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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 21, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DIANE BLACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, 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 1:50 p.m.

REAUTHORIZE THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. Madam Speaker, ticktock, ticktock. The countdown has begun.

Beginning tomorrow, there are exactly—count them—30 legislative days left before the Export-Import Bank is gone—vanished, disappeared—and each day that we fail to address this vital institution for American jobs, we let the obstructionists win. We let this bipartisan, eight decade champion of

American exports go away. The irony of it all is, as my dear friend from Texas, Congressman GREEN, once observed, if we didn't have an Export-Import Bank, we would all be scurrying around, trying to figure out how to invent it in order to compete with every other developed country in the world that has an export credit authority.

Ticktock. Ticktock.

American companies are, unfortunately, already hurting. It is happening now. We don't have to wait for May or June or July 1, which is the day the bank will disappear if we do not reauthorize it. I am speaking in the present tense. Export contracts are being lost now—today—as we speak. Production lines are slowing. Labor needs are being reevaluated. Let me be clear: American corporations and companies are already losing deals to our global competitors because of this pointless fight. It is hurting companies now.

American companies are being penalized because, yet again, unfortunately, Congress procrastinates; yet we have a bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. We have two bills with substantial, broad, deep, bipartisan support—250 Members out of 435, to put a fine point on it. There are 60 for Congressman FINCHER of Tennessee's bill and 190 for Congresswoman WATERS', Congresswoman MOORE's, and my bill.

Again, every other developed nation on the face of the planet has an export credit authority, and most of them are larger as a percent of their gross domestic products than ours is. To allow it to expire is to engage in nothing short of—and this is not hyperbole—unilateral economic disarmament.

Ticktock. Ticktock.

Small businesses are the ones that will be hurt first. Now, I know a lot of the focus of debate about the Export-Import Bank is Boeing. Yes, Boeing will be hurt. That is for sure. Although, I enjoy reminding people that the Boeing Company assembles airplanes, and

what they depend upon is the supply chain of 12,000 businesses and vendors—thousands of whom are, in fact, small businesses.

Nearly 90 percent of all of the Export-Import Bank's transactions are to provide loans or loan guarantees to small businesses. They are the backbone of our economy. Everybody knows it. Nearly one in three jobs created in the last decade was created by small businesses, and they will be hurt first, small businesses like STAC, Inc., in Sumner, Washington. It is a veteran-owned business that provides industrial tapes and adhesives and a host of other fasteners. They predict, as their owner told me personally, that they could hire 40 percent more staff as a consequence of their exports.

The truth of the matter is that there is a STAC in every congressional district in America—in every town, in every city, in every community, in every neighborhood—and they need and use the export credit agency of this Nation, the Export-Import Bank, just like the businesses of every other developed nation in the world.

The rest of the world is growing a middle class. We all know it. If we want to keep and expand ours, then we are going to have to engage in global trade with one of the tools known as the Export-Import Bank. We have to sell in to their growing middle class.

Counting tomorrow, 30 legislative days to go—ticktock, ticktock.

GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, last week, mailman Doug Hughes flew a gyrocopter onto the Capitol lawn to make a point about the influence of money in politics. While I don't condone violating restricted airspace and

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putting innocent people at risk by flying a gyrocopter onto the Capitol lawn, Mr. Hughes does have a point about the pervasive influence of money in politics. I have seen it get worse and worse during my 20 years in Congress.

The Citizens United decision by the United States Supreme Court in 2010 created super-PACs and multi-millionaires who buy candidates. As of April 8, 2015, there were 1,360 super-PACs in existence that controlled nearly \$700 million in the 2014 election cycle, according to OpenSecrets.org. The American people have lost confidence in the House and in the Senate partially because super-PACs influence candidates and politicians.

Too many times I have seen bills come to the floor of the House that seem influenced by money. Just last week, the House voted on H.R. 650, the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act of 2015, which does nothing but line the pockets of Warren Buffett by enabling his near-monopoly of the mobile home industry to strap poor people with higher interest rates while his companies are being protected from government regulations against predatory lending.

It is my disgust at this influence of money in politics that has led me to be a cosponsor of H.R. 20, the Government by the People Act, introduced by my colleague Congressman JOHN SARBANES. H.R. 20 would curb the influence of super-PACs so that small donors can have a voice again.

We in Congress owe the American people a vote on this bill so we can inspire confidence in our democratic process. House leadership should bring this bill to the floor, but I know it won't happen. There isn't the stomach for reform bills in this Congress, even for bipartisan reform bills. Maybe it does take a statement like Mr. Hughes' to bring this issue into the national debate and to make Congress address our out-of-control fund-raising.

I ask my colleagues in both parties in the House of Representatives to look seriously at the John Sarbanes bill, because the Government by the People Act will help to restore the confidence of the American people. We cannot stop what is already public law, and we cannot change Citizens United unless we go back through the legal process, but we can have an alternative. That is what the John Sarbanes bill does, so I hope Republicans and Democrats will look seriously at becoming cosponsors.

I ask God to bless America.

EMPOWERING AND EDUCATING WOMEN AS TO THEIR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was just thinking that one of the reasons I like spring so much and so well is that we get an oppor-

tunity to interact a bit more with young people, with our children, and I have seen many around here this morning all over the place, and I simply want to welcome them.

Also, yesterday, I got an opportunity to visit two schools. The first was the Proviso Area School for Exceptional Children in Maywood, Illinois, where we just had a wonderful time. Then, in the afternoon, I did a book fair at the Lovett Elementary School with its principal, Dr. Haney. The young people at Lovett were saying they just love being at Lovett, so it was a refreshing day.

Like many of my colleagues, I also use a lot of interns and fellows who come and learn and work and who are engaged and involved. The statement that I am going to read today was developed by one of my interns, Jakie Martinez. Jakie has been working on health issues, and she came up with this statement. So I come here today to speak of a health concern that many women are likely to develop in their lifetimes.

Known as one of the most common gynecological disorders, uterine fibroids affect nearly 70 percent of Caucasian women and more than 80 percent of African American women by the age of 50. For many of these women the associated symptoms of this diagnosis will significantly impact their quality of life, work, personal relationships, and daily activities. The prevalence of uterine fibroids is one that increases with age. Although we see a commonality in the disorder and its symptoms, the greater public has not yet received the proper continued education into the causes and treatment options available for women who suffer from these fibroids.

In response, we see that hysterectomies are the most commonly performed major gynecologic surgery in the United States, with over 400,000 hysterectomies performed annually; yet there are also several minimally invasive surgical options for the treatment of uterine fibroids that feature less blood loss, shorter hospital stays, smaller incisions for minimal scarring, and less need for pain medication than with traditional open surgery. It is important to remember that the best surgical option for each woman, whether it is open or minimally invasive, is reserved for a case-by-case evaluation.

In recognizing the health and educational needs of women in the United States, it is important that the greater public be educated in greater detail on the alternatives to more or less invasive surgical treatments so that women can have access to a full spectrum of treatment options. After all, it is my hope that women will become more educated and empowered in regards to their reproductive health and in the understanding of safe options available for the treatment of symptomatic fibroids.

I thank Jakie Martinez for writing this statement. It is very important.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, GALLATIN, TENNESSEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, it isn't often that Members can take to the House floor to share good news, but, this morning, I have an opportunity to do just that.

Today, I rise to honor the 150th anniversary of the First Baptist Church on East Winchester Street in my hometown of Gallatin.

Founded in 1865 by a former slave named Robert Belote, the First Baptist Church is a congregation steeped in history and poised to continue changing hearts and changing lives for many years to come. Its mission is to be a "church of welcome," and over the years, they have certainly lived up to that goal.

In the beginning, their congregation was known as Union Church because they welcomed ex-slaves from all denominations—Catholic, Baptist, Presbyterian. No matter your background or your upbringing, there was a place for all of God's children within their pews.

□ 1215

The church has been destroyed multiple times over the years, first by heavy winds and then by fire, but they always rebuilt and reemerged stronger than before.

They weathered the Reconstruction era following the Civil War, the economic uncertainty of the Great Depression, and the rise and the fall of the Jim Crow South. They are truly a statement to Christ's promise in the Gospel of Matthew when He proclaimed, "Upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Today the church's attendance climbed to approximately 1,000 people. I have had the opportunity to join my friends and neighbors at First Baptist Church for worship on many occasions. I have sat under the powerful teaching of their pastor and my dear friend, Reverend Derrick Jackson, and I can tell you that, 150 years later, God is still doing mighty work in the life of this special community of believers.

I am thankful for how First Baptist Church has personally ministered to me and so many others in our community, and I wish them many years of continued growth and prosperity.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. President, please help us stop this madness. The same way President Reagan demanded Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall, you have an opportunity to stop serial malpractice on the part of Congress refusing to meet its obligation to