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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. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 14, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR 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.

NAFTA ANNIVERSARY AND USMCA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this coming Sunday marks the 26th anniversary of the House of Representatives passing the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA.

This agreement with our two closest trading partners, Canada and Mexico, has become outdated as time has passed, markets have diversified, and

economies have flourished. We are in desperate need of updating NAFTA to meet modern-day economic demands.

I know many of us have staff who are younger than NAFTA, and we can all agree that the world has changed an awful lot in the last three decades. Congress needs to bring the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, or USMCA, to a vote immediately to keep trade free and fair. A vote on USMCA is long overdue.

It has been more than 400 days since President Trump announced this historic agreement, and Mexico and Canada have already given USMCA the green light. For farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and everyone in between, we must follow suit. So many different industries can benefit from a modern trade agreement.

In Pennsylvania, nearly 43,000 jobs depend on manufacturing exports to Canada and Mexico. Last year alone, Pennsylvania exported \$15 billion worth of products to Canada and Mexico.

There is no telling what economic potential lies ahead with a new revamped trade agreement.

In Pennsylvania, agriculture—and dairy, in particular—is the backbone of the Commonwealth's economy. USMCA's elimination of Canada's Class 6 and Class 7 dairy pricing programs would be a big win for dairy farm families. These programs have unfairly limited our export potential over the years.

The signing of USMCA into law will also signal to other major trade partners, like China and Japan, that we are serious about these kinds of deals and we are committed to a bright future for American exports.

There is no reason why we cannot pass USMCA before the end of the year. USMCA will create more jobs, boost wages, and spur the Nation's economy.

What are we waiting for? Each day that passes without a vote is a missed

opportunity. Let's get to work and hold a vote immediately.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we are involved in a very serious process to determine whether the President of the United States has committed high crimes and misdemeanors.

The Constitution provides for the removal of high officials who violate their oath of office, who violate the powers of their office, and who commit bribery or treason, or high crimes and misdemeanors.

In the course of that process, we have been involved with numerous people asking for the whistleblower to testify. I will not speak to the substance of the consideration that is ongoing with respect to the impeachment of the President of the United States, but I do want to speak pointedly to the calls from so many that the whistleblower be identified.

The whistleblower, of course, has no direct evidence to offer. What the whistleblower is is somebody who responded to "if you see something, say something."

We have witnesses to wrongdoing all over this country and all over the world, and our police departments have a line that is called an anonymous tip line so that somebody who sees something will say something. It is anonymous so that we do not intimidate those people or expose them to danger for coming forward to out criminal behavior.

The President of the United States has made an analogy to this information coming forward as the result of spying, treason, which, as we all know, according to the President, can subject someone to capital punishment.

Why do we have a whistleblower statute? We have a whistleblower statute,

□ 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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