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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. POCAN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 29, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK POCAN 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.

THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

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 draw attention to an invasive pest that is wreaking havoc on farms and forests nationwide and is giving Pennsylvania agricultural producers a major headache. I am talking about the spotted lanternfly. This native Asian insect has been found in at least 14 different counties in Pennsylvania and has

spread to our neighbors in Maryland and New Jersey as well.

The spotted lanternfly feeds on sap, leaving all the plants that it touches weakened. The residue that the spotted lanternflies leave behind promotes mold growth which destroys many plants and crops. The spotted lanternfly has a diverse appetite, feeding on more than 70 different kinds of plants. From fruit trees to hardwoods and nursery industries, so many of the sectors of Pennsylvania's agricultural industry are subject to these pests.

In Pennsylvania alone, it is estimated \$18 billion in agriculture is at risk. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has issued a checklist that all residents should consult to check for spotted lanternfly egg masses. These things include camping equipment, firewood, outdoor children's toys, like playscapes and sandboxes, and more. By the end of the year, most adult spotted lanternflies will be dead. However, residents are encouraged to rid their property of any egg masses that they find by dowsing them in alcohol.

Thankfully, research is being done to look into the best ways to combat this pest and eradicate it from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture recently awarded the Pennsylvania State University a \$7.3 million grant to support a team of researchers from a variety of disciplines. It is a good investment if we can save \$18 billion worth of agriculture damage.

These funds will be combined with an additional \$5 million in investments from growers and landowners—private citizens who agreed to work with researchers on this project. Researchers and extension educators from Penn State will be joined by additional experts from the USDA Agricultural Research Service, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Vir-

ginia Tech, University of Delaware, the Universities of Rhode Island, Temple, Rutgers, Cornell, and the Northeastern IPM Center.

With continued education and research into this invasive pest, we can get closer to finding a solution to dealing with the spotted lanternfly and alleviating Pennsylvania's agricultural producers of this threat.

USMCA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my Democratic colleagues across the aisle to end their partisan impeachment inquiry and instead focus on an issue that will actually improve the lives of our constituents and supercharge the already roaring American economy; that is, bringing the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, the USMCA, to this floor for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, ratifying this landmark trade deal would generate a whole host of benefits, including growing the economy by tens of billions of dollars and supporting hundreds of thousands of American jobs and giving farmers more access to sell their products beyond our borders.

According to a recent report from the International Trade Commission, the USMCA would raise the United States' GDP by more than \$68 billion and create nearly 200,000 new jobs. The study also found that the USMCA would have a positive impact on trade by increasing U.S. exports and imports to Canada and Mexico by billions of dollars.

The benefits don't stop there. The agreement would benefit farmers across the country and in my district in North Carolina. Under the USMCA, U.S. dairy farmers would be able to more than triple their access to the Canadian dairy market. This would be a

□ 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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