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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 4, 2015, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. Lead us this day in Your ways that our Nation might be guided along the roads of peace, justice, and goodwill.

Grant strength and wisdom to our Speaker and the Members of both the people's House and the Senate, to our President and his Cabinet, and to our Supreme Court.

We thank You for the inspiration granted to the Members of this House, who have worked long hours in recent days to produce legislation which has been debated vigorously. May all their efforts issue forth to the benefit of our Nation and its people.

Bless them with rest and re-creation as they return to their home districts. Bless also all our mothers whom we celebrate in a special way in another week's time.

May all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GUINTA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE REGULATORY INTEGRITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2015

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1732, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act of 2015, introduced by my friend and colleague, Chairman BILL SHUSTER.

Enacted in 1972, the Clean Water Act established a Federal-State partnership to protect our Nation's navigable waterways. The administration has maintained that the proposed Waters of the U.S. rule would have no impact on waters historically not under the Clean Water Act's jurisdiction and is needed simply to provide legal clarity.

While I agree that the boundaries of the Clean Water Act need to be better defined in statute, this proposal provides no such clarity or certainty, creating far more problems than it can solve. Conversely, rather than clarifying the law, the rule would actually create more confusion about where the law stops.

Back in March, the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, which I chair, held its second hearing to review the proposed rule and its impact on rural America. The various witnesses spoke loud and clear that the rule would have far-reaching and unprecedented impacts on permitting costs and regulatory uncertainty for land use activities, such as agriculture and forestry.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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With the significant challenges already before farmers, ranchers, foresters, and landowners, there is too much on the line to continue down the path of nonsensical overregulation. The Corps of Engineers and the EPA must withdraw this rule, and go back to the drawing board.

HOLD THE VOTE

(Mr. HECK of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, next week we will be out of session and back in our districts, and many of us will be visiting small businesses, appropriately because it is National Small Business Week. We should visit small businesses; we should, frankly, whenever we are home.

Meanwhile, only 25 legislative days remain before a tool used and cherished by America's small businesses disappears. Only 25 more legislative days before this business tool for small businesses vanishes altogether. Only 25 more legislative days, and the Export-Import Bank will shut its doors to our Nation's small businesses unless we hold the vote.

Mr. Speaker, hold the vote. Hold the vote today. Hold the vote if you champion America's small businesses succeeding in global competition. The votes are here. Mr. Speaker, hold the vote.

HELPING GRANITE STATE FISHERMEN

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of New Hampshire's most historically important enterprise: our fishing industry. For nearly 400 years, our fishermen have provided the Granite State with a steady source of jobs and revenue. Their passion and livelihood is woven into the fabric of New England's rich heritage.

Today our fishermen face a host of challenges, most of which are due to the heavy hand of government intervention and regulation. Our government must help—not hinder—our State's fishermen.

That is why this week I join my colleague, Congressman BILL KEATING, from Cape Cod, to introduce H.R. 2106, a bipartisan bill to redirect more than \$100 million in existing funds to programs of crucial importance to our fisheries, our fishermen, and the region at large.

Granite State fishermen deserve the resources and tools necessary to assist with their jobs, cope with government mandates, and increase their ability to put food on the table for millions of Americans around the United States. This bipartisan legislation represents one step we can take to ensure this industry that is so important to the his-

tory of our State and our region and our country can last for another 400 years.

RECOGNIZING 2015 AS THE YEAR OF THE MILITARY DIVER

(Ms. GRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize 2015 as the Year of the Military Diver, to honor the hard work and sacrifice of divers from all of our Nation's service branches.

Within north Florida's Second Congressional District is Naval Support Activity Panama City, the home of military diving in the United States. Today, led by Commanding Officer Hung Cao, the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center at NSA PC is training the world's most advanced divers. I have seen firsthand how hard the men and women of our Armed Forces train at the diving center to keep our Nation safe, and today I would like to thank them for their service and officially recognize 2015 as the Year of the Military Diver.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the further consideration of H.R. 2028.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 223 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2028.

Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) kindly take the chair.

□ 0910

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, with Mr. POE of Texas (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on an amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) had been postponed, and the bill had been read through page 57, line 11.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DUNCAN OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ For an additional amount for "Corps of Engineers—Civil—Department of the Army—Investigations", there is hereby appropriated, and the amount otherwise provided by this Act for "Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Departmental Administration" is hereby reduced by, \$2,500,000.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from South Carolina and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, before I start, I just want to thank the gentleman from Idaho, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies appropriations for all his exemplary work on this and allowing the open process to actually work. I know that my colleagues that have offered amendments appreciate the time that they have been able to do that, and I want to thank him for that.

Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. This amendment takes dollars out of the bureaucracy in Washington, D.C., and puts it to work for the American people, helping ports and harbors like the Charleston Port in my home State of South Carolina do the important work necessary to begin the deepening of those harbors.

Last month, I had the pleasure of visiting the Panama Canal when I led a House delegation to the Summit of the Americas. The lock and dam system in that canal is being upgraded, and it was very interesting to see the work that they are doing there. Once that work is complete, larger ships will be able to come through the canal and deliver goods to and from Atlantic and Gulf ports along the eastern seaboard. This will be one of the key economic drivers in the 21st century.

If America is going to compete on the global stage, we need to be ready for this transformation. My amendment seeks to speed that readiness, helping to transform critical ports like Charleston's to the depth that will allow these bigger ships to navigate those harbors more often.

This amendment is about this House setting our government's spending priorities, just like every family does at home. We are rapidly approaching a \$20 trillion debt, and we have a moral responsibility to use every tax dollar wisely.

I am grateful that my colleagues on the Committee on Appropriations were able to negotiate this amendment to