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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KELLY of Mississippi).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 1, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TRENT KELLY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
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 11:50 a.m.

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I participated in a forum hosted by a Foundation created in the 1980s by Congress: the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, or NFWF. The forum was on the connection between agriculture and the Chesapeake Bay.

The health of the bay is important in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional

District, which I represent, since the streams and rivers in a large portion of the district drain into it. This is also a region which depends on agriculture, the Commonwealth's largest industry.

Among the topics of discussion at the forum were the Chesapeake Stewardship grants, which are funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and administered by the NFWF. This funding goes toward the restoration of streams which flow into the bay and to those that cut down on nutrient and sediment pollution.

This fall, I joined the NFWF in touring several sites across Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, which were all funded by these grant programs. These sites show the direct connection between agriculture and the health of the Chesapeake Bay, with all of them located on farmland. The projects range from those which keep animal waste out of waterways to flood control and stream bank restoration, all of which improve the overall health of local streams, local watersheds, and, ultimately, the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

As chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, as well as a member of the House National Resource Committee, the health of our watersheds is critically important. Healthy watersheds are needed for the sustainability of both agriculture and the land.

As I explained during the forum, the commitment to agriculture and healthy watersheds continues through passage last year of a 5-year farm bill and the various conservation programs contained within title II of that bill.

The tour of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation watershed projects, along with this recent forum, gave me the opportunity to hear first-hand from farmers, agricultural leaders, and those involved in the restoration of streams and rivers on what can be done here in Washington to help im-

prove the quality of water in our local rivers, streams, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and the bay itself. I look forward to working with the agriculture community and many conservationists as we prepare for the next reauthorization of the farm bill.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the eyes of the world are on Paris as it recovers from one tragedy and when 150 world leaders gather to prevent another. They meet to secure a global agreement on climate change.

Reliance on fossil fuels, especially coal, and wasteful, expensive energy consumption shortchanges today's priorities and threatens our future. Ten years from now, even many of the current climate skeptics will wonder, "What were we thinking?"

The scientific evidence and the overwhelming consensus it has created is clear. The immediate impacts of record temperatures, erratic, very dangerous weather patterns, ocean acidification, drought, disease, social disruption, and wildfires have predictable impacts that have already cost us dearly, with many more severe problems on the horizon.

It is sad that what should be a straightforward, scientific conclusion has become so emotionally charged and politically volatile. It is embarrassing and ironic that in the middle of this historic event on climate change, as the world consensus is strengthening and moving toward action, the best that our Republican Congress can do is voting on two pieces of legislation that would undo much of the progress we have already made.

The Republican leader in the Senate argues that the carbon rule of the administration is a vast overreach and

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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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yet that the Obama policies won't accomplish anything, all while working to undermine their effectiveness. We will then vote on H.R. 8, a fossil fuel giveaway that will do nothing to combat climate change, but only accelerate the problem.

The best solution to the climate threat is not these foolish votes and obstructionism, but an action that has the potential to resolve other controversial issues while addressing our major climate challenges.

It is past time for the Federal Government to enact a revenue-neutral fee on carbon emissions. This would not be an excuse to expand government spending and new programs, but instead simplify and solve current problems in a cost-effective manner.

Consider for a moment that high on the list of problems, in addition to climate change, is that almost everyone thinks we should fix our broken corporate Tax Code, avoiding the looming Social Security deficit, and streamlining the patchwork of uneven energy subsidy provisions.

A revenue-neutral carbon tax is a proven market mechanism to reduce the devastating carbon pollution. We could sweep away expensive and often conflicting clean energy subsidies and replace them with something much more effective.

We could use the carbon revenues not for new programs, but to eliminate the looming 25 percent cut in Social Security, acting quickly while a solution is more affordable and less disruptive to the lives of our seniors.

At the same time, we could adjust the Social Security tax downward to protect middle and lower income people from impacts of the fee, and we could boost small business, shielding them from part of the cost and lowering the payroll tax they pay, making it cheaper for them to employ people.

Finally, a portion of the revenues could be used to buy down the world's highest corporate tax rate that the United States currently has, which distorts business decisions and places us at a competitive disadvantage with other developed countries.

Think about it. We could solve the existential climate threat, make the tax system simpler, more fair, and effective, avoid the looming Social Security crisis, and shield individuals and small business from the undue impact from the carbon fee, while making our businesses more competitive. That is about as close as can you get to a non-partisan, nonideological, grand-slam policy home run.

Instead of policies of division and denial, it is time for us to come together to support a revenue-neutral carbon tax to solve multiple problems and meet our obligations to our children and grandchildren.

HONORING WILLIAM BOSTIC JR. AND DOUGLAS CLAYTON FARGO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lives of two outstanding Americans who passed away in October. Both men were part of the Greatest Generation and served our country honorably during the Second World War.

William Bostic Jr., also known as Bill, passed away on October 30. He was a native of West Virginia, born in Renick in 1922, lived most of his life in Ravenswood in the Second Congressional District, and was the son of William Bostic Sr. and Nancy Lou Dale Bostic.

In 1943, he was called to serve his country, and serve it well he did. Bill served in the Pacific Theater, where he was injured in the line of duty.

On February 8, 1945, Corporal Bostic was serving as a member of an artillery liaison party when the enemy began attacking with rocket, artillery, and mortars in support of demolition units. Bill, with complete disregard for his own safety, left his foxhole and crawled to a point where he could better communicate with the supporting artillery.

After establishing communications, he was struck by enemy mortar fragments and, though seriously wounded, refused to leave his post until the enemy attack had been repulsed. His utter disregard for his own personal welfare and his devotion to duty assisted materially in the adjustment of artillery fire that broke up the enemy attack.

For this act of gallantry, Bill was awarded the Silver Star. During his 11 years of service to our country, he also earned six Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, and a Good Conduct ribbon, just to name a few.

Bill is survived by his wife of 65 years, Pauline Bostic. She still lives in Jackson County, West Virginia. He will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

Mr. Douglas Clayton Fargo, Doug, is another true American hero who passed away.

Doug lived in Charles Town, West Virginia, for over 25 years. After graduating from high school, Doug enlisted with the U.S. Army and served from 1944 to 1946. He fought in nine major battles and was quickly elevated in rank from a private to a sergeant as he served under the great General George Patton. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantry Badge for his services.

In 1951, he was recalled to Active Duty and served another 2 years in the Korean war, where he received his field commission as a lieutenant. He led 11 combat patrols and was awarded a second Bronze Star and a second Combat Infantry Badge, as well as 18 other ribbons and decorations.

After his retirement, he remained active in the community and stayed involved with a number of veterans organizations, including the Korean War Veterans Association, Forty and Eight,

Kiwanis, and Military Officers Association of America.

Doug was preceded in death by his first wife, Maria Laura Mae Fargo, and his second wife, Eileen Fargo, as well as the last love of his life, Eunice Steed. Additionally, Mr. Fargo lost his grandson, Adam Joseph Fargo, on July 22, 2006, when he was killed in action while fighting in Iraq.

Doug will also be buried in the Arlington National Cemetery.

Bill and Doug were fantastic men who served their country and their communities with honor.

PARIS CLIMATE TALKS

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, this week, more than 40,000 negotiators from 196 governments have descended on the French capital for the Paris climate summit. This summit provides the world with a critical opportunity to take a significant step toward creating an ambitious and effective global framework for addressing climate change.

Climate change is no longer a problem for future generations. It is our problem, and we must act now. Paris gives us that opportunity.

The science demonstrating the reality of climate change advances by the day. In fact, 14 of the 15 warmest years on record have occurred since the year 2000, and 2015 is on track to be the warmest year of all.

No country, no matter how large or small, wealthy or poor, is immune to the detrimental effects we will face if we do not address this global climate crisis.

The good news is that there has been quite a bit of global action over the past few months leading up to the Paris summit. Nearly 180 countries, covering more than 95 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions, have pledged to take steps to reduce CO₂ emissions.

A U.N. report shows that the pledges submitted so far represent a substantial step in global action that will significantly curtail the world's carbon trajectory.

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If those pledges are implemented, global warming would slow to roughly 3 degrees by 2100. While this isn't enough to meet U.N. targets, it is better than the 4- to 5-degree increase if nothing were done.

With such a significant and impactful opportunity in front of us, many eyes are on the U.S. What will we do? How will we act?

As the world's largest economy and the second largest emitter of carbon dioxide, we cannot stand by and do nothing. Thanks to President Obama, we have made real progress in advancing our goals of reducing emissions and improving our air quality.