensome programs in the so-called
6089 Inflation Reduction Act. This common-sense bill will help
6090 lower the cost of home ownership for all Americans, building
6091 on this committee's work to rescind unobligated IRA funds.

6092 I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4758 and repeal
6093 these reckless programs.

6094 And I yield back.

6095 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Does anyone else

6096 seek to be recognized discussing on the bill? On the bill.

6097 All right, any amendments for the bill?

6098 Okay --

6099 *Ms. DeGette. I have an amendment at the desk.

6100 *Mr. Dunn. Absolutely, happy to have you. You are
6101 recognized for five minutes.

6102 *Voice. Well, have her --

6103 *Ms. DeGette. No, no. It is AMD_HR4578_SC02.

6104 *Mr. Dunn. I am sorry. Do I understand you are
6105 advancing an amendment?

6106 Okay, the clerk --

6107 *Ms. DeGette. Right.

6108 *Mr. Dunn. -- will report the amendment.

6109 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 4758. Add at the end the
6110 following new section. Section 3, Certification. This Act
6111 and the amendments made by this Act shall not --

6112 *Mr. Dunn. Without objection, the reading of the
6113 amendment is dispensed with.

6114 [The amendment of Ms. DeGette follows:]

6115

6116 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6117

6118 *Mr. Dunn. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
6119 minutes in support of the amendment.

6120 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
6121 Chairman, when he was sworn in President Trump promised to
6122 cut energy prices "by half within 12 months.'" Well, we are
6123 now 10 months in, and data shows energy costs have actually
6124 increased by 11 percent nationally since January. President
6125 Trump failed to bring down prices for an overwhelming
6126 majority of ratepayers, given that 87 percent of voters are
6127 concerned about rising utility prices.

6128 And so what this amendment simply does is to protect the
6129 80 million Americans who are already struggling to pay
6130 utility bills. What my amendment says is the Secretary of
6131 Energy would be required to certify that the bill would not
6132 raise costs for homeowners and renters before the bill took
6133 effect. I think it would -- I think everyone here would
6134 welcome the opportunity to protect their constituents from
6135 yet another price hike. My amendment adds important
6136 guardrails to a policy that would undoubtedly raise utility
6137 bills for consumers. This bill rescinds assistance programs
6138 for implementing energy codes, in some cases amounting to as
6139 much as \$14,000 in rebates to purchase electric appliances,
6140 weatherize buildings, and reduce energy inefficiencies.

6141 So let's discuss the claims that building codes and
6142 efficiency standards are too costly. The difference in costs

6143 for an Energy Star washer in 2003 was, on an average, over
6144 \$500 more expensive in today's dollars. Now, of course, that
6145 is a significant upfront cost. It is worth noting, however,
6146 that currently the difference in upfront costs between Energy
6147 Star and non-Energy Star appliances is much narrower. Today
6148 an Energy Star washer is only 50 to \$200 more, and even less
6149 for other appliances.

6150 That being said, I don't agree with my colleagues'
6151 concerns about upfront costs. In fact, that is why I oppose
6152 this bill. It repeals the very credits and rebates that
6153 mitigate the upfront costs of appliances and adopting energy-
6154 efficient building codes. Some of my colleagues fail to see
6155 that, regardless of the narrowing difference in upfront
6156 costs, the real benefit is the cost saved over the life of
6157 the appliance. And that is why people like Energy Star. For
6158 a washer, for example, the cost of an Energy Star model can
6159 be recovered in four to six years. For refrigerators,
6160 inherently energy-intensive products that run 24/7, an Energy
6161 Star model has an ROI of 3 to 5 years. I could go on.

6162 And so, if my colleagues on the other side of the aisle
6163 are worried about increasing costs, why would we repeal
6164 policies that save money on utility bills, and simply provide
6165 the option to adopt efficiency standards?

6166 As a reminder, states and localities can choose to adopt
6167 energy building codes. They are not mandated by Federal law.

6168 And worse yet, repealing these incentives will harm low and
6169 moderate-income households most, disproportionately impacting
6170 the one quarter of low-income households already experiencing
6171 energy insecurity.

6172 So if you agree we don't want Americans' utility bills
6173 to increase, then vote for my amendment so we can
6174 specifically say to everybody, your costs will not increase,
6175 no matter what happens in this bill.

6176 I urge my colleagues to adopt the amendment and I yield
6177 back.

6178 *The Chair. [Presiding.] The gentlelady yields back.
6179 Is there any further discussion on the amendment?

6180 The gentleman from Texas is recognized for five minutes
6181 to speak on the amendment.

6182 *Mr. Goldman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to
6183 point out that when President Trump and his Administration
6184 came in, they did agree to cut energy prices. In 2024,
6185 April, the average gas price was \$3.91 a gallon. In 2025,
6186 October, the average gas price was \$3.06 a gallon. So that
6187 indeed is lowering energy prices in our country.

6188 And this amendment is a tactic to delay implementation
6189 of the Homeowner Energy Freedom Act until the Secretary of
6190 Energy certifies it won't increase costs for homeowners and
6191 renters.

6192 I oppose this amendment because the Homeowner Energy

6193 Freedom Act is focused on improving housing affordability by
6194 reducing [sic] forced and expensive green energy mandates on
6195 new homes. These green new energy building codes on homes
6196 will add well over \$20,000 to the cost of new homes in
6197 certain regions. These green new energy provisions
6198 effectively force builders and developers to install electric
6199 appliances, rather than natural gas alternatives. This not
6200 only will decrease the affordability of homes, but also
6201 deprives Americans of the ability to decide how to cook their
6202 food and heat their homes. These actions will push home
6203 ownership out of the reach of thousands of American families.

6204 I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I
6205 yield back.

6206 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
6207 further discussion on the amendment?

6208 The gentlelady from Virginia is recognized for five
6209 minutes to speak on the amendment.

6210 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6211 I think part of what is getting lost in this debate are
6212 families who, once they are in a home, you may be in a home
6213 for a very long time. You have insulation, air sealing,
6214 ventilation, appliances that you need to replace. By the
6215 time you replace them, new, more efficient models have come
6216 out that, if you are able to afford installing them, will
6217 ultimately lower your energy costs.

6218 And this bill eliminates a program, one of the few
6219 programs that still provides tax breaks for low and middle-
6220 income Americans. And this committee spent so much time,
6221 months, arguing over a bill that made permanent tax breaks to
6222 people who made over \$500,000 to allow them to have up to a
6223 \$15 million exemption for gift and estate taxes to allow tax
6224 credits for them to buy airplanes, and yet for a family in
6225 the City of Richmond that makes less than \$70,000, this
6226 committee is now going to say you can't get a rebate of up to
6227 \$1,600 to upgrade insulation and air sealing and ventilation
6228 in your home, even though we know that is going to ultimately
6229 reduce your costs.

6230 We are saying to families that live in homes in -- that
6231 are 20, 30, 50 years old, that were built with appliances
6232 that are inefficient, that are going to need to be replaced
6233 eventually, you are on your own. And I don't understand for
6234 the life of me why that provision is in this bill when it is
6235 not a mandate. It is one of the few benefits that we can
6236 give to American families that are trying to figure out how
6237 do I pay my rent, and my energy bill, and groceries, and
6238 child care, and on and on and on. And that is why I think,
6239 at a minimum, we ought to at least take a look at what is the
6240 effect of repealing this rebate program going to have on
6241 energy bills for these families going forward? And that is
6242 why I support the amendment.

6243 And I yield back.

6244 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
6245 further discussion on the amendment on the Republican side?

6246 Any further discussion on the Democrat side?

6247 Seeing none, if there is no further discussion, the vote
6248 will occur on the amendment. The yeas and nays have been
6249 requested, and the clerk will call the roll.

6250 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

6251 *Mr. Latta. No.

6252 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

6253 Mr. Griffith?

6254 *Mr. Griffith. No.

6255 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

6256 Mr. Bilirakis?

6257 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

6258 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

6259 Mr. Hudson?

6260 *Mr. Hudson. No.

6261 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

6262 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

6263 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

6264 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

6265 Mr. Palmer?

6266 *Mr. Palmer. No.

6267 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

6268 Mr. Dunn?
6269 [No response.]
6270 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
6271 [No response.]
6272 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
6273 *Mr. Joyce. No.
6274 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
6275 Mr. Weber?
6276 [No response.]
6277 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?
6278 *Mr. Allen. No.
6279 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
6280 Mr. Balderson?
6281 *Mr. Balderson. No.
6282 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
6283 Mr. Fulcher?
6284 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
6285 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
6286 Mr. Pfluger?
6287 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
6288 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
6289 Mrs. Harshbarger?
6290 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
6291 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
6292 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

6293 [No response.]

6294 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?

6295 *Mrs. Cammack. No.

6296 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.

6297 Mr. Oubernolte?

6298 *Mr. Oubernolte. No.

6299 *The Clerk. Mr. Oubernolte votes no.

6300 Mr. James?

6301 *Mr. James. No.

6302 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.

6303 Mr. Bentz?

6304 *Mr. Bentz. No.

6305 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.

6306 Mrs. Houchin?

6307 *Mrs. Houchin. No.

6308 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.

6309 Mr. Fry?

6310 [No response.]

6311 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?

6312 *Ms. Lee. No.

6313 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.

6314 Mr. Langworthy?

6315 *Mr. Langworthy. No.

6316 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.

6317 Mr. Kean?

6318 *Mr. Kean. No.
6319 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
6320 Mr. Rulli?
6321 *Mr. Rulli. No.
6322 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
6323 Mr. Evans?
6324 *Mr. Evans. No.
6325 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
6326 Mr. Goldman?
6327 *Mr. Goldman. No.
6328 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
6329 Mrs. Fedorchak?
6330 [No response.]
6331 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
6332 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
6333 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
6334 Ms. DeGette?
6335 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
6336 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
6337 Ms. Schakowsky?
6338 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
6339 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
6340 Ms. Matsui?
6341 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
6342 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

6343 Ms. Castor?

6344 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

6345 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

6346 Mr. Tonko?

6347 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

6348 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

6349 Ms. Clarke?

6350 [No response.]

6351 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?

6352 [No response.]

6353 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters?

6354 [No response.]

6355 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?

6356 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

6357 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

6358 Mr. Veasey?

6359 [No response.]

6360 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?

6361 [No response.]

6362 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?

6363 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

6364 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

6365 Mr. Soto?

6366 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

6367 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

6368 Ms. Schrier?
6369 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
6370 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
6371 Mrs. Trahan?
6372 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
6373 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
6374 Mrs. Fletcher?
6375 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
6376 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
6377 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
6378 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
6379 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
6380 Mr. Auchincloss?
6381 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
6382 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
6383 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
6384 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
6385 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
6386 Mr. Menendez?
6387 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
6388 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
6389 Mr. Mullin?
6390 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
6391 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
6392 Mr. Landsman?

6393 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
6394 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
6395 Ms. McClellan?
6396 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
6397 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
6398 Chairman Guthrie?
6399 *The Chair. No.
6400 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
6401 *Mr. Weber. How is Mr. Weber recorded?
6402 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber is not recorded.
6403 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
6404 *Voice. No, he is a no.
6405 *Mr. Weber. [Inaudible.] No.
6406 [Laughter.]
6407 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
6408 *The Chair. So Mrs. Fedorchak?
6409 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak is not recorded.
6410 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
6411 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
6412 *The Chair. Mr. Fry?
6413 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry is not recorded.
6414 *Mr. Fry. No.
6415 *The Clerk. Mr. --
6416 *The Chair. Dr. Ruiz?
6417 *The Clerk. -- Fry votes no.

6418 Mr. Ruiz is not recorded.

6419 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

6420 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

6421 *The Chair. Mr. Peters?

6422 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters is not recorded.

6423 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.

6424 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

6425 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking -- no further discussion,
6426 well, no one else seeking to answer the roll call, the clerk
6427 will report the result.

6428 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 21
6429 ayes and 27 noes.

6430 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
6431 further amendments?

6432 The gentlelady from Virginia is recognized. For what
6433 purpose does the gentlelady from Virginia seek recognition?

6434 *Ms. McClellan. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the
6435 desk labeled AMD_HR4758_SC01.

6436 *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

6437 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 4758. Add at the end the
6438 following new section. Section 3, Certification.

6439 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
6440 amendment is dispensed with.

6441

6442

6443 [The amendment of Ms. McClellan follows:]

6444

6445 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6446

6447 *The Chair. And the gentlelady from Virginia is
6448 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

6449 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6450 This amendment would protect a growing energy efficiency
6451 sector of our economy by requiring that the Energy Secretary
6452 certify that the provisions of this bill will not negatively
6453 impact job growth in the energy efficiency sector before the
6454 bill can take effect.

6455 This bill directly targets rebates for low and middle-
6456 income homeowners to replace outdated and inefficient
6457 appliances with newer energy efficiency models, and
6458 weatherize their home through new insulation and help to
6459 reduce their monthly bills.

6460 This bill also targets a grant program that invests in
6461 the energy efficiency and electrification workforce training
6462 and assistance for states to adopt the latest energy building
6463 codes that improve the quality of housing stock and protect
6464 consumers from high energy costs by helping to manage demand.

6465 At a time when our constituents make tough financial
6466 decisions, it is imperative that we not recklessly undermine
6467 a growing and integral part of our economy. The energy
6468 efficiency sector supports approximately 2.3 million jobs and
6469 has been steadily growing since the Inflation Reduction Act.
6470 This represents a field that employs almost twice as many
6471 people as the fossil fuel industry, and these jobs involve

6472 everything from installing more efficient kitchen appliances,
6473 better insulation to improve HVAC systems, and more to help
6474 our homeowners and renters save money.

6475 And they are all over the country. Energy efficiency
6476 jobs represented in 99.9 percent of U.S. counties, not to
6477 mention that a majority of these energy efficiency firms are
6478 small businesses. So not only do energy efficiency measures
6479 help reduce demand on our grid, lower costs, promote
6480 resilience, and boost energy security, but they are an
6481 important driver of local job growth. And repealing these
6482 vital Inflation Reduction Act programs would dampen growth in
6483 this critical sector and negatively impact consumers and
6484 jobs.

6485 And so I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

6486 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
6487 further discussion on the amendment?

6488 The gentleman from Texas is recognized to speak on the
6489 amendment.

6490 *Mr. Goldman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amendment
6491 is a tactic to delay implementation of the Homeowner Energy
6492 Freedom Act until the Secretary of Energy certifies it won't
6493 affect jobs in the energy efficiency industry. I oppose this
6494 amendment because the Homeowner Energy Freedom Act is focused
6495 on improving housing affordability by reducing unnecessary
6496 and costly green energy mandates.

6497 The truth is, job growth and creation should result from
6498 consumer choices in a free market, not government mandates
6499 that subsidize preferred industries. By mandating these
6500 programs, the Biden Administration's policies put a thumb on
6501 the scale and drive up home prices. The Homeowner Energy
6502 Freedom Act is about preserving home affordability, consumer
6503 choice, and allowing the free market to operate in the best
6504 interests of all Americans.

6505 I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment and I
6506 yield back.

6507 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
6508 further discussion on the amendment?

6509 Seeing none, if there is no further discussion, the vote
6510 occurs on the amendment. A roll call has been requested, and
6511 the clerk will call the roll.

6512 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

6513 *Mr. Latta. No.

6514 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

6515 Mr. Griffith?

6516 *Mr. Griffith. No.

6517 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

6518 Mr. Bilirakis?

6519 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

6520 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

6521 Mr. Hudson?

6522 *Mr. Hudson. No.
6523 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
6524 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
6525 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
6526 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
6527 Mr. Palmer?
6528 *Mr. Palmer. No.
6529 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
6530 Mr. Dunn?
6531 [No response.]
6532 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
6533 [No response.]
6534 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
6535 *Mr. Joyce. No.
6536 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
6537 Mr. Weber?
6538 *Mr. Weber. No.
6539 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
6540 Mr. Allen?
6541 *Mr. Allen. No.
6542 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
6543 Mr. Balderson?
6544 [No response.]
6545 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher?
6546 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.

6547 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
6548 Mr. Pfluger?
6549 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
6550 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
6551 Mrs. Harshbarger?
6552 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
6553 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
6554 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
6555 [No response.]
6556 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
6557 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
6558 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
6559 Mr. Obernolte?
6560 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
6561 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
6562 Mr. James?
6563 *Mr. James. No.
6564 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
6565 Mr. Bentz?
6566 *Mr. Bentz. No.
6567 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
6568 Mrs. Houchin?
6569 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
6570 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
6571 Mr. Fry?

6572 *Mr. Fry. No.
6573 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
6574 Ms. Lee?
6575 *Ms. Lee. No.
6576 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
6577 Mr. Langworthy?
6578 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
6579 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
6580 Mr. Kean?
6581 *Mr. Kean. No.
6582 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
6583 Mr. Rulli?
6584 *Mr. Rulli. No.
6585 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
6586 Mr. Evans?
6587 *Mr. Evans. No.
6588 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
6589 Mr. Goldman?
6590 *Mr. Goldman. No.
6591 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
6592 Mrs. Fedorchak?
6593 [No response.]
6594 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
6595 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
6596 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

6597 Ms. DeGette?
6598 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
6599 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
6600 Ms. Schakowsky?
6601 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
6602 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
6603 Ms. Matsui?
6604 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
6605 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
6606 Ms. Castor?
6607 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
6608 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
6609 Mr. Tonko?
6610 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
6611 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
6612 Ms. Clarke?
6613 [No response.]
6614 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?
6615 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
6616 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
6617 Mr. Peters?
6618 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
6619 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
6620 Mrs. Dingell?
6621 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

6622 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
6623 Mr. Veasey?
6624 [No response.]
6625 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
6626 [No response.]
6627 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
6628 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
6629 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
6630 Mr. Soto?
6631 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
6632 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
6633 Ms. Schrier?
6634 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
6635 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
6636 Mrs. Trahan?
6637 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
6638 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
6639 Mrs. Fletcher?
6640 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
6641 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
6642 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
6643 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
6644 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
6645 Mr. Auchincloss?
6646 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

6647 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
6648 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
6649 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
6650 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
6651 Mr. Menendez?
6652 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
6653 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
6654 Mr. Mullin?
6655 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
6656 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
6657 Mr. Landsman?
6658 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
6659 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
6660 Ms. McClellan?
6661 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
6662 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
6663 Chairman Guthrie?
6664 *The Chair. No.
6665 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
6666 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking to answer the roll call,
6667 any on the Republican side, any on the Democrat side?
6668 Seeing none, the clerk will report.
6669 [Pause.]
6670 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 21
6671 ayes and 25 noes.

6672 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
6673 further amendments?

6674 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
6675 4758. A roll call has been requested, and the clerk will
6676 call the roll.

6677 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

6678 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

6679 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

6680 Mr. Griffith?

6681 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

6682 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

6683 Mr. Bilirakis?

6684 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

6685 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

6686 Mr. Hudson?

6687 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

6688 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

6689 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

6690 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

6691 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

6692 Mr. Palmer?

6693 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

6694 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

6695 Mr. Dunn?

6696 [No response.]

6697 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
6698 [No response.]
6699 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
6700 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
6701 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
6702 Mr. Weber?
6703 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
6704 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
6705 Mr. Allen?
6706 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
6707 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
6708 Mr. Balderson?
6709 [No response.]
6710 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher?
6711 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
6712 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
6713 Mr. Pfluger?
6714 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
6715 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
6716 Mrs. Harshbarger?
6717 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
6718 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
6719 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
6720 [No response.]
6721 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?

6722 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
6723 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
6724 Mr. Obernolte?
6725 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
6726 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
6727 Mr. James?
6728 *Mr. James. Aye.
6729 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
6730 Mr. Bentz?
6731 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
6732 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
6733 Mrs. Houchin?
6734 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
6735 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
6736 Mr. Fry?
6737 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
6738 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
6739 Ms. Lee?
6740 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
6741 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
6742 Mr. Langworthy?
6743 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
6744 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
6745 Mr. Kean?
6746 *Mr. Kean. Aye.

6747 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
6748 Mr. Rulli?
6749 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
6750 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
6751 Mr. Evans?
6752 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
6753 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
6754 Mr. Goldman?
6755 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
6756 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
6757 Mr. Pallone?
6758 *Mr. Pallone. No.
6759 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.
6760 Ms. DeGette?
6761 *Ms. DeGette. No.
6762 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.
6763 Ms. Schakowsky?
6764 *Ms. Schakowsky. No.
6765 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.
6766 Ms. Matsui?
6767 *Ms. Matsui. No.
6768 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
6769 Ms. Castor?
6770 *Ms. Castor. No.
6771 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.

6772 Mr. Tonko?

6773 *Mr. Tonko. No.

6774 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.

6775 Ms. Clarke?

6776 [No response.]

6777 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?

6778 *Mr. Ruiz. No.

6779 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.

6780 Mr. Peters?

6781 *Mr. Peters. No.

6782 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.

6783 Mrs. Dingell?

6784 *Mrs. Dingell. No.

6785 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.

6786 Mr. Veasey?

6787 [No response.]

6788 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?

6789 [No response.]

6790 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?

6791 *Ms. Barragan. No.

6792 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.

6793 Mr. Soto?

6794 *Mr. Soto. No.

6795 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.

6796 Ms. Schrier?

6797 *Ms. Schrier. No.
6798 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.
6799 Mrs. Trahan?
6800 *Mrs. Trahan. No.
6801 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.
6802 Mrs. Fletcher?
6803 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.
6804 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.
6805 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
6806 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.
6807 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.
6808 Mr. Auchincloss?
6809 *Mr. Auchincloss. No.
6810 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes no.
6811 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
6812 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. No.
6813 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes no.
6814 Mr. Menendez?
6815 *Mr. Menendez. No.
6816 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.
6817 Mr. Mullin?
6818 *Mr. Mullin. No.
6819 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
6820 Mr. Landsman?
6821 *Mr. Landsman. No.

6822 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes no.

6823 Ms. McClellan?

6824 *Ms. McClellan. No.

6825 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.

6826 Chairman Guthrie?

6827 *The Chair. Aye.

6828 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

6829 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking to enter the roll call on
6830 the Republican side?

6831 Seeing none, is there anyone on the Democrat side?

6832 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

6833 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 25
6834 ayes and 21 noes.

6835 *The Chair. The ayes have it and the bill is adopted.

6836 The chair calls up H.R. 4626 and asks the clerk to
6837 report.

6838 *The Clerk. H.R. 4626, a bill to amend the Energy
6839 Policy and Conservation Act to prohibit the Secretary of
6840 Energy from prescribing any new or amended energy
6841 conservation standards for a product that is not
6842 technologically feasible and economically justified, and for
6843 other purposes.

6844 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
6845 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
6846 amendment at any point.

6847 So ordered.

6848 [The bill follows:]

6849

6850 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6851

6852 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
6853 bill?

6854 *Mr. Allen. H.R. 4626 --

6855 *The Chair. The gentleman from Georgia is --

6856 *Mr. Allen. Yes, sir.

6857 *The Chair. You are recognized for five minutes to
6858 speak on the bill.

6859 *Mr. Allen. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike the
6860 last word to speak in to speak in --

6861 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

6862 *Mr. Allen. -- to speak in favor of my bill, H.R. 4626,
6863 Don't Mess With My Home Appliances Act.

6864 Under the guise of energy efficiency, the Biden-Harris
6865 Administration waged a four-year war on domestic fossil
6866 energy and consumer choice, and it was American families that
6867 paid the price. From gas stoves, refrigerators, from
6868 freezers to washers, dryers, dishwashers, and air
6869 conditioners, no household appliance was off limits in their
6870 pursuit of a radical, rush-to-green agenda, and we can't
6871 allow that to happen again.

6872 A couple of personal stories. Thirty years ago we re-
6873 did our kitchen in a house that is 130 years old, and we put
6874 in a sub-zero. And we have had different problems with it.
6875 We just had a problem with it. So you think about, well, do
6876 I buy a new refrigerator or do I fix the one. And so we

6877 talked to the experts -- and I am not talking about Members
6878 of Congress, I am talking about the people that sell these
6879 things and work on these things -- and he said, "Sir, I would
6880 not buy a new sub-zero.'" He said, "I think'" -- he said,
6881 "You are much better off to repair your existing 30-year-old
6882 sub-zero.'" And the reason of that is because the newer
6883 models just don't last near as long, and they are over three
6884 times more expensive. And so we are getting it repaired.

6885 The other personal story is, I have got a small place
6886 here in D.C. I got a gas line right in front of it. And,
6887 you know, one of the things we moved up here -- you know, we
6888 couldn't heat the place in the summer. And so, you know, it
6889 is a heat pump. And so I call a contractor, I said, "Hey, I
6890 want to go to gas.'"

6891 He said, "Sir, you can't do that. You can't get a
6892 permit to go to gas heat.'"

6893 I got gas heat in my home in Augusta. It works great.
6894 And, you know, here -- and the crazy thing is when your heat
6895 pump gets below 30 degrees, you go to your strip heat. And I
6896 am telling you, when you go to strip heat, if you want to
6897 know why we have a demand in electricity, it just ramps up
6898 the meter. And plus, to get the house above 65 degrees I had
6899 to go buy portable electric heaters and put in various rooms
6900 to heat the place because this city has imposed that
6901 restriction.

6902 [Chart]

6903 *Mr. Allen. And like I said, we have already talked
6904 about energy prices, the reduction in energy prices. In
6905 fact, I have got a chart here that shows heating almost down
6906 30 percent. Natural gas would be down substantially, but the
6907 problem is -- we just met with a group this morning -- they
6908 have been in 13 years of litigation trying to get a pipeline
6909 done. They can't -- they got gas, they can't get it to the
6910 consumer.

6911 These are just personal stories. You know, I am a
6912 consumer and I come from the construction industry, so I know
6913 a lot about this stuff. That is why I am glad we are
6914 considering my bill in the full committee which would
6915 implement necessary reforms to the Energy Policy Conservation
6916 Act, EPCA, to prevent future administrations from
6917 prioritizing a radical, rush-to-green agenda over the
6918 affordability and availability of reliable household
6919 appliances that Americans rely on every day.

6920 The free market knows much better than the Federal
6921 Government. Congress enacted EPCA in 1975 to increase energy
6922 production, reduce demand, and encourage a more efficient use
6923 of energy. As part of this effort, EPCA authorized DoE's
6924 Appliance and Equipment Standards Program to set minimum
6925 energy efficiency standards for product categories. DoE must
6926 follow specific statutory criteria for prescribing new or

6927 amended standards for covered products and covered equipment.

6928 However, over the last several years DoE has gone beyond
6929 its scope and statutory authority by finalizing rules that do
6930 not meet the specific statutory criteria. Why would they do
6931 this? These egregious appliance standards have caused
6932 homeowners to spend 34 percent more on appliances than they
6933 did 15 years ago, as my experience showed, while having to
6934 replace them at a faster rate, which is what my appliance
6935 repair man said would happen. That is why my bill makes
6936 reforms that will eliminate DoE's requirement to review and
6937 update energy conservation standards every six years,
6938 establish a new process to allow standards to be revoked or
6939 revised, and amend the statutory criteria for determining
6940 whether an energy conservation standard is economically
6941 justified.

6942 Additionally, my bill aligns all compliance dates to be
6943 five years following a final rule, requires test procedures
6944 to be issued at least 180 days before rulemaking action, and
6945 maintains provisions for current law and related DoJ reviews,
6946 clarifies DoE's authority to amend water efficiency standards
6947 for clothes washers. These are common-sense changes that
6948 will ensure certainty for manufacturers and consumers, and
6949 allow consumer choice.

6950 I urge support of my legislation and I yield back.

6951 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Is

6952 there further discussion on the bill?

6953 The gentlelady from California is recognized for five
6954 minutes to speak on the bill.

6955 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
6956 the last word.

6957 *The Chair. You are recognized.

6958 *Ms. Matsui. As I argued during the subcommittee markup
6959 of this bill, we are on the brink of an energy crisis. And
6960 this bill would exacerbate that crisis by gutting Federal
6961 energy efficiency programs. Families are already struggling
6962 with rising energy costs. Household electric bills have gone
6963 up 11 percent, on average, since President Trump took office,
6964 and nearly 80 million Americans are facing an impossible
6965 choice between keeping the lights on and putting food on the
6966 table.

6967 At the same time, we are facing a broader energy supply
6968 challenge as demand for electricity is growing faster than we
6969 build new power plants. And that is why energy efficiency is
6970 so essential. Efficiency is one of the fastest, cheapest,
6971 and most reliable ways to meet rising energy demands. DoE
6972 estimates that the energy saved just by switching to LEDs is
6973 equivalent to the energy generated by 92 nuclear power
6974 plants. It took 15 years to build the last nuclear power
6975 plant, and we can't afford to wait that long. We are facing
6976 a crisis now.

6977 We need to be using all available tools to meet rising
6978 energy demand, and that includes energy efficiency. And
6979 these standards save Americans money. Federal efficiency
6980 standards say the average American household almost \$600
6981 every year. That is why I fought to maintain and grow
6982 Federal energy efficiency programs. Every year I lead
6983 efforts in Congress to support strong funding for these
6984 programs in the annual Federal budget because these programs
6985 consistently deliver benefits for families, businesses, and
6986 our electric grid.

6987 It is common sense: when you reduce the amount of
6988 energy we use, you save money. And that extra energy can be
6989 used for other things like powering new factories or AI data
6990 centers. It is common sense, and it should be non-partisan.
6991 I know my Republican colleagues don't want to see black-outs.
6992 I know they want to power AI data centers and don't -- they
6993 want to reduce electricity rates. So I urge my colleagues to
6994 get serious and work with Democrats on practical, effective
6995 solutions that meet the moment and save Americans money.

6996 I yield back.

6997 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
6998 further discussion on the bill?

6999 The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for five
7000 minutes to speak on the bill.

7001 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike

7002 the last word.

7003 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

7004 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank
7005 my friend, Representative Allen, for introducing H.R. 4626,
7006 the Don't Mess With My Home Appliances Act.

7007 H.R. 4626 will ensure that families have the freedom to
7008 choose what home appliances they can buy and keep in their
7009 homes. This bill will ensure that the Department of Energy
7010 considers cost to low-income households when making rules,
7011 prohibits the banning of products based on their fuel type,
7012 and much more.

7013 The Biden-Harris Administration waged war on American
7014 households who simply wanted to pick an appliance that is
7015 affordable to them. Those days are over, and this bill is a
7016 critical step towards restoring affordability and
7017 practicality to the regulation of household appliances in
7018 America. I urge all my colleagues to vote for this bill.

7019 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

7020 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
7021 further discussion on the bill?

7022 The gentlelady from Florida is recognized for five
7023 minutes to speak on the bill.

7024 *Ms. Castor. I have an amendment at the desk, Mr.
7025 Chairman.

7026 *The Chair. So we are ready for -- no further

7027 discussion on the bill?

7028 We are ready for amendments. Would you identify your
7029 amendment?

7030 *Ms. Castor. FC4626_12.

7031 *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

7032 *The Clerk. Amendment to the committee print for H.R.
7033 4626. Add at the end the following. Section --

7034 *The Chair. Without objection, the amendment is
7035 dispensed with.

7036 [The amendment of Ms. Castor follows:]

7037

7038 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7039

7040 *The Chair. And the gentlelady from Florida is
7041 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

7042 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7043 Colleagues, I think we all know that families across the
7044 country are working really hard to get ahead, and all of the
7045 higher cost and inflation is really setting them back.
7046 Whether it is groceries, health care, you name it, but
7047 especially their electric bills. That is why this bill is
7048 such poor policy, because it takes away an important tool to
7049 help people keep their electric bills low. It guts energy
7050 efficiency standards for your home appliances. It will also
7051 create new roadblocks to update these standards. And what
7052 that will do is it will keep old, energy-wasting technologies
7053 on the market.

7054 This bill is not needed to preserve consumer choice. I
7055 have heard that word a lot. That is a red herring. Existing
7056 law -- and this has been since 1987 -- already requires that
7057 standards protect consumers' access to desired features and
7058 do not restrict fuel sources.

7059 This was surprising to me. Listen to all of the models
7060 that are on the market today. Consumers today have far
7061 greater choice in the products on the market than in the
7062 years before standards were introduced, even as energy and
7063 water use have declined significantly. For example,
7064 manufacturers now offer more than 11,000 distinct

7065 refrigerator models, 1,600 washing machine models, and 1,400
7066 dishwasher models, according to the Department of Energy
7067 database.

7068 So let's talk about how energy efficiency standards
7069 actually work. They require manufacturers to produce more
7070 efficient appliances, but only if it is technologically
7071 feasible and economically justified. Consumers have the
7072 choice. You can decide yourself. Do you want a less
7073 efficient model? You can purchase that less efficient,
7074 cheaper model, or you can spend a little bit more up front
7075 that will save you over time. But net-net, over time, these
7076 standards help consumers save money.

7077 I don't know -- I know that a lot of the folks in the
7078 energy industry, they want people to spend more money. They
7079 want you to use more energy. That is where they benefit,
7080 they profit. But really, if you want to act in the public
7081 interest, you would come down on the side of the consumer,
7082 good old innovation here in the USA, and help people save
7083 money that they need while appliances get better and better
7084 over time.

7085 We heard from witnesses before the Energy Subcommittee.
7086 The average household spends about \$2,000 on their annual
7087 utility bills, and between \$200 and \$400 is actually wasted
7088 on inefficiency. So energy efficiency helps consumers pocket
7089 the savings by eliminating that waste.

7090 There is an obvious flaw in this bill. It prohibits the
7091 standards, no matter their savings for consumers, in cases
7092 where additional upfront cost is paid back in more than three
7093 years, even for products that last decades. Household
7094 appliances last longer than three years.

7095 The bill also eliminates the primary tool ensuring that
7096 DoE updates standards. They are required to do that every
7097 eight years. An eight-year review cycle was established in
7098 2007 in a bipartisan law.

7099 This Republican bill, unfortunately, will end up
7100 resulting in higher electric bills at a time where nearly 80
7101 million Americans are struggling to pay those bills.

7102 Republicans are also trying to confuse people by
7103 claiming that energy efficiency standards result in faulty
7104 appliances. That is silly. As our expert witnesses
7105 testified, there is no evidence that efficiency standards
7106 cause products to break more often. If Republicans were
7107 serious about helping folks back home save money, they would
7108 support new standards.

7109 Product technology is improving in many product types,
7110 meaning that future standards could achieve major savings.
7111 Between 2030 and 2050, U.S. households could save an average
7112 of nearly \$150 annually on their utility bills. Businesses
7113 could save collectively 13.8 billion.

7114 Plus, you can't turn away from the fact that these

7115 standards are popular. That is why surveys show that 87
7116 percent of Americans support them. In fact, a majority of
7117 Americans want tougher energy efficiency standards. They
7118 know that they pay off for them.

7119 So my amendment would simply ask the DoE to publish a
7120 certification that the effects of revoking existing energy
7121 conservation standards on cost, monetary benefits, and
7122 pollution will not negatively impact consumers. I hope we
7123 can agree on that. This amendment does not affect the
7124 implementation of anything in the bill. It just asks DoE to
7125 wait until they certify that it is not going to have a
7126 negative impact on our neighbors. So I see no reason why
7127 anyone would have trouble supporting this amendment.

7128 I urge you to adopt it, and I yield back my time.

7129 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
7130 further discussion on the amendment?

7131 The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for five
7132 minutes to speak on the amendment.

7133 *Mr. Allen. Mr. Chairman, I would like to strike the
7134 last word to speak in opposition to this amendment.

7135 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized to speak on the
7136 amendment.

7137 *Mr. Allen. This amendment is duplicative and
7138 unnecessary. The underlying bill already requires the
7139 Department of Energy, DoE, to consider the impacts of

7140 efficiency standards.

7141 But to go a step further, let me just explain something.
7142 The EPA wanted to do away with my wife's gas stove. She had
7143 a brand-new gas stove. In fact, it was a revolt in the
7144 entire neighborhood about this. And, you know, when you look
7145 at what it costs to cook with gas versus what it costs to
7146 cook with electricity right now, because there is no more war
7147 on fossil fuels, it is actually less expensive to cook with
7148 gas than it is with electricity. In fact, if we could build
7149 pipelines, we could get it a lot cheaper.

7150 So it includes a look-back provision which requires the
7151 Secretary of Energy to examine several criteria before
7152 amending or evoking an efficiency standard. The criteria
7153 includes the cost to consumers, the level of energy savings,
7154 and technological feasibility, and the commercially available
7155 products.

7156 Furthermore, the underlying bill requires an economic
7157 analysis that specifically examines the cost to low-income
7158 households and the impact on employment. For these reasons
7159 this amendment is duplicative and unnecessary.

7160 My legislation ensures DoE standards are cost effective
7161 and technologically feasible. I urge my colleagues to oppose
7162 this amendment.

7163 And I yield back.

7164 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there

7165 further discussion on the amendment?

7166 Seeing none -- and a roll call vote has been requested.

7167 The clerk will call the roll.

7168 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

7169 *Mr. Latta. No.

7170 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

7171 Mr. Griffith?

7172 *Mr. Griffith. No.

7173 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

7174 Mr. Bilirakis?

7175 [No response.]

7176 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

7177 *Mr. Hudson. No.

7178 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

7179 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

7180 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

7181 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

7182 Mr. Palmer?

7183 *Mr. Palmer. No.

7184 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

7185 Mr. Dunn?

7186 [No response.]

7187 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?

7188 [No response.]

7189 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

7190 *Mr. Joyce. No.
7191 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
7192 Mr. Weber?
7193 [No response.]
7194 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?
7195 *Mr. Allen. No.
7196 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
7197 Mr. Balderson?
7198 [No response.]
7199 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher?
7200 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
7201 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
7202 Mr. Pfluger?
7203 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
7204 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
7205 Mrs. Harshbarger?
7206 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
7207 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
7208 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
7209 [No response.]
7210 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
7211 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
7212 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
7213 Mr. Obernolte?
7214 *Mr. Obernolte. No.

7215 *The Clerk. Mr. Oubernolte votes no.
7216 Mr. James?
7217 *Mr. James. No.
7218 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
7219 Mr. Bentz?
7220 *Mr. Bentz. No.
7221 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
7222 Mrs. Houchin?
7223 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
7224 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
7225 Mr. Fry?
7226 *Mr. Fry. No.
7227 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
7228 Ms. Lee?
7229 *Ms. Lee. No.
7230 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
7231 Mr. Langworthy?
7232 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
7233 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
7234 Mr. Kean?
7235 *Mr. Kean. No.
7236 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
7237 Mr. Rulli?
7238 *Mr. Rulli. No.
7239 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.

7240 Mr. Evans?

7241 *Mr. Evans. No.

7242 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.

7243 Mr. Goldman?

7244 *Mr. Goldman. No.

7245 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.

7246 Mrs. Fedorchak?

7247 [No response.]

7248 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?

7249 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

7250 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

7251 Ms. DeGette?

7252 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

7253 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

7254 Ms. Schakowsky?

7255 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

7256 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

7257 Ms. Matsui?

7258 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

7259 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

7260 Ms. Castor?

7261 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

7262 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

7263 Mr. Tonko?

7264 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

7265 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
7266 Ms. Clarke?
7267 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
7268 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
7269 Mr. Ruiz?
7270 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
7271 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
7272 Mr. Peters?
7273 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
7274 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
7275 Mrs. Dingell?
7276 [No response.]
7277 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
7278 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
7279 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
7280 Ms. Kelly?
7281 [No response.]
7282 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
7283 *Ms. Barragan. Yes.
7284 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
7285 Mr. Soto?
7286 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
7287 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
7288 Ms. Schrier?
7289 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

7290 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
7291 Mrs. Trahan?
7292 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
7293 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
7294 Mrs. Fletcher?
7295 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
7296 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
7297 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
7298 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
7299 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
7300 Mr. Auchincloss?
7301 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
7302 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
7303 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
7304 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
7305 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
7306 Mr. Menendez?
7307 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
7308 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
7309 Mr. Mullin?
7310 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
7311 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
7312 Mr. Landsman?
7313 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
7314 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

7315 Ms. McClellan?

7316 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

7317 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

7318 Chairman Guthrie?

7319 *The Chair. No.

7320 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

7321 *The Chair. Are there anybody seeking recognition

7322 [sic]?

7323 Dr. Dunn?

7324 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn is not recorded.

7325 *Mr. Dunn. No.

7326 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

7327 *The Chair. Mr. Weber?

7328 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber is not recorded.

7329 *Mr. Weber. No.

7330 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

7331 *The Chair. Anybody on the -- Mrs. Dingell?

7332 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell is not recorded.

7333 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

7334 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

7335 *The Chair. Is anyone else seeking recognition for the

7336 record?

7337 Seeing none, the clerk will report the result.

7338 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 23

7339 ayes and 25 noes.

7340 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
7341 further amendments?

7342 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
7343 4626. A roll call has been requested, and the clerk will
7344 call the roll.

7345 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

7346 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

7347 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

7348 Mr. Griffith?

7349 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

7350 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

7351 Mr. Bilirakis?

7352 [No response.]

7353 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

7354 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

7355 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

7356 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

7357 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

7358 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

7359 Mr. Palmer?

7360 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

7361 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

7362 Mr. Dunn?

7363 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

7364 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.

7365 Mr. Crenshaw?
7366 [No response.]
7367 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
7368 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
7369 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
7370 Mr. Weber?
7371 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
7372 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
7373 Mr. Allen?
7374 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
7375 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
7376 Mr. Balderson?
7377 [No response.]
7378 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher?
7379 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
7380 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
7381 Mr. Pfluger?
7382 [No response.]
7383 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
7384 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
7385 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
7386 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
7387 [No response.]
7388 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
7389 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.

7390 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
7391 Mr. Oubernolte?
7392 *Mr. Oubernolte. Aye.
7393 *The Clerk. Mr. Oubernolte votes aye.
7394 Mr. James?
7395 *Mr. James. Aye.
7396 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
7397 Mr. Bentz?
7398 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
7399 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
7400 Mrs. Houchin?
7401 [No response.]
7402 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
7403 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
7404 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
7405 Ms. Lee?
7406 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
7407 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
7408 Mr. Langworthy?
7409 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
7410 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
7411 Mr. Kean?
7412 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
7413 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
7414 Mr. Rulli?

7415 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
7416 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
7417 Mr. Evans?
7418 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
7419 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
7420 Mr. Goldman?
7421 *Mr. Goldman. Yes.
7422 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
7423 Mrs. Fedorchak?
7424 [No response.]
7425 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
7426 *Mr. Pallone. No.
7427 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.
7428 Ms. DeGette?
7429 *Ms. DeGette. No.
7430 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.
7431 Ms. Schakowsky?
7432 *Ms. Schakowsky. No.
7433 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.
7434 Ms. Matsui?
7435 *Ms. Matsui. No.
7436 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
7437 Ms. Castor?
7438 *Ms. Castor. No.
7439 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.

7440 Mr. Tonko?

7441 *Mr. Tonko. No.

7442 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.

7443 Ms. Clarke?

7444 *Ms. Clarke. No.

7445 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.

7446 Mr. Ruiz?

7447 [No response.]

7448 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters?

7449 *Mr. Peters. No.

7450 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.

7451 Mrs. Dingell?

7452 [No response.]

7453 *The Clerk. Mr. -- Mrs. Dingell?

7454 *Mrs. Dingell. No.

7455 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.

7456 Mr. Veasey?

7457 *Mr. Veasey. No.

7458 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.

7459 Ms. Kelly?

7460 [No response.]

7461 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?

7462 *Ms. Barragan. No.

7463 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.

7464 Mr. Soto?

7465 [No response.]

7466 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier?

7467 *Ms. Schrier. No.

7468 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.

7469 Mrs. Trahan?

7470 *Mrs. Trahan. No.

7471 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.

7472 Mrs. Fletcher?

7473 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.

7474 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.

7475 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

7476 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.

7477 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.

7478 Mr. Auchincloss?

7479 *Mr. Auchincloss. No.

7480 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes no.

7481 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

7482 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. No.

7483 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes no.

7484 Mr. Menendez?

7485 [No response.]

7486 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin?

7487 *Mr. Mullin. No.

7488 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.

7489 Mr. Landsman?

7490 *Mr. Landsman. No.
7491 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes no.
7492 Ms. McClellan?
7493 *Ms. McClellan. No.
7494 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.
7495 Chairman Guthrie?
7496 *The Chair. Aye.
7497 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.
7498 *The Chair. How is Mr. Pfluger recorded?
7499 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger is not recorded.
7500 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
7501 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
7502 *The Chair. Mr. Bilirakis.
7503 *Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis --
7504 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis is not recorded.
7505 *Mr. Bilirakis. -- aye.
7506 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
7507 *The Chair. Mr. Soto?
7508 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto is not recorded.
7509 *Mr. Soto. No.
7510 *The Clerk. Mr. --
7511 *The Chair. Dr. Ruiz?
7512 *The Clerk. -- Soto votes no.
7513 Mr. Ruiz is not recorded.
7514 *Mr. Ruiz. No.

7515 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.

7516 *The Chair. Mrs. Houchin?

7517 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin is not recorded.

7518 *Mrs. Houchin. Yes.

7519 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.

7520 *The Chair. Is anyone on the Republican side seeking
7521 recognition?

7522 Seeing none, the Democrat side?

7523 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

7524 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 26
7525 ayes and 22 noes.

7526 *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.
7527 The chair calls up H.R. 1355 and asks the clerk to
7528 report.

7529 *The Clerk. H.R. 1355, a bill to amend the Energy
7530 Conservation and Production Act to reauthorize the
7531 Weatherization Assistance Program. Direct the Secretary --

7532 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
7533 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for any
7534 point.

7535 So ordered.

7536 [The bill follows:]

7537

7538 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7539

7540 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
7541 bill?

7542 You are calling the ANS up, right? Or -- let me just --
7543 seeing none, is there any amendments?

7544 The gentlelady from Florida is recognized.

7545 *Ms. Castor. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment in the
7546 nature of a substitute, HR1355-01.

7547 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

7548 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
7549 H.R. 1355 --

7550 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
7551 amendment is dispensed with.

7552 [The amendment of Ms. Castor follows:]

7553

7554 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7555

7556 *The Chair. And the gentlelady from Florida is
7557 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

7558 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7559 Colleagues, this amendment represents weeks of
7560 bipartisan negotiations to get to an agreement on Congressman
7561 Tonko's bill, H.R. 1355, the Weatherization Enhancement and
7562 Readiness Act.

7563 This is a bipartisan bill, thankfully, that lowers costs
7564 for energy-burdened households by boosting energy security
7565 and increasing energy efficiency, promoting affordability
7566 across the board. And it is so important at a time when
7567 electric bills are skyrocketing. It truly is vital that we
7568 reauthorize the Department of Energy's Weatherization
7569 Assistance Program. This would really help working-class
7570 families, especially, reduce their monthly energy bills
7571 through energy-efficient home upgrades. This program saves
7572 money and it promotes resilience, safety, and security for
7573 millions of families across the country -- about seven
7574 million, to be exact.

7575 While this compromise does not include an authorization
7576 of the Weatherization Readiness Program, I am glad we were
7577 able to increase the statutory limit for the average amount a
7578 state can spend on weatherizing homes from \$6,500 to \$12,000.
7579 This change ensures that the weatherization initiative keeps
7580 pace with the rising cost of building materials, wages,

7581 equipment, and allows for deeper, more effective retrofits.

7582 This amendment also ensures that we have a long-term
7583 reauthorization of the Weatherization Assistance Program
7584 through 2030.

7585 Additionally, I am hopeful that once DoE compiles the
7586 report on the impact of readiness efforts as included in this
7587 amendment, our colleagues across the aisle will see the real
7588 impact of weatherization readiness on communities, its value,
7589 its importance. And we have appropriated over the past few
7590 years, we need to get back to doing that again.

7591 I appreciate Chairs Latta and Guthrie, majority
7592 committee staff, as well as -- especially Ranking Member
7593 Tonko, Ranking Member Pallone. Thank you all so much for
7594 getting this bill across the finish line to deliver vast
7595 savings for American families who could really use it right
7596 now.

7597 Thanks, and I yield back.

7598 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back, and
7599 the gentleman from Ohio is recognized to speak on the
7600 amendment.

7601 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, I
7602 really appreciate the opportunity to speak on the amendment
7603 in the nature of a substitute.

7604 The Weatherization Assistance Program plays an important
7605 role in increasing energy efficiency in low-income homes.

7606 This saves families money, reduces strain on our nation's
7607 grid, and helps keep existing homes in the housing market. I
7608 am pleased we were able to reach the bipartisan agreement
7609 reflected in this ANS, and I thank the representative from
7610 New York and the ranking member of the full committee and the
7611 subcommittee for working with us on --

7612 *The Chair. Will you yield to me?

7613 *Mr. Latta. I am sorry?

7614 *The Chair. Will you yield --

7615 *Mr. Latta. And before I yield back, I yield to the
7616 chairman.

7617 *The Chair. Thank you. I agree this is an important
7618 program, and I am glad that we have all worked hard.

7619 Someone I talked to last night said that Kentucky is a
7620 leader in the way we implement the program, and I really
7621 appreciate those compliments. I know when I was in the
7622 general assembly and other areas, getting homes efficient and
7623 -- is very important, particularly when you focus on low
7624 income, and having warm homes and having cool homes in the
7625 summer, but having the opportunity to make sure your electric
7626 bill -- we call it the light bill where I am from -- is low
7627 is important.

7628 We talked about the readiness program. There -- that is
7629 important. I am not saying it is not important. The issue
7630 has been sometimes they go to look at homes for weather -- to

7631 weather -- weatherization, and the roof just needs replacing,
7632 or you just can't -- the weatherization wouldn't really help
7633 at the level you need. And so we wanted a report to look
7634 back. There are people that report. There are other
7635 programs, Habitat for Humanity, other groups that kind of do
7636 that kind of work. So we wanted to focus this on homes that
7637 -- where this money would go to the homes that need
7638 weatherization, and absolutely not dismiss the fact that
7639 there is a greater need, too -- and thanks for pointing that
7640 -- the reports in here for us to do that.

7641 I really appreciate both sides of the aisle working
7642 together, members working together, and the gentleman that I
7643 was elected to Congress with, Mr. Tonko, for being such a
7644 good partner in this, as well. We have a rich history of
7645 working together when we can find common ground, and thanks
7646 for doing it.

7647 And I will yield back to my friend from Ohio.

7648 *Mr. Latta. And Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance
7649 of my time.

7650 *The Chair. And he yields back. And I believe the
7651 gentleman from New York is seeking to speak on the amendment.

7652 *Mr. Tonko. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to
7653 strike the last word.

7654 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

7655 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you. I thank Chair Latta and you,

7656 Mr. Chair, and your work for -- as the ranking -- and the
7657 work with Ranking Member Pallone's team.

7658 And the amendment preserves two important parts of H.R.
7659 1355: it would reauthorize DoE's Weatherization Assistance
7660 Program through fiscal year 2030, and it would raise the
7661 program's average cost per dwelling unit to \$12,000. And I
7662 think it is important to raise that number, but also to
7663 maintain an appropriation level that will enable us to not
7664 slip in the number of houses that we can do. These are
7665 important tweaks to the law that will help preserve the
7666 program and allow it to function even better moving forward.

7667 Now, it is no secret that so many of our constituents
7668 are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis, and energy
7669 affordability is certainly a huge piece of that. I won't
7670 suggest that DoE's Weatherization Assistance Program or this
7671 legislation is a silver bullet, but it can be a small but
7672 important part of a more comprehensive solution. The truth
7673 is that a meaningful energy affordability solution will
7674 require Congress to step up, understand the challenge, and do
7675 more to relieve the pressure that working families are
7676 feeling from their energy burden.

7677 We know that weatherization works. The households that
7678 are eligible for the program spend about 14 percent of their
7679 income on energy costs, compared to just 3 percent for other
7680 households. So this is a very meaningful program to those

7681 who are income-eligible for this relief.

7682 Households that receive assistance save some \$372 on
7683 their energy bills each year. They also benefit from living
7684 in a safer and more comfortable home. Reauthorizing this
7685 program helps ensure that it will be part of our collective
7686 efforts to address energy affordability moving forward, and
7687 raising that average cost per unit will benefit the long-term
7688 health of this program. Inflation has eroded the potential
7689 effectiveness of weatherization services, so this change will
7690 ensure that households can still receive adequate services
7691 from crews that are being fairly and competitively
7692 compensated.

7693 While I am disappointed that we could not reach
7694 bipartisan agreement on other aspects of the bill as
7695 introduced, including the reauthorization -- or the
7696 authorization of Weatherization Readiness Fund, I remain
7697 committed to continuing to push for future adjustments to the
7698 program moving forward.

7699 Now to that readiness fund. I know that each of our
7700 districts can point to success stories where people have had
7701 that readiness fund utilized in a way that makes them
7702 eligible for the weatherization outcome. To me, that is a
7703 great success story, and I don't think we need to look for
7704 other avenues. We had a successful readiness fund. Let's
7705 continue that. Let's make certain we put money into that

7706 because there are those, if they have something like a roof
7707 repair, they can then have that affordable outcome with the
7708 application of weatherization money. So I think it is only a
7709 common-sense feature that should be included as we move
7710 forward.

7711 But for now I thank the chairs for reaching an agreement
7712 on this version of the bill, I urge my colleagues to support
7713 the amendment, and with that I thank you and yield back.

7714 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Is
7715 there further discussion on the amendment?

7716 Seeing none, now we are going to adopt the amendment in
7717 the nature of substitute, and I believe --

7718 *Mr. Pallone. By voice.

7719 *The Chair. -- we can do that by voice. And then we
7720 will have a roll call vote on the final bill. So if there is
7721 no further discussion, the vote occurs on the amendment in
7722 the nature of a substitute.

7723 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

7724 All those opposed, nay.

7725 The ayes have it and the amendment is agreed to.

7726 The question now occurs on adopting H.R. 1355, as
7727 amended. A roll call vote has been requested, and the clerk
7728 will call the roll.

7729 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

7730 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

7731 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.
7732 Mr. Griffith?
7733 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
7734 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
7735 Mr. Bilirakis?
7736 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.
7737 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
7738 Mr. Hudson?
7739 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.
7740 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
7741 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
7742 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
7743 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
7744 Mr. Palmer?
7745 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
7746 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
7747 Mr. Dunn?
7748 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
7749 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
7750 Mr. Crenshaw?
7751 [No response.]
7752 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
7753 [No response.]
7754 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?
7755 *Mr. Weber. Aye.

7756 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
7757 Mr. Allen?
7758 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
7759 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
7760 Mr. Balderson?
7761 [No response.]
7762 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher?
7763 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
7764 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
7765 Mr. Pfluger?
7766 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
7767 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
7768 Mrs. Harshbarger?
7769 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
7770 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
7771 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
7772 [No response.]
7773 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
7774 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
7775 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
7776 Mr. Obernolte?
7777 [No response.]
7778 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
7779 *Mr. James. Aye.
7780 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.

7781 Mr. Bentz?
7782 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
7783 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
7784 Mrs. Houchin?
7785 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
7786 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
7787 Mr. Fry?
7788 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
7789 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
7790 Ms. Lee?
7791 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
7792 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
7793 Mr. Langworthy?
7794 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
7795 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
7796 Mr. Kean?
7797 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
7798 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
7799 Mr. Rulli?
7800 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
7801 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
7802 Mr. Evans?
7803 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
7804 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
7805 Mr. Goldman?

7806 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
7807 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
7808 Mrs. Fedorchak?
7809 [No response.]
7810 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
7811 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
7812 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
7813 Ms. DeGette?
7814 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
7815 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
7816 Ms. Schakowsky?
7817 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
7818 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
7819 Ms. Matsui?
7820 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
7821 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
7822 Ms. Castor?
7823 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
7824 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
7825 Mr. Tonko?
7826 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
7827 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
7828 Ms. Clarke?
7829 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
7830 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

7831 Mr. Ruiz?

7832 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

7833 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

7834 Mr. Peters?

7835 *Mr. Peters. Aye.

7836 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

7837 Mrs. Dingell?

7838 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

7839 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

7840 Mr. Veasey?

7841 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

7842 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

7843 Ms. Kelly?

7844 [No response.]

7845 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?

7846 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

7847 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

7848 Mr. Soto?

7849 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

7850 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

7851 Ms. Schrier?

7852 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

7853 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

7854 Mrs. Trahan?

7855 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

7856 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
7857 Mrs. Fletcher?
7858 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
7859 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
7860 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
7861 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
7862 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
7863 Mr. Auchincloss?
7864 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
7865 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
7866 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
7867 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
7868 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
7869 Mr. Menendez?
7870 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
7871 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
7872 Mr. Mullin?
7873 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
7874 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
7875 Mr. Landsman?
7876 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
7877 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
7878 Ms. McClellan?
7879 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
7880 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

7881 Chairman Guthrie?

7882 *The Chair. Aye.

7883 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

7884 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking recognition?

7885 How is Dr. Joyce recorded?

7886 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce is not recorded.

7887 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

7888 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

7889 *The Chair. How is Mrs. Fedorchak recorded?

7890 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak is not recorded.

7891 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.

7892 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.

7893 *The Chair. Is anyone on the Democratic side wishing to

7894 be recorded?

7895 *Voice. Mr. Obernolte.

7896 *The Chair. How is Mr. Obernolte recorded?

7897 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte is not recorded.

7898 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

7899 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.

7900 *The Chair. Is anyone else seeking recognition for

7901 purpose of entering the roll?

7902 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

7903 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 50

7904 ayes and 0 noes.

7905 *The Chair. Thank you. The ayes have it, and the bill

7906 is adopted.

7907 Without objection, staff is authorized to make technical
7908 and conforming changes to the legislation approved by the
7909 committee today.

7910 So ordered.

7911 Without objection, the committee stands adjourned.

7912 [Whereupon, at 2:55 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]