

REMOVING OUTDATED RESTRICTIONS TO ALLOW FOR
JOB GROWTH ACT

MAY 16, 2017.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. CONAWAY, from the Committee on Agriculture,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1177]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1177) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to release on behalf of the United States the condition that certain lands conveyed to the City of Old Town, Maine, be used for a municipal airport, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

BRIEF EXPLANATION

The Removing Outdated Restrictions to Allow for Job Growth Act, H.R. 1177, directs the Secretary of Agriculture to release on behalf of the United States the condition that certain lands conveyed to the City of Old Town, Maine, be used for a municipal airport.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

In the early 1980s, the City of Old Town, Maine, purchased land from the federal government to be part of the Old Town Airport. The deed included a use restriction, as required by a 1941 amendment to the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937, limiting use of the land to a municipal airport or other public use. Old Town has invested heavily in this land in order to attract businesses, but the deed restriction needs to be lifted before further economic development can occur.

H.R. 1177 provides for the removal of the deed restriction on the parcel of land around the Old Town airport to allow for business development. The bill allows the City of Old Town to send a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture detailing which lands it would like released from the deed restriction and directs the Secretary to release that land to the City of Old Town.

The committee believes H.R. 1177 will allow economic development in Old Town to move forward, creating 175 much-needed jobs. This legislation will provide certainty to private investors in the community and help the local economy thrive.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF LEGISLATION

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 of the bill designates the title of the bill as the “Removing Outdated Restrictions to Allow for Job Growth Act.”

Section 2. Release of reversionary interest

Section 2 of the bill allows the land conveyed from the United States to the City of Old Town, Maine, under section 32(c) of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act to be released from the deed restriction if the city makes a written request to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Upon receipt of such a request, the bill directs the Secretary to release, convey, and quitclaim, without monetary consideration, all rights, title and interest in the land specified.

The intent of the Committee is for Section 2 to release the land in question from a deed restriction prohibiting economic development and allow the City of Old Town, Maine to move forward with development plans that will create 175 new jobs.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

I. HEARINGS

No hearings were held by the Committee on the Removing Outdated Restrictions to Allow for Job Growth Act.

II. FULL COMMITTEE

The Committee on Agriculture met, pursuant to notice, with a quorum present, on May 3, 2017, to consider H.R. 1177, Removing Outdated Restrictions to Allow for Job Growth Act.

H.R. 1177 was placed before the Committee for consideration. Without objection, a first reading of the bill was waived, and it was open to amendment at any point.

Chairman Conaway and Mr. Peterson were recognized for statements. Chairman Conaway then recognized Mr. Peterson to offer a motion that the bill H.R. 1177 be reported favorably to the House with recommendation that it do pass. The motion was subsequently approved by voice vote.

Chairman Conaway advised Members that pursuant to the rules of the House of Representatives Members had until May 5, 2017, to file any supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views with the Committee.

Without objection, staff was given permission to make any necessary clerical, technical or conforming changes to reflect the intent

of the Committee. Chairman Conaway thanked all the Members and adjourned the meeting.

COMMITTEE VOTES

In compliance with clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives, H.R. 1177 was reported by voice vote with a majority quorum present. There was no request for a recorded vote.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Agriculture's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

BUDGET ACT COMPLIANCE (SECTIONS 308, 402, AND 423)

The provisions of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (relating to estimates of new budget authority, new spending authority, new credit authority, or increased or decreased revenues or tax expenditures) are not considered applicable. The estimate and comparison required to be prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and sections 402 and 423 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 submitted to the Committee prior to the filing of this report are as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2017.

Hon. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
*Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 1177, the Removing Outdated Restrictions to Allow for Job Growth Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Jeff LaFave.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL.

Enclosure.

H.R. 1177—Removing Outdated Restrictions to Allow for Job Growth Act

H.R. 1177 would remove a deed restriction from certain lands previously conveyed to the city of Old Town, Maine. Under current law, the affected lands can only be used for public purposes. The bill would allow the city to dispose of some of the affected lands to allow for the development of private businesses.

Based on information provided by the Forest Service, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1177 would have no effect on the federal budget. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO also estimates that enacting the legislation would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

H.R. 1177 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jeff LaFave. This estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

H.R. 1177 does not authorize funding, therefore, clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives is inapplicable.

COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee report incorporates the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to sections 402 and 423 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committee within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act was created by this legislation.

APPLICABILITY TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act (Public Law 104–1).

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopted as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (Public Law 104–4).

EARMARK STATEMENT REQUIRED BY CLAUSE 9 OF RULE XXI OF THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H.R. 1177 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(e), 9(f), or 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the Federal Government known to be duplicative of another Federal program, a program that was included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139, or a program related to a program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

DISCLOSURE OF DIRECTED RULE MAKINGS

The Committee does not believe that the legislation directs an executive branch official to conduct any specific rule making proceedings within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 551.

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