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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2026

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ALAN ARMSTRONG, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, we ask that You would shower our Senators today with Your bountiful blessings. Without Your guidance, we are all like ships without rudders, tossed by every wind of opinion and circumstance, but when You are our captain and counselor, You establish our course and enable us to accomplish Your good purposes.

Incline the hearts of our lawmakers toward that which promotes peace, liberty, and goodness. Quiet every voice that would lead us away from unity. Inspire our legislators with genuine compassion, steadfast courage, and servant-hearted leadership.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 5, 2026.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ALAN ARMSTRONG, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ARMSTRONG thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

FARM BILL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, America's farmers and ranchers got some

good news at the end of last week. After a lot of hard work from members of the Agriculture Committee, Chairman BOOZMAN released the text of a 5-year farm bill, which is slated for a markup tomorrow, and it will, I hope, be headed soon to the floor.

As someone who hails from an ag State who has been part of the drafting of now five farm bills, I know how important the farm bill is and how much work goes into getting it right. As I made clear at the start of this Congress, America's farmers and ranchers are a priority for this Senate majority. That started last year with the Working Families Tax Cuts, which strengthened the farm safety net, bolstered critical farm programs, and delivered tax relief to America's agriculture producers, including relief from the unfair death tax and making the 199A deduction permanent. It continues this year with this farm bill, which builds on the important measures in the Working Families Tax Cuts in order to give farmers and ranchers certainty into the future.

After the Working Families Tax Cuts raised reference prices last year, this farm bill makes further improvements to commodity programs as well as crop insurance—cornerstones of the farm safety net. It modernizes farm loan programs to get America's next generation of farmers and ranchers off to a strong start, and it strengthens other programs that producers depend on. It improves the Emergency Assistance for Livestock Program, so it covers the cost of hauling feed or water and opens the program to producers dealing with

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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drought or other adverse weather conditions.

It includes my CRP Improvement and Flexibility Act, which will make the Conservation Reserve Program a more working lands-oriented option for producers. CRP plays a very significant role in South Dakota's economy by helping to provide habitat for pheasants, but producers in my State have been frustrated for years with how the program is managed—in particular by the fact that its restrictions on land use can be excessive. That is why I introduced the CRP Improvement and Flexibility Act.

My bill allows grazing options, including fencing and water distribution, on all CRP acres. On top of that, it increases the annual CRP payment limits for the first time in the program's 40-year history. This bill will make CRP an attractive option for more producers and open up access for livestock forage in drought conditions.

The farm bill also includes a number of bills I have worked on that make it easier for producers to do business and get their products to market.

It includes a bill that I worked on with Senators GRASSLEY, KLOBUCHAR, and BALDWIN that establishes reporting requirements on fertilizer prices, which will bring more transparency to the fertilizer marketplace by helping producers to make more informed and cost-effective choices for their operations.

Another bill of my mine, the Promoting Precision Agriculture Act, will facilitate the creation of industry-led, voluntary standards for precision ag technology that will help more farmers adopt this promising tool.

My Strengthening Local Processing Act gives smaller processors access to critical information and allows more meat products approved by a State inspector to be sold across State lines.

The farm bill is about more than just what happens on a farm or a ranch; it also supports America's rural communities. That includes water infrastructure, rural development, and healthcare, among other critical services. It also includes our continued effort to provide broadband in unserved communities, and I am pleased that this bill will help ensure that broadband dollars are going to communities that need it in places where 90 percent or more of the residents lack access to basic internet services.

There is a lot more I could talk about with this bill—a lot more. This is a bill that will provide real support and certainty for America's farmers and ranchers. That is good news for all Americans who depend on our hard-working producers for food, fuel, and fiber.

Fuel is the final thing I want to discuss this morning. For decades, the seasonal sale of E15 has been a win-win for America's farmers and for the American people. It has strengthened the agriculture economy while providing the American people with an affordable source of homegrown energy.

For many years, it has been a priority for me and for many of my colleagues here to allow E15 to be sold all year. It has taken a lot of work to get here, but I am very proud that this farm bill delivers permanent—permanent—year-round E15. This is something that is going to further help producers and help bring down fuel costs for all Americans.

I want to thank Chairman BOOZMAN as well as Senators DAINES, CAPITO, and FISCHER for all of their hard work on this issue. I am looking forward to getting it across the finish line.

I spend a lot of time with farmers and ranchers back home in South Dakota, and they have talked to me about the uncertainty and the headwinds they face. I have listened to their priorities and made them my own. As I said, America's farmers and ranchers are a priority for this Senate majority, and with the Working Families Tax Cuts and now this farm bill, we are making real progress on the challenges facing our producers. But, of course, our work is never finished. There will be more to do in the future to support and strengthen American agriculture, and America's producers can be confident that their needs will always be at the top of my list.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

AGOA EXTENSION ACT—Motion to Proceed—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 6500, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 320, H.R. 6500, a bill to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purposes.

VOTE ON MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the motion to proceed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

AGOA EXTENSION ACT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6500) to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 6732

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 6732.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] for Ms. COLLINS proposes an amendment numbered 6732.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of August 4, 2026, under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 6736 TO AMENDMENT NO. 6732

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk to amendment No. 6732.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 6736 to amendment No. 6732.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

At the end of the following.

"This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment."

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 6737 TO AMENDMENT NO. 6736

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 6737 to amendment numbered 6736.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.