

NELSON MANDELA
INTERNATIONAL DAY

(Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to join millions of people around the world to honor the life and legacy of South African President Nelson Mandela on Nelson Mandela International Day. I submitted comments for the RECORD this morning, but I would like to highlight a few key points.

In his 95 years of life, President Mandela was a transformative leader who forever changed the world through his steadfast dedication to freedom, equality, and human rights.

After spending 27 years in prison, Nelson Mandela became the first Black South African to be elected President and used his administration to dismantle apartheid, combat institutional racism, and begin the process of racial reconciliation in his country.

To me, however, Nelson Mandela was more than a world-renowned leader. I had the distinct honor and privilege of calling him a friend. His courageous leadership in the antiapartheid movement encouraged me to join in the fight, which, to this day, is one of the most defining moments of my life.

We will forever be indebted to Nelson Mandela, who taught the world the power of one man having the fortitude to sacrifice his own ideals for a cause greater than himself.

RECOGNIZING WORLD YOUTH
SKILLS DAY

(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, Saturday marked World Youth Skills Day. The United Nations General Assembly started this initiative to raise awareness about the importance of investing in youth skills development.

Young people are almost three times more likely to be unemployed than adults. Young people around the world are exposed to lower quality jobs, greater labor market inequities, and a longer school-to-work transition period.

That is why I am pleased this House voted in favor of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act last month. Too often we have seen students pushed down the college-for-all pathway that just doesn't work for some students.

CTE has established itself as a path that many students choose in pursuit of industry certifications and hands-on skills they can use right out of high school in skills-based education programs or in college.

By modernizing the Federal investment in CTE programs, we will be able

to connect more educators with industry stakeholders and close the skills gap.

On World Youth Skills Day, I encourage everyone to consider a career in technical education.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE
MIECHV PROGRAM

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, Federal funding for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program is set to expire September 30. This program in the Virgin Islands Department of Health gives at-risk pregnant women and families necessary information, resources, and skills to raise children who are physically, socially, and emotionally healthy and ready to learn.

In June, Republicans in the House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee introduced a bill reauthorizing this program. The legislation, which has yet to receive a hearing, included a 5-year reauthorization, but did not expand funding to meet the growing needs for services. It also included serious modifications to the way the program is run, which advocates fear could have harmful unintended consequences.

Home visiting programs are a critical opportunity to reach at-risk pregnant women and new mothers. The first few years of life are the most rapid period of brain development, and home visiting programs provide support to vulnerable families in the earliest stages of their child's life. Home visiting programs establish a solid foundation by partnering with families to support maternal and newborn health and parent engagement.

I would like to express my support for the reauthorization and expansion of this program, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

SOLAR ECLIPSE IN HOPKINSVILLE,
KENTUCKY

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a spectacular event that will take place in Hopkinsville, Kentucky this coming August. A solar eclipse will occur on August 21, 2017, the first to traverse coast to coast in the United States in nearly a century. The last time a solar eclipse was in the United States was in 1918. It will not be until 2045 that we witness a similar event.

Hopkinsville is one location in the U.S. fortunate enough to have a position in the direct path of the shadow cast by the eclipse of the Sun. The historic city of Hopkinsville is expecting a huge turnout for this event, as many consider Hopkinsville the "point of

greatest eclipse" for this August lunar display.

August 18 to 20 will be a weekend full of celebrations surrounding this rare and memorable experience, including live music, food vendors, and activities for all ages. I thank the many people who have contributed to the promotion of this event in Hopkinsville, and I look forward to a festive weekend in the First District of Kentucky to celebrate the much anticipated solar eclipse.

STANDING UP FOR THE DACA
PROGRAM

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, Colorado is home to 17,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, recipients. This program is an essential help in our dysfunctional immigration system. It allows young people who only know the U.S. as home to legally reside and work here.

Through my congressional service, I have been moved by the stories of DACA recipients who have bravely spoken up for their communities and only want to positively contribute to our country, young people like Brayan.

Brayan is a business marketing and finance major at Colorado State University, in my district. He moved here with his family at a young age. He was only 3. He doesn't even remember making the trek from Chihuahua, Mexico, to Colorado. He grew up here, attended elementary and high school here. He didn't even know he was undocumented until he was in eighth grade.

DACA has allowed Brayan to come out of the shadows and live with a sense of security rather than anxiety and fear. In Brayan's words, DACA has put hope in the hearts of the forgotten.

What I want Brayan and others like him to know is: You are not forgotten, not by me, not by those of us in the community who know you and love you.

I stand by Brayan's side, and I will fight to ensure that the DACA program is continued for the 17,000 recipients in Colorado and 800,000 nationwide. The bottom line is that Brayan and others like him belong here.

PRO-GROWTH TAX REFORM FOR
SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the need for pro-growth tax reform for small businesses in America.

Last week, I was on Main Street in Grapevine, Texas, surrounded by local businesses that were started in pursuit of the American Dream. These businesses are opened by hardworking people trying to give their families a better life and create jobs in north Texas and the communities that I represent.

Washington's Tax Code is too big and too complicated for American small businesses to grow and to be the job creation engine for future generations. We need pro-growth tax reform that lowers the rates for local businesses and simplifies the code for families. Main streets across America are counting on us to do that.

NEGATIVE IMPACT OF MEDIA

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a new survey by the Pew Research Center found that an astounding two-thirds of Americans say the news media has a negative impact on our Nation. What a comment on the media.

The survey asked participants whether a variety of institutions are having a positive or negative effect on the way things are going in this country today. The rating the media received was the lowest of all institutions.

Another public opinion poll by Gallup showed the media's credibility has reached a record low. This is not much of a surprise, given the media's constant barrage of personal attacks and negative news coverage. The American people deserve better than a biased media.

For the sake of our country, our democracy, and the credibility of the media itself, let's hope they report the news more fairly and objectively in the future.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 18, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 18, 2017, at 9:19 a.m.:

Appointments:
Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission.
With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 806, OZONE STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 2017

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 451 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 451

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant

to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 806) to facilitate efficient State implementation of ground-level ozone standards, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115-26. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

□ 1230

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 451 provides for a structured rule to consider a bill out of the Energy and Commerce Committee pertaining to the Environmental Protection Agency's ozone standards. The

rule provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided between the majority and the minority on the Energy and Commerce Committee. The rule further makes in order six Democratic amendments for consideration. Finally, the minority is afforded the customary motion to recommit.

Under the Clean Air Act's National Ambient Air Quality Standards program, the EPA is tasked with setting standards and regulations for certain defined pollutants, including ground-level ozone, commonly referred to as smog. The Environmental Protection Agency has set these standards and adjusted when necessary in 1971, 1979, 1997, and 2008.

Since 1980, ozone levels have declined by 33 percent, according to the EPA, thanks in large part to diligent State oversight of industries and planning, along with weather patterns and outside temperatures, which all contribute to ozone levels.

Ozone has been a particular issue in the north Texas area that I represent, where hot summer days and prevailing southerly breezes cause air quality issues that affect outdoor activities and may create health concerns.

In 2015, the EPA proposed changing the 2008 ozone standards that had not yet been fully implemented, despite nearly 700 national, State, and local organizations and stakeholders requesting that the EPA allow the 2008 standards to be adopted before moving the goalposts on these regulated parties. In fact, the EPA did not publish its implementation regulations for the 2008 standards until March of 2015, nearly 7 years after the standards had been issued, and then promptly that same year decided to change the rules entirely.

The EPA ignored the request from stakeholders and moved ahead with lowering the ozone standard, manipulating scientific findings in order to justify the move. In fact, nearly two-thirds of the so-called benefits that the EPA claimed would result from this new standard are not based on ozone reductions at all, but instead on reductions from an entirely different pollutant regulated under a different set of rules.

H.R. 806, the Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2017, is an important step toward focusing the EPA's efforts at science-based regulating of the environment and a rejection of the politically motivated actions of the previous 8 years.

The legislation phases in implementation of the 2008 and 2015 ozone standards, extending the date for final designation for the 2015 standard to 2025, aligning the permitting requirements of the Clean Air Act with the implementation schedule set by the EPA. This allows for a thoughtful and methodical implementation process to proceed at the State level to address the varied needs and nuances that exist in the States based upon industry and based upon weather patterns.