



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024

No. 51

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 22, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID G. VALADAO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Today, O Lord, in all that we face, in the decisions that are made, whether we turn to the right or to the left, may we listen for Your voice behind us, saying: "This is the way; walk in it." When we hear Your voice, may we not harden our hearts.

Let every one of us be quick to hear but also slow to speak. More importantly, let us be slow to anger. Remind us that our heated opinions, our rancor, do not produce the righteousness You desire.

Then when the day is over, when we have done our part in our service to Your people, when we have exhausted our energies and left it all on the table, sanctify our labors. We pray Your blessing over all that we have completed and Your intercession in the things we have left undone. Grant us Your mercy in our failures and the fruit of Your perfect will in our achievements.

Lord, keep watch ever over us as we seek to serve You, our communities, and our Nation.

In Your most holy name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

RECOGNIZING KUAM NEWS

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 70th anniversary of a local TV station in my district, KUAM News.

KUAM News has been broadcasting locally since 1954, providing the community with accurate and timely news coverage on local events, crime, education, and more. They have been a trustworthy and reliable news source for many of my constituents. This confidence was earned through shedding light on important stories that may

have otherwise gone unnoticed and giving a voice to those in need.

Aside from its news coverage, KUAM has demonstrated excellence in community service. As an integral part of their mission, KUAM actively engages in charity drives and initiatives aimed at raising awareness for causes across the island.

I wish a happy 70th anniversary to KUAM. May they have many more years as being one of Guam's trusted news sources.

RECOGNIZING THE PAINTER SISTERS

(Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this Women's History Month, I recognize two remarkable local entrepreneurs who are reimagining family farming with style, smarts, and sisterhood.

Hayley and Stephanie Painter run Painterland Farms, a fourth generation, regenerative, organic dairy farm in Tioga County, Pennsylvania.

Like so many other farmers, the Painter family's agricultural livelihood was threatened by a dwindling market, yet with grit and creativity, they found a new way to connect their Pennsylvania small business to a big audience.

Guided by their mission to help people understand their food sources, "to know your farmer," Hayley and Stephanie created Painterland Sisters organic skyr yogurt in 2020.

Their yogurt and their story now reach far beyond our Commonwealth. In fact, Painterland Sisters is in all 50 States.

In recognition of their work, Hayley and Stephanie were honored by the Forbes 30 Under 30 in 2024 and were recently awarded Emerging Entrepreneur

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H1357

of the Year at the National Products Expo West.

Still, the Painter sisters are more than just businesswomen. They are environmental activists dedicated to feeding communities and leaving the Commonwealth better for the next generation. Not to mention, their yogurt is delicious.

CALIFORNIA WATER ALLOCATIONS

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

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, after years of exceptional drought, California is in a second consecutive wet year. Every major reservoir in our State is above the 15-year average, and our snowpack in the Sierras is at more than 100 percent of average for this time of year.

This is all good news, but even with the current abundance of water, the South-of-Delta farmers are still not allocated 100 percent of the water they contract and pay for. This is unacceptable.

Central Valley Project contractors rely on meaningful allocations from the Bureau of Reclamation for their yearly planning, including the types of crops they will plant and when.

California grows a quarter of the Nation's food, and these allocations are critical to the fate of our Nation's food supply.

My farmers and communities have endured disproportionately low water allocations for many years, with contractors receiving well below their contracted supply even during wet years.

I urge the Bureau of Reclamation to increase these allocations for South-of-Delta water contractors to reflect the record wet year that we are seeing right now. Our ability to grow food for the Nation will not survive without reliable water supply for South-of-Delta agriculture.

CONGRATULATING THE SIMMONS COLLEGE LADY FALCONS

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

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Louisville's own Simmons College Lady Falcons on their first-ever Division II women's college basketball national championship.

They defeated the Toccoa Falls Screaming Eagles 79-70, bringing a national championship trophy to Louisville's only HBCU for the first time ever, and this is only the second year that Simmons College has even had a women's basketball team. What an incredible feat and what a great legacy they have started in just 2 years.

Congratulations to Head Coach Earl Ruffin, who was named the regional coach of the year for his success in leading the Lady Falcons to victory.

Congratulations to Simmons Sophomore Morgan Defoor, who scored 30 points in the championship game and was named a first team All-American.

Congratulations and thank you to our Lady Falcons for making all of us proud.

PURPLE HEARTS FOR THE SOLDIERS LOST IN THE JOLLY 51 CRASH

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

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, the seven young men who lost their lives in the 2018 crash of Jolly 51 in western Iraq deserve Purple Hearts.

Four of the seven were based out of the 106th Rescue Wing in Westhampton Beach in my district on Long Island. Two of those four were raised in my district: Master Sergeant Christopher Raguso of Huntington and Staff Sergeant Dashan Briggs of Riverhead.

For years now, the men of Jolly 51 have been denied Purple Hearts by the Air Force, despite efforts by my predecessor and me.

After having the privilege of speaking at a memorial service last week to honor the sixth anniversary of the crash, I am here today to recommit to the families of the men of Jolly 51 that I will do everything in my power to ensure they are posthumously awarded Purple Hearts.

They gave their lives in action against an enemy of the United States. Posthumously awarding each of these seven brave men a Purple Heart is the very least we can do.

REPEALING OF GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1085, I call up the bill (H.R. 1023) to repeal section 134 of the Clean Air Act, relating to the greenhouse gas reduction fund, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). Pursuant to House Resolution 1085, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of the Rules Committee Print 118-26 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1023

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Cutting Green Corruption and Taxes Act".

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 134 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7434)(relating to the greenhouse gas reduction fund) is repealed.

(b) RESCISSION.—The unobligated balance of any amounts made available under section 134

of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7434)(as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) is rescinded.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 60103 of Public Law 117-169 (relating to the greenhouse gas reduction fund) is repealed.

SEC. 3. REPEAL OF NATURAL GAS TAX.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 136 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7436)(relating to methane emissions and waste reduction incentive program for petroleum and natural gas systems) is repealed.

(b) RESCISSION.—The unobligated balance of any amounts made available under section 136 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7436)(as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) is rescinded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1023.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1023, the Cutting Green Corruption and Taxes Act.

Currently, nearly 20 million American households are behind on paying their utility bills, and families are struggling to put food on the table. These issues directly stem from the expensive and misguided energy policies put in place by the Biden administration and Congressional Democrats with their Inflation Reduction Act, or as I call it, the income reduction act. Thankfully, H.R. 1023 is an important step toward addressing two of the many problems with the IRA.

The IRA created a \$27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund within the EPA. This is nothing more than a slush fund with little to no oversight to fund climate activists, green groups, and Democrat political allies that do little to impact the climate.

If my colleagues really wanted to help the American people, especially people on low or fixed incomes, they would focus on unleashing American energy and expanding access to natural gas. Affordable and reliable American energy, not a \$27 billion slush fund for Democrat special interest groups, will bring economic opportunity to the American people.

□ 0915

Despite natural gas being a critical component for food production and