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No. 14

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DELBENE).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 23, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SUZAN K. DELBENE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, 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. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

### SUPPORT THE OIL REGION NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA REAUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, northwest Pennsylvania has a rich history and a vibrant, diverse economy. Its winding trails, beautiful landscapes, recreational experiences, and thriving communities make Venango and Crawford Counties especially captivating places to live, to

work, and to visit. Many of these attractions are centered around the same central common theme: the world's first commercial oil well.

Colonel Drake successfully drilled this well in 1859, triggering the first oil boom and establishing the Oil Region as "the valley that changed the world." His efforts not only made northwest Pennsylvania the energy powerhouse that it is today, but also sparked a cultural revolution that came as a result of a booming economy.

We are tremendously proud of our history and heritage in northwest Pennsylvania. We still celebrate these historic communities that bloomed from Colonel Drake's innovative idea, and Drake Well continues to have a tangible impact on the area's economy.

In 2004, Congress designated the region as a national heritage area. There are only 49 of these areas across the country that are designated as places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive nationally important landscape.

The Oil Region national heritage area was the Nation's 25th national heritage area, and it celebrates the birth of the petroleum industry. The region is honored to have this important designation, but without action, it will sunset next year. That is why I have introduced H.R. 642, the Oil Region National Heritage Area Reauthorization Act.

The heritage area's coordinating entity, the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry, and Tourism, has taken a grassroots, community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development. Through public-private partnerships, national heritage area entities support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects. These partnerships foster pride of place and an enduring stewardship ethic.

The Oil Region Alliance focuses on heritage development, economic development, and tourism destination marketing. All three of these areas have been successful, and from 2005 to 2015, ORA has been able to invest more than \$6.8 million in heritage development projects, invest more than \$6.7 million in economic development activities, and attract nearly 240,000 visitors, annually. They have done an excellent job using innovative methods to stimulate the local economy, using a mixture of both Federal and private funds.

Last year, Congressman MIKE KELLY and I visited the home of the legendary investigative journalist Ida Tarbell. Born in Pennsylvania at the onset of the oil boom, Tarbell is best known for her 1904 book, "The History of the Standard Oil Company."

The ORA had recently completed a full restoration of Ms. Tarbell's home, ensuring that it would be preserved for generations to come. This restoration was just one of many projects the ORA is working on, and my bill will allow these projects to continue through 2026.

Extending this funding is crucial for the ORA to continue its mission of preserving the Oil Region's history, stimulating the local economy, and allowing others to appreciate the beauty and culture of Venango and Crawford Counties.

The ORA's efforts give us the ability to appreciate the rich history of northwestern Pennsylvania and understand the impact that our community has had on American culture today. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation, which will directly impact northwestern Pennsylvanians and preserve a rich heritage for all Americans.

### STATIC WALLS DON'T WORK

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

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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