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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. COSTA).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 10, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM COSTA 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.

RECOGNIZING PARK AND RECREATION MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize July as Park and Recreation Month. It is a fitting time to celebrate our Federal, State, and local parks and recreation systems because so many Americans will visit them this summer.

As a lifelong resident of rural Pennsylvania, an avid outdoorsman, and spending time in my career as a rec-

reational therapist, I strongly support our Nation's parks and recreation facilities.

Our parks provide countless recreational and educational opportunities for individuals and families to enjoy the outdoors. This month recognizes the important role these parks and public facilities play in the lives of Americans and the contributions of employees who work every day to maintain public parks across the Nation.

Our parks create opportunities for people to come together and experience a sense of community. They contribute to local economies by attracting businesses and jobs and increasing housing values.

In the United States, public park operations and capital spending generate nearly \$140 million in economic activity annually, and our National Park System receives an estimated 331 million recreation visits every year.

Ninety percent of people in the United States agree that public park recreation facilities and activities are important government services. This support spans across all people in the country regardless of race, income, or political affiliation. Nearly 75 percent of Americans agree it is important to ensure all members of their community have equitable access to public parks and recreation facilities.

The most economically sound areas are those with ample public park and recreation facilities and activities. A key factor in business expansion and location decisions is quality of life for employees, with a premium placed on adequate and accessible public parks and open space.

Mr. Speaker, public parks and recreational facilities foster a variety of activities that contribute to a healthier society. Americans living within a 10-minute walk of a park have higher levels of physical activity and lower rates of obesity. People who use

public parks and open spaces are three times more likely to achieve the recommended levels of physical activity than nonusers.

Recreational programs at public parks provide children with a safe place to play, access to healthy foods, opportunities to be physically active, and enrichment facilities that help prevent at-risk behavior such as drug use and gang involvement.

As we head further into summer, many Americans will visit public parks and recreation facilities to spend time outdoors with family, friends, and neighbors. We are blessed with beautiful outdoor facilities, and it is my hope that all Americans get out and enjoy the parks in their areas.

MINIMUM WAGE KILLS JOBS

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I rise to address a bill that my friends across the aisle, the Democrats, are going to bring to the floor next week raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

There was a score this week by the Congressional Budget Office that sheds truth and light on that proposal and what it does, and this government source has indicated it kills jobs. It harms Americans who are today struggling to make ends meet. The average family income will be reduced as a result of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated by the CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, that 3.7 million jobs will be lost and that 42 percent of families who are currently at the minimum wage will see a net reduction in their family income, taking many of them, maybe for the first time, down into a poverty level of income.

There is a better way, Mr. Speaker. In the past, this body passed the Career and Technical Education Reauthorization bill, the Perkins Act. I was proud to work with Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY from Illinois on that bill as we led it. President Trump signed that into law last July.

□ 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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