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RECOGNIZING RICHARD NIXON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

(Mrs. KIM of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, in just a short time, our Nation will celebrate America's 250th birthday. This is a moment to reflect on how far we have come as a nation and the shared ideals that have carried us through challenge and triumph.

America 250 is not simply a milestone on the calendar. It is a call to remember the innovation, perseverance, and sacrifice that have shaped our Nation, and to keep fighting for the American Dream that has stewarded freedom for generations of Americans.

I rise today to recognize the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda for helping lead this nationwide commemoration. Its new exhibit, "America 250: A More Perfect Union," invites visitors to walk through the defining chapters of our shared history, not as distant events, but as living lessons about who we are and who we aspire to be.

The Nixon Library has long been a cultural and educational cornerstone in California's 40th Congressional District, enriching our community through its commitment to historical stewardship and civic education. As America prepares for this anniversary, the Nixon Library is once again stepping up to inspire reflection, unity, and renewed purpose.

Today, I encourage Americans of all ages to take a moment to engage with our history, to remember the courage of those who came before us, and to ensure the spirit of 1776 continues to guide our path forward.

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH ALOPECIA AREATA

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the millions of Americans, including many in my district, who live with alopecia areata. It is an autoimmune disease that causes hair loss and often comes with significant emotional and mental health challenges.

Alopecia affects people of every age and background, and for many, the journey can feel isolating or misunderstood. No one should face this condition alone. Raising awareness helps ensure that patients and families receive the understanding, compassion, and support they deserve.

Today, I recognize the strength of those living with alopecia and the loved ones who stand beside them. Their resilience reminds us of the importance of community and the need to continue fostering empathy and inclusion for all who are navigating visible and invisible health challenges.

SUPPORT FOR RURAL SCHOOLS

(Mr. BAUMGARTNER of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 356, the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025, which will be considered under suspension of the rules this week. I urge its swift passage so it can be sent to the President's desk without delay.

For generations, the Secure Rural Schools program has been a lifeline for rural communities and school districts across America. Since 1908, Federal law has required the U.S. Forest Service to share 25 percent of revenues from Federal forest lands with local governments to support public education.

As timber revenues declined due to foolish Federal regulations and reduced harvests, Congress acted in 2000 to create the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, preserving vital funding for most rural counties. When last reauthorized in 2023, this program delivered more than \$281 million nationwide to help keep teachers in classrooms and students on the bus.

I represent rural counties like Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry, and Columbia Counties, where school leaders tell me how essential these funds are to keeping programs running.

This is not a partisan issue. It is a promise to rural America. Let's reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025 and keep faith with the communities that steward our national forests.

RECOGNIZING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP IN OUR FORESTS

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the timber industry and the harvest of trees in our forests.

When I was growing up, my father was a forestry professor at Washington State University and my uncle was a smokejumper. I served in the U.S. Forest Service.

Years of fear and hesitation around commonsense tools like select timber harvest and controlled burns have left many of our forests dangerously overgrown and chronically undermanaged. We need to harvest more timber for the economic revenue it produces and for the reduced fire danger it creates.

Good environmental stewardship means empowering these professionals to be part of the solution and to help manage our Federal forest lands responsibly for today and generations to come.

□ 1245

GRAY WOLF POPULATION REDUCTION IN WASHINGTON STATE

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, with gray wolf populations reaching over 400 in Washington State and Oregon, I rise today to warn of the danger they continue to pose for hunters, farmers, and livestock.

Gray wolves can consume up to 7 pounds of meat a day. Their primary

food sources include deer, elk, and cattle. In August 2025 alone, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife reported that three calves were killed and two injured in just one 30-day period.

Folks in our region know why our grandparents worked so hard to control the gray wolf population. They understood that balance must be kept between wildlife preservation and the livelihoods of those who live and work the land.

With a significant number of these wolf packs now concentrated in northeastern Washington and with no signs of their growth slowing, Congress should take careful note of our ranchers' perspective. Their continued loss, emotional toll, and frustration caused by inconsistent State and Federal protections demand attention and action. A one-sided policy of unchecked expansion is not the answer.

Gray wolf populations have recovered. Now it is time to ask whether our current path reflects balance, fairness, and common sense for rural America. As everyone in rural America knows, particularly in Washington State, if there were wolves in Bainbridge Island or in the suburbs of Seattle, the wolf population in Washington State would be a little different.

Mr. Speaker, we need to bring common sense and balance back and reduce our wolf population in northeastern Washington.

CHASING BAD CARBON POLICIES

(Mr. LAMALFA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, lately we see a lot of the usage of the word "affordability" around Washington. We hear it on both sides of the aisle. Let me say that Republicans were about affordability before affordability was cool.

We see that the cost of everything has been driven by policies that are due to these regulations. Because of the regulatory load that has been put in place by Democrat policies in my home State of California and in Washington, D.C., then it is no surprise we have these very costly regulations for fuel.

We are expecting to see fuel in California go up to \$8 next spring because we are losing two refineries, plus possibly a third one, and a pipeline that goes from north to south and is losing money. There is also another regulation that will be put in place to regulate the fuel on how it is formed to make lower carbon.

That brings me to my next thought.

CO₂ in the atmosphere is only this little, tiny wedge right here. It is 0.04 percent. Check it out. In 1970 and 2025, it is the same proportion. It has barely changed from the whole picture of the makeup of the atmosphere. Yet, we are spending trillions and trillions and displacing our economy. We are sending our economy to other places because of this chase over CO₂.

I should remind my colleagues that carbon dioxide is essential to plant life, for trees, and for all other forms of life. We then gain the benefit of it by exchanging oxygen with plant life. We are really going down a bad path here as we continue to chase these carbon policies.

One of the things greatly affecting the cost of doing business, especially in my home State of California, are the policies that take away water supply and don't allow the water supply to be added to. How do we think we will have agriculture in California and things will be affordable when we keep taking away the water and losing the water?

Mr. Speaker, check this out. There are 34 million acre-feet lost from all inflows up through the delta. Lake Oroville holds about 3.5 million acre-feet. Shasta Lake holds about 4.5 million acre-feet. There are other smaller lakes around the State that are still very significant. We have others that hold up to 1 million.

We can't fill the lakes because they let all the water out. They have an idea about a flushing flow or this or that. Yet, 3 years ago, agriculture, especially on the west side of the Sacramento Valley, had allocations cut down as low as 0 percent, but it was 18 percent across the board for several districts.

We really have a problem with affordability that is driven by Democrat policies at the Federal level and the California State level. It isn't because of something the Republicans are doing. Republicans, again, are the driver of trying to make things affordable if we can get through the regulatory load.

We get to the point where we can't run a farm or a business. Even a household can't afford to do the things a household does because of these policies. We see the spending habits of Washington, D.C., as well as the amount of money the Federal Government has spent and overspent over the years. Profligate government spending eats up the money supply, which drives inflation.

We put all these \$2,000 and \$1,200 checks in people's hands during the COVID era especially, and there was a lot of money chasing very few products because nobody was manufacturing anything. We still live with that inflation.

Thankfully, President Trump's policies are helping to bring prices down on groceries, fuels, et cetera.

Let's go back to fuel for a moment because energy is really the main driver of affordability. Is it going to be low-cost energy or the high-cost energy we saw so much of during the Biden era? Indeed, it is starting to come back, at least in the States that aren't California.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen the price of gasoline at \$1.85 in Colorado. It is right around \$4.00 or \$4.50 in California. As I mentioned, they expect the prices to go up next spring, if they continue on this path of closing refineries or refineries being driven out of business by burdensome regulations.

Where is it going to stop? When will people stop it? I guess that is the biggest question. When are they going to stop Governor Newsom and the 3-1 Democrat-ratio State legislature from thinking up more and more laws and dumping them on the backs of our people?

In Washington, we try to do reforms. We run into a buzz saw of rhetoric, flat-out lies, and the difficulty of passing some of this stuff on the other side, over in the Senate, because they can't get 60 votes.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are trying to reform this effort and make things truly more affordable. These are not just buzzwords and not just something to say to the press.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DOWNING) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Eternal God, Your promises are sure and Your love for us unwavering. You have claimed us as Your beloved children. We need only believe that Your love has the power to transform our lives. Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief.

This is the day that You have made, and all our days are held in Your strong and tender hand. We need only believe that You will guide us through them. Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief.

Your spirit has made us; the breath of the Almighty gives us life—life far better and more beautiful than our eyes perceive. We need only believe with the expectation that Your promises will unfold and that, in the fullness of time, Your perfect plan for us will be revealed. Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief.

Lord, grant us the faith that allows our hearts to say yes and our souls to trust and receive Your grace and guidance this day.

Lord, we believe. And we pray in the power of Your name that even in our unbelief, You will answer.

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 gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WALBERG 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.

HONORING THE AMELIA ISLAND CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when a community moves in true harmony, you can hear it before you ever see it. It is the sound of neighbors lifting one another up, volunteers sustaining the arts, and people creating something greater than the sum of its parts.

For 25 years, the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival in northeast Florida has embodied that spirit. It has brought world-class performers to Florida's First Coast, inspired young people through music education and shown that a committed community can resonate as powerfully as any concert hall performance.

Mr. Speaker, a festival is more than just music. It reflects the heart of the place that sustains it. For a quarter century, the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival has proven that when a community comes together, it always plays in perfect tune. Congratulations on 25 amazing years.

PRESIDENT TRUMP SUPPORTS SYRIA

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, the Syrian people achieved the historic impossible. After 12 years of murderous conflict with 54 years of Baathist socialist dictatorship, they drove out the sadistic regime of al-Assad.

President Donald Trump has proclaimed successfully "give Syria a chance."

Under Assad, half a million people were killed, half of the nation was displaced, and 90 percent of the country was in poverty.

In August, I visited Damascus with Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN and Trump envoy Tom Barrack and saw the devastation of war. It was inspiring, though, to meet with President al-Sharaa, his cabinet, and the diverse interfaith leaders.