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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RAHALL).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 26, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NICK J. RAHALL II 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 6, 2009, 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 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

H.R. 3202, THE WATER PROTECTION AND REINVESTMENT ACT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The United States is facing a challenge today in terms of fraying infrastructure from coast to coast. The need to rebuild and renew America has never been more critical; not only to strengthen our economy, to protect our health, to reduce global warming, it's important for our national and international competitiveness.

Mr. Speaker, nowhere is this more important than dealing with long-neglected water infrastructure, because as bad as things are on the surface with problems with our electrical grid, crumbling roads and bridges in poor repair, what is under the surface is an even worse condition. We have 72,000 miles of sewer pipe and water main that are over 80 years of age. Every year there are almost a quarter million water main breaks which cause everything from traffic jams to supply disruptions. Who can forget a few months ago when a main broke on River Road here in metropolitan Washington and they had to send in a helicopter to rescue a stranded motorist?

Water infrastructure problems result in 1.3 million cases of waterborne disease each year, while sewer overflows during rainstorms send raw sewage into our oceans, our bays and our rivers, resulting in an estimated 1.8 to 3.5 million illnesses. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that there is a \$534 billion gap between our current water investment and the projected needs over the next 20 years, just for water and wastewater.

To deal with that, Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the Water Protection and Reinvestment Act, H.R. 3202. At a time of economic problems for our country, this bill will create between 200,000 and 267,000 new jobs in engineering, construction and related industries. The bill is deficit neutral, attaching small fees to those activities and industries that benefit from clean water or who complicate our need to purify water. It will raise \$10 billion in a deficit neutral way.

Because of the need and because of the focused solution of this legislation, H.R. 3202 is supported by a broad cross-section of stakeholders. There are already 19 bipartisan Members of Congress who have signed on, but we have the Associated General Contractors, the American Society of Civil Engi-

neers, the International Union of Operating Engineers, the National Utility Contractors Association as just some in the private sector. We have water utilities and government officials, from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, the American Public Works Association, the Association of Floodplain Managers. And we have public interest groups, like American Rivers, the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, the Clean Water Network and the Alliance for Water Efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, by providing this funding through existing State revolving funds, money will be equitably distributed to all States. We have special provisions to ensure that small rural communities and large urban areas get funding specific to their needs. We can't afford to leave anyone or any community out.

I strongly urge my colleagues to reflect on what we have here in our community in Washington, D.C., and back home in our own districts. Too many of these systems rely on brick and water sewers that date back decades; in some cases centuries. The economy cannot stand it, the health of our communities cannot put up with this neglect, and frankly the pressure on local taxpayers and ratepayers is such that they need and deserve our help.

I strongly urge that my colleagues who haven't yet examined this legislation do so, and that they join the bipartisan support for H.R. 3202, the Water Protection and Reinvestment Act.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 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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□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LARSEN of Washington) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

O Lord our God, send forth Your light and Your truth. Let these be our guide. Lead this Congress and this Nation to the heights of Your holy mountain and to all the places You choose to dwell. We will come before You filled with joy and offer thanksgiving to You, our Redeemer.

So why do we seem downcast at times? Hope in God. Hope in God as our Savior. There is always a reason to praise the Lord. Again and again He will prove Himself our mighty God, both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BORDALLO 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.

HEALTH CARE REFORM OR SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER?

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it's going to be a rough time to be a small business owner if the Democrat health care reform plan becomes law. Their government takeover of health care hits taxpayers with more than \$820 billion in tax hikes. This plan also includes a new \$540 billion tax on the so-called "rich" to bankroll this health care scheme.

The problem? According to IRS data, more than half of those who will be hit with this new tax are small business owners. Small businesses are our economy's engine for job growth. In fact, in the past, they have created 72 percent of all new jobs. If you're like me, you would like to see more job growth right now, not less. But small businesses will be hit hard by the new taxes in this plan, severely hampering

their ability to create jobs and help us emerge from this economic downturn.

This doesn't sound like health care reform. It sounds like a disaster.

RAISING THE STATUTORY LIMIT ON THE NATIONAL DEBT IS BAD POLICY

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern for raising the national debt limit.

Last week, the U.S. Department of the Treasury reported that 2009 was the worst fiscal year in our country's history. This shouldn't be a surprise considering the amount of hard-earned taxpayer dollars that Washington has been spending at a record-setting pace. The massive stimulus bill that I opposed in February increased the national debt by \$925 billion to \$12.1 trillion.

I am extremely troubled by the recent media reports that show leaders of the majority party saying that the national debt limit has to be raised again, and soon. Mr. Speaker, we cannot spend and borrow our way to prosperity.

I have heard the anger of the American people and my constituents, and they aren't supportive of any more debt increases. I voted against this earlier this year, and I remain opposed to increasing the debt limit. If anything, Washington needs to decrease the debt limit and practice fiscal responsibility now.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 29, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 23, 2009, at 1:21 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1209.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 26.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas

and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

NATIONAL LAND REMOTE SENSING OUTREACH ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2489) to authorize a comprehensive national cooperative geospatial imagery mapping program through the United States Geological Survey, to promote use of the program for education, workforce training and development, and applied research, and to support Federal, State, tribal, and local government programs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2489

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Land Remote Sensing Outreach Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) PROGRAM.—The term "Program" means the National Land Remote Sensing Outreach Program established in section 3.

(2) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term "educational institution" means any public or private elementary or secondary school, or any institution of vocational, professional, or higher education (including a junior college or teachers' college).

(3) GEOSPATIAL IMAGERY.—The term "geospatial imagery"—

(A) means satellite land remote sensing image data registered to map or other spatial coordinates derived from features on the ground; and

(B) includes a wide range of graphical products that convey information about natural phenomena and human activities occurring on Earth's surface.

(4) IMAGE DATA.—The term "image data" means the raw, unprocessed form of data captured from a sensing instrument.

(5) LAND REMOTE SENSING.—The term "land remote sensing" means image data of land, coastal areas, or islands and reefs acquired from above the surface of the Earth by instruments on satellite platforms.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(7) STATE.—The term "State" means—

(A) each of the several States of the United States;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(D) Guam;

(E) American Samoa;

(F) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

(G) the United States Virgin Islands.

(8) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "Indian tribe" has the same meaning given that term in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)).

SEC. 3. NATIONAL LAND REMOTE SENSING OUTREACH PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and maintain a national land remote sensing outreach program within the U.S. Geological Survey to advance the availability, timely distribution, and widespread use of geospatial imagery for education, research, assessment, and monitoring purposes in each State and the lands of an Indian tribe.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program are—