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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, July 6, 2009, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2009

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, You hold all in good order, yet You give us the freedom of choice in the realm of good conscience.

It seems You achieve Your own good purposes in and through Your people, whether or not they know Your guidance or wait to learn from their own mistakes.

Be with all Your people today in the decisions they make as a free people. Provide them with insight on how to use their many blessings.

Even though You guide them by Your Spirit, hold them accountable for their deeds before Your divine tribunal and in the realm of democratic forum and public opinion.

By personal integrity and right judgment, help all Americans to establish credence before other nations, so that seeing our good deeds may they glorify You, our God, as our protector and guide, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HIRONO 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PROVIDING A TRUE DECLARATION OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Millions of Americans have been and are under the threat of violent weather changes,

floods, droughts, scorching heat, extraordinary cold, and food insecurity. We are running out of time to craft practicable, workable solutions to moderate the effects of global climate change brought on by global greenhouse gasses.

We are past the tipping point, and instead of talking about saving ourselves, we are talking about saving the coal industry. Our first steps on the path to a clean energy future will leave footprints caked in coal, because under the bill, U.S. fossil fuel emissions aren't required to fall until 2030. The bill will facilitate the licensing of 25 new coal-fired plants with free permits to pollute. It guarantee coal's future by spending \$60 billion on an unproven, leaky technology where CO₂ is pumped into the ground.

We can still save ourselves and our planet, or we can save the coal industry. We can have a carbon-free and nuclear-free world which comes into harmony with nature's god through the creation of tens of millions of new wind and solar microtechnologies which will lower energy costs and make for a true declaration of energy independence. I will soon be introducing a bill to accomplish just that.

The American people are waiting to be inspired with a vision and a reality of a green future.

CAP-AND-TRADE TAXES AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

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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Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, President Obama has stated that cap-and-trade would cause electric bills to skyrocket, which forces families to pay more. He also declared yesterday that cap-and-trade would only be paid for by polluters. The President seems to imply through his statements that American families and small businesses, those who will see their electric bills skyrocket, are the polluters who should pay for this legislation.

I disagree. Families, farmers, manufacturers and small businesses across America do not deserve this national energy tax. We do not need to threaten the financial well-being of American citizens or the competitiveness of American businesses in a global economy.

House Republicans have consistently offered an all-of-the-above energy plan that will invest in exploration, in new alternative energy resources, and promote conservation. Our strategy is built on the American spirit of ingenuity, not an oppressive policy of higher taxes and job losses.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, we will never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism, and also I would like to extend my congratulations to Congresswoman ELLEN TAUSCHER on her confirmation yesterday evening to serve in the State Department of the United States.

RECOGNIZING NEDA AGHA-SOLTAN

(Ms. HIRONO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize Neda Agha-Soltan, this brave young woman who was shot and killed while en route to join the thousands of Iranians in Tehran who were demonstrating against the Presidential election result.

Neda, whose name means "the voice" in Farsi, was but one of the many women in Iran demanding that their voices be heard and that their votes be counted and their human rights respected.

Like many other Americans and people from around the world, I have been deeply moved by the images of Iranian women who have had the courage to speak their minds in defiance of a regime that seeks to suppress them.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Neda and in supporting all of the courageous women in Iran who are raising their voices and fighting for the fundamental freedoms and human rights that we so often take for granted.

VOTE NO ON CAP-AND-TRADE BILL

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, here it is, 1,090 pages. If we pass this bill, we

get this—unemployed miners. In fact, the last time, 35,000 miners lost their jobs. If we pass the Republican alternative we get jobs, offshore drilling, fuel from coal, wind and solar, renewable fuels.

I have an e-mail from eight rural electric co-ops in my district which I include for the RECORD. All say vote no.

I just got a voicemail from several Coops on one call. Jim Riddle, with Egyptian Electric Coop, Larry Level with Southern Illinois Electric Coop, Allen Waddle with Monroe County Coop, Ralph Cool with Clinton County Coop in Breeze, Scott Ramsey with Southern Illinois Power Coop in Marion, as well as Tri-County Coop in Mt. Vernon, Southeastern Coop in Eldorado, and Clay County Electric in Flora. They first wanted to thank you for your position on Climate Change and they all agree with you. Second they wanted to make sure you knew they are opposed that NRECA has taken "no position" on the bill and want to urge you to vote against the bill.

Do not believe the National Association.

VOTE NO ON CURRENT CAP-AND-TRADE BILL

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, unlike his predecessor, President Obama recognizes that greenhouse gasses and climate change are a real problem and must be dealt with, and in the tradition of the hugely successful Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act, he has ordered his Environmental Protection Agency to develop rules to cap and reduce greenhouse gasses.

This bill today actually prohibits the EPA from continuing to develop rules to regulate greenhouse gasses in the tradition of the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act. Instead, it turns to a market-based approach. Instead of a firm cap, regulating and reducing, this bill turns us to carbon offset derivative futures that will be insured by credit default swaps.

How quickly they forget Wall Street and AIG and the damage they wrought in the financial sector. This, Wall Street predicts, is the new \$1 trillion market. The market manipulators of Enron Corporation may have bankrupted their company, Ken Lay may be gone, but their spirit is fully embodied in this legislation.

HONORING MARTIN ROENIGK FOR HIS GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Martin Roenigk, a gracious contributor to the Third District of Arkansas, who unexpectedly passed away last week.

Marty was a philanthropist, a preservationist, and, above all else, a friend

to all who knew him. He spent the last 12 years as an Arkansan, and although he was a relatively new resident, you could never tell because of his compassion for the community.

Marty has been described as a visionary, and traveling in northwest Arkansas you can see that vision come alive. His love of historic preservation transformed Eureka Springs. In 1997, Marty and his wife bought the 1905 Basin Park Hotel and then the 1886 Crescent Hotel and Spa. The Roenigks restored these historic hotels and helped revitalize tourism to this town. The Roenigks then purchased the War Eagle Mill and were instrumental in preserving the War Eagle Bridge.

Madam Speaker, Marty will certainly be missed. However, his legacy will live on for generations to come because of his generosity. I ask my colleagues to keep Marty's family and friends in their thoughts and prayers during these difficult times.

ENERGY BILL FINE PRINT BETRAYS LAUDABLE PURPOSE

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, this energy bill's fine print betrays its laudable purpose. The real cap is on the public interest, and the trade is from the public to polluters. It is too weak to spur new technologies and green jobs.

An Administration analysis shows that doing nothing actually results in more new renewable energy electricity generation capacity than approving this bill.

Vital authority for the EPA is stripped, but two billion additional tons of pollution are authorized every year forever. Residential consumer protection is incredibly entrusted to the mercy of utility companies. Exempting 100 new coal plants and paying billions to Old King Coal does indeed leave him "a merry old soul."

This bill is 85 percent different from what President Obama proposed just a few months ago. No wonder that his Budget Director called this type of legislation "the largest corporate welfare program . . . in the history of the United States."

Until greatly improved, until families share in the billions this bill grants powerful lobbies, I cannot support it.

□ 0915

AGRICULTURE NEGATIVELY IMPACTED

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the cap-and-trade bill we will be taking up shortly.