

will not stop fighting for them. A majority of Americans want legal protection for Dreamers. Congress must listen, and Congress must act. Hopefully, we will do that today.

So, Mr. Speaker, I stand here and say to my colleagues: Vote “yes” to pass the American Dream and Promise Act. It is the moral and right thing to do, and therefore we must do it now.

ARKANSAS FLOODING

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the flooding back in my home State of Arkansas and the need for prioritized spending and more Federal investment in waterway infrastructure.

While national media attention is largely focused elsewhere, the Arkansas River has swollen to historic levels, flooding homes and businesses, breaching levees, and devastating farmland.

President Trump issued an emergency declaration last week allowing FEMA to provide immediate relief to 16 counties most severely affected. This Federal aid is extremely valuable as communities work tirelessly to save businesses and homes.

Arkansas is not alone in experiencing flooding. Our neighbors in Oklahoma, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Missouri, as well as South Dakota, Iowa, and Kansas have all been affected by flooding this year.

These disasters beg the question: What can Congress do to prevent future flooding?

More specifically, how can we improve infrastructure within our States to reduce the risk of dam and levee breaches?

As ranking member on the Transportation and Infrastructure’s Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, I hope to add insight into that very question.

Waterways tend to be out of sight and out of mind, but widespread flooding has made navigable rivers impossible to ignore. In Arkansas alone we have seen an estimated \$23 million in daily economic loss along the Arkansas River. When barges and boats can no longer navigate inland waterways, the entire State and surrounding areas suffer.

Much of the infrastructure along these rivers was initially installed in the 1960s and 1970s and is now reaching the end of its shelf life. A backlog of maintenance projects compounds the issues, and we can’t just keep putting temporary patches on systemic problems.

For example, I recently cosponsored bipartisan legislation that would unlock billions of dollars in already collected fees to maintain our Nation’s Federal ports and harbors. In many cases, we have the money for infrastructure projects, however, red tape

and bureaucracy slow down the process and prevent necessary work from occurring.

The irony of delaying projects on our navigable waterways is that these projects often have tremendous economic returns—as high as 10 to 1 and 16 to 1. It makes economic sense and it is common sense to invest in waterways and infrastructure.

Unprecedented flooding such as we are observing should serve as a chance for us to reexamine infrastructure to ensure it is updated and capable of protecting life and property.

No doubt, as flood waters recede in the coming days, Congress’ attention will turn elsewhere. But I urge my colleagues in both the House and the Senate to come together, address long-term projects that have been on the back burner for years, and keep WRDA on its 2-year schedule.

We can’t control the weather, but we can and should do better than accepting as the norm to have outdated and failing infrastructure, flooded homes, and washed out farmlands. The American people deserve better than this.

Before I close, I would be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge and thank the countless first responders and volunteers who have worked around the clock to fill sandbags, move livestock to higher ground, transport possessions from homes at risk of flooding, and rescue people trapped in moving floodwaters.

Governor Hutchinson, the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, the Arkansas National Guard, the Corps of Engineers, and many other State and local officials have led an efficient and organized response, and their swift action has certainly saved lives and property.

Arkansas doesn’t back down when challenged, and we persevere through the storms of life. I have heard so many stories of Arkansans rallying around one another in their time of need, and this gives me hope for the days ahead.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JAYAPAL) at noon.

PRAYER

Rabbi Lawrence R. Sernovitz, Nareshnu, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, benevolent, compassionate, and gracious; abundant in lov-

ing kindness and truth; forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin, be with us as we open this session of the United States House of Representatives. Guide these courageous individuals to create holy space where healthy debate is encouraged, and the dignity and autonomy of human beings is respected and loved.

Dear God, let us remember that the world is not complete. We are completing it. In our brokenness, give us hope. Let us build the world with love. May the angels around us open our hearts, lift our spirits, and give us the ability to see ourselves in the other. As our tradition teaches, love the stranger as yourself.

Dear God, bless these Representatives with enough foolishness to believe that they can make a difference in this world, that they can do what others claim cannot be done, bringing justice and kindness to our Earth, to our children, and to humanity. The whole world is a narrow bridge. The essence is not to be afraid.

And we say together, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WOODALL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING RABBI LAWRENCE R. SERNOVITZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to welcome to this Chamber my