

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.

Syria has a real promise of stability benefiting all the Middle East, including change in Tehran. That is why both of us, a Democrat and Republican, appreciate so much the repeal of the Caesar Act, which is sanctions on the Assad regime with the full support of President Donald Trump.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstating peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting and mocking Trump, speaking lovely in the morning and conducting mass murder in the evening.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA.

We all know a strong education can unlock a lifetime of possibilities. Yet for students with disabilities, sometimes even going to school can be challenging. Thankfully, IDEA changed all of that.

At its core, IDEA is about providing a tailored education that meets a student's unique needs. As chairman of the Education and Workforce Committee, I am committed to expanding strong, personalized educational opportunities so every student can succeed.

IDEA was an incredible first step in making education possible for our Nation's students. As we look to the future, we must maintain and remain steadfast in our commitment to making high-quality, tailored education possible for every American student.

Here is to another 50 years of IDEA.

YOU CAN'T RUN A FARM OR BUSINESS OR HOUSEHOLD ON SLOGANS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, once again, we are hearing this word "affordability" tossed around a lot these days as an election line. It seems to be used to cover up the ideals of the bad policy that is driving up the costs and making everything unaffordable.

You see it in every speech and every press release. The buzzwords aren't really the important part. It is the policies that are driving the high cost of everything.

Let's start with energy, once again. In my home State of California, our electricity prices are higher than most other States except maybe Hawaii. You can slap the word "affordable" on this policy, but it isn't. You can't run a farm or a business or a household on slogans.

Then there is Washington's spending habits. When we saw "affordability" being tossed around again, massive government spending is part of vacuuming all available money out and supply out and driving inflation. It is amazing how quickly these talking points lose that.

Then there is the regulatory stack. Folks love to preach "affordability" while burying projects under NEPA delays. In my home State of California, car regulations are taking away our vehicles and forcing everything into an electricity grid that can't handle it. Affordability doesn't come from a policy like that.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Ferrari, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2950. An act to require the Secretary of State and relevant executive branch agencies to address international scam compounds defrauding people in the United States, to hold significant transnational criminal organizations accountable, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as amended by Public Law 99-7, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senator as a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) during the 119th Congress:

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) vice the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH).

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-292, as amended by Public Law 106-55, Public Law 107-228, and Public Law 112-75, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, appoints the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom:

Rachel K. Laser of the District of Columbia vice Ariela Ruth Dubler of New York.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2025

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 356) to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 356

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 "Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000.

(a) SECURE PAYMENTS FOR STATES AND COUNTIES CONTAINING FEDERAL LAND.—

(1) SECURE PAYMENTS.—Section 101 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7111) is amended—

(A) in subsections (a) and (b), by striking "2023" each place it appears and inserting "2026"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: "(e) SPECIAL RULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND 2025 PAYMENTS.—"

"(1) STATE PAYMENT.—If an eligible county in a State that will receive a share of the State payment for fiscal year 2024 or 2025 has already received, or will receive, a share of the 25-percent payment for that fiscal year distributed to the State before the date of enactment of this subsection, the amount of the State payment shall be reduced by the amount of the share of the eligible county of the 25-percent payment.

"(2) COUNTY PAYMENT.—If an eligible county that will receive a county payment for fiscal year 2024 or 2025 has already received a 50-percent payment for that fiscal year, the amount of the county payment shall be reduced by the amount of the 50-percent payment.

"(3) PROMPT PAYMENT.—Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary of the Treasury shall make all payments under this title for each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025."

(2) DISTRIBUTION OF PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE COUNTIES.—Section 103(d)(2) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7113(d)(2)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2026".

(b) PAYMENTS TO STATES AND COUNTIES.—Section 102 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7112) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following:

"(E) PAYMENTS FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2024 AND 2025.—The election otherwise required by subparagraph (A) shall not apply for each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025."; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

"(C) FISCAL YEARS 2024 AND 2025.—The election described in paragraph (1)(A) applicable to a county in fiscal year 2023 shall be effective for each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025."; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following:

"(G) PAYMENTS FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2024 AND 2025.—The election made by an eligible county under subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) for fiscal year 2023, or deemed to be made by the county under paragraph (3)(B) for that fiscal year, shall be effective for each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025."; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end the following:

"(E) PAYMENTS FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2024 AND 2025.—This paragraph does not apply for each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025."

(c) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT SPECIAL PROJECTS ON FEDERAL LAND.—