

the beauty and recreational opportunities at Rocky Mountain National Park. The legislation simply allows the National Park Service to enter into a cooperative agreement to operate and maintain a visitor center at the Fall River entrance to the park. The bill gives the Secretary of Interior the authority to collect and expend donated funds and expend appropriated funds for the operation and maintenance of the visitor center, which will be located outside the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park. I introduced this legislation on January 23, 1995, and Senator HANK BROWN introduced a companion bill in the Senate on February 7, 1995.

Mr. Speaker, this is a unique project that deserves our attention and utmost consideration. For some time now there has been tremendous support to construct a visitor center at the Fall River entrance of Rocky Mountain National Park. With 1 million tourists entering the park at this entrance every year, the need to provide an orientation and interpretation facility is well known. As you can imagine, park visitation through this entrance is expected to increase in coming years, not decrease.

The need and desire for a visitor center at the Fall River site is not new. It was first documented in a plan prepared by the Park Service in 1976, and again in 1989. However, due to budget pressures and fiscal constraints this plan was never set into motion.

It was not until early 1993 that the prospect for constructing a new visitor center actually became possible. It was then that Mr. Bill Carle, owner of H.W. Stewart, Inc., approached the park superintendent with his idea for the creation of the Fall River Visitor Center.

Under the Fall River proposal, the visitor center would be built with private funds on land that will remain privately owned. The National Park Service, with assistance from the Shirley S. Scrogin Charitable Trust, the Rocky Mountain Nature Association, and the Rocky Mountain National Park Associates, would operate and maintain the visitor center. The park will use existing staff and operational funds to operate the center. Besides covering the cost of construction, the Shirley S. Scrogin Trust would also contribute funds annually for the maintenance of the center. The Rocky Mountain Nature Association, a friends of the park group, will provide a book sales operation and staff support for the center. Revenue generated from book sales will assist in defraying costs associated with the visitor center's operation. The Rocky Mountain National Park Associates, another friends of the park group, will assume the financial expenses for exhibit planning, design, and construction.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Budget Committee, I can attest to the difficulty the committee faces all the time when trying to stay within the budget requirements and utilize

taxpayer's money judiciously. We are constantly looking for ways to reduce spending, cut duplicative programs, and put Congress on a path toward fiscal responsibility. I believe H.R. 629 fulfills these goals and will yield savings for the Federal Government, as well as produce rewards.

I am sure you understand the financial constraints that face our National Park Service today. Due to the scarcity of dollars, it is doubtful that Rocky Mountain National Park will be appropriated—at any time in the near future—the funds necessary to construct a new visitor center from start to finish. Thus, the opportunity before us today is unique and one that we must not let fall through the cracks. The idea of a private-public partnership is one that I know many in Congress and the administration support. It makes sense from both a fiscal and practical point of view.

As I have tried to note, the benefits of this proposal are numerous: Visitors who come to Rocky Mountain National Park can enjoy the new visitor center; the Park Service will be allowed to collect fees at the Fall River entrance; and the developer will be able to reopen his businesses that were lost during a fire.

In summary, this proposal brings together the best qualities in both the public and private sectors. It combines the strengths and visions of both entities and provides a blueprint for similar joint ventures in the future. Whenever Congress has the opportunity to provide the public with the services it needs, while at the same time saving taxpayer's money, it must seize that opportunity. By passing this legislation today, we will have taken the first important step on the road to similar public-private partnerships in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Colorado has quite accurately reflected the content of H.R. 629. It had bipartisan support coming out of the committee. We continue to support it.

Mr. Speaker, if enacted this legislation would allow the National Park Service to enter into cooperative agreements with private and not-for-profit entities in order to construct, maintain, and operate a visitors center on private land outside park boundaries of the Rocky Mountain National Park. This would be the first ever such public/private venture to address a park need.

Rocky Mountain National Park is the No. 1 tourist attraction in the State of Colorado with an annual visitation of almost 3 million people. Currently, almost 1 million of those visitors enter the park through the Fall River entrance and do so without benefit of a National Park Service facility. Such a facility would greatly

enhance the stay of the park visitor by providing information on camping, trails, park rules, safety tips, and historical data on the terrain and wildlife.

There has been much local input on this proposal and I believe all parties have addressed the foreseeable issues. I look forward to the outcome of this joint venture as I believe it may be a model for similar agreements in the future.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 629 is a noncontroversial bill which will authorize the National Park Service to spend Federal funds to operate a new visitor center. The center will be developed with private funds and located on private lands just outside the entrance of Rocky Mountain National Park. The bill is consistent with Park Service plans, supported by the administration and will be funded from existing funds.

Mr. Speaker, Rocky Mountain National Park is the No. 1 tourist attraction in the State of Colorado and a new visitor center will serve to educate the visitors about the park and its resources, while encouraging a partnership with the private sector. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. ALLARD] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 629.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 629, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1995

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend spend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1743) to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to extend the authorizations of appropriations through fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1743

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Section 102 of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10301) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, productivity of natural resources and agricultural systems,” after “environmental quality”;

(2) by striking out “and” at the end of paragraph (6);

(3) by striking out the period at the end of paragraph (7) and inserting “; and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) long-term planning and policy development are essential to assuring the availability of an abundant supply of high quality water for domestic and other uses; and

“(9) the States must have the research and problem-solving capacity necessary to effectively manage their water resources.”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

Section 103 of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10302) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (5);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (6) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) encourage long-term planning and research to meet future water management, quality, and supply challenges.”.

SEC. 3. GRANTS; MATCHING FUNDS.

Section 104(c) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303(c)) is amended by striking “one non-Federal dollar” and all that follows through “thereafter” and inserting “two non-Federal dollars for every Federal dollar”.

SEC. 4. GENERAL AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 104(f)(1) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303(f)(1)) is amended by striking “of \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years ending September 30, 1989, through September 30, 1995,” and inserting “of \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 1996, \$7,000,000 for fiscal years 1997 and 1998, and \$9,000,000 for fiscal years 1999 and 2000”.

SEC. 5. COORDINATION.

Section 104 of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h)(1) To carry out provisions of this Act, the Secretary—

“(A) shall encourage other Federal departments, agencies (including agencies within the Department of the Interior), and instrumentalities to use and take advantage of the expertise and capabilities which are available through the institutes established by this section, on a cooperative or other basis;

“(B) shall encourage cooperation and coordination with other Federal programs concerned with water resources problems and issues;

“(C) may enter into contracts, cooperative agreements, and other transactions without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 U.S.C. 5);

“(D) may accept funds from other Federal departments, agencies (including agencies within the Department of the Interior), and instrumentalities to pay for and add to grants made, and contracts entered into, by the Secretary;

“(E) may promulgate such rules and regulations as he deems appropriate; and

“(F) may support a program of internships for qualified individuals at the undergraduate and graduate level to carry out the educational and training objectives of this Act.

“(2) The Secretary shall report to Congress annually on coordination efforts with other Federal departments, agencies, and instrumentalities under paragraph (1).

“(3) Nothing in this Act shall preempt the rights and authorities of any State with respect to its water resources or management of those resources.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

California [Mr. DOOLITTLE] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. DOOLITTLE].

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. DOOLITTLE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, the primary intent of H.R. 1743 is to extend the authorization for the State Water Resources Research Institutes. Through the act, the institutes have established a Federal/State partnership in water resources, education, and information transfer. There are 54 of these institutes located at the land grant university in each of the 50 States and several of the territories. These institutes are a primary link between the academic community, the water-related personnel in Federal and State government, and the private sector. The institutes provide a mechanism for promoting State, regional, and national coordination of water resources research and training. They also serve as a network to facilitate research coordination and information transfer. Their programs are coordinated with the general guidance of the Secretary of the Interior.

This is a popular program because research from the water institutes is often directed at finding solutions to water problems that have local and regional relevance. Research results from the program are often applied to real-world problems in water management.

H.R. 1743 would expand the act's findings and focus on the need for long-term planning and policy development, support for States in water resources management, and maintaining productivity of natural resources and agricultural systems.

H.R. 1743 sets forth new requirements for the Interior Department to coordinate and cooperate with other departments and agencies of the Federal Government on water resources problems and requires an annual report on these efforts to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, again, on this legislation, H.R. 1743, the Water Resources Research Act reauthorization, the gentleman from California [Mr. DOOLITTLE], the subcommittee Chair, has accurately described the bill, and it has bipartisan support, and I believe bipartisan support both here and in the Senate.

We would urge the passage of the bill. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1743, a bill to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984.

This legislation extends the authorization of this important program for 5 years and also provides new flexibility for the program. New cost-sharing requirements are also specified in this legislation.

The Water Research Program has provided us with extraordinary benefits for 30 years. We now have water research institutes in every State, as well as in the Virgin Islands, Guam, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The program supports our educational institutions by training engineers and scientists skilled in all aspects of water research and management.

With help from the Water Research Program and the State research institutes, we have improved our capability to manage floods and to plan community growth to avoid flood damages. We have improved our ability to clean up chemical contamination of our water supplies. And we have trained hundreds of scientists, technicians, and engineers to help us solve complex water management problems.

The Water Resources Research Program authorized by H.R. 1743 is a cost-effective and inexpensive program. Costs of operating the program are shared with non-Federal interests. The program provides valuable research that is useful to local and State water managers throughout the Nation. The water research program has given us years of service and deserves our continued support.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1743.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] for his support on this.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. DOOLITTLE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1743, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1743, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2066

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed from the list of cosponsors of H.R. 2066.