

our Nation needs comprehensive immigration reform. That is why I'm committed to working with my colleagues to make immigration reform a reality as soon as possible. Our national security is at stake, our moral standing in the world depends upon it, and the American people, many of whom are first- and second-generation immigrants, demand it. I urge Congress to take a fresh look at the antiquated policies and bureaucratic backlog that tear families apart and devastate our communities.

Finally, I commend Congressman FORTENBERRY and Senator GILLIBRAND for addressing this issue and their continued support for the people of Haiti.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the chairman for bringing this legislation to the floor. It's very important to the Parker family in my district, the people that Mr. FORTENBERRY in Nebraska mentioned, and the 1,200 families and children that are going to now have a good Christmas because that legislation has passed in the House.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. CONYERS. I yield back as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MARKEY of Colorado). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 5283.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ASIAN CARP PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1421) to amend section 42 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation and shipment of certain species of carp.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1421

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act".

SEC. 2. ADDITION OF SPECIES OF CARP TO THE LIST OF INJURIOUS SPECIES THAT ARE PROHIBITED FROM BEING IMPORTED OR SHIPPED.

Section 42(a)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting "of the bighead carp of the species *Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*;" after "*Dreissena polymorpha*;"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker and Members of the House, S. 1421 prohibits importation and interstate shipment of certain species of carp and amends section 42 of title 18 of the code to add the bighead variety of the species commonly known as Asian carp to the list of injurious species that are prohibited from being shipped in or imported into the United States.

Asian carp are a significant threat to the Great Lakes because they are large, extremely prolific, and consume vast amounts of food. They can grow to more than 6 feet in length and weigh in excess of 100 pounds, quickly dominating the waters they inhabit and eating as much as 40 percent of their body weight daily.

Researchers caution that these fish could pose a significant risk to the Great Lakes ecosystem by damaging habitats and disrupting the food chain that supports native fish. In the 1970s, two species of Asian carp, the bighead and silver, were imported by catfish farmers to remove algae and suspended matter from their ponds. During large floods in the early 1990s, many of the catfish ponds overflowed their banks, and the Asian carp were released into local waterways in the Mississippi River basin.

In an effort to prevent the carp from getting to the Great Lakes, a barrier was constructed in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal which connects the Mississippi River to the Great Lakes. Unfortunately, the Asian carp are steadily making their way northward up the Mississippi, and Asian carp DNA has been discovered beyond the barrier.

If these carp reach Lake Michigan, they are likely to spread throughout the Great Lakes, where they would threaten the environment and the economy. The Great Lakes are some of the most unique bodies of water on the planet, and they would threaten not only the commercial but recreational fishing on the lakes, both of which are major contributors to the economies of Great Lakes States.

The Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act lists the bighead variety of the species called Asian carp as injurious to wildlife under the Lacey Act. And by including them in the Lacey Act, this bill will prohibit importation or interstate transportation of live Asian carp without a permit.

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It is our hope that this will help deter further intentional or accidental introduction of the species into our waterways.

It should be noted that this legislation does not interfere with existing State regulations of Asian carp. In addition, permits to transport or purchase live Asian carp can still be issued for scientific, medical, or educational purposes.

I commend my colleagues, the senior Senator from Michigan, CARL LEVIN, and Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH, co-chairs of the Great Lakes Task Force, for introducing this legislation, and hope it will be favorably considered in this body.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 1421, the Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act, amends the Lacey Act to designate the "big head" species of Asian carp as injurious fish. This bill was introduced by Senator CARL LEVIN of Michigan and recently passed the Senate by unanimous consent. My colleague, Mrs. BIGBERT from Illinois, sponsored the House companion bill to this legislation, H.R. 3137, and has been a tireless champion of this legislation.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Asian carp were imported by catfish farmers in the 1970s to remove algae from their commercial ponds. During large floods in the early 1990s, many of the catfish farm ponds overflowed their banks and the Asian carp were released into local waterways in the Mississippi River basin.

The carp have steadily made their way north up the Mississippi, becoming the most abundant species in some areas of the river. Dubbed the "underwater lawn mower," these enormous fish have become a menace to native species and their habitats. Asian carp can grow to over 4 feet long and over 100 pounds in weight. These fish can consume nearly three times their body weight in food each day. As a result, Asian carp leave little food or no food supply for the other fish.

As the fish move upstream toward the Great Lakes, they threaten the food supply of sport fish such as the yellow perch, walleye, and small mouth bass. Carp are well-suited to the climate of the Great Lakes region, which is similar to their native Asian habitats.

To prevent the carp from entering the Great Lakes, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, the State of Illinois, the International Joint Commission, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are working together to install and maintain a permanent electric barrier between the fish and Lake Michigan.

This designation prohibits the importation and interstate shipment of Asian carp unless a permit is issued by the Secretary of the Interior. The penalty for illegally importing or shipping Asian carp is a fine or imprisonment up to 6 months. This bill is supported by Members from both sides of the aisle in

both the House and the Senate. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the author of this bill, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support Senate 1421, the Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act. This is the Senate companion to a bill I have sponsored in this House since 2007, and its passage will be a long overdue victory for wildlife preservation here in the United States.

As most of you know, those of us in the Illinois delegation have worked tirelessly to stem the spread of invasive species into the Great Lakes ecosystem for many years. Currently, Asian carp are the single greatest biological threat to that natural habitat, having traveled for the last four decades up the Mississippi River basin into the Illinois River, and now is close to the shipping and sanitary canals that connect our rivers to the freshwater lakes, particularly Lake Michigan. These ferocious fish prey on and compete with the native species for food and eat up to 40 percent of their body weight every day, as has been mentioned. And because they eat the natural plant life near the bottom of the food chain, they can quickly displace native species, destroy fishing habitats, and threaten maritime jobs.

The reason these fish came to become such a nuisance and cost taxpayers millions of dollars to combat is because they were imported into the U.S. by the southern fish farmers who used them to clean their breeding ponds. Subsequent flooding allowed them to escape into our river system and eventually travel up from the gulf towards Lake Michigan.

Madam Speaker, it is long past the time to recognize that these species do not belong in fish tanks—they certainly wouldn't fit because they grow so large—and domestic ponds where they could find their way into other fragile ecosystems.

In Illinois, we have spent an awful lot of time working on ways to keep those fish out of the Great Lakes. It is so important. The electric dispersal barriers, and there are now two that the Army Corps has put into the sanitary canal in my district, and we have had blockage of the tributaries of the river so even by flooding they cannot get into the canal. We have oxygenation. I have been at fish kills where they have actually made the water dead to kill the fish.

One of the things that is now taking place is certainly the fishing for these fish further down the river, and they are now sending the fish to China where they are turning them into food over there.

But the bill that we are considering today will add the big head species of the Asian carp to the list of injurious species under the Lacey Act and pre-

vent their sale or importation into the United States. This ban would not apply to the dead fish that I was just talking about—they are caught and sent to China as dead fish—and includes only the species of the invasive carp that the Federal wildlife managers found last June in Lake Calumet in Illinois.

With that, Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my good friend from Michigan, Senator LEVIN, who secured passage of this bill in the Senate and express my gratitude to all my colleagues from the Great Lakes States who have worked with us for many years to preserve our waters from the invasive species. This effort is not only about protecting our ecosystem, but also the billions in jobs and opportunities that our precious natural habitats and waterways provide to U.S. citizens every year. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. KAPTUR. I rise in support of S. 1421, the Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act.

For the last 2 decades the Federal Government has sat still. We have allowed numerous Asian Carp species to expand their range further and further North and today, Asian Carp are on the doorstep of the Great Lakes. With sustainable populations in Indiana and Illinois and the \$7 billion recreational fishery at stake, immediate action is needed.

This legislation takes an important step in restricting the transportation of the Big Head Asian Carp by listing it as an injurious species under the Lacey Act, prohibiting this fish from being shipped or imported into the United States.

Should the Asian Carp successfully invade the Great Lakes, they would likely breed and prosper in the shallow and warm waters along the 90 miles of Lake Erie coastline in the Ninth Congressional District. In areas that the Asian Carp have already invaded, Asian Carp have outcompeted local species, destroying habitat for many species.

With 328,000 anglers and an \$800 million economic impact from Lake Erie's recreational fishing industry, aggressive action is needed. My hope is that S. 1421 is just the start in a series of actions the House will take in the coming year. Congress must fund the protection efforts, ecologically separate the ecosystem and light a fire under the Federal and State agencies to protect one of our regions greatest economic resources.

On behalf of 20 percent of the worlds freshwater, the millions of great lakes anglers and towns both big and small that are dependent on the ecological resources of the Great Lakes, I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, as a representative from the Great Lakes region and a cosponsor of the House version of this bill, I support passage of S. 1421, the Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act. S. 1421 will explicitly ban Asian carp from being imported or shipped to the U.S.

Entry and proliferation of Asian carp into the Great Lakes would be ruinous to businesses, particularly commercial fishing and recreation, which rely on the Great Lakes for their livelihood, as well as to the ecology of the Great Lakes system as a whole.

This legislation is another necessary measure to ensure this damaging species is kept

out of the Great Lakes. I am thankful that Congress has taken several steps so far, including authorization and funding of the electrical barriers in the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal, and other measures.

We must continue to consider all options to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes, including closing the locks on the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal and examining the benefits and costs of pursuing long-term ecological separation between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River basin to prevent carp and future invasive species from migrating through this pathway.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to find solutions to protect our Great Lakes from this continuing threat. I ask the House to join me in supporting S. 1421.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act and urge the House to pass it today.

Bighead carp were first brought to the United States in the 1970s to control algae in aquaculture ponds. Unfortunately, bighead carp and other harmful species of non-native fish were released into the Mississippi River in the early 1990s during major flooding. Since then, the Asian carp have established themselves in the Mississippi River system. Asian carp are voracious eaters and the impact of the carp on native fish populations has been severe.

In the ensuing years, the Asian carp have made their way north and are now threatening to invade the Great Lakes. The federal government and the Great Lakes states are fighting a pitched battle against the carp to prevent them from becoming established in the Lakes. We must use every means available to stop this destructive fish from invading the Great Lakes.

We're already paying a heavy price for the decision to import these non-native carp into the United States. For many years, during both the Bush and Obama administrations, a number of us from the Great Lakes region have been urging the Fish and Wildlife Service to include bighead carp on the list of injurious species under the Lacey Act and so minimize the risk of further harm by prohibiting the importation and interstate transportation of live Asian carp without a permit.

The bill before the House today would list bighead carp as injurious under the Lacey Act. I commend Senator LEVIN for introducing this important legislation, which passed the Senate on November 17. Although it is too late to undo the damage that bighead carp are doing in the Mississippi River and its tributaries, we should do everything possible to prevent these invasive fish from harming other areas of the United States. I urge passage of S. 1421.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1421.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1630

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL ROTUNDA FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF KENNEDY INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 75) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for an event marking the 50th anniversary of the inaugural address of President John F. Kennedy.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 75

Whereas John Fitzgerald Kennedy was elected to the United States House of Representatives and served from January 3, 1947, to January 3, 1953, until he was elected by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the Senate where he served from January 3, 1953, to December 22, 1960;

Whereas on November 8, 1960, John Fitzgerald Kennedy was elected as the 35th President of the United States; and

Whereas on January 20, 1961, President Kennedy was sworn in as President of the United States and delivered his inaugural address at 12:51pm, a speech that served as a clarion call to service for the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR AN EVENT HONORING PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

The rotunda of the United States Capitol is authorized to be used on January 20, 2011, for a ceremony in honor of the 50th anniversary of the inaugural address of President John F. Kennedy. Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous matter on the measure now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this Senate concurrent resolution authorizes use of the Capitol rotunda on January 20, 2011, for a ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of President Kennedy's inaugural address. In that speech half a century ago, the President urged our country forward with words that still apply today, particularly as we close one session of Congress and start another.

President Kennedy said, "So let us begin anew—remembering on both

sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate. Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belaboring those problems which divide us."

Madam Speaker, I am sincerely looking forward to this commemorative ceremony. I know of no controversy to this measure and urge my colleagues to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 75.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of S. Con. Res. 75, authorizing use of the rotunda of the Capitol for an event in January marking the 50th anniversary of the inaugural address of President John F. Kennedy.

Madam Speaker, Presidential inaugural addresses are always historic and are often some of the most memorable events during different eras of our country's history.

We can recall Abraham Lincoln's inaugural address in 1861, President Franklin Roosevelt's inaugural address in 1933, and President Ronald Reagan's inaugural address in 1981, among many others, as addresses that inspired this Nation at particular moments of importance.

In 1961, President Kennedy's inaugural address rightly challenged us to ask what we could do for our country and not what our country could do for us. As people across this land did 50 years ago, so we must continue to do now. We must ask ourselves how we can best contribute to our society—by providing for our families, by participating in our communities, in civil society, in our children's schools, and by looking at the lives and needs intimately and immediately around us and seeking to meet them.

Some were then, and some may now, be also called to use their skills and services in our military, diplomatic, and public service sectors. Self-government needs all these attributes and contributions, and President Kennedy's address boldly challenged us to meet them.

Madam Speaker, I support this resolution authorizing use of the rotunda. I, too, believe we should look for inspiration to President Kennedy's eloquent address given some 50 years ago this coming January.

As I say, I hope all will join us in supporting this resolution.

I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I thank the gentleman for his words. I ask for an "aye" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 75.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXTENDING ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS' AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT AND USE FUNDS FOR EXPEDITED PERMIT PROCESSING

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6184) to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 to extend and modify the program allowing the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the evaluation of permits, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6184

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FUNDING TO PROCESS PERMITS.

Section 214 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. 2201 note; 114 Stat. 2594; 117 Stat. 1836; 119 Stat. 2169; 120 Stat. 318; 120 Stat. 3197; 121 Stat. 1067; 123 Stat. 3478) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, after public notice, may accept and expend funds contributed by a non-Federal public entity to expedite the evaluation of a permit of that entity related to a project or activity for a public purpose under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Army.;"

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (e);

(3) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) EFFECT ON PERMITTING.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall ensure that the use of funds accepted under subsection (a) will not impact impartial decisionmaking with respect to permits, either substantively or procedurally.

"(2) IMPARTIAL DECISIONMAKING.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall ensure that the evaluation of permits carried out using funds accepted under this section shall—

"(A) be reviewed by—

"(i) the District Commander, or the Commander's designee, of the Corps District in which the project or activity is located; or

"(ii) the Commander of the Corps Division in which the District is located if the evaluation of the permit is initially conducted by the District Commander; and

"(B) utilize the same procedures for decisions that would otherwise be required for the evaluation of permits for similar projects or activities not carried out using funds authorized under this section.

"(c) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—None of the funds accepted under this section shall be used to carry out a review of the evaluation of permits required under subsection (b)(2)(A).

"(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that all final permit decisions carried out using funds authorized under this section are made available to the public, including on the Internet.;" and

(4) in subsection (e) (as redesignated) by striking "2010" and inserting "2016".