

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

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

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize National Forest Products Week and to acknowledge what an important role our forests play in all of our daily lives.

The Second District of Florida is home to hundreds of thousands of acres of public and private forest lands. The Apalachicola National Forest alone is nearly 1,000 square miles.

Just last week, I participated in a work day with the Nature Conservancy in the Apalachicola Forest to learn how responsible management can boost the economic and environmental value of forestland.

I am proud that north Florida forests make such an important contribution to our country's economy and our environment. We depend on wood for the structure of our homes, the paper we write on, and a million different things in between, but most significantly for the oxygen we breathe.

FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK RECOGNITION

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today in recognition of National Forest Products Week and the men and women across our country that work in this crucial industry. Forest products have been an integral part of the North American economy even before our States were united.

From our beginnings, forest products built ships and were the main source of fuel. Through our industrialization, forest products became the foundation of our vast rail system and the media that fills our great libraries. Today so much of everything we get is shipped and contained in forest products. Forest products have always been the backbone of housing, a critical sector of our economy.

Forest products are green, renewable, and sequester carbon. We have been prolific in perfecting our conversion technologies, developing new products, and growing more timber. In fact, we have more trees today in America than in 1900.

To keep our forests healthy and our economy strong, we need to develop more markets at home and abroad for our forest products, and we need to commit more research to find cost-effective ways to utilize our woody biomass, a vast, renewable, carbon-neutral fuel source.

IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT NEED FUNDING

(Mr. HASTINGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, this month all of us know that we are addressing the issue of breast cancer and cancer generally. I will proudly wear this label today for the number of people around our country and around the world that are suffering from cancer.

On Monday, I participated at Nova Southeastern University with experts in genomics and studying this issue. I learned from them that only 8 percent of grants are made from the National Institutes of Health. That is an incredible resource for all of us, and we need to be about the business of increasing the National Institutes of Health's opportunities to go forward on breast cancer.

The second part of my remarks this morning, Mr. Speaker, deals with airport workers, specifically in Fort Lauderdale and elsewhere. They are fighting for \$15 an hour. These are the people that clean up the toilets at the airport in Broward County. They are the people who carry the people on the airplane with wheelchairs. We can at least afford \$15 an hour for them.

□ 1230

REAUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the potentially grave situation facing our Nation's security this week.

Despite the National Defense Authorization Act garnering widespread bipartisan support in both Houses of Congress, President Obama has inexplicably threatened to veto it. Our soldiers and their families deserve better than an administration that plays politics with the pay for our troops and puts our national security on the line just to prove a political point.

What I find most shocking is the President spent the last several months fighting to lift economic sanctions so that Iran's terrorist army could receive billions in aid, and now he is planning to block funding for America's military. This is unbelievable. Our soldiers deserve better. Our Nation deserves better.

America is facing increased threats from around the globe. We have soldiers fighting in Afghanistan. We have military families bravely continuing with their lives as their loved ones risk their lives for freedom.

Not only do we need to fully fund our troops, but we need to show the world that, when it comes to our defense and national security, the United States stands as one strong, unified body.

Mr. Speaker, it is time the President drops the partisan games and stands with our troops. It is time he signs the bill.

WE ARE THE GREATEST NATION ON THE PLANET

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to take this opportunity to remind us how great we are as a country, but also to remind ourselves that we are as great as we are as individuals collectively that make our country so great, a country where anyone can practice whatever faith they choose to practice.

You can come to this country from whatever part of the world and start anew and perhaps reach heights that you could never dream of in other places. We still are the greatest nation on the planet.

I am compelled to say these words because far too often I see, almost everywhere I turn, where people want to leave this country. They talk about how we are not great and how we need to get back to greatness.

We have never lost that greatness. I think it is really important for us to understand, as Members of Congress, that our responsibility is to guide this country and to legislate and to make decisions, but to always keep in mind those fundamental responsibilities that we have held true for so many hundreds of years in this country and that we are blessed to be the greatest nation on the planet. The only way that we can do that is if we take our personal responsibilities to heart and exercise that every single day.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DAY

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

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on Support Your Local Chamber of Commerce Day.

Livingston Parish is one of the fastest growing parishes in the State of Louisiana, and the chamber of commerce appropriately—with the extraordinary growth of this parish, we have had a growth in the businesses, the mom-and-pop businesses, and the large industrial businesses as well. Appropriately, the Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce was recognized for the Louisiana State Chamber of the Year Award for the mid-size category by the Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

When you have a parish that grows at rapid rates, you have huge swells in population. You have all sorts of demands on infrastructure, but you have demands on the growth of the businesses as well. Particularly, the Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce was recognized in the areas of business resource and representation, community alignment, organizational excellence, and professional development.

Mr. Speaker, businesses like North Oaks Health System, Rouses Markets, Big Mike's Sports Bar and Grill, and Ferrara Fire Apparatus are all businesses that are members of the Chamber of Commerce.

Congratulations to the 500 businesses that are members of the Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce, to Wayne, April, and all the folks in Livingston Parish.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 21, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. 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 21, 2015 at 9:14 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 322.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 323.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 324.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 558.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1442.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1884.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3059.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 10, SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OPPORTUNITY AND RESULTS RE- AUTHORIZATION ACT, AND PRO- VIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 692, DEFAULT PREVENTION ACT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 480 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 480

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 10) to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendments recommended

by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 692) to ensure the payment of interest and principal of the debt of the United States. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 480 provides for consideration of H.R. 10, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act, and H.R. 692, the Default Prevention Act.

These bills are important steps forward on two issues of great importance to Americans: education and fiscal issues.

H.R. 10, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act, also known as the SOAR Reauthorization Act, would continue important funding provided to help young

students here in Washington, D.C., reach their full potential. This legislation would provide \$60 million annually for 5 years, split equally among the District's public schools, charter schools, and the District of Columbia Opportunity Scholarship Program, which enables low-income students to attend a private school that would otherwise be out of their reach.

Two amendments to the bill have been made in order for consideration, one by a Republican and another by a Democrat.

I have great confidence that the SOAR Reauthorization Act is a positive step for students in the District of Columbia and that, through its example, it will provide a model for success that could be adopted by States across the country.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 692, the Default Prevention Act. As my colleagues are all aware, the Treasury Department has asserted that its ability to use extraordinary measures to avoid reaching the statutory debt limit will be exhausted in coming days, possibly by November 3.

The legislation before us is a vital step to take default off the table, should extraordinary measures be exhausted, providing certainty to financial markets and hardworking Americans that we will pay our debts and meet our obligations.

The Default Prevention Act would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to issue debt obligations necessary to continue making principal and interest payments on our debt, and would also ensure continued access to the funds in the Social Security trust fund necessary to pay Social Security benefits in full.

Mr. Speaker, it is simply common sense that we permanently close out the possibility of default and give seniors and other Social Security beneficiaries confidence that they will continue to receive the funds they rely on.

We can protect the full faith and credit of the United States and ensure that our credit ratings and economy are not impacted by policy battles here in Congress over future spending policies.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this rule and both of the underlying bills to my colleagues for their support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding the customary 30 minutes to me for debate.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this rule, which provides for consideration of both H.R. 10, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act, and H.R. 692, the Default Prevention Act. Once again, we are playing grab bag rules, and I maintain that that is not the process of regular order.

Each time I have the privilege of managing a rule which, with only four