

Lost Valley needs building permits now. The scout population at Lost Valley has increased 150 percent in just the past 3 years. As a result, repairs, and capital improvements must quickly commence. The Reservation is in dire need of 18 new staff cabins and a new dining hall. In fact, the local health department has only allowed the existing dining hall's continued operation with the understanding that it will be replaced in the near future.

This bill is a fair settlement to end this boundary dispute and I urge its passage.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as I stated, I strongly support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California [Mr. COX] for introducing this legislation. I think it is a very worthy cause, and I urge my colleagues also to support this.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. COOLEY] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 207, 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.

#### PROTECTION OF WILD HORSES IN THE OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 238) to provide for the protection of wild horses within the Ozark National Scenic Riverways and prohibit the removal of such horses, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 238

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

##### SECTION 1. FREE-ROAMING HORSES.

Section 7 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the establishment of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways in the State of Missouri, and for other purposes", approved August 27, 1964 (16 U.S.C. 460m-6), is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 7. (a) The Secretary, in accordance with this section, shall allow free-roaming horses in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Within 180 days after enactment of this section, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the Missouri Wild Horse League or another qualified nonprofit entity to provide for management of free-roaming horses. The agreement shall provide for cost-effective management of the horses and limit Federal expenditures to the costs of monitoring the agreement. The Secretary shall issue permits for adequate pastures to accommodate the historic population level of the free-roaming horse herd, which shall be not less than the number of horses in existence on the date of enactment of this section nor more than 50.

"(b) The Secretary may not remove, or assist in or permit the removal of, any free-

roaming horses from Federal lands within the boundary of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways unless the entity with whom the Secretary entered into the agreement under subsection (a), following notice and a 180-day response period, substantially fails to meet the terms and conditions of the agreement or in the case of an emergency as defined in the agreement.

"(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as creating additional liability for the United States for any damages caused by the free-roaming horses to property located inside or outside the boundaries of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. COOLEY] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. RICHARDSON] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. COOLEY].

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 238, legislation which would direct the Secretary of the Interior to permit free-roaming horses to continue to inhabit Ozark National Scenic Riverway.

Free-roaming horses have existed in the vicinity of Ozark National Scenic Riverway for at least 50 years. For nearly 25 years after the park was established in 1964, the National Park Service coexisted in apparent harmony with the small number of horses which roam on lands both inside and outside the park boundary. Then suddenly, in about 1990, the National Park Service decided that the horses would have to be completely removed.

The only reason cited by the National Park Service to justify removal of the horses is that agency policy calls for removal of non-native plants and animals. However, the agency policy also calls for the National Park Service to conduct research to determine the effects of non-native animals on the park prior to initiating any such removal. The National Park Service has never conducted the required research, and has been unable to supply the committee with any scientific evidence documenting the impacts of these horses on park resources. Further, while the Park Service claims that the removal action is required under their policy, there are at least six areas in the park system where the National Park Service permits free roaming horses to exist, with no attempts to remove them. In other words, it appears that the national policies of this agency are applied on an arbitrary and selective basis by the field managers.

When the National Park Service attempted to remove these animals, they encountered massive public opposition from all corners within the State of Missouri. That opposition was ignored. Volunteer groups appeared at the doorstep of the National Park Service and offered to manage the horses at no cost

to the Federal Government. The door was slammed in their face. In fact, the National Park Service testified before our subcommittee that the only way to prevent future removal of the horses was to enact this legislation.

I know that the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. EMERSON] has worked long and hard on this issue, an am witness to his extensive efforts to resolve this administratively. While such a solution may have been preferable, it is apparently not possible. Therefore, I commend this bill to my colleagues, urge they support it, and recommend its passage.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, for decades now locals and visitors to the Ozark National Scenic Riverways have come to enjoy the sight of the free-roaming horses which inhabit the area. When the National Park Service recommended removal of the horses in order to protect the riverways area, a fierce debate broke out.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to see the National Park Service and the local community work together to allow a small number of horses the freedom to roam the area unencumbered. The bill before us will allow for the Wild Horse League of Missouri, or a similar group, to manage and care for the feral horses in the area. The Wild Horse League, or similar groups, will also be responsible for any damage caused by the horses. Further, the bill directs the National Park Service to provide grazing land for the horses.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the author of this bill, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. EMERSON] and I see that the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. SKELTON] is here and will be speaking on the bill. Both gentlemen are outstanding Members of this body. The gentleman from Missouri [Mr. EMERSON] has had wide interest in this issue. We are going to make sure that this bill passes. We hold the gentleman in extremely high regard. We wish the gentleman a very, very speedy recovery. We see the gentleman here.

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

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. EMERSON], the author of this bill.

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

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank the manager of the bill, the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. COOLEY], and the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. RICHARDSON] for their diligent work in bringing this bill before us today. I also thank the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN], chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands, and the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG],

chairman of the full Committee on Resources, for moving this bill through the legislative process.

Mr. Speaker, the Ozark Wild Horses Protection Act of 1995 is of high importance to the folks in my congressional district in southern Missouri, and to the folks in the district of my neighbor and colleague, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. SKELTON], who represents the neighboring district. Mr. Speaker, I am just delighted to have the gentleman, and our other Ozark colleague, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. HANCOCK], as cosponsors of this legislation. We can say we have all of the Missouri Ozarkian Congressmen behind this particular measure.

The Ozark Wild Horses Protection Act has been around a while, but it should be noted that it is a very straightforward measure. It combines common sense and the will of the people to answer what has turned into a very, very complex problem.

Mr. Speaker, in order to fully explain why my legislation is necessary, I want to give a little brief history about the wild horses that freely roam the Ozark scenic riverways. There are about 25 to 30 animals in the herd which have been around for 60 years or more, if not longer. Some new horses have been born into the herd while others have died off. In this time, however, the animals have never become overpopulated nor a physical nuisance to the lands or waters in which they roam. In fact, the folks of southern Missouri, the people who live there and own the land there, want the horses to stay for future generations to enjoy. They, as I, want this legislation to become law in order to protect the wild horses from being rounded up and carted away.

Mr. Speaker, all told, the wild horses have become a symbol of American freedom and certainly a case in point of the little guy versus government bureaucracy. It is very clear that the horses should be allowed to freely roam the scenic riverways, but due to an arbitrary decision by a local park superintendent some time ago, the National Park Service and the Interior Department, the issue now demands and deserves congressional resolution.

Remember, one of the goals of the 104th Congress is to return power to the people, government to the governed, and by passing the Ozark Wild Horses Protection Act we will be doing just that.

Members should know that there is precedence for allowing horses to remain in a National Park. In the 1980's, a similar case occurred in the Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota where the NPS wanted to proceed with removal, but the local folks wanted them to stay because of their image of the "roughrider spirit." In the final analysis, the Park Service relented and allowed them to remain, because NPS determined that the wild horses are scenic, historic, and cultural.

Unfortunately, in our case, congressional action has been deemed nec-

essary by the Interior Department bureaucracy. Since 1990, park officials have been so adamant about removing the Ozark's wild horses and, I might add, changing their rationale every time as to why they want to, that they have spent countless taxpayers' dollars to take the issue up the court of appeals ladder.

□ 1515

Additionally, this entire time an unwieldy bureaucracy was fighting an amenable, rational, no cost solution strongly and vocally urged by the Missouri Wild Horse League and the public at large—that rationale being simply leave the horses alone.

In fact, on one, including myself, necessarily wanted to pursue legislative action; however, we were forced to seek this route. In a three-page letter dated September 28, 1994, the Park Service stated that "any amendatory or corrective legislation would have to be initiated by the U.S. Congress" to keep them from rounding up the horses. Thus, representing the folks of southern Missouri together with the gentlemen from Missouri, Mr. SKELTON and Mr. HANCOCK, I had no other choice but to proceed with this legislation to amend the Ozark National Scenic Riverways Act.

In closing, let me say that the horses are a strong part of the regional lore, scenic beauty, and culture in southern Missouri. They also serve as a meaningful attraction for vacationing visitors who come to our area to fish, hunt, canoe, raft, or simply take in the great outdoors. The Ozark Wild Horses Protection Act will hopefully provide justice—once and for all—for the horses and the people who have stood beside them throughout these legal and bureaucratic hurdles.

I urge strong passage of the Ozark Wild Horses Protection Act today, so that the measure can be pursued in Congress' other body. I have been working with our two Senators, Senator BOND and Senator ASHCROFT, and they are ready to proceed with similar legislation in their Chamber following successful action today in the House. We must invoke the will of people unto the bureaucracy and not the other way around. As one of the slogans about the horses back home goes: "Wild and Free—Let 'em Be."

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Missouri [Mr. SKELTON].

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Mexico for yielding time to me.

First, let me commend my friend, my colleague, the gentleman from southeast Missouri [Mr. EMERSON], for this piece of legislation. But let me tell Members, it is a shame. It is a shame, Mr. Speaker, that this has to be done. The National Park Service, using good judgment, in its bureaucracy should have let the horses stay where they have been for some 60 years. And now

they say, the only way they are going to stay, to our friend, the gentleman from southeast Missouri [Mr. EMERSON], is to get legislation passed.

To his credit, he is doing it. I certainly hope we will pass it here in the House unanimously. I certainly hope that the U.S. Senate will follow suit.

There is such a thing as tradition in this country. There is such a thing as seeing things as they were in yesterday in this country. We want tourists to come to Missouri. We want tourists to come to this country. We want them to see what happens, what has been around, what makes Americans Americans and Missouri Missouri. And the people understand that who live in our State.

The Missouri Wild Horse League is going to work with the National Park Service under this bill, no expense to the Federal Government. Shame on the bureaucracy and the National Park Service. Let us get this done. And hooray and congratulations to our friend, BILL EMERSON, from the State of Missouri.

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

Again, I urge passage of this bill. I want to commend the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. EMERSON] for excellent work and the eloquence of these two gentlemen from Missouri is nonpareil. I would like to simply add, let the horses go wild and free.

Mr. Speaker, for decades now locals and visitors to the Ozark National Scenic Riverways have come to enjoy the sight of the free-roaming horses which inhabit the area. When the National Park Service recommended removal of the horses in order to protect the riverways area, a fierce debate broke out.

I would like to see the NPS and local community work together to allow a small number of horses the freedom to roam the area unencumbered. The bill before us will allow for the Wild Horse League of Missouri or a similar group to manage and care for the feral horses in the area. By taking on the management of these horses, the Wild Horse League or similar group will also be responsible for any damage caused by the horses. Further, the bill directs the National Park Service to provide grazing land for the horses.

I support passage of this bill.

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

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I, too, wanted to commend the gentlemen from Missouri, both of them on both sides of the aisle for putting forth, especially Mr. EMERSON, this legislation. I think it is good legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it unanimously as well.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. COOLEY] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 238, 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.

#### LAND EXCHANGE AT FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1163) to authorize the exchange of National Park Service land in the Fire Island National Seashore in the State of New York for land in the village of Patchogue, Suffolk County, NY, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1163

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

#### SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF EXCHANGE.

The Secretary of the Interior may exchange all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to certain National Park Service lands in the Fire Island National Seashore in the State of New York, described in section 2, for all right, title, and interest of the Village of Patchogue, Suffolk County, New York, in and to certain lands in the Village of Patchogue, described in section 2, without further consideration.

#### SEC. 2. DESCRIPTION OF LANDS TO BE EXCHANGED.

(a) NATIONAL PARK LANDS.—The National Park Service lands in the Fire Island National Seashore, in the State of New York, referred to in section 1 are the lands generally depicted on the map entitled "Fire Island National Seashore Land Exchange—Proposed", dated October 1994.

(b) VILLAGE OF PATCHOGUE LANDS.—The lands in the Village of Patchogue, Suffolk County, New York, referred to in section 1 are the lands generally depicted on the map entitled "Village of Patchogue Land Exchange—Proposed", dated October 1994.

(c) MAPS.—The maps referred to in subsections (a) and (b) shall be on file and available for inspection in the Office of the Director of the National Park Service.

#### SEC. 3. LANDS ACQUIRED BY SECRETARY.

The lands in the Village of Patchogue that are acquired by the Secretary of the Interior under section 1 shall be added to and administered as part of the Fire Island National Seashore.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. COOLEY] and the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. RICHARDSON] each will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. COOLEY].

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1163, sponsored by Mr. FORBES, which would authorize the exchange of National Park Service land in the Fire Island National Seashore in the State of New York for land in the village of Patchogue, Suffolk County, NY.

H.R. 1163, introduced by Mr. FORBES authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to exchange approximately 8 acres of riverfront property currently within the Fire Island National Seashore for

approximately 2 acres owned by the village of Patchogue, NY.

The village of Patchogue intends that the riverfront area be lightly developed with retail shops and restaurants. Currently, the Patchogue land consists of a large paved area and a few buildings. Fire Island needs the property for overflow parking, vehicle maintenance, and perhaps some office space.

I urge the Members of the House to support this measure that was favorably reported by the House Resources Committee by unanimous voice vote and commend its sponsor for his hard work.

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

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

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, this bill would authorize the exchange of land located in Fire Island National Seashore for land owned by the village of Patchogue, NY. This is a good bill. It is a good exchange between the local and Federal governments with respect to the area.

It is a good tradeoff for both sides. It is expected that Fire Island National Seashore would use the acquired land to address the needs for overflow parking, vehicle maintenance, and office space, while the village of Patchogue would use its acquired land for commercial development, including retail shops and restaurants. As I said, this bill will satisfy the needs of both the local and the Federal governments with respect to the area, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York [Mr. FORBES].

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues on the Committee on Resources for their expeditious handling of this vital piece of legislation.

H.R. 1163 would authorize an exchange of two small parcels in the district I am privileged to represent on eastern Long Island. It would be basically an even exchange involving no money.

Mr. Speaker, the Fire Island National Seashore, which is one of the pristine parks on Long Island, and the village of Patchogue have worked hand in hand to bring about this exchange of land. The first parcel is about 1½ acres. It is undeveloped property along the Patchogue River with literally about 20 percent of the parcel under water. And it currently is part of the Fire Island National Seashore.

The second parcel is 1.1 acres and it is a paved area currently owned by the village of Patchogue and being used as

a parking lot. The Fire Island National Seashore is in need of a facility, a paved facility, where they can administer their vehicles and have a storage area and for other activity such as overflow parking, storage, et cetera, and a parcel of land, that they do not want to be dependent upon a waterfront location.

Likewise, the village of Patchogue would like riverfront parcels for the purposes of providing for economic development. Patchogue has fallen on difficult times in recent years, and working hand in hand with the mayor of Patchogue, Franklyn S. "Whitey" Lewendowsky, and the village board, they are working tirelessly to look for ways for economic development in the village of Patchogue. The village of Patchogue, being affectionately referred to as the downtown area of Brookhaven town.

Patchogue is hoping that this responsible economic redevelopment with the use of capital and job creation will help put a shot in the arm for Patchogue and help to revitalize this critical area in my district.

The exchange is supported by all sides. This is certainly a wonderful example of where local and Federal Government can work hand in hand for the benefit of all the people. The Park Service has several compliance measures that they need to deal with before the actual exchange can take place, but if we authorize it today, everything will be in order when the Park Service completes those vital steps.

I ask for unanimous consent to pass this important piece of legislation.

Again, I thank my colleagues for their assistance in making possible the passage of this measure.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill.

I would like this body to note the outstanding bipartisanship, especially exhibited by the minority, in the passage of all of these majority Republican bills that are going through and the equanimity and the collegiality in making these bills a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I Yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Mexico for his benevolence. I do appreciate that very much. I also want to thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. FORBES] for this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. COOLEY] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1163, 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.