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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. WOODALL).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 28, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROB WOODALL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, 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, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

SUPPORTING RECLAIM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, coal communities in my district and across America and across Appalachia are struggling. The war on coal has decimated many small towns and left thousands of hardworking coal miners without jobs.

Help is on the way—the RECLAIM Act, introduced by Congressman HAL ROGERS. I am proud to be a sponsor with him.

The RECLAIM Act will send \$1 billion in Federal funds to Appalachia to revitalize and diversify coal communities and to create new jobs. For West Virginia, that means nearly \$200 million over 5 years to invest in our coalfields. This money will allow us to redevelop abandoned mine lands, bring new companies and industries to West Virginia, and provide more jobs for our people.

Now, the RECLAIM Act doesn't mean we are giving up on coal. Far from it. Coal is our heritage and must play an important part in our State's future. But while we are bringing back our coal jobs, we must also look at how we can redevelop these former mine sites.

Many of these sites are currently sitting vacant, and our towns and counties just don't have the funds to redevelop these sites so that their job-creating potential can be unleashed. The RECLAIM Act will prioritize hard hit States like West Virginia and help employ hundreds of laid-off West Virginians to prepare these sites for new developments and new industries.

In addition, once these sites are open for business, new employers will create hundreds, if not thousands, of good-paying jobs. The RECLAIM Act can be and should be part of the solution to revitalize our coal fields.

I want to say thank you to Leader MCCONNELL and Senator CAPITO in the Senate for their leadership on this measure as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in both the House and the Senate to join us in supporting this important legislation and helping Appalachia.

SNAP-ED HELPS LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight a pro-

gram that helps low-income families lead healthier lives through education.

SNAP-Ed works to help individuals who benefit from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP. It aims to help people make healthy choices within a limited budget and choose active lifestyles consistent with the current dietary guidelines for Americans.

As chairman of the Agriculture Committee's Nutrition Subcommittee, we have been examining SNAP and how we can improve it in the next farm bill. SNAP-Ed is an important part of this, and the results show that it works.

In my home State of Pennsylvania, 17 percent of people are living below the poverty line; 1.8 million Pennsylvanians are eligible for SNAP; 85 percent of Pennsylvania adults do not eat the recommended daily amounts of fruits and vegetables; and 14 percent of Pennsylvanians are food insecure, meaning they lack reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

Mr. Speaker, SNAP-Ed helps low-income families stretch tight budgets and bring home healthy foods from the grocery store. It teaches low-income families how to prepare nutritious meals.

SNAP-Ed is a \$400 million program awarded through Federal grants to State agencies. SNAP-Ed has the flexibility to work in schools, grocery stores, parks, even public gyms. SNAP-Ed offers many different forms of direct education and takes community input into consideration when developing education programs.

Another food education program authorized through the farm bill is the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program. This program is an approximately \$68 million initiative operated through the Cooperative Extension Service of land grant universities. It delivers direct education via peer educators in a series of interactive hands-on lessons to improve four core

☐ 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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