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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. WEBSTER of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 13, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL WEBSTER 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 5, 2016, 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.

THE STATISTICS ARE DEVASTATING

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, last month the Nation watched as our friends in Louisiana were inundated by record rainfall and unprecedented flooding. More than 7 trillion gallons of water fell in Louisiana and Mississippi over 8 days. Thirteen lives have been lost. More than 7,000 people were forced into 37 shelters across Louisiana. There has been an estimated \$110 million in agricultural losses, and 40,000 homes have been damaged.

Just a few weeks before the devastating floods in the South, in Ellicott City, Maryland, not too far away from here, nearly 6 inches of rain fell in less than 2 hours, resulting in a torrential flood, the likes of which NOAA has told us happens just once every 1,000 years. Officials say that 90 businesses and 107 homes were damaged and that infrastructure repairs are estimated to cost at least \$22 million.

These statistics are devastating, and, if we fail to better prepare ourselves for the severe impacts of manmade climate change, we will only see more disasters like this.

First responders and emergency professionals deserve our utmost praise and admiration, as do the kind citizens on the streets who help their neighbors escape the rushing waters, and the people all over the country who contribute what they can to help put broken cities back together. But we must stop putting our heroes in harm's way.

The science is clear, it is conclusive, and it is settled: these natural disasters aren't all natural. It is imperative that we work to limit our impact on the climate, but we must also prepare for the climate impacts that are now inevitable. Prioritizing disaster preparedness by being thoughtful about where and how we construct homes, businesses, and other vital infrastructure will save lives, will save homes, and will save money.

Devastating weather events are occurring with greater frequency than ever before. Today, the Northeast, Midwest, and upper Great Plains regions see 30 percent more heavy rainfall than they did in the first half of the 20th century, and manmade climate change is already impacting the lives of every single American.

Even if you are not one of the millions who have suffered from extreme heat, widespread drought, or catastrophic flooding, your tax dollars have gone to help those who have. Acting

before disasters strike is the only way to reduce the strain on local, State, and Federal emergency response systems, especially as they gear up to handle the predictable and unpredictable changes that climate change will bring.

I am proud to say that my hometown of Chicago is among the 20 percent of global cities that have an adaptation plan to deal with the increased heat, urban flooding, and severe storms that climate change will bring. But it is vital that cities and towns across America also prepare. Responding to climate change demands urgent and decisive action.

This is not a coastal issue, and it is not a partisan issue. Rising seas and severe storms don't care if you are a Democrat or a Republican. All Americans are in this together, and all Americans—including Members of Congress—must be prepared to deal with climate impacts such as severe flooding. Together we must act to hasten the transition to a low-carbon future that protects our communities from the impacts of climate change. The costs of not doing so, in lives, in trillions of dollars, and in changes to our way of life, are too great.

IRAN HAS NOT CHANGED ITS STRIPES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, since July 14, 2015, the Iranian regime has conducted four ballistic missile tests with not-so-subtle warnings to our ally and our best friend, the democratic Jewish state of Israel, which its goal was to wipe Israel off the map.

Also, since that date, we have learned that there have been side agreements between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency, the

□ 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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