

Farm Bureau, which represents a cross-section of American food producers all across the country, warned the minute that proposal came out that it was going to raise the cost of fertilizer input costs that was going to end up in the grocery stores in terms of higher prices.

American Home Builders, hardly a Democratic group, warned that those tariffs were going to raise the costs of building materials, whether it was wood or metal materials. That is going to translate into higher prices for new homes, the last thing we need in the middle of a housing crisis.

Predictably, February 1, the first day the markets were open, the markets tanked in response to this proposal. Within hours, the President engaged in a face-saving measure to delay those tariffs for 30 days. They are still out there and pending. We will see what happens.

Yesterday, right before the Super Bowl, the President came out with another proposal of a 25 percent tariff on steel and aluminum indiscriminately across the globe to any and all countries who do business with the United States of America.

I want to talk about one Nation in particular, Australia. I co-chair the Friends of Australia Caucus. Today, the U.S. economy has a trade surplus with Australia. We export more into Australia than they export back to us. They have been a signatory with a free trade agreement with no tariffs going back to 2002.

Again, as Secretary of Defense Hegseth stated yesterday at the Pentagon, when he met with the Australia Deputy Prime Minister, our alliance between our two countries, going back to World War I, is probably the most deep and strong of any other Nation in the world.

At that meeting he was also there to receive word from the Australian Government that they are making the first payment on AUKUS, the Australia, U.K., and U.S. security agreement.

Australia is putting \$500 million into the U.S. industrial base to help our shipbuilding sector build more submarines, which is part of the AUKUS deal. It is a total of \$3 billion. Again, the first check was delivered on Friday by the Australian Government for \$500 million.

Two days later, what do we see? We see a 25 percent tariff on steel and aluminum products coming from Australia into the U.S. at a time when we have a surplus with Australia.

Australia is a key strategic ally for our country. They are positioned in the Indo-Pacific at a place where, again, tensions are sky-high. We need their input and their help in terms of making sure that we are going to rebalance that security environment and protect the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific.

Instead, what we are seeing is a completely needless insult to the people of Australia by raising tariffs on Australian products coming into this coun-

try at the same time we are working with them and they are buying three nuclear submarines, cash on the barrel-head, full price, no gimme, no give-away.

Again, by all the measurements that President Trump talks about trade issues and that we are being ripped off by other countries, in this case every one of those arguments fails. The Friends of Australia Caucus is a strong bipartisan caucus that actually understands the importance of Australia.

Again, we will do everything we can to make sure that this administration changes course and treats our friends and our allies with the respect that they deserve in terms of the contributions that they are making to their national security in a critical part of the world and our national security.

CONGRATULATING PHILADELPHIA EAGLE COOPER DeJEAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, from 712 to 205 to the Super Bowl, former Iowa Hawkeye and current Philadelphia Eagle Cooper DeJean is now a world champion.

The rookie quarterback helped lead the Eagles to their second Super Bowl victory, returning his first professional career interception for a touchdown against the reigning champion Kansas City Chiefs.

If that wasn't special enough, it was also Coop's 22nd birthday. What a way to celebrate a birthday than with a first career interception to a touchdown and winning the Super Bowl.

Cooper, a proud native of Odebolt, Iowa, grew up wanting to be a University of Iowa Hawkeye player. He even wore shoes with the 712 area code during the biggest game of his life. During his time with the Hawkeyes, he earned All-American honors and was regarded as one of the Nation's best quarterbacks.

His NFL success comes as no surprise to those of us who watched him play in Iowa. With last night's performance, Cooper solidified his place as one of the greatest Hawkeyes ever, and he did it in his rookie season. All of Hawkeye Nation and Iowa are proud of Coop. He will always be a Hawkeye.

God bless and Go Hawks.

HONORING IOWA CITY VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER AND HEIDI KAUFMAN

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible work being done by Heidi Kaufman and the dedicated team at the Iowa City Veterans Administration Medical Center. Their innovative use of aromatherapy in the PACU, or post-anesthesia care unit, is transforming the recovery experience for our veterans.

Through their pioneering efforts, this team has introduced a noninvasive, natural solution to combat post-operative nausea and vomiting. In a re-

cent study, 12 out of 47 patients reported complete relief from nausea using only aromatherapy. Although that is a small amount, it is not pharmaceutical, it is nonaddictive, and the cost is extremely low.

This achievement is a testament to their compassion, skill, and commitment to improving patient care, and it can go far beyond the PACU. Heidi and her team have proven that sometimes the simplest solutions can make the most profound impact. Their work not only enhances the recovery process but also brings comfort and healing to those who have served our country.

We are deeply grateful for their dedication to our veterans and the innovative care they continue to provide. We thank Heidi for her work.

SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE STATUS OF
ELON MUSK

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to remark on the outrage of my colleagues and others over the special government employee status of Elon Musk from the executive branch and constant remarks that he is unelected and unaccountable.

Let me remind my colleagues and those voices, the vast majority of government employees that review and authorize grants, that disburse funds, and that, in fact, issue rules or laws are unelected and unaccountable to the voters.

RECOGNIZING THE 7TH ANNUAL DOMINICANS ON THE HILL DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the 7th Annual Dominicans on the Hill event which will be held tomorrow. It is a time for all participants to celebrate the contributions of Dominican Americans throughout the country.

In fact, we have today in the gallery the Honorable Ricardo de los Santos Polanco, who is the president of the Dominican Senate, and Alfredo Pacheco, who is the president of the house. They will be with us for the next couple of days, and I want to extend the courtesies of the House so that all of us can attend this wonderful event that is being held for the seventh year in a row.

PROTECTING DREAMERS, FAMILIES, AND
FARMWORKERS

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Dreamers, farmworkers, and families. Much has been said about the immigration issues at the border. I think what has not been said is the fact that we all want to make sure that the border is more secure. There is no disagreement in that.

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We can work together to make the border safer, safer for children, for families, for women, for grandparents and for the communities, the border

communities that many of our Members and colleagues represent. We should work together to make sure that the border is safer.

However, Mr. Speaker, there is a reality in the Nation, and that is that Dreamers are young people that are teachers and nurses. They are part of our communities. They own their homes. Many of them have their own businesses. Yet, they haven't been given the opportunity to be a full part of America.

Dreamers have been, on the average, in the United States for about 20 years. They have lived here. Many of them pay taxes. They haven't committed any crimes. They play by the rules. They stay within the parameters of the law. Yet, we have failed to allow them to be fully part of this American experience. We should work very hard to ensure that Dreamers are given that opportunity. In fact, 80 percent of Americans feel that Dreamers should be given that opportunity.

Farmworkers, Mr. Speaker, we all know many of them aren't going to work because they are afraid they are going to be deported. In fact, 40 percent of farmworkers are undocumented, and they are not showing up at the farms. That will show up at our cash register. That will show up at our dinner table.

Farmers are also a sector of the immigrant community that we should help. Prices will come down. They will be able to go to work, and we will get greater goods in our houses, in our grocery stores, and in our supermarkets.

Dreamers and farmers are an important part of the immigration equation that often are left out. You would think that the only part of the immigration debate is the border. We all agree that the border should be safer.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, families should be kept together. The average immigrant family has been here in the country for over 10 years. Families, if they are divided, or if a young boy or a young girl is taken away from his or her mother, that family will be weaker, and as such, our Nation will be weaker.

The equation is simple. Weak families make a weak nation. Separated families become weak families, and as such, make a weak nation.

Dreamers, farmworkers, and keeping families together are an important and central part of the immigration debate, which is a very broad debate that includes other topics.

We all agree that the border should be safer. How is it that we cannot agree and come to a consensus that Dreamers and farmworkers are important and that families must be kept together?

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF SCOUTING AMERICA

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 115th anniversary of Scouting America.

On February 8, 1910, Chicago businessman William D. Boyce, who grew up in western Pennsylvania, incorporated the Boy Scouts of America, now known today also as Scouting America.

For more than a century, Scouting has built character, fostered leadership, and instilled in young people the values that strengthen families, communities, and our Nation.

Generations of Scouts have learned that leadership is not about titles but about action. It is about stepping up when others step back and about lending a hand when it is needed most.

Time and time again, Scouts have answered the call, whether responding to natural disasters, local emergencies, assisting veterans, or leading conservation efforts in their communities.

Even in my current role as U.S. Representative for Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District and chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I use the lessons and values learned in Scouting to ease and to guide my decisionmaking.

The Scout Oath tells us that we have a duty to God, country, others, and self. This is a checklist that I use when voting on the House floor.

The first question I ask myself is how this affects my duty to God. Is the bill righteous according to God's Word, according to my faith?

If the bill passes this test, I ask myself whether this fulfills my duty to country. Will this benefit the country and my constituents? What does the Constitution have to say about the decision I am making?

If the bill passes this step, I will move on and ask myself how this fulfills my duty to others. For me, as Representative of Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District, that is more than 780,000 citizens in 18 counties, a third of the land mass of Pennsylvania. In my role as chairman of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, that is being accountable to every individual in this Nation when it comes to food, fiber, and energy.

If the bill passes that step, I will move on and ask myself how this fulfills my duty to self. While this may sound selfish, it represents the duty I have to myself really based on another principle of Scouting: Am I prepared to do my best?

The Scout Law, Motto, and Oath are moral benchmarks for serving others, our community, and ourselves. Scouting enables the next generation of youth to develop leadership skills, connect with their community, build self-confidence, and gain numerous other benefits for themselves and their country.

The Scouting program is one of the best youth organizations for cultivating a sense of responsibility and leadership development, allowing them to become engaged citizens who care and respect their communities.

I will always cherish the time I spent in Scouting and value its role in shaping me into whom I am today.

I have been involved in Scouting for more than 50 years, including serving as a Scoutmaster and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in 1977. Scouting helped me discover my life purpose: helping others.

I take the lessons learned throughout my young Scouting career and apply them at every aspect of my life today, including at my job serving as a United States Congressman.

As co-chair of the Congressional Scouting Caucus, I was proud to introduce a resolution, alongside my fellow Eagle Scout from Georgia, Mr. SANFORD BISHOP, designating Saturday, February 8, as Scouts of America Day to honor the tireless service of Scouts, volunteers, and participants in our communities.

The Scouts have a slogan: "Do a Good Turn Daily." I hope everyone sees the value in helping those around them and continues to pursue kindness.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Scouts, leaders, volunteers, and families who have helped keep this movement strong. Their dedication ensures that Scouting will continue to inspire and guide future generations.

PUERTO RICO'S OUTDATED ELECTRIC GRID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. HERNÁNDEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, imagine it is New Year's Eve, and you are full of hope and optimism. This will be your year. You might finally get that promotion or you will graduate. You might finally lose those extra pounds.

All of a sudden, the power goes out. You are used to it. It is maybe the first time it happens that day. It probably isn't the first time it happens that week. It certainly isn't the first time it happens that year.

The hours go by, and the power doesn't come back. The clock strikes 12, you hear the fireworks, you hear the countdowns, but when you try to turn on the power, it doesn't turn back on.

That was the sad reality of nearly 1.2 million Puerto Ricans on New Year's Eve. That is the sad reality that many thousands of Puerto Ricans will face on an average day. Why? Because of an outdated power grid and a slow recovery process after Hurricane Maria.

Puerto Rico's energy crisis is not a partisan issue. The left can treat it as a humanitarian crisis. The right can see it as an obstacle to making America great again. The center can view it as both.

It is a problem and it needs a solution, which is why I, alongside Representatives TORRES and SOTO, sent a letter to the administration in support of our Republican Governor's request