

center works to strengthen the productivity of farmers both in Kansas and around the world.

The Wheat Innovation Center is the result of a public-private partnership. It was built in 2011 by the Kansas Wheat Commission, a grower-funded organization that promotes Kansas wheat through increased international trade and research.

The innovation center now encompasses 15,000 square feet of advanced plant breeding space and 20,000 square feet of greenhouse space dedicated to advancing wheat genetics.

In addition to the innovative center, Kansas State is also home to four Feed the Future labs, the most of any university in the country.

Feed the Future labs are funded by USAID and are focused on supporting research and land-grant universities to grow the agricultural production of target countries. Much of that research is tasked with improving the resilience and adaption of crops in arid climates, a climate not unlike that of Kansas.

As the global population rises to 8 billion people by 2030, the technology developed by partnerships like the one in the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center will only become more essential. We must continue to be proactive in the fight to end global hunger by pooling resources to strengthen agriculture for developing countries abroad and our own Kansas farmers at home.

The collaboration and leadership shown by Kansas Wheat, Kansas State University, and the Feed the Future innovation labs is a blueprint for finding solutions to feeding our growing world and improving the global food system.

INVESTING IN OUR COUNTRY AND OUR INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVES

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, rural America is poised to reignite into an economic powerhouse, but its low population density and wide-open spaces have proven difficult for some businesses to operate, given its often outdated infrastructure.

Without Federal incentives to help bridge the financial gap, many rural American businesses struggle to access the same services as their urban counterparts at comparable prices.

This Congress recently made a more than \$21 billion downpayment to improving our country's aging infrastructure.

While back in Kansas, I had the opportunity to sit down with a number of industry and community leaders from across the State to discuss how these investments will benefit our schools, businesses, and farmers.

From broadband deployment to highway and railway maintenance, community leaders could not stress enough the importance that this funding will have for economic development. Improving our infrastructure, highways, and railways will allow easier movement of Kansas agriculture and aeronautical products to ports for export.

With broadband expansion, our rural students will have the resources they

need to compete with students across the country when they apply to the college of their choice. It will allow farmers and ranchers to better monitor equipment and utilize new technologies for precision agriculture and provide businesses access to new markets for their products.

All in all, I cannot stress enough how encouraged my constituents are because of our latest promise to invest in our country and our infrastructure initiatives. This funding will truly help rural America thrive, and I look forward to continued discussions on this here in D.C., as well as back home.

WELCOMING THE NATIONAL GROCERS ASSOCIATION TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome the National Grocers Association to Washington, D.C., this week for their annual fly-in.

Our grocers have a tremendous impact on our communities throughout the country. In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania alone, food retailers provide more than 220,000 jobs, have an output of \$15 billion, and a total economic impact of \$39 billion.

As the House Agriculture Committee continues to move forward with the farm bill, it will be important to our grocers, who provide food to American families.

Over the past 3 years, the Agriculture Committee has hosted 21 hearings on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, and has heard from more than 80 witnesses.

SNAP and other Federal nutrition programs are vital to ensuring that all Americans have healthy foods within reach, whether low income populations, the elderly, or those living in areas with strained access to nutritious food.

We will continue to identify ways to work alongside State and local organizations to help provide safe and nutritious food for those who need it most.

One of my primary goals with SNAP is to ensure that those who truly need the assistance when falling on hard times continue to have access to this critical program.

Limited access to supermarkets and grocery stores with nutritious fresh foods can be a challenge in both rural and urban communities. We know them as food deserts.

According to USDA, to qualify as a low-access community, at least 500 people and/or at least 33 percent of the population must reside more than 1 mile from a supermarket or large grocery store. For rural areas, the distance is more than 10 miles.

I know from personal experience the value of Federal assistance, particularly WIC, when times do get tough. I

have also seen the value of obtaining an education and ultimately finding a career path.

Unfortunately, too many Americans at the poverty level are caught in a cycle. We want to change that cycle by providing a workforce solution and necessary supports, walking with individuals on their pathway to self-reliance and success.

The House farm bill makes a significant, even historical, investment in SNAP employment and training to equip States with resources to arm participants with the soft skills, the job search skills, certifications, and education needed to succeed in today's economy.

But to ensure this investment yields results, we are also making these work requirements mandatory. We have a unique opportunity to expand funding for these life-changing programs by closing loopholes only utilized by certain States, and improving opportunities for individuals who have been marginalized by a lack of employment, education, or life circumstances.

For nearly 80 percent of the SNAP recipients—children, seniors, and the disabled—these requirements won't change anything. For those who rely on SNAP and will continue to do so, we want to ensure that they have access to the array of foods that benefit their health and their well-being.

Our bill allows retailers to expand the purchasing power of recipients via incentive programs, and we are also expanding or enhancing current incentive and nutrition education programs to improve diet quality and awareness.

We want to emphasize the importance of consumer choice and the impact SNAP has on our communities and families.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate having our Nation's grocers in town today, and I look forward to continuing the Agriculture Committee's good work on the next farm bill. After all, farmers feed and nutrition matters.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Reverend Sam Smucker, Worship Center, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, thank You for Your goodness to our Nation, giving us

many blessings and freedoms we experience.

We have many challenges in our Nation. We need a moral and spiritual renewal to meet those challenges.

We ask for Your protection over our lives, our families, our communities, and schools.

We pray we would be able to live peacefully, marked by godliness and dignity. "Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord."

We pray that You would fill the men and women in this Chamber with Your wisdom as they consider the business at hand. We pray that the decisions that are made would be for the good of our Nation.

We pray You would give them courage to work together to make decisions that make our Nation strong and honorable to You. Father, I thank You for the service of these men and women.

In Jesus' name, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SMUCKER 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND SAM SMUCKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to welcome

the guest chaplain to the House floor. He is a leader in our community in Pennsylvania's 16th District, as well as my oldest brother.

Mr. Speaker, five other brothers of ours are in the gallery with us here today on what I learned was a very appropriate day, as this is National Siblings Day. I am so very pleased to host my brothers, who are enjoying the sites here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, we have five sisters as well, but I guess that will be another day.

My oldest brother, Sam, was born into an Amish home and was really used by God. Sam leads a congregation called the Worship Center in Lancaster County. They have 4,000 members. He also leads a ministers' fellowship impacting 100 other fellowships, and has traveled to 40 countries in missionary endeavors across the world.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud of Sam. He has had an impact not only on our community, but across the world as well, and certainly is a spiritual leader for our family, and we welcome him here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

IN HONOR OF STEPHANIE WILLS

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks, I have joined many of our colleagues to rise in honor of Dr. Billy Graham.

Today, I rise in honor of one of the quiet heroes who helped make his worldwide ministry possible. Ms. Stephanie Wills served as Billy Graham's secretary—she always refused fancier titles—for over 45 years, traveling the world to help Dr. Graham at each crusade and at countless meetings.

My first conversations with Stephanie were in the early 1970s, when I served for 10 years as the assistant to Dr. Bill Bright, the founder of Campus Crusade for Christ.

It was a blessing to see Stephanie at Dr. Graham's funeral, as she was still faithfully serving him.

Stephanie is legendary. She is highly competent, fiercely loyal, and unflappable.

I have said several times that Dr. Graham was a great man because he was faithful to the mission that God had given to him. The same can be said of Stephanie Wills. She has been a faithful servant of Jesus Christ, playing a quiet yet enormous role in sharing the Gospel around the world through her dedicated and tireless support of God's servant, Dr. Billy Graham.

Well done, Stephanie, a wonderful servant of God.

MANUFACTURING IS STILL KEY TO OUR NATION'S FUTURE PROSPERITY

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, in Illinois' 10th District, one doesn't have to look far to see America's strength in advanced 21st century manufacturing. In fact, my district has the fourth highest concentration of manufacturing jobs of any district in the Nation.

Manufacturing is still key to our Nation's future prosperity because it creates a multiplier effect that generates economic growth and jobs throughout our economy.

Last week, I visited 12 local manufacturers as part of my Made in Illinois 10 Tour. I had three key takeaways from my visit:

First, innovation is alive and well in Illinois 10. I saw new applications and design, additive manufacturing, robotics, and more. And at every turn, innovation is creating new, quality, well-paying jobs.

Second, we have to close the skills gap. We need more teachers, parents, and especially young, smart talented people to recognize that working in manufacturing can be a stimulating and rewarding career.

Third, when the global market is a fair and level playing field, American companies not only can compete, we can win and we can prosper.

We need to hold bad actors like China accountable. The President's shoot-from-the-hip actions risk sparking a destructive cycle of retaliatory tariffs.

The companies I visited are worried about that and, indeed, are already feeling the impact of a prospective trade war.

Mr. Speaker, I was encouraged by the ingenuity and drive of our local manufacturers, and I remain committed to supporting this crucial sector of our economy.

BUDGET DEFICIT WILL PASS \$1 TRILLION WITHIN 2 YEARS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the CBO, released a report highlighting the fact that the budget deficit will pass \$1 trillion within 2 years, thanks in large part to the massive tax cuts granted to the wealthiest Americans in the recently adopted Republican tax plan. \$1 trillion.

This tax plan is projected to itself add close to \$2 trillion to the deficit over a decade.

This reckless plan jeopardizes our economic recovery by taking away the