

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, thanks to a measure Congress passed earlier this year, at 11:59 p.m. this past Saturday, the National Security Agency ended its collection of Americans' telephone call data.

After revelations about NSA data collection that many Americans, myself included, believe violated Fourth Amendment protections against search and seizure, Congress passed the USA Freedom Act to end this activity. Despite violating privacy of millions of Americans, this program had never generated intelligence that prevented terrorist activity. Americans spoke out, and Congress acted.

Our Nation's security should be the government's first priority, yet we should never sacrifice liberty for a program that doesn't even increase our safety. As Benjamin Franklin stated: "Those who give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety."

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 20, 2015.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 20, 2015 at 10:06 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 95.

That the Senate passed S. 2328.

That the Senate passed S. 1550.

That the Senate agree to House amendment to the bill S. 599.

Appointment:

Congressional Award Board

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by Speaker pro tempore MESSER on Monday, November 23, 2015:

S. 599, to extend and expand the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration project.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York) at 4 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

GRASSROOTS RURAL AND SMALL COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 611) to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 611

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 (Public Law 104-182) authorized technical assistance for small and rural communities to assist those communities in complying with regulations promulgated pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);

(2) technical assistance and compliance training—

(A) ensures that Federal regulations do not overwhelm the resources of small and rural communities; and

(B) provides small and rural communities lacking technical resources with the necessary skills to improve and protect water resources;

(3) across the United States, more than 90 percent of the community water systems serve a population of less than 10,000 individuals;

(4) small and rural communities have the greatest difficulty providing safe, affordable public drinking water and wastewater services due to limited economies of scale and lack of technical expertise; and

(5) in addition to being the main source of compliance assistance, small and rural water technical assistance has been the main source of emergency response assistance in small and rural communities.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) to assist small and rural communities most effectively, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency should prioritize the types of technical assistance that are most beneficial to those communities, based on input from those communities; and

(2) local support is the key to making Federal assistance initiatives work in small and rural communities to the maximum benefit.

SEC. 4. FUNDING PRIORITIES.

Section 1442(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-1(e)) is amended—

(1) by designating the first through seventh sentences as paragraphs (1) through (7), respectively;

(2) in paragraph (5) (as so designated), by striking "1997 through 2003" and inserting "2015 through 2020"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(8) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may use amounts made available to carry out this section to provide grants or cooperative agreements to nonprofit organizations that provide to small public water systems onsite technical assistance, circuit-rider technical assistance programs, multistate, regional technical assistance programs, onsite and regional training, assistance with implementing source water protection plans, and assistance with implementing monitoring plans, rules, regulations, and water security enhancements.

"(B) PREFERENCE.—To ensure that technical assistance funding is used in a manner that is most beneficial to the small and rural communities of a State, the Administrator shall give preference under this paragraph to nonprofit organizations that, as determined by the Administrator, are the most qualified and experienced in providing training and technical assistance to small public water systems and that the small community water systems in that State find to be the most beneficial and effective.

"(C) LIMITATION.—No grant or cooperative agreement provided or otherwise made available under this section may be used for litigation pursuant to section 1449."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a few minutes to explain why we are pushing this bill and what the bill does.

The smallest water systems of our country account for 77 percent of all systems. These smaller and rural communities, with populations of 10,000 or less, have a high percentage of systems in significant noncompliance with drinking water regulations and face significant challenges in maintaining,

replacing, or upgrading aging and obsolete drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.

A major source of financial stress for small and rural drinking water supply systems is compliance with a number of drinking water regulations issued by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Unlike water systems in larger markets, these same small and rural communities do not have the rate base or access to capital markets to fund the cost of some projects and still maintain affordable rates. As a result, these communities depend heavily on Federal and State grants and subsidized loan programs to finance their needs.

Many times, simply giving them more money is not the answer. These communities may need access to technical professionals to help find the most cost-effective way to meet these new standards. Technical assistance offered by EPA has historically enabled small public water systems to identify affordable repair and replacement options for their systems.

Currently, section 1442(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act provides EPA authority to provide technical assistance to "small public water systems" to enable these systems to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable Federal drinking water regulations and to help small public water systems respond to environmental stressors, including through "circuit-rider" and multi-State regional technical assistance programs, training, and preliminary engineering evaluations.

S. 611 reauthorizes EPA's technical assistance program through 2020 for small public water systems, maintaining the existing funding level of \$15 million annually, including 3 percent for technical assistance to public water systems owned and operated by Indian tribes.

In addition, S. 611 authorizes EPA funding under section 1442 of the Safe Drinking Water Act. This funding is used to provide grants or cooperative agreements to nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance to small public water systems. This technical assistance will help these systems achieve and maintain compliance with national primary drinking water regulations.

These grants or cooperative agreements are supposed to go to nonprofits with a history of providing certain types of on-site technical assistance and training, and EPA should give preference to those nonprofits that the Administrator determines are most qualified and experienced in providing training and technical assistance to small public water systems that small public water systems find most beneficial and effective.

Finally, S. 611 prohibits these grants and cooperative agreements from being used to bring a citizen suit under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The Senate passed this bill by unanimous consent. The Energy and Com-

merce Committee reported it by voice vote. Our strong vote today sends this bill right to the White House and, I expect, into law.

I urge all Members to support S. 611.

And I want to thank the ranking member, Mr. TONKO, and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER), my colleague, for their diligence in pushing this legislation forward.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I too rise in support of S. 611, the Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act. This legislation will reauthorize funding to nonprofits that provide technical assistance to small public water systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Small and rural water systems face unique challenges. These systems have a smaller rate base, making it difficult to afford necessary upgrades and maintenance, and often lack the expertise to comply with national drinking water standards.

S. 611 will prioritize funding to nonprofits that provide technical assistance to these small public water systems, giving them the needed expertise to tackle these challenges. This is a small but a very important step towards resolving our Nation's drinking water problems.

As we know, aging infrastructure, problems with source water quality, and limited budgets are taking a toll on drinking water systems. The changing climate is creating further challenges. Public water systems are facing extreme conditions that are endangering our drinking water. Severe storms, algal blooms, extreme droughts, and saltwater intrusion are some of the examples of the conditions these systems face, all of which are affecting public water systems' ability to provide safe drinking water to our communities.

Small public water systems rely on technical assistance from nonprofit organizations to navigate everything from routine maintenance to managing these complex situations to ensure that the water that they provide is safe for their consumers.

S. 611 is one step of many that we must take to address our Nation's drinking water issues. Our Nation's water systems serve over 272 million people, and, according to EPA, they require infrastructure investments of \$334 billion over the next 17 years.

I look forward to continued bipartisan support for water-related legislation, including reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act and State Revolving Fund, so that we can address the myriad of issues that are facing our drinking water systems.

I would like also to thank Environment and the Economy Subcommittee Ranking Member TONKO and Representative HARPER for their work on this important issue.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, the State of Mississippi has led in this legislation from our former colleague, now-Senator ROGER WICKER.

I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER), the author on the House side of the committee.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Across our country, over 90 percent of community water systems serve a population of less than 10,000. The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act authorized technical assistance for small and rural communities to assist them in complying with rules and regulations promulgated under the act.

This important technical assistance and compliance training ensures that Federal regulations do not overwhelm the resources of small and rural communities. It also allows small communities access to assistance which is necessary to improve and protect their water resources. Without these initiatives, effective implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act in rural areas would be nearly impossible.

In addition to being the main source of compliance assistance, rural water technical assistance has been invaluable in emergency responses in small and rural communities.

Rural water technicians led the assistance effort in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, where hundreds of communities relied on assistance from the local and surrounding State rural water associations for immediate assistance in restoring drinking water and sanitation services.

S. 611, the Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act, would help ensure that this technical assistance continues.

As the author of the House companion bill, H.R. 2853, I appreciate the Energy and Commerce Committee's commitment to this issue and especially want to thank Chairman SHIMKUS and Ranking Member TONKO and the entire Environment and Economy Subcommittee staff for the time and effort they have invested in discussions, negotiations, legislative hearings, and markup of this legislation.

Throughout this process, my friend Kirby Mayfield, who is the executive director of the Mississippi Rural Water Association, and Mike Keegan with the National Rural Water Association and others have provided a wealth of knowledge in helping to develop and shepherd this legislation.

I would also like to thank Senator ROGER WICKER and his staff for sharing my deep interest in this issue and for authoring S. 611 and working towards its passage in the Senate and in the House.

Again, Mr. Speaker, thank you for your attention to this issue that affects so many of our constituents.

I encourage all Members to support S. 611.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), a distinguished member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Environment and the Economy. And I thank him for his work on this piece of legislation.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding.

I rise in support of this bill, S. 611, the Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act, reauthorizes a small but important program that delivers technical assistance and training to our community water systems.

I want to thank Representative HARPER for introducing H.R. 2853, the House companion bill to Senator WICKER's bill, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of that legislation.

I also want to thank Chairman UPTON, our Ranking Member PALLONE, Chairman SHIMKUS, and the Energy and Commerce staff for working with us on report language to clarify language in this bill so that we can indeed provide a wide range of technical assistance that would help small water systems, such as source water protection, system monitoring and efficiency, sustainability, and water security aspects.

Many small and rural communities, with populations of 10,000 or less, face challenges in maintaining and upgrading aging water infrastructure. The ratepayer base for these small systems simply does not provide a sufficient operating budget to support full-time technical positions.

Source water quality problems, resulting in system shutdowns and expensive treatment processes, are an increasing problem for far too many public water systems due to inadequate attention to nonpoint source pollution.

In other areas, drought has affected both water quality and quantity, challenging the ability of water utilities to meet their basic service obligations.

Technical assistance for small systems is essential to finding the most cost-effective solutions to these problems. I know that the Circuit Rider program in New York serves many small public water systems and provides essential technical support to small system operators.

S. 611 would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million annually, from 2016 to 2020, for the Environmental Protection Agency's program that provides technical assistance to these given systems.

The previous authorization for this program expired back in 2003. It has been nearly 20 years since we last authorized this program, along with the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, the SRF, the primary source of Federal funding for water infrastructure.

The Drinking Water SRF's authorization also expired in 2003. It too needs to be reauthorized and at a higher level than was provided in 2003 to support all

systems, small and large, to make the necessary repairs and the necessary upgrades.

□ 1615

Across our country, we experience over 700 water main breaks per day—700 per day—breaks that result in losses of treated water, not just water that is lost in those breaks, but consumer tax dollars and rate dollars, and with a growing backlog of drinking water infrastructure needs, estimated at \$384.2 billion over the next 20 years in the EPA's fifth national assessment of public water system infrastructure needs. That indeed is staggering.

It is clear we should be doing much more to assist our States and water utilities to reduce this backlog. Recently we came together to pass a bipartisan, long-term surface transportation bill. It had the overwhelming bipartisan support of this House.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that our roads and bridges are in desperate need of investment. But we cannot forget about the hidden infrastructure, the critical, unseen, out-of-sight and out-of-mind infrastructure that we rely upon to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water. We have neglected this essential infrastructure for far too long already. It, too, needs more Federal funding and a long-term reauthorization.

Infrastructure does not repair itself. It does not improve with age. Our inaction is only adding to the expenses of State and local governments and forcing increases in water utility rates for given consumers.

Mr. Speaker, S. 611 is a good bill and a good start. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, but I hope we use this opportunity as a challenge, as a challenge to recognize that this is just the beginning of the drinking water infrastructure issues that we face. We must come together to reauthorize the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, again I want to urge my colleagues to support this important measure, S. 611.

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot to be done on infrastructure, and safe drinking water is among those important things. My district is very large and rural, with 33 counties in southern Illinois. This bill will help.

We need to do what we can now, and hopefully this success, as my colleague Mr. TONKO has said, will help us build on future areas where we can work together. Mr. TONKO will continue to be a rabid dog on this issue, and I appreciate his commitment for further discussions.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 611.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STRENGTHENING STATE AND LOCAL CYBER CRIME FIGHTING ACT

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3490) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the National Computer Forensics Institute, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3490

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Strengthening State and Local Cyber Crime Fighting Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL COMPUTER FORENSICS INSTITUTE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 381 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 822. NATIONAL COMPUTER FORENSICS INSTITUTE.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Department a National Computer Forensics Institute (in this section referred to as the 'Institute'), to be operated by the United States Secret Service, for the dissemination of homeland security information related to the investigation and prevention of cyber and electronic crime and related threats to educate, train, and equip State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges.

"(b) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Institute shall include the following:

"(1) Educating State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges on current—

"(A) cyber and electronic crimes and related threats;

"(B) methods for investigating cyber and electronic crime and related threats and conducting computer and mobile device forensic examinations; and

"(C) prosecutorial and judicial challenges related to cyber and electronic crime and related threats, and computer and mobile device forensic examinations.

"(2) Training State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers to—

"(A) conduct cyber and electronic crime and related threat investigations;

"(B) conduct computer and mobile device forensic examinations; and

"(C) respond to network intrusion incidents.

"(3) Training State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges on methods to obtain, process, store, and admit digital evidence in court.

"(c) PRINCIPLES.—In carrying out the functions under subsection (b), the Institute shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that timely, actionable, and relevant expertise and homeland security information related to cyber and electronic crime and related threats is shared with State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges.

"(d) EQUIPMENT.—The Institute is authorized to provide State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges with computer equipment, hardware, software,