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

As we look at this particular piece of legislation, the real genesis of this came from very troubling testimony that a number of us on both sides of this aisle heard in hearing after hearing. It was not one agency. It has been a plethora of agencies that seem to have communication that is going on, Mr. Speaker, on a regular basis that is not being preserved.

Now, part of this is accountability: part of this is historical. Can you imagine what our Founding Fathers would do if they had communicated to one another and never preserved the letter or the communication that had taken place between them? What would our history be? It would be filled with a number of holes. So, from a historical perspective, we have the real duty to require it for our children and our grandchildren to understand what goes on in government.

But from an accountability standpoint, I think that is where most Americans are focusing these days, Mr. Speaker. They don’t understand why we continue to lose email after email, while there seems to be hard drive problems at the IRS that transcend all logical comprehension of why so many hard drives would have failed. I have a hard time understanding that as well.

Regardless of those issues, if we enact this particular bill—and I thank the ranking member from Maryland because he has, indeed, with his amendment made this bill better. It is stronger, and I thank him for his support. Because when we work together in a bipartisan way to make sure that these records are kept, it not only preserves it for historical purposes, but it starts to build back the foundation, block by block, layer by layer, where the American people can once again trust their government.

I think it is time, Mr. Speaker, that we take action and make it into law. So I encourage my colleagues to support this. I urge them to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill H.R. 5418 was passed.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome the introduction of this bill and I support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I think it is a good bill. It is a common-sense bill. It has broad support. I urge its support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) that the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5418.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) there being no objections to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) that the rules be suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR A RIGHT TO AN ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5419) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows: H.R. 5419

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

SECTION 1. IRS EMPLOYEES PROHIBITED FROM USING PERSONAL EMAIL ACCOUNTS FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

No officer or employee of the Internal Revenue Service may use a personal email account to conduct any official business of the Government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members