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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KELLY of Mississippi).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 1, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TRENT KELLY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I participated in a forum hosted by a Foundation created in the 1980s by Congress: the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, or NFWF. The forum was on the connection between agriculture and the Chesapeake Bay.

The health of the bay is important in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional

District, which I represent, since the streams and rivers in a large portion of the district drain into it. This is also a region which depends on agriculture, the Commonwealth's largest industry.

Among the topics of discussion at the forum were the Chesapeake Stewardship grants, which are funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and administered by the NFWF. This funding goes toward the restoration of streams which flow into the bay and to those that cut down on nutrient and sediment pollution.

This fall, I joined the NFWF in touring several sites across Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, which were all funded by these grant programs. These sites show the direct connection between agriculture and the health of the Chesapeake Bay, with all of them located on farmland. The projects range from those which keep animal waste out of waterways to flood control and stream bank restoration, all of which improve the overall health of local streams, local watersheds, and, ultimately, the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

As chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, as well as a member of the House National Resource Committee, the health of our watersheds is critically important. Healthy watersheds are needed for the sustainability of both agriculture and the land.

As I explained during the forum, the commitment to agriculture and healthy watersheds continues through passage last year of a 5-year farm bill and the various conservation programs contained within title II of that bill.

The tour of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation watershed projects, along with this recent forum, gave me the opportunity to hear firsthand from farmers, agricultural leaders, and those involved in the restoration of streams and rivers on what can be done here in Washington to help im-

prove the quality of water in our local rivers, streams, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and the bay itself. I look forward to working with the agriculture community and many conservationists as we prepare for the next reauthorization of the farm bill.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the eyes of the world are on Paris as it recovers from one tragedy and when 150 world leaders gather to prevent another. They meet to secure a global agreement on climate change.

Reliance on fossil fuels, especially coal, and wasteful, expensive energy consumption shortchanges today's priorities and threatens our future. Ten years from now, even many of the current climate skeptics will wonder, "What were we thinking?"

The scientific evidence and the overwhelming consensus it has created is clear. The immediate impacts of record temperatures, erratic, very dangerous weather patterns, ocean acidification, drought, disease, social disruption, and wildfires have predictable impacts that have already cost us dearly, with many more severe problems on the horizon.

It is sad that what should be a straightforward, scientific conclusion has become so emotionally charged and politically volatile. It is embarrassing and ironic that in the middle of this historic event on climate change, as the world consensus is strengthening and moving toward action, the best that our Republican Congress can do is voting on two pieces of legislation that would undo much of the progress we have already made.

The Republican leader in the Senate argues that the carbon rule of the administration is a vast overreach and

□ 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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