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## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. SHEA-PORTER).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 12, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CAROL SHEA-PORTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL WARMING AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, House Speaker NANCY PELOSI is to be commended for her creation of the special Select Committee on Global Warming and Energy Independence. I am honored to be chosen by her to join a strong field of my Democratic colleagues chaired by Congressman ED MARKEY, a long-time advocate for realistic policies on energy and climate change. He will be joined by Members

with special areas of expertise and dedicated commitment to the environment.

HILDA SOLIS, a renowned environmentalist not just in Congress, but dating back to her days as a California legislator. EMANUEL CLEAVER, with important municipal experience as Mayor of Kansas City, and one who has been working with the community of faith, particularly evangelical Christians who are worried about our stewardship of God's handiwork.

My Northwest colleague, JAY INSLEE, is strong, an environmentalist with keen interest and expertise and energy. STEPHANIE HERSETH, who has been a leader particularly in reducing the carbon footprint in the all-important agricultural sector. Even our two Members newly elected to Congress; JOHN HALL may be famous as a musician, but for years he has been involved with advocacy and leadership in the energy arena. And JERRY MCNERNEY is a successful alternative energy businessman and engineer who probably has more technical knowledge than anybody else in Congress.

I was perplexed somewhat by the Republican appointments, not so much about who is there, but who isn't. There are a few people in the Republican Caucus who have been outspoken about their concerns of climate change, global warming, their understanding of the science, people who are not in denial, but they were passed over for membership. There are some Republican Members who have been outspoken critics, for example, of the Kyoto treaty. Well, you know, this whole effort has moved beyond Kyoto. The world has moved on.

While for 12 years Republican leadership in Congress refused to move forward, there are 320 cities who have gone ahead with their own post-Kyoto initiatives. There are hundreds of counties and universities. Last month, 10 major companies here in Washington,

D.C. announced that they would meet or exceed the standards. They can't afford to wait for the Federal Government. The people who are still hung over Kyoto have never produced a viable alternative and are being left behind by people who do understand and who do care.

It is not that we don't know what to do; cut carbon emissions and increase energy efficiency. Girl Scouts, neighborhood associations and campus conservation teams can tell this administration and Congress what to do. Why, the Bush Administration could just approve the higher energy efficiency standards for appliances. There are 34 of them that have been stalled, they could stop dithering and start acting.

And it is not that we can't afford to do this; we cannot afford to act. Those energy efficiency standards will actually save consumers money while they encourage new product development.

We are on a very dangerous trend line. Ask people in Alaska, where roads are buckling from melting permafrost and coastal villages are eroding. Ask ski operators about the impact of global warming. Look at impact of extreme weather events on our disaster budgets. We will face far higher costs in the future if we don't act now, take action like private companies, cities across America, and governments around the world.

There are opportunities for field hearings and parliament exchanges for this new committee. I would hope that we could entice them to visit the Pacific Northwest. With Congressman JAY INSLEE and my colleague GREG WALDEN from Oregon, we can demonstrate that the Northwest in the last quarter century has saved 3,000 average megawatts equivalent to building eight giant coal power plants, but at only half the cost. We can bring them to Portland, Oregon, where as a member of the City Council in 1990 we adopted energy efficiency standards to achieve

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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