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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CASTOR of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 27, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KATHY CASTOR 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 4, 2021, 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 time equally allocated between the parties 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 1:50 p.m.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION TO BUILD BACK BETTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, this weekend I had the honor to work on our budget reconciliation in the Budget Committee. The legislation contains economic development initiatives that I have long championed to create good-paying jobs while lowering costs and cutting taxes for American families. This is the kind of legislation

that assures the rest of the American people that they have not been abandoned in their time of need.

The Build Back Better Act is a true job creator, creating millions of jobs while tackling the climate crisis and ensuring that America will not only compete but lead the way to a more prosperous future.

Historic investments in clean energy technology will create 2 million jobs each year over the next decade, while reducing carbon emissions by over 50 percent by the year 2030. We also include investment in workforce training to connect workers to jobs, research and development to strengthen American manufacturing, and access to credit and investment for small businesses.

The Build Back Better Act will also make significant investments in American agriculture. As a member of the Agriculture Committee, we were able to include critical investments in agricultural research, rural development, and renewable energy: \$7.75 billion in agriculture research and infrastructure; \$18 billion in rural job-promoting investments to ensure those living in rural America, on Tribal lands, and our insular areas have access to clean water and reliable and efficient renewable energy; and \$40 billion in investments in forestry programs.

It should concern us, and it concerns me, that CEOs make more than 350 times more than the average worker, that billionaires have seen their wealth increase up to \$1.18 trillion during the pandemic, or that 55 of the largest corporations have paid zero dollars in Federal income taxes on over \$40 billion of profits.

These are what my colleagues, the Republicans, are calling job creators. Recognize that phrase when you hear them say job creators. It means those CEOs and those businesses that have created wealth for themselves without jobs for the American people.

It is incredulous to me that the top 1 percent has evaded paying an estimated \$160 billion in taxes each year while the average American pays his or her taxes every year. Millionaires and billionaires are paying lower taxes than teachers, cops, and firefighters.

But Democrats are bringing legislation that is going to keep America great, that is going to continue to make America the innovators. This is our moment to change the course of progress toward the everyday American.

History will point to this week, this law, as the significant transformation in the lives of the American people and overall success of true American greatness.

STOP RECKLESS TAX-AND-SPEND SPREE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this week, liberals will attempt to ram through the most egregious spending package since the New Deal. By adding \$3.5 trillion in new spending, their plan would not lift families up; it would keep families down.

By imposing liberals' hidden tax by inflation, by pumping billions of dollars into an economy that is already saturated from failed stimulus packages, my colleagues' actions will directly harm working Americans.

Raising taxes on middle-class families and small businesses is not the answer to ending the COVID-19 pandemic. Forcing businesses to conform to new regulations won't get Americans back to work.

Now is the time to support our families. It is not the time to spend more money than it cost to win World War II. We need to put a stop to this reckless tax-and-spend spree, and we need

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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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to get back to serving the American people.

**RECOGNIZING MAXIM SKRIPNIK
AND GOSTOMEL ANIMAL SHELTER**

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to recognize Maxim Skripnik and the Gostomel Animal Shelter, an amazing individual and an amazing organization.

The Gostomel Animal Shelter, located just outside of Kiev, Ukraine, is serving homeless animals in Ukraine, both in Kiev and outside.

As the co-chair of the Ukraine Caucus here in Congress, Madam Speaker, I recently visited that country, and one of my many stops was at the Gostomel Shelter. This was originally established by the Kyiv Society for the Protection of Animals. For the past 20 years, the Gostomel Shelter has rescued abandoned animals off the streets of Ukraine, nursed them back to health, and gave them a second chance at life.

The shelter is operated by Maxim, who graciously gave me a tour of the facility during my visit to Ukraine. Maxim has devoted his entire life to providing care for these vulnerable animals.

Madam Speaker, there are an estimated 50,000 stray animals on the streets of Ukraine. This poses a considerable risk to the welfare of the animals and the overall public health of the community. The future for the majority of these vulnerable and abandoned animals is bleak, but the Gostomel Shelter provides them with the opportunity to find a loving forever home.

Since its inception, the Gostomel Shelter has advocated for their animals and promoted humane methods of controlling the ever-growing population of stray animals. Each victory, no matter how small, creates an environment more accepting of these vulnerable animals and proves that they can be rehabilitated and adopted into loving families.

The shelter, which is housed in a former cowshed, provides safekeeping for up to 700 stray and abandoned dogs and cats. In 2006, the shelter established a veterinary hospital and rehabilitation center, which is now one of the largest in all of Ukraine. Here, homeless animals are sterilized, after which they undergo compulsory rehabilitation in a hospital and return to the shelter where they await their forever homes.

Madam Speaker, the Gostomel Shelter, Maxim, and KSPA do not have reliable sources of funding and permanent employees. They often rely on public donations and volunteers to provide food and medicine to the animals.

During my visit, I witnessed firsthand how Maxim and these volunteers

work tirelessly, literally around the clock, to ensure these innocent animals have a second chance.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the incredible work being done by Maxim and all the volunteers of the shelter. I paid a visit to the mayor of Kiev to relay all of my experiences and the positive impact that Maxim and those volunteers are making, and I wanted to formally recognize them here in this Chamber.

**CLIMATE IS MORE LIVABLE THAN
EVER**

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, while climate catastrophists claim that our climate is less livable than ever because of fossil fuels, it is actually more livable than ever, thanks to our fossil fuel powered climate protection systems.

When you hear the scary claims about a climate crisis, keep in mind that climate catastrophists, or alarmists as they are now known, have been claiming climate crisis for about 40 years.

If America tries to rapidly eliminate fossil fuel use through a Green New Deal or Biden climate plan, we will not prevent a crisis. We will cause a crisis by making energy completely unreliable and unaffordable for American industry and American consumers, especially the middle-income and lower income folks.

Now, what isn't pointed out very often in all this talk about carbon dioxide being a pollutant is that carbon dioxide is 0.04 percent of our atmosphere. Most people think it is some big number like 20, 30, 40, 50 percent of our atmosphere. Nitrogen, number one, is 78 percent; oxygen, number two, 21 percent. CO₂ is not even in third place. Argon is, 0.93 of 1 percent.

Some of these pie charts you would look at on the internet would have carbon dioxide mixed in with other trace gases—other, okay?

So, we are at 0.04 percent. It is an extremely small amount of our atmosphere. Now, you would think, again, with the alarmism going on, that it is a high percentage that is poisoning all of us. Carbon is a building block of most of what we have on this planet, carbon life forms, right?

We are chasing down this path, I think, because of an agenda that is a lot different than the climate itself, especially when you see the folks that are pushing it the hardest still flying to all their Paris rallies and this and that in private jets, not living their lives any different, other than what normal people do.

Coming back to the fossil fuel portion of it, it would be worth it, so the alarmists say, to lower CO₂ levels and avoid a crisis. But the U.S. causes less than one-sixth of all global emissions, and that number is even going lower.

President Trump pulled us out of the Paris accord, yet the United States is still leading the way on lowering its CO₂ production anyway. It has a lower net number than before, without an accord. The other countries in the developing world, in the Third World, in the Eastern Bloc, whatever, are still increasing their numbers, building new coal-powered plants in China—one a week, some crazy number like that.

We are supposed to adhere to that in this country and curb our production and curb our economy, even though we are leading the way in cleaner technology, cleaner-burning automobiles and trucks, cleaner-burning power plants.

It is so crazy that in my home State of California, for example, when we look at the type of electricity production that comes from green power sources, the environmentalists are trying to get rid of them. We had two nuclear-powered plants in California. They already closed one, San Onofre, down by San Diego, and then one in San Luis Obispo. Those two themselves are responsible, at their peak production, for somewhere around 16, 18, even 20 percent of the whole grid of California. Imagine knocking out 20 percent of the grid in that short amount of time and trying to replace it with more politically correct green power.

It is hard to get the permits to do the politically correct green power, such as making tens of thousands of acres covered with solar cells or windmills, but nonetheless, we are hellbent on that direction.

At the same time, they want to get rid of the use of natural gas and propane to power people's stoves, power people's water heaters, things like that, and have them go electric. They are hellbent on changing cars into being electric powered by 2035, no more combustion engine cars, all because of this 0.04 percent.

What are we doing here? It is a political agenda.

Indeed, every committee in this new Congress has to spend a good portion of their time not talking about whether it is childcare, agriculture, or finance. They have to run it all through a climate change filter before we can move on to the work that needs to be done.

Coming back to California, we sometimes have public safety power shut-offs, they call it, because we have an issue of trees that might fall onto power lines or branches that the wind might catch and blow into power lines. Right here is an example of three fires that have happened in northern California in the last couple of years.

□ 1215

This one here is the current Dixie fire. I am using an older poster, because I am cheap, but this is now, instead of 100,000 acres, a million acres. It would come all the way up here past Mount Lassen.

What is the CO₂ equation here of unmanaged forests? We need to manage