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House of Representatives

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We thank You for the many blessings of yesterday, and the gracious reminder to us of our political history of democracy, deeply rooted in the mind of the American people. May all our efforts here, and throughout the country, be of service to and the promotion of the good of the human person—based on respect for each person's dignity.

We also thank You for the tremendous outpouring of goodwill, and the extraordinary efforts of so many yesterday, whose service made all that transpired seem effortless. May the memories of the day be an ongoing blessing to all whose day's labor made the day a great celebration for all people of goodwill.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ABRAHAM 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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. CALVIN MORET

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Calvin Moret, a true American hero and a Louisiana native. Dr. Moret was the last surviving Tuskegee Airman in Louisiana, and he passed away this month at the age of 90.

Dr. Moret's story is truly remarkable, and he stood up to hate and bigotry with courage and dignity. He fought for this country while overcoming an incredible amount of racial adversity. He broke barriers, and he dedicated his life to service.

I had the pleasure of meeting Calvin in Monroe, Louisiana, and as a pilot myself, I can tell you, he was the real deal. It was the highlight of my life to meet him, a true hero that had been ostracized by society but still believed so deeply in maintaining the freedoms of our country.

May we all have the courage Dr. Moret had to stand up for what is great in this Nation.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, reflecting on Pope Francis' historic engagement with us here in the House yesterday, he opened with gratefulness for our freedom. We know we have that freedom because of the brave that our respective homelands have blessed us

with. He spoke of the responsibility that we, as leaders, are to help grow a nation and the freedom with it. Freedom is essential in that success.

Pope Francis said it is for all Americans—not just its representatives in this room and others like it—to help sustain society with action and the service attitude of organizations that are truly helpful for those truly in need.

Through faith, not its misuse or extremism, but with humility, with that attitude of service, we are a better people. But it requires religious freedom, a cornerstone of our Nation's founding, indeed, important enough to be articulated and underlined in the First Amendment of our Bill of Rights. With that amendment, it has brought us peace and prosperity and helped the USA to be a beacon of hope and service to the world.

Hand in hand with that religious freedom goes the respect of innocent life and preserving the family. As Pope Francis closed his remarks on the legacy for our youth, these ideals of life and family are the spirit we can all endeavor to pass to our youth, their future of a great land filled with freedoms and opportunity, that comes with all of us at that service. For all of us Americans, that is our job.

POPE'S MESSAGE OF CHANGE IN CUBA

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in 1987, I was grateful to be present in Columbia, South Carolina, when Pope John Paul II, as the Polish-born Pope, promoted liberation from communism in Europe. Yesterday, I was grateful to be present with Pope Francis.

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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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Prior to arriving in the United States, the Pope visited Cuba. An Associated Press article, as reprinted in The Post and Courier this week, said Pope Francis gave a message that Cubans should “overcome ideological preconceptions and be willing to change.”

In the communist totalitarian dictatorship of Cuba, only the communist ideology is allowed to be changed. Hopefully, change will lead to freedom, as proven by Pope John Paul II.

Change must come to the economy which was stolen from its owners and is now held by the Cuban military, which controls over 70 percent of all businesses. This corrupt regime impoverishing its citizens has been propped up by the Soviet Union and then Chavez of Venezuela. Both have now failed, as Russians and Venezuelans see the failure of Big Government.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism, and God bless a liberated Cuba.

THE GENERIC DRUG MARKET

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

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we all saw this past week as the press reported on a drug that was raised from \$13.50 a tablet to \$750 a tablet. If you spend about 60 seconds with a physician or a pharmacist, you will find this has been going on for a couple of years now.

Very common drugs, Narcan, that our first responders use, and digoxin and nitroglycerin that our heart patients use, nitroglycerin has gone from 8 cents a tablet to \$8 a tablet over the last couple of years. The same thing has happened with doxycycline, a generic antibiotic that has been on the market for years.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to ask the FDA and the Federal Trade Commission to work together to help stop this fleecing of America and what is happening in the generic drug market.

AVIAN INFLUENZA AND GEORGIA'S EFFORTS

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the importance of the poultry industry to Georgia and the issue of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Georgia is the Nation's leading poultry-producing State, and my hometown of Gainesville proudly claims the title of “chicken capital of the world.” The poultry industry is critical to the Ninth District of Georgia and the State as a whole. The jobs of 138,000 Georgians depend on the poultry industry, and poultry represents almost half of Georgia's entire agriculture sector.

Given the scale and importance of the industry to Georgia, it is critically important that adequate attention is paid to the potential threat of bird flu. We saw the devastating impact of a highly pathogenic AI outbreak earlier this year. It was the worst animal disease outbreak in U.S. history. Now, with birds migrating south for the winter, we have to face the prospect of a disease striking the poultry industry again.

Mr. Speaker, APHIS has released a fall plan, and I understand that USDA has been in touch with State governments. But we must do more than simply conceptualize a response. We need to take proactive steps to prevent the spread and severity of high-path AI.

I want to commend Commissioner Black and the Georgia Department of Agriculture for their dedication to preparing for a potential outbreak and the commitment of thousands of Georgians who depend on the poultry industry.

I am calling on all agencies to work closely with Georgia and implement meaningful measures in coordination with State needs and recommendations. We need to shorten response time, install biosecurity measures, and work to prevent or reduce future outbreaks. We simply cannot wait to act. Steps must be taken now to mitigate damages to this industry that is so vital to the economy in northeast Georgia.

RESPONSIBLY AND PROFESSIONALLY INVIGORATING DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 348.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 420 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 348.

Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) kindly resume the chair.

□ 0910

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 348) to provide for improved coordination of agency actions in the preparation and adoption of environmental documents for permitting determinations, and for other purposes, with Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, Sep-

tember 24, 2015, all time for general debate had expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-26. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 348

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 “Responsibly And Professionally Invigorating Development Act of 2015” or as the “RAPID Act”.

SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF AGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS FOR EFFICIENT DECISIONMAKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of part 1 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after subchapter II the following:

“SUBCHAPTER IIIA—INTERAGENCY COORDINATION REGARDING PERMITTING

“§ 560. Coordination of agency administrative operations for efficient decisionmaking

“(a) CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subchapter is to establish a framework and procedures to streamline, increase the efficiency of, and enhance coordination of agency administration of the regulatory review, environmental decisionmaking, and permitting process for projects undertaken, reviewed, or funded by Federal agencies. This subchapter will ensure that agencies administer the regulatory process in a manner that is efficient so that citizens are not burdened with regulatory excuses and time delays.

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subchapter, the term—

“(1) ‘agency’ means any agency, department, or other unit of Federal, State, local, or Indian tribal government;

“(2) ‘category of projects’ means 2 or more projects related by project type, potential environmental impacts, geographic location, or another similar project feature or characteristic;

“(3) ‘environmental assessment’ means a concise public document for which a Federal agency is responsible that serves to—

“(A) briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact;

“(B) aid an agency’s compliance with NEPA when no environmental impact statement is necessary; and

“(C) facilitate preparation of an environmental impact statement when one is necessary;

“(4) ‘environmental impact statement’ means the detailed statement of significant environmental impacts required to be prepared under NEPA;

“(5) ‘environmental review’ means the Federal agency procedures for preparing an environmental impact statement, environmental assessment, categorical exclusion, or other document under NEPA;

“(6) ‘environmental decisionmaking process’ means the Federal agency procedures for undertaking and completion of any environmental permit, decision, approval, review, or study under any Federal law other than NEPA for a project subject to an environmental review;

“(7) ‘environmental document’ means an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, and includes any supplemental document or document prepared pursuant to a court order;