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ALEX DIEKMANN PEAK DESIGNATION ACT OF 2017

JUNE 8, 2017.—Ordered to be printed

Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 117]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (S. 117) to designate a mountain peak in the State of Montana as “Alex Diekmann Peak,” having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Beginning on page 1, strike line 6 and all that follows through page 4, line 2, and insert the following:

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF ALEX DIEKMANN PEAK, MONTANA.

PURPOSE

The purpose of S. 117 is to designate a mountain peak in the State of Montana as “Alex Diekmann Peak.”

BACKGROUND AND NEED

Alex Diekmann was a renowned conservationist who lived in Bozeman, Montana. Mr. Diekmann dedicated his professional life to protecting the natural and scenic resources of the Northern Rockies. Over the course of his career, Mr. Diekmann was responsible for the protection of more than 50 distinct areas in the States of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, and the conservation of more than 100,000 acres, including mountains and valleys, rivers and creeks, ranches and farms, and historic sites and open spaces.

Mr. Diekmann played a central role in securing the future of an array of landscapes, including the Devil’s Canyon in the Craig

Thomas Special Management Area in Wyoming and a number of other lands across the Crown of the Continent in Montana. These include the world-famous Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem; Glacier National Park; the Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem; recreational trails, working forests and ranches; and critical drinking water supply for Whitefish. Mr. Diekmann made a particularly profound mark on the preservation of the natural wonders in and near the Madison Valley and the Madison Range, in Montana, where more than 12 miles of the Madison River and much of the world-class scenery, fish and wildlife, and recreation opportunities of the area have become and shall remain conserved and available to the public because of his efforts.

After inspiring others with his skill, passion, and spirit of partnership that brought together communities, landowners, sportsmen, and the public at large, Mr. Diekmann lost a heroic battle with cancer on February 1, 2016, at the age of 52. He is survived by his wife, Lisa, and their two sons, Logan and Liam, and leaves a lasting legacy across Montana and the Northern Rockies that will benefit all people of the United States today and in the generations to follow.

To honor Mr. Diekmann's legacy, S. 117 designates an unnamed peak in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness in Montana as the "Alex Diekmann Peak."

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 117 was introduced by Senators Daines and Tester on January 12, 2017.

In the 114th Congress, Senators Daines and Tester introduced similar legislation, S. 3192, on July 13, 2016. The Committee held a hearing on S. 3192 on September 22, 2016.

A companion bill, H.R. 5778, was introduced by Representative Zinke in the House of Representatives on July 13, 2016.

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources met in an open business session on March 30, 2017, and ordered S. 117, as amended, favorably reported.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on March 30, 2017, by a voice vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass S. 117, as amended.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

During its consideration of S. 117, the Committee adopted an amendment to delete the findings.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 provides a short title for the measure.

Section 2. Designation of Alex Diekmann Peak, Montana

Section 2(a) provides the coordinates and description of the peak and designates it as the "Alex Diekmann Peak."

Subsection (b) requires any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, record, or other paper of the United States to refer to the peak described in section 2(a) as “Alex Diekmann Peak.”

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The following estimate of the costs of this measure has been provided by the Congressional Budget Office:

S. 117—Alex Diekmann Peak Designation Act of 2017

CBO estimates that enacting S. 117 would have no significant effect on the federal budget and would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

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

S. 117 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact is Jeff LaFave.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out S. 117. The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy.

Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of S. 117, as ordered reported.

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING

S. 117, as ordered reported, does not contain any congressionally directed spending items, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Because S. 117 is similar to legislation considered by the Committee in the 114th Congress, the Committee did not request Executive Agency views. The testimony provided by the U.S. Forest Service at the hearing before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on September 22, 2016, follows:

STATEMENT OF LESLIE WELDON DEPUTY CHIEF, NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM FOREST SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Madam Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding S. 346, S. 2991, S. 3192, S. 3203, S. 3254, and S. 3273.

S. 3192, "THE ALEX DIEKMANN PEAK DESIGNATION ACT OF
2016"

This bill would name a currently unnamed mountain for renowned conservationist Alex Diekmann. The 9,765-foot peak is located 2.2 miles west-northwest of Finger Mountain on the western boundary of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, on the Beaverhead National Forest in Montana.

The Department of Agriculture supports this bill.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by the bill as ordered reported.

