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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. POCAN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 29, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK POCAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, 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. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an invasive pest that is wreaking havoc on farms and forests nationwide and is giving Pennsylvania agricultural producers a major headache. I am talking about the spotted lanternfly. This native Asian insect has been found in at least 14 different counties in Pennsylvania and has

spread to our neighbors in Maryland and New Jersey as well.

The spotted lanternfly feeds on sap, leaving all the plants that it touches weakened. The residue that the spotted lanternflies leave behind promotes mold growth which destroys many plants and crops. The spotted lanternfly has a diverse appetite, feeding on more than 70 different kinds of plants. From fruit trees to hardwoods and nursery industries, so many of the sectors of Pennsylvania's agricultural industry are subject to these pests.

In Pennsylvania alone, it is estimated \$18 billion in agriculture is at risk. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has issued a checklist that all residents should consult to check for spotted lanternfly egg masses. These things include camping equipment, firewood, outdoor children's toys, like playscapes and sandboxes, and more. By the end of the year, most adult spotted lanternflies will be dead. However, residents are encouraged to rid their property of any egg masses that they find by dowsing them in alcohol.

Thankfully, research is being done to look into the best ways to combat this pest and eradicate it from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture recently awarded the Pennsylvania State University a \$7.3 million grant to support a team of researchers from a variety of disciplines. It is a good investment if we can save \$18 billion worth of agriculture damage.

These funds will be combined with an additional \$5 million in investments from growers and landowners—private citizens who agreed to work with researchers on this project. Researchers and extension educators from Penn State will be joined by additional experts from the USDA Agricultural Research Service, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Vir-

ginia Tech, University of Delaware, the Universities of Rhode Island, Temple, Rutgers, Cornell, and the Northeastern IPM Center.

With continued education and research into this invasive pest, we can get closer to finding a solution to dealing with the spotted lanternfly and alleviating Pennsylvania's agricultural producers of this threat.

USMCA

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my Democratic colleagues across the aisle to end their partisan impeachment inquiry and instead focus on an issue that will actually improve the lives of our constituents and supercharge the already roaring American economy; that is, bringing the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, the USMCA, to this floor for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, ratifying this landmark trade deal would generate a whole host of benefits, including growing the economy by tens of billions of dollars and supporting hundreds of thousands of American jobs and giving farmers more access to sell their products beyond our borders.

According to a recent report from the International Trade Commission, the USMCA would raise the United States' GDP by more than \$68 billion and create nearly 200,000 new jobs. The study also found that the USMCA would have a positive impact on trade by increasing U.S. exports and imports to Canada and Mexico by billions of dollars.

The benefits don't stop there. The agreement would benefit farmers across the country and in my district in North Carolina. Under the USMCA, U.S. dairy farmers would be able to more than triple their access to the Canadian dairy market. This would be a

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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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huge win for Iredell County, the top dairy producing county in North Carolina, as our dairy producers will gain wider access to a bigger marketplace.

Along with dairy, the USMCA would boost North Carolina's poultry producers—a \$37 billion industry that supports nearly 150,000 jobs in my State. Early estimates show that poultry exports to Canada will grow astronomically because the agreement increases tariff rate quotas for U.S. poultry and egg exports to Canada. The agreement also eliminates barriers facing U.S. dairy and poultry exports to Canada which will further unleash economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, there is a reason the USMCA enjoys broad support from Mexico, Canada, and the U.S. stakeholders, as well as a majority of this House on both sides of the aisle: Because the upside for our country is undisputed.

Ratifying this agreement would be a historic victory for our economy, for our workers, and for our farmers.

The President and his team should be commended for a job well done, and now it is time for this House to quit stalling and to act. The window to pass the USMCA is closing, and I stand ready to vote for this deal and to get it across the finish line.

I ask my Democratic colleagues to suspend their blind hatred of this President and bring the USMCA to the floor for a simple up-or-down vote. We need to stop thinking about this in terms of giving President Trump a political victory and start thinking about giving the American people an economic victory. That is why we all were sent here in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, let's pass the USMCA now.

MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

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

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the College Affordability Act, a comprehensive overhaul of our higher education system that will lower the cost of college and improve higher education for students of all backgrounds, because right now students are paying increasingly more for an education that is giving them less.

I know that because I have heard it. I have heard from constituents in my district that we need to do better when it comes to the rising cost of tuition and the overall quality of higher education.

That is why I am taking action. Since coming to Congress, I have worked closely with my colleagues on the Education and Labor Committee to lead four pieces of legislation that will be included in this act.

The legislation will expand educational opportunities for all individuals impacted by the criminal justice

system, dedicate more resources for prevention and treatment of alcohol and substance abuse on college campuses, strengthen grants for teachers and school leaders around recruitment and retention, and establish a commission to study mental health issues facing college students.

These measures as well as others are what make the College Affordability Act a down payment on our higher education system that just makes sense.

I urge swift passage for my colleagues in the committee today, and I hope we can move this bill to the floor and the President's desk even faster. As my good friend, Chairman Elijah Cummings, said: Our children are messengers we send to the future we will never see.

It is time to invest in their future and give all Americans the good, quality higher education that they deserve.

A LASTING LEGACY FOR ZIMMERMAN

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Zimmerman City Administrator Randy Piasecki who recently celebrated his 25th anniversary with the city.

Wherever you are in Zimmerman, you can see Randy's work. Randy had a major hand in improvements and development of the city. From Zimmerman Middle High School to the latest apartment complex in downtown Zimmerman, Randy has facilitated its construction and completion. In his office, Randy proudly displays an article boasting Zimmerman as one of the 10 fastest growing cities in Minnesota, in major part thanks to him.

The legacy of his work proves how much Randy loves Zimmerman. We hope he continues for many years to grow the city with the thoughtfulness and care he has shown for nearly three decades.

Congratulations, Randy, and thank you for your 25 years of service to the people and city of Zimmerman.

HOMETOWN HOCKEY PLAYER SUCCEEDS IN THE NHL

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate a graduate of Blaine High School in my district, St. Cloud Husky Jonny Brodzinski, for signing a contract with the NHL San Jose Sharks.

Following Jonny's successful career at Blaine High School, he went on to play for St. Cloud State University, which is also in Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District. He skated there for three seasons with the great Huskies. His hometown watched and cheered him on as he advanced to the American Hockey League to play for the Ontario Reign and celebrated when he was signed by the Los Angeles Kings, officially making him an NHL hockey player. As he joins the San Jose Sharks, we will be there to show our support.

Congratulations, Jonny. We are proud you call Minnesota's Sixth District and the State of Minnesota your home. We will continue to cheer you on as you play the game we all love.

ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY, THANK YOU ASHLEY KOHLS

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Ashley Kohls from the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association for her commitment and service to our State's agriculture community and to congratulate her on her new role as Director of Government Affairs for the Nebraska Cattlemen's Association.

During her time as the executive director of the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association and a member of our Agriculture Advisory Committee, Ashley has worked closely with our office, educating members and our staff about agriculture and cattle farming, in particular. As a cattle farmer herself, Ashley and her husband, Craig, run a fourth-generation family farm with their children, Avery and Bennet.

Ashley is a strong leader and an example to young women who are interested in the agricultural industry. As an example, she participated as a panelist at our annual Young Women Leadership Program where she shared with the high school-aged women what it is like to run a farm, be a mother, and run a large-scale advocacy association. It was an honor to have her participation.

Ashley, Nebraska is going to be lucky to have you. We wish you and your family the best.

THE HONORABLE MAYOR TOM RYAN: A TRUE PUBLIC SERVANT

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mayor Tom Ryan, a great public servant for the city of Blaine in Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District. Mayor Ryan's life is the definition of public service.

Mayor Ryan grew up in St. Paul. He was drafted and served in the U.S. Army in South Korea. He was honorably discharged in 1966 and returned home to Minnesota where he settled in what is now the city of Blaine. For decades he has served the city as a councilman and now mayor. He also serves as co-leader of Blaine's Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program which provides community support to our servicemembers and their families.

Recently, Mayor Ryan received the Seven Seals Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. This award recognizes his commitment to help servicemembers find work upon their return home.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mayor Ryan, for the city of Blaine, and for our servicemembers, and congratulations him on his Seven Seals Award.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENTIAL EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER PROFESSOR EUGENIA PAULUS

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Professor Eugenia Paulus for her Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. Professor