

RECOGNIZING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF PENN STATE CREW TEAM

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 recognize the 30th anniversary of the Pennsylvania State University crew team.

This past Saturday, the team celebrated 30 years of commitment to the sport of rowing, the Penn State community, and continued excellence in the classroom.

Chartered in December 1994 by Coaches Colin Upson and Mike Dugan, the Penn State crew team began with 28 members and a concerning absence of rowing equipment.

Due to its lack of equipment and support, the team mainly trained on land, completing dry-land practices with the hope of a serious program guiding their efforts and passion.

The program's first full year, starting in the fall of 1995, consisted of fundraising efforts to purchase equipment. From selling concessions at home football games and cleaning Beaver Stadium, an eight-person used wooden boat was purchased.

In April of 1996, the team attended their first competition in Indianapolis where they joined the remainder of the Big Ten rowing teams at their conference championship.

Throughout the following seasons, from 1996 to 1998, the team's membership increased to over 100 male and female members. Most of this group consisted of novice rowers with little experience in a boat or on the water.

Expanded membership meant increased fundraising demands to keep up with the equipment needs. The large team numbers enabled the program to move into a bigger concession stand at Beaver Stadium, selling more clothing and food at all seven home games that season.

Thanks to the team's tireless fundraising efforts, their boat was finally paid off. By 1999, the club's annual budget was nearly \$35,000, with \$30,000 coming directly from team members' service to the community and fundraising efforts.

Over the following years, the program has swept podiums at national competitions and continues to excel both on the water and in the classroom.

In the fall of 2006, the men's four-man boat's 4th place finish at Head Of The Charles and women's four-man boat's 2nd place finish highlighted a successful season in addition to a strong recruiting class for both the varsity and the novice teams.

Thirty years later, the team is still committed to its original mission, following in the steps of its founders, Colin Upson and Mike Dugan.

Today, the complete fleet of boats now rests on trailers behind Beaver Stadium, near the humble beginnings of service upon which this program was built.

On any given day, you can find current team members waking up at 5:15 to complete dry-land workouts like their founders did years ago.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of its original members, the Pennsylvania State University crew team successfully maintains male and female competitive programs for novices, lightweights, and heavyweights.

The team remains committed to creating boats capable of competing at the highest possible levels and strives to actively promote the sport of rowing within the Penn State and Pennsylvania communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize such an incredible program filled with so many passionate students and coaches. I congratulate them on 30 years and wish them the best of luck in their spring season as they continue representing the Pennsylvania State University, Penn State.

HAITIAN SECURITY AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and speak on behalf of so many individuals, who do not have the ability to speak, to address a crisis in our hemisphere and a significant threat to American regional stability, our neighbor to the south and our ally from the inception of this country's birth, Haiti.

The elected government of Haiti collapsed some time ago, leaving gangs in control of the capital and raining chaos down upon the Haitian people.

Although Haiti holds the distinction of being the first republic of people of African descent and one of the oldest nations in the Americas, Haiti faces a significant and ongoing humanitarian crisis, overwhelmed by gangs that systematically endanger its democratic process.

Don't be fooled that this does not affect the United States. The persistent failed state situation is an open opportunity for America's adversaries to destabilize the Caribbean region and undermine the security of neighboring nations. We are seeing the outlines of malign actors, including those with whom we are in global competition.

Since President Jovenel Moise's assassination more than 3 years ago, gangs seized complete control, creating a humanitarian catastrophe that has left more than 12,000 people dead and forced nearly 800,000 from their homes. More than 5,000 people in Haiti have been killed by the gangs alone this year.

Just last weekend, more than 180 people were killed in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, as part of a multiday slaughter that was the result of a gang leader massacring older people and those he believed practiced Vodou as a personal vendetta to avenge his son's grave illness.

Without immediate support, the crisis in Haiti will worsen, the criminal network will expand, and Americans will suffer the consequences.

Haiti's Caribbean neighbors do not have the infrastructure or the capacity to accommodate this continued influx of refugees, which has seen hundreds of thousands of Haitian migrants at their borders seeking a safer place to live.

The Multinational Security Support Mission, led largely by officers from Kenya, has never received the support it needs to make an impact in the fight for the security and stability in Haiti. The mission is currently undermanned and underfunded. Many of our closest allies are not close to meeting their pledged obligations, nor have we in Congress given the resources that we said to advance the peace and prosperity of that nation.

In particular, let me single out France. Where is France?

Haiti has long suffered from the legacy of slavery and colonialism and the exploitation of resources by France. Upon winning a revolution, France, with our acquiescence, forced Haiti to pay \$28 billion as a debt for their freedom and lost revenues from slavery. France enslaved and trafficked those people, extracted many mountains of wealth from Haiti, and kept taking from the Haitian people long after those people had achieved their personal emancipation and national freedom from the country of France.

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The nation of Haiti, with its past, current, and ongoing humanitarian crises, is a testament to the tragedy of that wealth extraction.

I urge our allies to join us in providing meaningful financial support, especially France, to advance stability and allow the people of Haiti to prosper. As I said earlier, the instability in Haiti is not only of humanitarian crisis, but a threat to our national security.

Our adversaries have already set their sights on expanding their reach to the United States' third border in the Caribbean. The continued expansion of Russian and Chinese influence, as well as military support in the region, threatens our national security, our prosperity, and our democratic values.

Depending on what Congress does or does not do will be what will happen to Haiti. The reauthorization of HOPE/HELP trade preference program will keep providing economic opportunities for Haiti.

The apparel sector is one of the last formal sectors of Haiti's economy and represents nearly 80 percent of Haiti's exports. They used to have 60,000 jobs in this area which have now dropped to 25,000.

Congress must act. We as Americans must act, if not just for the Haitian people, then for our own security.

DEFENDING OUR NATION

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the National Defense Authorization Act ensures our military focuses on its core mission: defending our Nation, not advancing a Green New Deal agenda. This year's NDAA puts an end to efforts that prioritize radical environmental policies over military readiness and national security.

Key provisions include: No climate change programs. The NDAA does not authorize new climate change programs within the Department of Defense.

Our Nation's mission is to deter and defeat threats, not to serve as a testing ground for expensive climate experiments.

Zero-emission vehicle prohibition: The NDAA prevents the DOD from requiring servicemembers and civilian employees to use zero-emission vehicles for official travel. Although it might be usable in some phases, zero-emission vehicles can be impractical and unreliable, particularly in remote or high-stakes operational environments.

The weapon system climate preference prohibition: The bill prohibits the Department of Defense from issuing rules that prioritize weapons systems based on their climate impact instead of their effectiveness in combat. Our troops deserve to have the best tools to win wars, not the most environmentally friendly ones.

Defense industrial base greenhouse gas rules: The NDAA blocks the Department of Defense from implementing costly new greenhouse gas rules that would impose unnecessary burdens on the defense industrial base. These rules could stifle innovation, slow production, and drive up costs for critical defense equipment.

The military's role is clear: protect and defend the American people. Anything that distracts from that mission puts our Nation at risk.

Prioritizing climate regulations over combat readiness is a dangerous gamble, especially when global adversaries like China and Russia are laser focused on advancing their military capabilities.

Pushing a Green New Deal through the Pentagon threatens to undermine our readiness, increase our costs, and weaken the defense industrial base at a time when strength is indeed paramount.

Zero-emission vehicle mandates could leave servicemembers stranded or ill-equipped during missions. Climate-focused weapon system rules could mean our troops are outmatched on the battlefield because effectiveness took a back seat to some ideal of emissions.

New greenhouse gas rules on defense contractors could drive small businesses out of the market, increasing

dependence on foreign suppliers or a handful of very large ones. We cannot afford that risk to prevent innovation either.

The NDAA reaffirms that national security comes first. It ensures the DOD uses its resources to strengthen our Armed Forces, not to chase political agendas.

By blocking these unnecessary climate rules, we are maintaining a strong, focused, and effective military and not an idealistic goal.

The NDAA draws a clear line: The Pentagon is not a climate agency. Every dollar and decision at the Department of Defense should prioritize mission success and national security.

Our allies rely on it, and our people of this country rely on it. With this bill, we are safeguarding our military's readiness and ensuring that America remains the strongest force for peace and security in the world.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S TARIFFS

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the impact of President-elect Donald Trump's proposed 20 to 25 percent tariffs will have on raising costs for my constituents in North Carolina.

I want to be absolutely clear. I find it ridiculous, shortsighted, and irresponsible to impose price hikes on working North Carolinians, and that is exactly what the Trump plan will do.

To North Carolinians who are planning to build a home project with lumber and other materials: You can expect to pay a whole lot more. Remember to thank President-elect Donald Trump.

To North Carolinians who want to pay to pack healthy school lunches for their kids: You can expect to pay a whole lot more. Remember to thank President-elect Trump.

Congress has constitutional authority to raise and lower tariffs, but Trump's plan to circumvent Congress is what he would do, and he wants to do it himself.

Why is he doing that?

It is because he knows that if he asks Congress to pass a law, they would tell him that it was a terrible idea.

I am here to get bipartisan work done, Mr. Speaker, and a 25 percent hike on tariffs would never get enough Republicans or Democrats on board to pass this Chamber. Trump will abuse his power to get what he wants. That is why I cosponsored the Prevent Tariff Abuse Act. I am pushing for this legislation to prevent the President-elect from abusing emergency powers to impose reckless tariffs.

Mr. Speaker, 20 to 25 percent tariffs are little more than a national sales tax on working families across the country. North Carolina's working families can't afford that, and our

country can't afford Trump's abuse of power.

CIVIL NUCLEAR EXPORTS

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, this week I am proud to have introduced the Civil Nuclear Export Act along with my colleague, Congressman JIM CLYBURN of South Carolina.

Our bill will boost U.S. competitiveness in the global civil nuclear exports market and bolster U.S. national security.

As Russia and China aim to corner the market and exert their influence around the world by financing nuclear projects, this legislation could not be more timely.

That situation is intensifying rapidly, and it is time for the U.S. to step up.

The Civil Nuclear Export Act would reduce other countries' dependence on Russia and China for technology and financing. This would be a win for our national security, a win for economic growth and more jobs, and a vital step toward a more sustainable energy future.

HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because North Carolina working families deserve action from their elected leaders. They deserve action on needed relief for Hurricane Helene victims. They deserve action on lowered grocery costs, childcare costs, and healthcare costs. They deserve to have faith and trust in our government systems and to know that their leaders are acting in their best interest.

Unfortunately, North Carolina Republicans in the general assembly are not acting in the best interest of North Carolina's working families. They are acting to consolidate their own power for personal gain. Under the guise of providing relief for Hurricane Helene victims, Republican leaders in the North Carolina General Assembly are using disaster aid as a smokescreen to push a brazen power grab.

I am talking about North Carolina Senate Bill 382, a bill which weakens our democratic institutions and punishes voters for electing Democrats up and down the ballot in North Carolina.

Despite needing \$3.9 billion in the State of North Carolina for recovery funds outlined by Governor Cooper earlier this year, Republicans are sending just a fraction, 6 percent, of what is needed for western North Carolina. What is worse, buried in this 131-page bill are provisions designed to strip Governor-elect Josh Stein's control over our elections, to restrict Attorney General-elect JEFF JACKSON's ability to fight to protect consumers and to create judicial positions to be handpicked by the legislature instead of elected by the people.

They are rushing through this bill because North Carolinians just elected Democrats to those State offices. They are changing the rules to suit themselves, not the people of our State.

My constituents in North Carolina sent me to Congress because they believe in bipartisan work. They want