

and staff from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Farm Show continues to be among the greatest shows on Earth.

This weeklong event is the largest indoor agricultural exposition in the Nation, showcasing over 6,000 animals, featuring nearly 12,000 exhibits and more than half a million visitors.

Each year, I host a listening session at the Farm Show, and we covered a range of topics on Saturday during the public forum, from raising awareness about agriculture education to helping our dairy farmers, and more. We discussed the passage of the 2018 farm bill, which will restore certainty for our farm families, provide nutritional support and greater opportunity for ultimate food security through employment for our neighbors in financial need, renew a pathway to prosperity for our dairy producers, and build toward a stronger rural economy.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, Russell Redding, for participating in the listening session, and also my colleagues: Congressman DWIGHT EVANS, Congressman DAN MEUSER, and Congressman LLOYD SMUCKER.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show truly does bring together so many different people in the ag community, and it is an event like no other.

The Farm Show complex houses 24 acres under one roof, spread throughout 11 buildings, including three arenas. There is no admission fee. It is a great event for the entire family, and there are numerous educational shows.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show provides an atmosphere for everyone to walk through, observe, and educate themselves about the different areas of agriculture, the Commonwealth's largest industry, which brings nearly \$6.9 billion annually in agricultural cash receipts. Almost half a million jobs are tied to the industry, which positively impacts all Pennsylvanians.

Madam Speaker, 103 years ago, the Pennsylvania Farm Show was a 3-day exhibit. Today, the event is a weeklong celebration of how the agriculture industry touches our lives every day. Proudly, this event draws visitors from across the country to highlight everything our State has to offer when it comes to ag. Numerous students participate in the event as well from 4-H clubs to FFA organizations.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show truly showcases our Nation's farmers and landowners. I was thrilled to again take part in the best agricultural expo in the country.

Madam Speaker, I want to close with the words from the prologue to the 100th anniversary book that is published by the Farm Show Foundation, with the Farm Show being dedicated to the farmers who feed us, the Penn State extension staff that lead us, and the consumers that need us.

#### OPEN OUR GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

California (Mr. CARBAJAL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, this week, I visited the Customs and Border Protection facilities where 8-year-old Felipe Gomez Alonso was held shortly before he fell sick and tragically died on Christmas Eve. This was just 3 weeks after 7-year-old Jakelyn Caal died in custody nearby.

I went to Alamogordo because I wanted to hear directly from CBP agents why these two children died and what changes are being made to ensure that not one more child dies while in United States custody.

CBP agents told us that they needed more personnel, more technological support, better coordination between agencies, and improvements to facilities to accommodate the higher percentage of children and families seeking asylum.

One checkpoint I visited didn't have a shower for migrants. They were transported an hour each way every 2 days for a shower. The other facility didn't even have potable water.

The Border Patrol agents were also understandably frustrated that their online database did not synchronize with DHS systems, creating even more confusion when migrants were being moved or processed. Not once did the agents mention building a wall.

What I confirmed was that this President purposefully created this humanitarian crisis at the border for political reasons by taking the following actions:

Trump cut the Central American Minors refugee program, which had allowed migrants from Central America to apply for humanitarian relief while in their home countries instead of traveling to our border, forcing them to make a dangerous journey with their children to escape life-threatening violence in their countries.

He then separated families at the border, taking toddlers from the arms of parents and losing track of people's children in the process, a stain on the history of our great Nation.

And he blocked asylum-seekers from their legal right to present themselves for screenings through metering at the ports or denying all asylum claims, creating huge backlogs at the legal ports of entry with squalid conditions and pushing more migrants to attempt to cross the border between ports of entry out of desperation.

This is a real humanitarian crisis that is unfolding because of the President's obsession with an ineffective wall that Mexico was supposedly going to pay for rather than listening to the actual needs of our CBP officers.

The President continues to repeat the lie, as he did last night again, that America faces a crisis in the number of border crossings from Mexico. Surprisingly, there was not one migrant housed at the two CBP facilities I visited this week.

The reality is that overall border crossings are on the decline. There has

been an 80 percent reduction in the number of border crossings since the year 2000.

Trump created and welcomed this shutdown, telling the public that he is proud to shut down the government and that he "will take the mantle of shutting it down." The President should, instead, join Congress and immediately sign bipartisan legislation that previously passed both the House and the Senate to reopen the government.

More than 800,000 Federal workers aren't sure of when their next paycheck is coming, airport security and safety is suffering, and the affordable housing programs for our homeless veterans are quickly running out of funding on the central coast that I represent and across the Nation. I urge the President to do the right thing so that we can get to work for the American people.

Mr. President, open our government up.

#### CONGRATULATING CLEMSON TIGERS ON WINNING 2019 NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today because it is a great day, a great week, and a great year to be a Clemson Tiger.

The Third District of South Carolina, which I represent, is home to the Clemson Tigers, who were victorious in their performance against the Alabama Crimson Tide on Monday to claim their third college football national championship, resulting in a perfect season, the first 15-win season in the modern era of Division I football.

Coach Dabo Swinney led this historic team to not only victory, but a dominating performance to truly establish Clemson as the best college football team in the entire country. They left no room for doubt. It was an amazing performance for everyone, from quarterback Trevor Lawrence—and my friend from Georgia, BARRY LOUDERMILK, will talk about Trevor shortly, the first true freshman to start and win a national championship in 33 years—to seniors like Christian Wilkins and walk-on wide receiver Hunter Renfrow.

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The entire team and coaching staff showed poise, control, and leadership on and off the field the entire night.

Coach Brent Venables, the defensive coordinator, prepared the Clemson defense well. Alabama was in the red zone three times, on three different occasions, but came away with zero points due to the great Tiger defense standing strong. Great work, Coach Venables, and a great job, Clemson defense.

The Tide threw two interceptions in the first half, which Clemson leveraged

to turn into points for the Tigers, establishing more dominance in the game.

The Clemson offense scored an incredible 44 points over Alabama's 16; 31 of those points were unanswered, to the shock of many in the college football world, but not a shock to the Tiger nation. We know what this Dabo Swinney-coached team was capable of.

At the end of the night, Clemson's near-perfect game was too much for Alabama. The performance was truly remarkable to see, as the whole Nation stopped to watch the two top programs in college football duke it out and leave their hearts on the field.

The Clemson senior class is one to be remembered; four straight ACC championships, two national championships, and 55 wins over the last 4 years.

Madam Speaker, to say I am a proud alumnus and former walk-on Clemson football player would be an understatement.

Above all else, one of the things I am most impressed with is Coach Dabo Swinney's leadership and character. He is truly a bright light in the realm of college football. Like Dabo has said many times: "Let the light that shines in you be brighter than the light that shines on you."

Of course, Dabo cares about playing amazing football. He has proven this over and over again in a fantastic 10 years as the head coach. He is now one of two active college football coaches with a national championship under the belt, right along with Alabama's Nick Saban.

But I know Dabo cares about something more, something bigger and more important than football. He cares about the hearts and souls of his players. He cares about their character, their leadership skills, and their aspirations well after they leave the field.

He cares about the types of men these players will become as friends, brothers, sons, future husbands, and fathers. He invests in them to train them as both elite athletes and elite people.

There is only one reason for this type of compassion. He strives to mirror Jesus Christ's unconditional love for us every day as a leader, a coach, a husband, a father, and a friend. And as he said after the game: "Only God can do this." How true this is in all areas of our lives.

Coach Swinney never misses an opportunity to speak the truth on the platform God has given him to proclaim the amazing, Christlike love that is bestowed upon all of us. You can tell he always wants to be that type of example.

I believe this is what makes Clemson so special, a leader who prays with his staff and his players; a leader who shows Christlike love to everyone that he meets; a leader who prioritizes character over everything else; a leader who cares about you as a person, not just a football player. We can learn a lot from Dabo.

Thanks, Coach, for being the man that you are.

Hats off to Alabama who always has a storied and successful program. The competition on Monday night captured the entire Nation's attention through that battle between two amazing football programs. It was a great game, and Coach Nick Saban and his Alabama team are remarkable. This team was remarkable.

But, hey, in a college sporting event, somebody has got to lose, and I am glad my Clemson Tigers were able to win on Monday night.

Clemson's success wasn't built overnight. This was built by years of focus, work, and grind, paid for with blood, sweat, and tears on the field, in the weight room, in the film room, and everywhere in between. Nothing great ever comes easy.

So, Madam Speaker, as a former player, a proud Clemson graduate, a lifetime Tiger, I am filled with pride to see where this Clemson program is today, how it has elevated the university and the entire State.

People in this Chamber and on Capitol Hill, Members of Congress, Capitol Hill police, the staff, they may not know my name, but they know who the Clemson fan is amongst them.

Many of my Alabama colleagues, like Mo BROOKS, were texting me during the game. I can't reveal what those texts said, but I appreciate the time.

Clemson is a special place with proud alumni all over the world. There is something in the hills where the Blue Ridge yawns its greatness, and the football team showed this greatness Monday night.

I am immensely proud of Coach Swinney, the players, and the administration, and I will always be all in.

Go Tigers, the college football national champions. Congratulations once again.

#### AMTRAK CLOSURE IN RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today because nearly 500 Amtrak workers in Riverside are being forced to uproot their lives or lose everything they worked so hard for, a good, stable union job that pays them well and gives them benefits.

This nightmare scenario is born out of a sudden decision by Amtrak to shutter its call center in Riverside in what amounts to a union-busting maneuver to outsource jobs and replace these employees with contractors for lower pay.

Today, I want the Amtrak CEO to hear, not from me, but from Theresa Kolaras, an Amtrak employee in Riverside, and U.S. Army veteran, who will be losing her job on January 18 if Amtrak moves forward with this call center closure. And here is what Theresa had to say:

Growing up, it was my dream to serve my country. That's why I joined the JROTC pro-

gram in high school. And after 9/11, I enlisted with the U.S. Army with hopes of making a difference and happy to have a career. My job wasn't glamorous. I was a Unit Support Specialist, MOS 92 Yankee. But I was proud to be serving during a difficult time for our country.

Unfortunately, just as my platoon was readying to deploy, I suffered successive fractures in my foot that wouldn't heal. I was honorably discharged due to the injury and, just like that, my dreams were cut short. At the time, nothing saddened me more than having to watch my friends deploy without me.

Saddled with my foot that wouldn't heal, I now had to figure out what to do with my life. Jobs were hard to find due to having to choose ones that kept me off my feet so much. I found many odd jobs here and there and, within a few years, I finally started a family and continued my education.

In 2014, I was ecstatic to find out I was hired with Amtrak, as I come from a railroad family, and was proud to continue that tradition. Being able to work at our call center in Riverside was a blessing for my family and me.

Amtrak's reputation for its passengers and its employees gave me hope for a brighter future. Living in California is nearly impossible, with its high cost of living, especially being a single mother of two boys.

I was able to take care of my kids on the great benefits and wages at Amtrak. My boys love the train and enjoy our many trips we were able to take.

Now, on November 14, I got a sudden awakening as I got notice that Amtrak would be closing our call center in Riverside.

Amtrak reassured us employees our jobs were secure. As months went by, Amtrak started closing stations, putting employees out of work, and many of us in Riverside started to worry about our jobs.

Now that feeling of worry is a reality, and we're left wondering why Amtrak has been so dishonest.

Amtrak sent out a letter to us stating that they are not laying us off, but we are able to go to its Philadelphia call center.

Now, I count myself among the great majority that just can't pick up on short notice and leave. I have small children and share custody, and I can't legally move my kids out of state.

I honestly have no idea where my children and I will go. We have a month to figure out where to live, as I can't pay rent without a job, along with this injury that I still deal with every day.

I am one of the many employees who are at a hardship, and a few days away from closing we still don't have any real answers or hope that we will at least have a severance package.

Amtrak has been quiet, and I am still in disbelief that this was once a company that was known for its employee and customer loyalty. Many of us loved our jobs because we were proud of the railroad, proud to wear the name, and proud to help our customers plan their trips.

Now, at work these last few days, I see people with despair in their faces and loss of hope in their eyes.

I still have hope that Amtrak will wake up and realize that the direction they are going is hurting its customers and its employees, which are their biggest fans. This decision is both ethically and morally wrong.

I would like to thank Theresa for allowing me to read her powerful statement to Amtrak's CEO.

As of today, 39 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, and I, as well as Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator HARRIS,