

real property described in subsection (b), which was retained by the United States when the property was conveyed to the County of Iosco, Michigan, in 1960 pursuant to a deed recorded at Liber 144, beginning page 58, in the lands records of the County.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The parcel of real property referred to in subsection (a) consists of 1.92 acres in the County of Iosco, Michigan, and is described as follows:

That part of the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 11, T.22 N.R. 8 East., Baldwin Township, Iosco County, Michigan described as follows: Commencing at the Center of said Section 11, thence South 89 degrees, 15' 41" East, along the East-West  $\frac{1}{4}$  Line of said Section 11, 102.0 feet, thence South 00 degrees 08' 07" East, along an existing fence line, 972.56 feet, thence North 89 degrees 07' 13" W. 69.70 feet to a point in the North-South  $\frac{1}{4}$  Line, thence North 02 degrees 02' 12" West, along said North-South  $\frac{1}{4}$  Line, 973.42 feet to the Point of Beginning.

(c) ADDITIONAL TERMS.—The Secretary may require such terms or conditions in connection with the release under this section as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(d) INSTRUMENT OF RELEASE.—The Secretary shall execute and file in the appropriate office of offices a deed of release, amended deed, or other appropriate instrument effectuating the release of the reversionary interest under this section.

Mr. ALLARD (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and 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 on H.R. 2670, the bill just considered.

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

There was no objection.

#### MAKING MINOR ADJUSTMENT IN EXTERIOR BOUNDARY OF DEVIL'S BACKBONE WILDERNESS IN MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST, MO.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I call up the bill (H.R. 3464) to make a minor adjustment in the exterior boundary of the Devil's Backbone Wilderness in the Mark Twain National Forest, MO, to exclude a small parcel of land containing improvements, and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

Mr. STENHOLM. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I will not object, but I yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. ALLARD], for an explanation of the bill.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3464, sponsored by Congressman MEL HANCOCK, provides for a slight adjustment removing 2 acres from Devil's Backbone Wilderness area within the Mark Twain National Forest. This is necessary to allow for a land exchange between the Forest Service and a family which inadvertently made improvements on a parcel of Forest Service/Wilderness land. Once removed from Wilderness designation, the Small Tracts Act will permit an administrative exchange of land.

This bill was approved by a voice vote in both the subcommittee and full committee, and the Department of Agriculture has recommended its approval.

Mr. STENHOLM. Further reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his explanation.

An amendment adopted by the committee will be offered to incorporate a technical change in the bill recommended by the Forest Service.

Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to the bill as amended by the committee, and I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 3464

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

#### SECTION 1. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT, DEVILS BACKBONE WILDERNESS, MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST, MISSOURI

Using the authority provided in section 202 of Public Law 96-560 (94 Stat. 3274) regarding the correction of clerical errors in the maps and legal descriptions of the Devils Backbone Wilderness established by section 201(d) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1132 note), the Secretary of Agriculture shall adjust the exterior boundary of the Devils Backbone Wilderness in the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, to exclude a parcel of real property that consists of approximately a quarter of an acre in Douglas County, Missouri, contains a garage, well, mailbox, driveway, and other improvements, and was inadvertently removed from administration as National Forest System land and included within the wilderness area.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The Clerk read as follows:

Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute: strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

#### SECTION 1. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT, DEVILS BACKBONE WILDERNESS, MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST, MISSOURI

The boundary of the Devils Backbone Wilderness established by section 201(d) of Public Law 96-560 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note) in the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, is hereby modified to exclude from the area encompassed by the Devils Backbone Wilderness a parcel of real property consisting of approximately two acres in Ozark County, Missouri, and containing a garage, well, mailbox, driveway, and other improvements, as depicted on a map entitled "Devils Backbone Wilderness Boundary Modification", dated June 1996. The map shall be retained with other Forest Service maps and legal descriptions regarding the Devils Backbone Wilderness and shall be made available for public inspection as provided in section 202 of Public Law 96-560 (94 Stat. 3274).

Mr. ALLARD (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and 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 on H.R. 3464.

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

There was no objection.

#### WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 4(b) OF RULE XI WITH RESPECT TO SAME DAY CONSIDERATION OF A CERTAIN RESOLUTION

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 500 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 500

*Resolved*, That the requirement of clause 4(b) of rule XI for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to a resolution reported before August 2, 1996, providing for consideration or disposition of a conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3103) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve portability and continuity of health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets, to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in health insurance and health care delivery, to promote the use of medical savings accounts, to improve access to long-term services and coverage, to simplify the administration of health insurance, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. For purposes of debate only, Mr. Speaker, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. BEILENSEN], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 500 is a straightforward expedited procedures rule—agreed to by the minority members of our Rules Committee—designed to allow for prompt consideration later today of the conference report on H.R. 3103, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

This rule waives the requirement of clause 4(b) of Rule XI regarding same-day consideration of a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules. That requirement, which provides that two-thirds of the House must agree to such a resolution, is generally observed to provide Members time to digest the legislation under consideration. I share the interest of our minority in ensuring that we do not waive that requirement often—or lightly.

However, in this case, we are under serious time constraints to complete our work on an extremely important measure, which has had significant debate and public airing over the many months it has been under consideration in both Houses of Congress and the conference committee. In fact, every major portion of this bill, every painstaking step in the negotiation has, I believe, been thoroughly reported by the media, given the enormous public interest in this subject. I think Members should agree that, since there is finally bipartisan agreement about the provisions of this bill, we should not delay in approving it and getting it onto the President's desk for his signature.

Mr. Speaker, last night a milestone was achieved on behalf of the American people. An agreement was reached on legislation to improve the availability and portability of health care insurance. This legislation resolves problems of job-lock, denial of coverage, lack of choice, fraud and abuse—addressing the fundamental concerns of millions of Americans. We struggled for many, many months with this bill—and at times it seemed like some were willing to risk never getting it done in order to make political points. That would have been a tragedy for all of us. But in the end, the deafening call from the people we represent to tackle the most obvious problems with health insurance availability and accountability was heeded.

Mr. Speaker, during the upcoming debate members will discuss the details of the agreement and explain how it will expand health coverage, broaden choice, and reduce anxiety for count-

less Americans. This rule allows that critical discussion to proceed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this rule waives the two-thirds' vote requirement, as we have heard, for the same-day consideration of the rule on the health care conference report. The rule is necessary because the conference report was not available yesterday when the House completed legislative business.

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This is not obviously the best way to consider important legislation. Conference reports should lay over for a few days, certainly two or three if possible so that people can read them and understand what they are voting on, but we do, of course, understand the need for this kind of rule in the rush toward starting the August District Work Period.

Mr. Speaker, we have no objections to this rule and urge Members' support for it.

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3103, HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1996

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 502 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES 502

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3103) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve portability and continuity of health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets, to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in health insurance and health care delivery, to promote the use of medical savings accounts, to improve access to long-term care services and coverage, to simplify the administration of health insurance, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). The gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. BEILENSEN], pend-

ing which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 502 is a standard rule providing for consideration of a conference report. It waives all points of order and allows for 1 hour of general debate and provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

But that is where the standard nature of this discussion ends—because what we are about to do is anything but standard. This is truly a red letter day, not just for this Congress, but for the American people. With this conference report we have proven that meaningful health care reform is achievable, even in such a politically charged climate as this. This agreement represents a reasoned, common-sense approach to the problems affecting millions of working Americans. It offers a stark contrast to the extreme efforts of the past Congress—which were largely highly bureaucratic and big government solutions in search of a problem. In this bill we take responsible steps to make health coverage more affordable and accessible for working Americans. While this legislation has been labeled “incremental”, its impact on real Americans is profound. No longer will an ambitious worker be stuck in a dead-end job because of concerns about retaining health coverage for a sick child or spouse. The self-employed entrepreneur, who could not afford the high cost of health insurance before, will be able to deduct 80 percent of health care costs. These are real people that will directly benefit from this legislation. Of course, given the fact that it was born of an excruciatingly painful negotiation and required compromises from all sides, this package will not be described as perfect by anyone. For instance, I am disappointed that medical savings accounts will only be available to a small number of working Americans. This innovative alternative to traditional insurance—which has substantial bipartisan support—was unfairly demonized and demagogued by a handful of opponents. Those who deride MSA's do so because they directly conflict with the liberal wing goal of a government-run and government-managed health care system. While MSA's critics seem to believe in an even more expansive Federal bureaucracy than we already have making health care decisions for individuals, MSA supporters believe in the ability of Americans to make prudent health care choices for themselves.

Finally, this legislation attacks fraud and abuse by increasing the penalties on those who knowingly cheat the system. If there is one criticism my constituents have, it is that administration has not adequately addressed the billions of dollars in waste and abuse in our health care system. This Congress has listened and we have acted.