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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. LAMALFA).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 26, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG LAMALFA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2025, 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 time equally allocated between the parties 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.

PROTECTING AGRICULTURE, THE BACKBONE OF DELAWARE'S ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Delaware (Ms. McBRIDE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. McBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, last week, when the House was out of session and I was in the greatest State in the Union, Delaware, I met with a family farmer in Sussex County who continues to farm the same land that her family has farmed for more than a century. We discussed the fear and unpredictability that is plaguing farmers in

Delaware and across the country right now, farmers who, since the New Deal, have been able to rely on the Federal Government as partners in their effort to produce the food that feeds our families, our neighbors, our Nation, and the world.

Agriculture is the backbone of Delaware's economy. From poultry farms to vegetable growers to grain producers, Delaware farmers feed families here at home and around the globe and contribute to an industry that supports thousands of jobs in Delaware.

Unfortunately, since taking office, the Trump administration has broken their promises to our families and breached the trust with our farmers.

In week one, this administration illegally froze funding from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, including vital resources that run through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. They have frozen programs that purchase products from Delaware farmers.

As I stand here today, the Federal Government is withholding nearly \$10 million owed to Delaware farmers to improve their infrastructure and lower their energy bills.

At the heart of Delaware's agriculture industry are chickens. We have roughly 200 chickens per person in Delaware, and while Delaware doesn't have a ton of people, that is a lot of chickens.

The rising crisis of bird flu poses a massive risk to Delaware farmers. It is a real and present danger to our food supply and to the livelihoods of poultry farmers across my State and across the country.

Dangerously, this administration halted bird flu monitoring in nearly 50 countries and imposed a gag order on Federal health agencies, limiting vital communication and collaboration with farmers. If that weren't bad enough, the very people we rely on to protect

our ag industry and combat the spread of bird flu have been fired from the USDA.

This chaos is only worsening the risk of disease spread and threatening a hallmark industry in Delaware.

All of this has resulted in higher costs for farmers and higher prices at grocery stores for Americans. Instead of lowering the cost of eggs, they are actively making them more expensive.

Anyone who knows a thing or two about agriculture and farming knows this: Farmers operate on thin margins. They depend on Federal partners to provide stability in a volatile market.

Right now, with a Federal funding freeze, that support is vanishing when they need it the most. How are farmers supposed to plan for the next season when the Federal Government is pulling the rug out from under them?

I don't care who you voted for in the last election. In fact, I made a commitment to serve all Delawareans—Democrats, Independents, and Republicans. My job, and the job of this great Chamber, is to serve and respect every American. That includes the farmers who feed our Nation.

I will stand here in opposition to any executive or legislative action that puts our farmers at risk because when we fail farmers, we fail all Americans.

AMERICANS DESERVE FACTS, NOT FEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NORMAN). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, let's be very clear about something. Last night, the House budget resolution passed, unfortunately on a very partisan, party-line vote, but indeed it did pass.

One thing it does not do is cut Medicaid. It is right here in this document. There is no mention of cutting Medicaid or even the words "Medicaid,"

□ 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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