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No. 167

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LOPEZ).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 13, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GREG LOPEZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, 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 11:50 a.m.

TREE PLANTING AND METROPARKS INVESTMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, during this fall season, thanks are due to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for its award of 10,000 trees to the city of Toledo, Ohio.

Worth millions of dollars, these trees will be planted in oxygen-short neighborhoods and barren industrial and commercial zones to achieve beautification and better air quality. Others

will replace legacy trees damaged by severe weather events such as tornadoes that occurred in Point Place, to beautify our precious coastal community.

As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, this significant boost from the U.S. Department of Agriculture will present our western basin with a major new opportunity.

Planting trees can develop community-wide and neighborhood environmental consciousness by organizing grassroots planting teams across our precious fresh watershed. We all have a responsibility to the future by helping seed a new and renewed consciousness across Lake Erie's abundant western freshwater basin. Indeed, the city of Toledo sits at the lowest elevation in our vast watershed that hugs Lake Erie and drains all the runoff into it. Thus, trees also provide a great filtering capacity as trees store and filter water.

The city of Toledo has been handed this rather major task to green up. My hope is that regional stewardship will include trees acquired from local growers, links to environmental organizations, and engagement of our Metroparks and Black Swamp Conservancy. Tree planting creates a once-in-a-generation opportunity for community betterment and for popular mobilization.

Toledo youth and other organizations in our neighborhoods, including downtown Toledo itself, will benefit from this 10,000 trees promise of a better future for our coastal city as a welcoming and beautiful destination where the Lake and the Maumee River, the largest river to flow into the Great Lakes, adjoin at the coastline's edge.

Coastal, river, and stream bank planting will help relieve flooding. Mature trees hold hundreds of gallons of water and reduce flooding to assist

homeowners in places that are along Swan Creek, Reynolds Road, Byrne Road, Sleepy Hollow corridors, as well as west Toledo and other areas that still have water runoff on occasion and are challenged.

Strategic tree planting can improve our entire region. It can improve our freshwater rivers, streams, and ditches that run through Toledo. Their banks must be attended, starting where tornadoes have just destroyed hundreds and hundreds of legacy trees. Trees can help upgrade our civic center and many of our corridors along Cherry Street, the South End, and Junction neighborhoods.

The Ohio Turnpike exit onto U.S. 20 still is the only exit in the cities of Toledo and Maumee off the Ohio Turnpike. This corridor should be showcased by tree plantings leading to Toledo's Botanical Garden, its CYO fields, and then proceeding up to the Wildwood Preserve.

The U.S. 24 artery that I was proud to champion has been improved from the Port of Toledo all the way to the Indiana border, carefully winding through some of the richest farmland in the world.

This freshwater corridor can be visually upgraded even more with trees as one approaches our freshwater kingdom. Indeed, our region is located at the southernmost, warmest coastline in the entire Great Lakes. The Maumee River is the largest river that flows into the Great Lakes and we should showcase it and its boundaries regardless of political jurisdiction.

Currently, millions of potential visitors coming across the Ohio Turnpike would never think of exiting off into our region because signage does not create a reason for them to do so. A tree corridor can welcome visitors from far and wide. My hope is that this project is not just about sending out trucks with tree saplings and excavator buckets. My hope is that our region's leaders can use this opportunity

☐ 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 take bold leadership to spruce up our "Glass City" in a garden.

We know Toledo has oxygen deficits in several regions, especially where industrial development and leaching landfills cause pollutants like CO₂ and methane to continue emitting. Planting trees may seem like a simple undertaking, yet Toledo is nestled inside the largest watershed in the entire Great Lakes. It is sustainable and unique globally if properly tended.

Our citizenry is motivated to manage our precious assets going forward, including attention to new-age production greenhouses that produce millions of plants and fresh produce we all enjoy. If this were Amish country, there would be a welcome center, signage, websites, beautified exit ramps leading off the turnpike exit to Reynolds Road up to Hill Avenue at the Kyle Farm where we have the opportunity for a visitor center and dozens and dozens of local farm markets in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you so very much for allowing me to speak today because we all know what America makes and grows makes and grows America.

RECOGNIZING PETER COTTONTALE FOR HIP HOP HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Hip Hop History Month, I rise to honor Grammy award-winning music producer, director, and composer, Peter Wilkins, or better known as, Peter Cottontale.

Peter's visionary artistry has profoundly shaped the music scene of our city, Chi-town, and beyond. As a close collaborator of Chance the Rapper and a founding member of The Social Experiment, Peter's talents have contributed to Grammy-winning projects that honor and elevate Chicago's people, our shared struggle, our sense of community, and our unique creative opportunity to serve others.

His fingerprints can also be found in the music of SZA, Lil Wayne, and J. Cole, as well as hometown heroes like Jamila Woods, Noname, and Vic Mensa. As the owner of RCM Studios in Avondale in the Illinois Third District, Peter is cultivating inclusive, joyful spaces for local talent.

Cottontale's work is not just music; it is a movement toward innovation and a movement toward unity. On behalf of Illinois' Third District, I commend Peter Cottontale for his contributions to hip-hop and music history and for reminding us of the power of music to unite communities.

Mr. Speaker, I offer congratulations to Peter.

HONORING NELLY LEMA FOR PRESERVING THE CULTURE AND HISTORY OF THE NATIVE KICHWA PEOPLE

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker:
(English translation of the statement made in Spanish by Mrs. RAMIREZ is as follows:)

In commemoration of Native American Heritage Month, I rise to honor my constituent, Nelly Lema, a community leader committed to preserving the culture and history of the native Kichwa people of Ecuador.

As the President of the Kichwa Community of Chicago, Nelly has built community and strengthened the cultural identity for the Kichwa people who today call Chicago home.

Through cultural performances, workshops, culturally competent classes, civic dialogue, and policymaking, she has emboldened the Kichwa people to preserve the language, traditions, and identity of their people.

Sharing space with Kichwa musicians, artists, and elders who contribute their talents and knowledge, she fosters a welcoming space for her community to feel recognized, seen, and valued.

Nelly's efforts remind us of the importance of uplifting diasporic Indigenous Latine communities, both in the United States and globally.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and thank Nelly for her incredibly necessary work as a cultural steward and community leader.

Mr. Speaker, En conmemoración del Mes de la Herencia Nativa Americana, deseo honrar a mi constituyente, Nelly Lema, una líder comunitaria comprometida con la preservación de la cultura y la historia del pueblo nativo Kichwa de Ecuador.

Como presidenta de la Comunidad Kichwa de Chicago, Nelly ha construido una comunidad y fortalecido la identidad cultural de una comunidad Kichwa que hoy considera a Chicago su hogar.

A través de espectáculos culturales, talleres, clases culturalmente competentes, diálogo cívico y advocacia por políticas públicas, ha alentado a Kichwas en Chicago a preservar su idioma, sus tradiciones y su identidad como pueblo.

Al compartir espacio con músicos, artistas y personas de la tercera edad kichwa que brindan sus talentos y conocimientos, fomenta un espacio acogedor para que su comunidad se sienta reconocida, vista y valorada.

Los esfuerzos de Nelly nos recuerdan la importancia de elevar a las comunidades latinas indígenas de la diáspora tanto en los Estados Unidos como a nivel mundial. La felicitación por su trabajo increíblemente necesario como administradora cultural y líder comunitaria.

Gracias, Nelly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Illinois will provide a translation of her remarks to the Clerk.

CONGRATULATIONS TO METRA ON THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Metra and all of its employees on their 40th anniversary of delivering public transportation services for communities in Illinois' Third Congressional District.

Metra is essential to our work in Illinois to build a strong, vibrant regional economy. Public transportation connects residents of Illinois' Third Congressional District to high-quality jobs, public amenities, and local businesses from DuPage County to downtown Chicago and beyond.

When public transportation provides reliable, affordable, and accessible service, the benefits go beyond economic development and opportunity. We can achieve cleaner environments, better family health outcomes, and safer communities.

It is why I am proud to have secured \$8 million in Federal funds for the Illinois Department of Transportation's Rail Crossing Elimination program to support the separation of train traffic from pedestrians and cars in the Franklin Park community in my district, a project that will improve safety and mobility for local residents in my district.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Metra and its commuter rail service, I will continue advocating for policies and investments that support public transit environments, strengthen green, resilient infrastructure, and expand choice and equity in our transportation systems.

Mr. Speaker, I thank everyone at Metra for their service and for connecting our communities. Let's continue rolling together toward a brighter future.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Family Caregivers Month.

We celebrate caregivers who take care of our loved ones, who care for our mothers, our fathers, our siblings, our grandparents. It is caregivers who make it possible to keep our loved ones in their homes for as long as possible.

It is caregivers who are there for our loved ones when we cannot be there. It is caregivers who provide comfort and care, companionship, and so much more to our loved ones. Sometimes the caregivers are paid. Sometimes the caregivers are unpaid. Sometimes the caregivers are family members, and those who are not, become part of our family.

The majority of the caregiving workforce tends to be women and people of color. They all deserve our thanks and our recognition.

Mr. Speaker, we thank them for their service and sacrifice to our families. It is essential.

Caregivers provide around-the-clock care. Their contributions are often overlooked and undervalued. Caregiving requires time, money, and resources, and takes a toll on a caregiver's physical and mental health. Yet