

board, made up of Federal representatives as well as State geologists and university members.

Mr. Speaker, let me finish by thanking the ranking member of the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee, Mr. ABERCROMBIE of Hawaii, for his cooperation on this reauthorization. H.R. 3198 has the full support of the administration and I urge its passage.

□ 1045

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE], the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources of the Committee on Resources has been detained; however, I am advised that he is in full support of this legislation. The minority is in support of the legislation. The Clinton administration has expressed its support, and so we have no objection to this legislation. We support its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I will submit a statement from the gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE] for the RECORD.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 3198, a bill that would reauthorize the 1992 Geologic Mapping Act through fiscal year 2000, and amend the act to designate that 20 percent of the total amount appropriated be allocated to the State component of the program. I would note that both the Clinton administration and the State Geologists support this bill.

Congress enacted the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992—Public Law 102-285 and 43 U.S.C. sections 31a-h—in order to expedite the production of a geologic map data base for the Nation, which can be applied to land-use management, assessment, and utilization, conservation of natural resources, groundwater management, and environmental protection. The act designated the U.S. Geological Survey as the Federal agency responsible for planning, coordinating, and managing the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program. This program is carried out by a consortium of geologic mapping partners including State geological Surveys, universities, other Federal agencies, and the USGS.

Geologic maps are the primary data base for nearly all applied and basic earth science investigations. Federal agencies, State and local governments, private industry, and the general public depend on the information provided by geologic maps. The current geologic map data base is inadequate to meet these needs and development of a comprehensive nationwide program of geologic mapping is required at a pace that responds to increasing demand for mapping in high-priority areas. The States and the USGS each conduct a yearly, needs-based survey to determine program priorities.

Improved geologic map information has been shown, using benefit-cost analyses, to be of significant value in many decisionmaking processes, including:

Exploring for and developing mineral, energy, and water resources;

Screening and characterizing sites for toxic and nuclear waste disposal;

Land use evaluation and planning for environmental protection;

Earthquake hazards reduction;

Predicting volcanic hazards;

Designing and constructing infrastructure requirements such as utility lifelines, transportation corridors, and surface-water impoundments;

Reducing losses from landslides and other ground failures;

Mitigating effects of coastal and stream erosion; and

Siting of critical facilities.

I urge my colleagues to support enactment of this bill.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. CALVERT] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3198.

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. CALVERT. 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. 3198, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

CRAWFORD NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3287) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Crawford National Fish Hatchery to the city of Crawford, NE, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3287

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 "Crawford National Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF CRAWFORD NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY TO THE CITY OF CRAWFORD, NEBRASKA.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIREMENT.—Within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the city of Crawford, Nebraska, without reimbursement, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in subsection (b), for use by the city for a city park and other public recreational purposes.

(b) PROPERTY DESCRIBED.—The property referred to in subsection (a) is the property known as the Crawford National Fish Hatchery, located in the city of Crawford, Ne-

braska, consisting of 5.95 acres (more or less), and all improvements and related personal property under the control of the Secretary that is located on that property, including buildings, structures, equipment, and all easements, leases, and water rights relating to that property.

(c) USE AND REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—If any of the property conveyed to the city of Crawford, Nebraska, under this section is used by the city for any purpose other than the uses authorized under subsection (a), all right, title, and interest in and to all property conveyed under this section shall revert to the United States. The city of Crawford, Nebraska, shall ensure that all property that reverts to the United States under this subsection is in substantially the same or better condition as at the time of conveyance to the city.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] and the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. STUDDS] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON].

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to discuss H.R. 3287, the Crawford National Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act. This bill was introduced by Congressman BILL BARRETT on April 23, 1996. Under the terms of this bill, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the city of Crawford, within 180 days of enactment and without reimbursement, all right, title, and interest to the Crawford hatchery facility to the city of Crawford. This facility will be used as a city park and for other public recreation purposes. The proposal also contains a reversionary clause that stipulates that the property will be returned to the Federal Government if it is used for something other than recreational purposes.

It is important to note that the hatchery is located in the middle of an existing city park. While the city has spent a considerable amount of money restoring those parklands under their jurisdiction, the hatchery buildings and ponds are in a highly deteriorated state. There is little likelihood that this facility will ever again be used by either the State of Nebraska or the Federal Government as a hatchery.

I urge all Members to support this noncontroversial bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the tension is palpable here. This is an extraordinary moment. We have already given more time to this than I think it really deserves. It is utterly noncontroversial. This is the standard procedure by which, for many years, we have approved the transfer of these hatcheries.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 3287, the Crawford National Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act, introduced by our colleague from Nebraska, BILL BARRETT.

This measure is somewhat different from other fish hatchery transfer bills in that it will convey about 6 acres of Federal lands not to the State, but to the city of Crawford, NE.

For nearly 62 years, this hatchery was used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nebraska State Game and Park Commission to produce millions of bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, various species of trout, and their eggs.

Unfortunately, in 1991, the Crawford National Fish Hatchery was severely damaged from flooding of the White River. The facilities were closed, no repairs were made, the buildings have not been maintained, and there is no likelihood that either the Federal or the State Government will reopen this hatchery in the future.

Furthermore, the hatchery is located in the middle of the city park. While the local community has spent a substantial amount of money to rebuild its park facilities, these efforts have been undermined by this unwanted, rapidly deteriorating, and increasingly dangerous fish hatchery.

H.R. 3287 will convey the hatchery property to the city of Crawford, which has made a commitment to restore and use certain buildings for various recreational activities. In addition, the bill contains the standard reversionary clause that requires the city of Crawford to return this property to the Federal Government, if it is used for anything other than the authorized purposes.

I urge an "aye" vote on this legislation and compliment BILL BARRETT for his outstanding leadership in this matter.

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3287, a bill to transfer the old Crawford National Fish Hatchery to the city of Crawford. I'd also like to extend my thanks to Chairman SAXTON for his assistance with this bill, and the Lake Minatare legislation.

Crawford is a small town with approximately 1,300 residents in northwest Nebraska. It's a friendly town with large city park on its western city limit. However, within the boundaries of the city park is an abandoned fish hatchery.

In the 1920's Crawford granted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service the rights to build a fish hatchery in the city park. It was successfully operated by the Service from 1929 to 1983. It was mainly used to breed trout. During the early 1980's, Federal financial support for the hatchery diminished, and the State Game and Parks Commission took over the operation and maintenance of the facility.

In 1991, the Game and Parks Commission completed construction of a new facility and prepared to close the Crawford site. Later that year, Crawford sustained heavy damage caused by a 100-year flood. The hatchery was severely damaged, and essentially destroyed. Currently, neither the Service nor the State operate the facility, and the ruined buildings continue to fall apart, creating an eyesore in the city park.

Due to the lack of interest in repairing the hatchery, the Fish and Wildlife Service is preparing to declare the property as excess to its needs and turn it over to the General Services Administration for disposition, with the recommendation that the property be returned to the city. Unfortunately, the disposition process is often slow, and, in the case of Crawford, the outcome may not be what the city desires.

In the regard, I introduced a bill, H.R. 3287, a transfer the property back to the city. The

city intends to restore some of the damaged buildings and use them for public meeting rooms. These improvements will greatly enhance the city park.

This action has the support of the city, the State Game and Parks Commission, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no more 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 New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3287, 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. SAXTON. 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. 3287, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

WALHALLA NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3546) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Walhalla National Fish Hatchery to the State of South Carolina, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3546

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 "Walhalla National Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF WALHALLA NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY TO THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIREMENT.—Within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the State of South Carolina without reimbursement all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in subsection (b), for use by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources as part of the State of South Carolina fish culture program.

(b) PROPERTY DESCRIBED.—The property referred to in subsection (a) is the property known as the Walhalla National Fish Hatchery, located on Indian Camp Creek and the East Fork of Chattooga River off of State Secondary Highway 325 in northern Oconee County, South Carolina, consisting of 76.2 acres (more or less), all improvements and related personal property under the control of the Secretary that is located on that property, including buildings, structures, and

equipment, and all easements, leases, and water rights relating to that property.

(c) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—If any of the property conveyed to the State of South Carolina under this section is used for any purpose other than the use authorized under subsection (a), all right, title, and interest in and to all property conveyed under this section shall revert to the United States. The State of South Carolina shall ensure that all property reverting to the United States under this subsection is in substantially the same or better condition as at the time of transfer to the State.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] and the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. STUDDS] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON].

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to take action on H.R. 3546, the Walhalla National Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act.

H.R. 3546 was introduced by Congressman LINDSEY GRAHAM on May 29, 1996. Under the terms of this bill, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, within 180 days of enactment and without reimbursement, all right, title, and interest to the Walhalla Hatchery facility for use as a State hatchery. Furthermore, the proposal contains a reversionary clause that stipulates that the property will be returned to the Federal Government if it is used for something other than fishery resources management.

This facility is extremely important to the State of South Carolina because it is the only public source for brown trout; there is no reasonable alternative for stocking the State's waters; and without these fish, there is no viable sport fishing for trout. While privately produced trout are available, this option was explored and rejected because of lack of supply control, cost fluctuations, and the potential introduction of diseases.

I urge all Members to support this noncontroversial bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON], the distinguished subcommittee chairman, for his legislative stature. It is growing by the minute.

This is identical in its substances to the preceding bill.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3546, the Walhalla National Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act, introduced by our colleague from South Carolina, LINDSEY GRAHAM.

This noncontroversial bill is nearly identical to measures the House of Representatives has approved to transfer certain Federal fish hatcheries to non-Federal control.