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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, You answer us when we call. You extend to us Your mercies. Great is Your faithfulness. Stay close to our lawmakers, guiding them in these challenging times.

Lord, inspire them to put their total trust in You as they find joy in Your abiding presence. Deliver them from discouragement as they seek to exalt You by the way they live.

Lord, give them the wisdom to cultivate reverence for You and Your precepts.

We pray, in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING MAKE-A-WISH IOWA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last Saturday marked an incredible milestone for Make-a-Wish Iowa. At that event in Dubuque, this organization granted its 4,000th wish to Michael, age 15, from Oelwein, IA. He received a livestock trailer for transporting his show cattle.

Now, 4,000 wishes is an amazing achievement for Make-a-Wish, which is dedicated to bringing joy to critically ill young people in Iowa. The wishes

they grant make such an impact on the lives of these children.

I congratulate Make-a-Wish Iowa and their many volunteers for their accomplishments. I know they will continue to spread joy, kindness, and compassion for years to come.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ADVANCED GEOTHERMAL INNOVATION LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2019—
Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2657) to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Murkowski Modified amendment No. 1407, in the nature of a substitute.

Portman/Shahen amendment No. 1514 (to amendment No. 1407), to establish greater energy efficiency and cost-effectiveness in building codes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

AMENDMENT NO. 1525 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1514

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I call up an amendment numbered 1525 to Amendment No. 1514, as proposed by Senator PORTMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Hampshire [Mrs. SHAHEEN] proposes an amendment numbered 1525 to amendment No. 1514.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the authorization of appropriations for cost-effective codes implementation for efficiency and resilience)

On page 28, line 19, strike “2021” and insert “2020”.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the coronavirus continues to spread, with more than 500 confirmed cases in the United States in two-thirds of the 50 States. Given the inconsistency and delay in testing, we don't know if the number of confirmed cases actually reflects the number of actual cases in the United States.

We now know that when the coronavirus first appeared on our soil, the Centers for Disease Control produced kits that did not work properly and sent many of these tests to our hospitals and medical labs. The administration turned down tests from the World Health Organization, even though 60 countries accepted them, and we have no answer as to why.

It took weeks to get an accurate test out, and then it took weeks for the Federal Government to approve certain sites to run those tests, like the Northwell facility on Long Island that I recently visited. It took weeks to ramp up the number of Americans tested, and we are still far behind other countries like South Korea in the number and percentage of the population we are able to test for coronavirus.

The most powerful tool in responding to a virus is to know precisely where it is and how it is spreading, but because we don't have a complete handle on testing, many of our hospitals, doctors, researchers, and public health officials

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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