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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. PALAZZO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 2, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVEN M. PALAZZO 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.

PERU AND ILLEGAL LOGGING

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I have long championed the concept that trade done right requires strong environmental protections as well as enforcement of those commitments.

Many of our most serious environmental challenges, from climate change to deforestation to protecting the oceans from being strip-mined with industrial fishing practices, can only succeed in the context of enforceable international agreements.

Democrats reached an accord with the Bush administration through the May 10 Agreement, which is one tool. The 2008 Lacey Act amendments are another. There are now a host of trade-related tools to fight some of the most egregious environmental challenges.

In the Peru Free Trade Agreement, we were able to include an entire Forest Annex that requires Peru to sustainably manage its forest resources and protect their forests, under penalty of law. The impact of those tools, however, is dependent on our willingness to use things like the Peru Free Trade Agreement.

Recent events present a chance to put those tools to work to fight against illegal logging in Peru, a country where 60 percent of its land is in the Amazon rainforest, and estimates on the rate of illegal logging in that area are as high as 80 percent.

Last week, over 70 shipping containers of what is suspected to be illegally harvested timber from Peru was stopped at the Port of Houston. This action was taken after we received compelling information from OSINFOR, Peru's independent body tasked with oversight of their forests and wildlife resources.

Troublingly, this shipment is linked to a company whose logging practices are already suspect, having been one of 10 companies whose export documents were found fraudulent during Operation Amazonas 2014, an operation carried out in coordination with INTERPOL to investigate illegal logging in Peru.

While it appears as though the timber is under American control, the same bad actor is once again conveying illegally harvested timber out of Peru's Amazon rainforest and to its borders for export.

Thanks to the courageous action of a handful of individuals at OSINFOR—again, Peru's independent agency tasked with overseeing that their tim-

ber laws are followed—a shipment of timber likely of illegal origin has been stopped at the border in Peru. As a result, unfortunately, these brave people are being threatened with bodily damage or death.

Given the savage history of these criminals, no doubt lives are in jeopardy. One only has to look last fall at how serious these threats were when Edwin Chota, an environmental activist trying to end the practice of illegal logging, was murdered by criminals that lead such illegal activity. Just 3 days ago, OSINFOR's office was firebombed. Thugs are threatening to storm government offices if OSINFOR does not ease up and go quietly into the night.

Mr. Speaker, this morning, I urge my colleagues to insist that the administration stand up to these criminals, these murderers, and that we will not turn our back on the courageous individuals, but support them in their efforts. We have the tools to do exactly that, thanks to the Peru Free Trade Agreement, as well as the Lacey Act.

The shipment held in Houston should be thoroughly investigated and, if evidence permits, we should bring to bear the full weight of the 2008 Lacey Act amendments by pursuing civil fines, forfeiture of timber and equipment, and criminal penalties, if supported by the evidence. And, frankly, also pushing back on Peru. The shipment held in Peru must also be investigated and the bad actors brought to justice. The Peruvian Government should immediately make clear they stand behind OSINFOR as an independent oversight agency.

At a time when we will be considering the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which has promising protections, it is more important than ever that the administration make sure that they are not merely protections on paper, but protections backed by action. It is time to step up with robust enforcement.

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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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If we are serious about combating climate change, we must not only hold ourselves accountable for following our carbon-cutting commitments, but other countries as well. Peru, for example, has made protection of the Amazon rainforest the centerpiece of its proposed climate proposal.

When unsustainable logging practices contribute to 17 percent of total global carbon emissions annually, it is clear that progress cannot be made on this front and many others if we do not stand up and empower people in Peru and elsewhere who want to do the right thing and fight the illegal trade in timber. The administration has a perfect opportunity to show good faith by acting now.

HONORING CHEF TOM PRITCHARD

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a veteran, a legendary chef, and a man known as the godfather of the Tampa Bay hospitality industry.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend to so many in the Pinellas County and Tampa Bay community, Mr. Tom Pritchard, executive chef of the Bay Star Restaurant Group. Tom passed away this past week following surgery to ease the effects of Parkinson's disease. He was 74 years old.

Anyone who knew Tom will tell you that he was a storyteller who was larger than life. He had his own unique sense of style and had a way of making anyone he met feel like they had known each other for decades.

Born in Rochester, New York, Tom's first restaurant job came at the age of 14, when he started work shucking oysters for the legendary Guy Lombardo at his East Point House restaurant on Long Island.

After high school, Tom left home for college in Iowa before being drafted by the U.S. Army in 1964. Tom was stationed in Germany for several years before being honorably discharged in 1967.

After serving his country, Tom continued to spend time abroad, living in London, Mexico, Morocco, Scotland, and owning restaurants in France and Spain. Eventually, he moved to Florida, and in the 1990s he partnered with Frank Chivas, a seafood broker who would become a dear and lasting friend of Tom's. The two would open Salt Rock Grill in Indian Shores. Under Tom's guidance and tutelage, Salt Rock's kitchen became a training ground for up-and-coming chefs.

Always quick to help others and share recipes, and with his inventive approach to cooking, Tom became a Florida food legend. One longtime food critic wrote of Tom's generosity: "Mentor" is too trite a word for what Tom Pritchard did for literally hundreds of people, young and old, in the kitchen."

Tom would go on to oversee the kitchens at Island Way Grill and

Rumba Island Bar and Grill in Clearwater and Marlin Darlin in Belleair Bluffs—along the way, always helping others. You see, it was Tom's generosity outside the kitchen that defined the man he was.

As one director of a Florida charity wrote this week, Tom set the platinum standard for community support, underwriting substantial food and labor costs annually at benefits for numerous nonprofit organizations, like the Abilities Foundation, Clearwater for Youth, and the Ryan Wells Foundation.

The Abilities Foundation alone raised \$3.7 million from 25 years of wine and food tastings thanks to the help of Tom Pritchard and Frank Chivas. Tom and Frank's mere presence at a fundraiser influenced the participation of countless sponsors and attendees.

Tom was always quick to lend his time and talents to benefit programs that helped disabled and other individuals find jobs and live independently. Mr. Speaker, let it be known to all that Tom Pritchard gave more than he took.

Tom was preceded in death by his father, Thomas Alden Pritchard, Sr.; mother, Ruth McCarthy Pritchard; brother, Jeffery Lloyd; and son, Adam D. Ostfeld, who also served his country in the Armed Forces. He is survived by his loving wife of 24 years, Jody D. Hale; her husband, Daniel Hale; sisters, Cynthia A. Tischer, Laurie N. Pritchard; and brother, John C. Pritchard.

Mr. Speaker, the Pinellas County community, the Tampa Bay community, and our culinary and charitable communities throughout Florida lost a treasure with the passing of chef Tom Pritchard.

I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering his contributions and his legacy of helping others and serving our Nation.

HONORING WENDELL PHILLIPS ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PROGRAM

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 rise today to salute the remarkable young men of Chicago's Wendell Phillips Academy High School football program, their parents, administrators, coaches, and teachers.

Last Friday, in a stunning 51–7 win against Belleville's Althoff High School, the Wildcats won the 4A title for Public League's first football State crown since the playoffs began in 1974, completing an amazing 13–0 season. The 51 points scored by Phillips set a State title game record.

The game featured record-shattering performances by a host of Wildcat players, including senior quarterback Quayvon Skanes, who rushed for 141 yards and four touchdowns on 13 car-

ries, passed for an additional 44 yards and another touchdown—just to prove that he could throw the ball. Quayvon is headed to the University of Connecticut next year.

Other thrilling performances included Kamari Mosby, who ran for 151 yards and a score; Qadeer Weatherly, who pulled in Quayvon's pass for a 36-yard touchdown; Amir Watts, who returned an Althoff fumble for a 19-yard score; and a 21-yard field goal by Isaac Osei to demonstrate the Wildcats' comprehensive offense.

The Phillips football program, the second largest in the Chicago Public Schools, is a study of the potential and the problems of urban education. With more than 90 student athletes, the varsity team is led by 19 seniors, all of whom are on track to graduate.

In an after-game interview with the Chicago Tribune, Phillips' Coach Troy McAllister noted: "When we go to practice, we go with footballs. There are no sleds, no chutes, no kicking nets, nothing like that. It goes to what our coaches have done and what these young men can do."

"We have five stipends for coaches. Everywhere else it is 10 to 14. That makes a huge difference, but these young men have bought into what we are trying to accomplish, and they have done something that nobody else has done."

These young men are not just athletes. They are also proud scholars and are members of a school which last year saw 100 percent of its seniors accepted to college, with more than \$5 million in scholarships.

In his after-game interview, Principal Matt Sullivan summed it all up. He said: "It is fantastic. We want to be the beacon, the shining beacon in the Bronzeville community."

Mr. Speaker, all of Chicago is thrilled and delighted by the performance of this team. I offer my congratulations to their parents, administrators, coaches, and teachers for going above and beyond the call of duty. I extend my congratulations to each and every one of those young men and wish for them continued success in everything they set out to do in the years to come.

□ 1015

REAFFIRMING STATES' RIGHTS TO IMPOSE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN

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

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced H. Con. Res. 100, a bipartisan resolution that reaffirms the rights of the 50 States to maintain economic sanctions against Iran.

The Iran Sanctions Act of 2010 encourages and authorizes States to maintain such sanctions, which play a powerful role in preventing U.S. dollars from funding Iran's illicit activity, including its support for terrorism,