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## Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 27, 2011, at 11 a.m.

## House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2011

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CRAVAACK).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
October 26, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHIP CRAVAACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### “GROWING OPPORTUNITIES: FAMILY FARM VALUES FOR REFORMING THE FARM BILL”

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. This is a special moment for American agriculture as well as an opportunity to address the major challenges America faces: our long-term government spending, our budget deficit, environmental protection, and the health problems of our families. It is also key to improving the economy, which should be our number one priority. Helping more people at less cost by reducing subsidies to large agribusiness also speaks directly to the frustrations of protesters from coast to coast, whether they are occupying Wall Street or they are Tea Party protesters.

Now, there is no doubt that America’s massive investment in farm support—hundreds of billions of dollars of taxpayer money—the special rules and regulations, and tariff protections have all contributed to the success of American agriculture. It has boosted productivity and made a difference in providing plentiful low-cost food. Left unaddressed is whether this expensive patchwork of complicated and excessive programs is the best we can do.

The answer from independent analysts is overwhelming. We can do far better for less money and help more farmers and ranchers and especially those Americans in need of food. Today, I am releasing a report entitled “Growing Opportunities: Family Farm Values for Reforming the Farm Bill,” which brings together that big picture and illustrates a better way.

The core principles are to reduce the flow of money to the largest agribusiness interests, which shortchanges the majority of farmers and ranchers

who receive virtually no assistance from direct commodity payments, an expensive web of programs to shield farmers from market forces and, of course, the unusual program of crop insurance, which pays more to insurance agents than to farmers.

It would, instead, concentrate assistance for people who need help the most, make healthy food more affordable and give assistance to new farmers, which is so necessary to deal with the turnover in American agriculture, where the average farmer today is 55 years of age.

It would stop the inappropriate and expensive subsidization, which compromises our international trade responsibilities, which not only gives these large agribusinesses a leg up but helps them get bigger at the expense of small- and medium-sized farmers and ranchers.

It would stop the insanity of giving a billion and a half dollars to Brazilian cotton farmers over the next 10 years because we don’t have the courage and the political will to stop giving support to American cotton farmers, which has been deemed illegal.

We must make the production of food, not commodities, more affordable and more nutritious for all Americans but particularly for our students, our young families, and the elderly.

Redirecting money away from incentives to pollute and paying more to farmers and ranchers to protect water quality and wildlife habitat will give real benefit to American communities, which are the neighbors of our farmers. It fits our economic and recreational

□ 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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