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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2009

No. 200

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MORAN of Virginia).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
December 23, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES P. MORAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### PRAYER

The Reverend Gene Hemrick, Washington Theological Union, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

In the Old Testament, the Canticle of the prophet Daniel rings with the exaltation of God's Mother Nature:

Cold and Chill bless the Lord  
Ice and Snow bless the Lord  
Nights and Days bless the Lord  
Light and Darkness bless the Lord  
Lightning and Clouds bless the Lord

O Lord, the recent snowstorm in our Nation's capital reminds us of this canticle and of the wise means You employ in maintaining the order and rhythms of nature with which You blessed this world.

Bless this Congress with the heavenly wisdom that is needed to be prudent stewards of Your ecological systems. Endow it with Your divine counsel and understanding as it seeks the most efficient and effective means for preserving their God-given order and balance. 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.

### NOTICE

If the 111th Congress, 1st Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 26, 2009, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 111th Congress, 1st Session, will be published on Thursday, December 31, 2009, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT-59 or S-123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Wednesday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Thursday, December 31, 2009, and will be delivered on Monday, January 4, 2010.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the *Congressional Record* may contain subject matter, or relate to any event, that occurred after the sine die date.

Senators' statements should also be formatted according to the instructions at [http://webster/secretary/cong\\_record.pdf](http://webster/secretary/cong_record.pdf), and submitted electronically, either on a disk to accompany the signed statement, or by e-mail to the Official Reporters of Debates at "Record@Sec.Senate.gov".

Members of the House of Representatives' statements may also be submitted electronically by e-mail, to accompany the signed statement, and formatted according to the instructions for the Extensions of Remarks template at <http://clerk.house.gov/forms>. The Official Reporters will transmit to GPO the template formatted electronic file only after receipt of, and authentication with, the hard copy, and signed manuscript. Deliver statements to the Official Reporters in Room HT-59.

Members of Congress desiring to purchase reprints of material submitted for inclusion in the *Congressional Record* may do so by contacting the Office of Congressional Publishing Services, at the Government Printing Office, on 512-0224, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily.

By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman*.

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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## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON.  
JOHN B. LARSON, CHAIRMAN,  
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JOHN B. LARSON, Chairman, Democratic Caucus:

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 23, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol, Washington DC.*

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you that the Honorable Parker Griffith of Alabama has resigned as a Member of the Democratic Caucus.

Sincerely,

JOHN B. LARSON,  
*Chairman.*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE  
SPEAKER

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
December 23, 2009.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,  
*Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIR: This is to advise you that Representative Parker Griffith's election to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has been automatically vacated pursuant to clause 5(b) of rule X effective today.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House.*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE  
SPEAKER

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
December 23, 2009.

Hon. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUES,  
*Chairman, Committee on Small Business, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAM CHAIR: This is to advise you that Representative Parker Griffith's elec-

tion to the Committee on Small Business has been automatically vacated pursuant to clause 5(b) of rule X effective today.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House.*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE  
SPEAKER

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
December 23, 2009.

Hon. BART GORDON,  
*Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIR: This is to advise you that Representative Parker Griffith's election to the Committee on Science and Technology has been automatically vacated pursuant to clause 5(b) of rule X effective today.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House.*

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 976, the House shall stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 26, 2009, unless the conditions specified in section 11(c) of that resolution have been met, in which case the House shall stand adjourned sine die pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 223.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,  
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5189. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's final rule — Truth in Lending [Regulation Z; Docket No. R1378] received December 1, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5190. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2008-0020] received December 1, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5191. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2008-0020; Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA-B-1063] received December 1, 2009,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5192. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2008-0020] received December 1, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5193. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2008-0020] received December 1, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5194. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Closure of the 2009 Commercial Harvest of Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack [Docket No.: 040205043-4043-01] (RIN: 0648-XP56) received December 8, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5195. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Subsistence Fishing [Docket No.: 0812191631-91238-03] (RIN: 0648-AX53) received December 1, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5196. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program; Amendment 85 [Docket No.: 0811201490-91372-03] (RIN: 0648-AX42) received December 1, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5197. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 0801041351-9087-02] (RIN: 0648-XS69) received December 1, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5198. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Fisheries of the Arctic Management Area; Bering Sea Subarea [Docket No.: 090218204-91211-04] (RIN: 0648-AX71) received December 1, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.