

last minute when he realized the release was inevitable.

Tariffs and affordability: For a full year, Republicans said nothing while Trump rolled out illegal, arbitrary, and chaotic tariffs that raised prices across the board. In just 8 months of Trump 2.0, the average American household spends \$700 more on basic necessities. This season's most popular holiday gifts are up 26 percent since last year. During the affordability crisis, Trump banned the word "affordability" from Republicans' vocabulary, but "affordability" is still in the dictionary and still on people's minds. The economy is an A-plus-plus-hot mess.

Farmers: Earlier this year, Republicans watched quietly as Trump destroyed USAID, an agency that bought crops from American farmers, many of whom backed Trump and the Republicans in 2024. When beef costs reached record highs in October, they watched again as Trump proposed buying beef from Argentina rather than American farmers. Last month, Republicans forced a vote denouncing the horrors of socialism. This week, they are applauding Trump for using it to bail out the farmers that his administration failed.

Please consider this an intervention and get out of this lopsided relationship now.

UNFAIR ENFORCEMENT OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

(Mr. BENTZ of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call out the injury and injustice being inflicted on my State and my constituents by the inappropriate and unfair enforcement of the Endangered Species Act as it has been and is being applied to the reintroduction of the gray wolf.

This injustice is apparent in the Federal Government's inability to manage and control the killing and maiming of livestock and in the failure of the government to properly pay the costs of its decision to reintroduce the wolf.

I will address the lack of management first. Let me begin my discussion of failed management by showing several pictures, which are graphic illustrations of the reality that my ranching families face all too often.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, there is nothing refined about how a wolf goes about feeding itself. You can imagine the feelings of the rancher when he or she finds livestock torn apart and dying.

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Mr. Speaker, these animals may have been part of the herd for a decade or more.

We can try to imagine the incredible anger they feel, knowing they are legally prevented from stopping the wolf that caused this pain and horror to their cattle and calves from doing this again and again.

I have held meeting after meeting across my district, listening over and

over to stories about wolves attacking herds, scattering cattle, and ignoring the ineffective hazing efforts that owners of these cattle are allowed to use under the law to try to protect their livelihoods. The anger and intense frustration they feel is totally understandable. It is why I am on the floor today, sharing as best I can their pain with my colleagues.

If we are to protect those who are trying their best to feed this country, to make a living, to keep their small and often remote communities viable, to put out range fires, to pay their taxes, and to continue to be productive parts of this Nation, we need to delist the wolf and move the management of these animals back to the States.

Let me turn to the actual cost of the reintroduction of the wolf and the need for those who have created this cost to be responsible for paying it.

The actual annual cost of the wolf, imposed upon the cattle businesses across this Nation, as of a few years ago is estimated to be \$128 million a year. This number is higher now that cattle prices are higher. Many think the only cost of the wolf is the killing of livestock, but the impact of primal fear that cattle understandably feel when a wolf is near has dramatic and serious impacts on weight gain and on pregnancy rates.

These losses are real, and they are serious. At a time when even the President is concerned about beef prices, these losses affect everyone by reducing the size of the cattle herds and their productivity.

There has been legislation enacted, both in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act and at the State level, to try to bring some reimbursement equity into play by providing at least some payment for the death of cattle caused by wolves. These programs, although welcome, come nowhere near to making those damaged by wolves whole.

In addition, I can assure everyone that the rancher would absolutely be happier if he or she could completely avoid the losses that lead to asking for justice under these programs.

If we are properly, fairly, and logically to manage the wolf, we must pass Representatives BOEBERT and TOM TIFANY's bill, H.R. 845, the Pet and Livestock Protection Act. This would delist the wolf and allow States to manage these populations.

If we are to properly allocate responsibility for the monetary costs of the wolf, those millions of dollars each year unjustly imposed on ranchers and farmers damaged by the reintroduction, we must appropriate the money needed to make these good people whole.

HONORING ELISA MCKAY

(Ms. PLASKETT of the Virgin Islands was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express condolences on the

passing of Elisa McKay. I want to share that the Virgin Islands has lost one of its great creative and cultural visionaries with the passing of Ms. McKay.

Her creative spirit and generous heart touched countless lives across the island of St. Croix and throughout our territory and, indeed, not just the Caribbean but other places.

As a self-taught artist, she channeled what she described as divine expression, creating work that reflected her deep love for our islands, our culture, and our people. Her art was an extension of her soul. It was vibrant, authentic, and deeply rooted in her Crucian roots.

Beyond her artistic talent, Elisa dedicated herself to uplifting our community in so many ways. She served as an educator, taught yoga for four decades, worked tirelessly with our seniors through the Interfaith Coalition, and gave her time and wisdom to numerous organizations, including Unity of St. Croix, the St. Croix Environmental Association, and the Women's Coalition of St. Croix.

Her compassion, spiritual leadership, and commitment to service made our Virgin Islands a better place. Ms. McKay lived with purpose and love, seeing the divine in everyone she encountered.

My heartfelt condolences go out to her daughter, Ayanna, who she considered her greatest accomplishment. To all who knew and loved her, may her memory be a blessing and may her artistic legacy continue to inspire us for generations to come.

HONORING GERVILLE RENE LARSEN

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, the Virgin Islands has lost one of its great creative and cultural visionaries with the passing of Gerville Rene Larson.

Everyone knows Gerville was more than an architect. He was a steward of our history and an artist of our identity. His work captured the spirit of these islands, ensuring that the stories of our people and the beauty of our heritage were preserved for generations to come.

After earning his degree in architecture from Cornell, Gerville returned home to his beloved St. Croix, choosing to live in his grandparents' home in the heart of Times Square, in downtown Christiansted. From there, he poured his heart into our community, using his immense talent to collaborate with both public and private sectors on projects dedicated to historic architectural preservation. Through his firm, Taller Larjas, LLC, he designed with reverence for our past and vision for our future.

I was blessed to know Gerville, not only as a respected colleague on boards and an admired fellow Hillsideer descendant, but as my neighbor and my friend. Our best talks were as we were cleaning the respective streets we lived on, meeting up, hailing each other as neighbors, and then going into a deep discussion about the beauty of Christiansted and the history of the free

enslaved people who lived in the hills of Christiansted and what that heritage meant to each one of us.

Gerville's belief that architecture is a vessel for culture and memory continues to guide us. His mark is visible through the Virgin Islands but particularly on St. Croix, in the buildings he restored, the spaces he reimagined, and the lives he touched. I am grateful that my own son, Christian, was able as a young architecture major to have interned and been mentored by Gerville.

My heartfelt condolences go out to his family, especially his mom, his friends, and his colleagues. May his memory live forever. May his legacy inspire us to continue building with purpose, pride, and love for our Virgin Islands.

Mr. Speaker, he will be deeply missed by his circle of friends, family, and the entire Virgin Islands community. We are thankful for his lifelong contributions to preserving the character and soul of our home.

CELEBRATING SUPPORT FOR RURAL AREAS

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

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the final passage of S. 356, the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025, which will now be sent to the President's desk.

This much-needed legislation was one of my priorities in coming to Congress. It will give our rural areas the support they need for their schools, and it brings much-needed certainty to rural communities and school districts that have depended on this program for generations.

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

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

I represent rural areas like the counties of Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry, and Columbia, where school leaders tell me how essential these funds are to keep programs running. With this reauthorization, those communities finally have the stability they need to plan for the future.

This is not a partisan issue. It is a promise to rural America. By reauthorizing Secure Rural Schools and sending this bill to the President's desk, we are

keeping faith with the communities that steward our national forests.

HONORING AMBASSADOR ASIF CHAUDHRY

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of the bright lights of eastern Washington. In my view, eastern Washington is truly the home of the American Dream. From the mountains of the Colville region to the rolling hills of the Palouse, our region embodies the values of opportunity, hard work, and perseverance that define America at its best.

This week's shining example of that spirit is my friend, Ambassador Asif Chaudhry. Born in Pakistan, U.S. Ambassador Asif Chaudhry earned his bachelor's degree there, followed by a master's degree from the American University of Beirut. We might say this is a unique and perhaps unusual path for an American Ambassador, but it represents what is possible with the American Dream.

After leaving the Middle East, like so many who have come to our Nation in search of a better future, he found his way to Pullman, Washington, and to Washington State University where he pursued his Ph.D.

From a small college town in eastern Washington, and then marrying into a local farm family, he decided to enter the U.S. Foreign Service after receiving his citizenship. He went on to serve our Nation with distinction in postings around the world including Cairo, Poland, and Russia. He later served as the United States Deputy Administrator to the Foreign Agricultural Service and rose to become the United States Ambassador to Moldova, dealing with complex issues in the former Soviet Union.

Throughout his career, he held key positions that advanced America's interests abroad with integrity and purpose in service of America's national security. When his diplomatic service abroad concluded, he returned home to Pullman, where he served as vice president of International Programs at Washington State University, preparing the next generation of global leaders and strengthening the bridge between our local communities and the world.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Chaudhry's life is a powerful testament to what the American Dream is all about. No matter where we begin, with hard work, dedication, love of the United States of America, and a commitment to the values of the United States of America, we can achieve extraordinary things.

His story reminds us the American Dream is not a relic of the past. It is alive and thriving in eastern Washington. We thank Ambassador Chaudhry for being a role model to all of us who believe America remains a land of limitless possibility.

GIVING FULL RECOGNITION TO THE LUMBEE TRIBE

(Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for decades, the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina has sought full recognition, a goal that has eluded them despite their profound contributions to our State and Nation.

With nearly 60,000 members, the Lumbee people form a vital part of my district and the fabric of North Carolina.

One of the first bills I co-led in Congress, the Lumbee Fairness Act—now included in the National Defense Authorization Act—is on the verge of passage, bringing us closer than ever to delivering justice.

I am deeply grateful to President Trump for his steadfast support of the Lumbee Tribe, from his campaign promises to his actions in Congress and collaborating across both Chambers to secure the full recognition and benefits the Lumbee rightfully deserve.

Mr. Speaker, let us vote "yes" today and finally end this long fight, affirming the recognition they have earned and so richly merit.

ILLEGAL ALIENS FLOCK TO NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it seems illegal aliens have flocked to North Carolina because they know sanctuary politicians will protect them and allow them to roam free on American streets. In fact, there are reports that over 100,000 illegal aliens are in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, alone. Just last week, one of these illegals drew national headlines.

Oscar Solorzano is a twice-deported Honduran, illegal alien with a lengthy rap sheet. This past Friday, he stabbed a 24-year-old man in the chest on a Charlotte light rail, the very same transit light rail where Iryna Zarutka was murdered.

What was Charlotte's response? The Democrat-run city council rubber-stamped \$3 million to "enhance the perception" of public safety for the light rail. Did they actually do anything to make it safer? Of course not. There are now two victims of the Charlotte Blue Line rail, and what they have in common is the Charlotte pro-crime Democrats have failed them.

Iryna Zarutka was killed by a 14-time repeat offender. Kenyon Dobie, the Good Samaritan who stood in the gap, was stabbed this past Friday with life-threatening injuries by a twice-deported illegal alien.

There is a crime wave happening in Charlotte with a full laundry list of crimes occurring each day. Since Charlotte Democrats won't do anything, it is time to intervene. It is time to do what we requested of our Governor several weeks ago: Send in the National Guard.

□ 1100

BIG INSURANCE IS SWIMMING IN MONEY

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, big insurance is swimming in money, swimming in your taxpayer dollars, and swimming in the money that is supposed to be helping patients. ObamaCare is a broken system that