

THANKING SECRETARY PERDUE AND USDA'S
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Secretary Purdue and the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service for implementing a suspension of all imports of fresh beef from Brazil.

I would also like to thank my colleagues from across the aisle for joining together to back this crucial step to ensure the health and safety of American families.

Since March, the USDA has blocked 11 percent of fresh beef from Brazil due to safety concerns. As one of the world's leaders in beef production, the United States has the responsibility to set the highest possible standards for what we allow in our Nation's kitchens, grocery stores, and restaurants.

Brazil is an important trading partner, and we value our mutually beneficial relationships, but we cannot allow this substandard with potential health hazards of beef to enter our food supply.

I am encouraged by the Brazilian Government's commitment to fixing these issues, and I look forward to reestablishing relationships with the Brazilian beef market as soon as we can be assured that its qualities meet the high standards of the USDA.

REPUBLICAN PARTY FEVER HAS NOT BROKEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, in 2012, President Obama was speaking to some of his supporters in Minneapolis. They were eager to know how he was planning to make progress on key issues in his second term, given the uncompromising rabid opposition of the majority in this House.

Here is what President Obama said: "I believe that if we're successful in this election, when we're successful in this election, that the fever may break, because there's a tradition in the Republican Party of more common sense than that."

Five years later, I can say—we can all say—that the fever has not broken. The fever is running as hot as ever. The fever drove this House majority to threaten default on our Nation's debt, to shut down the Federal Government, to indulge racist birther conspiracies, to elevate the very champion of those conspiracies to the Presidency of the United States.

Ten years ago, I know Republican leaders could not imagine that kind of conspiracy would spread throughout the Republican Party rank and file, but it did and it has.

Five years ago, GOP leaders could not have imagined that their party would nominate Donald Trump and elect him to the Presidency, but they did.

One year ago, I know Republican leaders could not imagine that they would cover for the Trump campaign

and Trump administration's collusion with the Russian Government, but they have, and they are.

For far too long, Democrats have wanted to believe that the GOP would come to its senses. We wanted to believe that it was really just a fringe minority within the GOP that was the problem, that sober, sensible leaders like John Boehner and MITCH MCCONNELL wanted to do the right thing, but they couldn't because of the Tea Party. They couldn't unless we helped them.

And that is why Democrats bailed out Boehner time after time, jam after jam. Democrats have to stop deluding themselves. There is only one Republican Party, and it is the party of Trump.

It is the party whose Senate leader, MITCH MCCONNELL, blocked efforts by the Obama administration to stop Russian interference in the 2016 election. It is the party that every day looks the other way in the face of Trump's appeasement of Russia and fails to hold Trump accountable.

Last week, Congressman TED LIEU and I introduced two amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act that the House is debating currently on the floor.

The first would endorse the intelligence community's assessment regarding the Russian's meddling in our 2016 election. This is critical because Donald Trump has repeatedly cast doubt, as recently as yesterday, on the report that despite unanimous agreement from all of our intelligence agencies, that indeed there was collusion, that indeed there was interference by Russians.

The second amendment would block an outrageous Trump administration initiative to create a new cybersecurity partnership with the Russian Government. Trump's plan would let the fox into the henhouse and pave the way for more election interference in our upcoming elections and others, all at the invitation of Donald Trump.

These would have been two sensible steps that the House of Representatives could have taken this week to counter interference in our elections, but last night, the GOP leadership, under Chairman SESSIONS and the House Rules Committee, blocked these amendments. They refused to give these amendments a chance to be debated and voted on the floor.

As more and more information comes out about Russia, Americans all over the country keep hoping that the GOP will do the right thing, that they will put country before party and hold Trump accountable, but they have not, and they will not.

Just this past week, Donald Trump, Jr., himself released emails that show unequivocally the Trump campaign's eagerness to collude with the Russian Government, but that hasn't changed a thing.

It hasn't stopped Speaker RYAN from blocking a Russian sanctions bill at the Trump administration's request. It

hasn't stopped Chairman SESSIONS and the Rules Committee from blocking my amendment to set the record straight on Russian interference and help prevent it in the future.

The truth is, they are all complicit. It is time to recognize the GOP majority is not the victim here. They aren't suffering from a fever that Democrats have to help fight.

It is the United States Congress, as a whole, that has a fever, and it is the GOP's grip on the majority that is the cause.

It is time for us to face reality. The problem isn't the Tea Party, it is the Republican Party.

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RECOGNIZING FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, for more than 70 years, the Fulbright program, established by Congress, has forged connections between Americans and emerging leaders around the world. The Fulbright program has provided more than 370,000 participants, chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential, with the opportunity to exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

Each year the Fulbright program grants students with the opportunity to study, research, or teach English abroad in an effort to internationalize communities and campuses around the world.

I rise today to recognize the prestigious accomplishment of students from my district who received Fulbright scholarships for the 2016-2017 grant year.

Our proud congratulations to:

Kimberly Algeo of Newtown, a scholar in anthropology from Rider University, for her work in Japan;

Elizabeth Beavers of Yardley, a student from the University of Maryland, College Park, on an English teaching assistantship in South Korea;

Hunter Gabbard of Doylestown, a student in physics from the University of Mississippi, for his work in Germany;

Michael Galperin of Warminster, a student from Lafayette College, on an English teaching assistantship in South Korea;

William Lescas of Churchville, a student in political science from the University of Delaware, for his work in Denmark;

Ivan Simpson-Kent of Levittown, a student in biology from the University of Scranton, for his work in Germany;

And Dr. Paul Swann of Doylestown, a scholar in communications from Temple University, for his work in South Korea.

On behalf of the Eighth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, to all