

Irrigation District Exchange—Proposed, Non-Federal Land”, dated _____, 1995, more particularly described as T. 4 S., R17E MDM (Mount Diablo Meridian): sec. 2, SE¼.

(3) MAPS.—The maps referred to in this subsection shall be on file and available for inspection in the office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(4) PARTIAL REVOCATION OF WITHDRAWALS.—The Executive order of December 31, 1912, creating Powersite Reserve No. 328, and the withdrawal of Federal lands for Power Project No. 2179, filed February 21, 1963, in accordance with section 24 of the Federal Power Act are hereby revoked insofar as they affect the Federal lands described in paragraph (1). Any patent issued on such Federal lands shall not be subject to section 24 of said Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. DOOLITTLE] and the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] each will control 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, I would like to thank Mr. RADANOVICH for his diligent work on H.R. 3147. H.R. 3147 will result in an equal value exchange of lands between the Bureau of Land Management [BLM] and the Merced Irrigation District [MID] supported by all interested parties.

In 1991, Congress added 8 miles of the Merced River upstream from Lake McClure in Mariposa County, CA, to the National Wild and Scenic River System. Lake McClure is the main reservoir of the Merced Irrigation District. The Bureau of Land Management manages a significant amount of land in the Lake McClure area.

Soon after the wild and scenic river designation, MID and the BLM began to discuss a possible land transfer to enhance their land management objectives. As a result of the discussions, MID and BLM worked out a land exchange in which BLM would convey several scattered parcels of land below Lake McClure in exchange for approximately 160 acres of land owned by MID along the national wild and scenic corridor. The land exchange proposal is contained in H.R. 3147.

H.R. 3147 will enable the BLM to consolidate its land ownership in the Merced River region and enhance one of their most important recreational areas in California. At the same time, H.R. 3147 will benefit MID by allowing them to consolidate their ownership of lands in the Lake McClure area.

□ 1430

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

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

Continuing this unprecedented bipartisan harmony, we have no objection to

this measure and the administration supports this bill.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3147 provides for the exchange of lands between the Bureau of Land Management and the Merced Irrigation District. Under the legislation, 179 acres of scattered BLM lands within the irrigation district's water project area would be exchanged for 160 acres of land the irrigation district owns within the boundaries of the Merced Wild and Scenic River.

We have no objection to the measure. The administration supports the bill. It is an even value exchange that will benefit both the irrigation district and the Federal Government.

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

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WICKER). 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. 3147, 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.

INDIAN HEALTH CARE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3378) to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to extend the demonstration program for direct billing of Medicare, Medicaid, and other third party payors.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3378

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

Section 405(c)(2) of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1645(c)(2)) is amended by striking “September 30, 1996” and inserting in lieu thereof “September 30, 1998”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. DOOLITTLE] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

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

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

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

H.R. 3378 would extend a demonstration project for direct billing of Medicare, Medicaid, and other third party payors. This bill will extend this demonstration project through September 30, 1998, rather than allowing it to sunset at the end of this month.

In 1988, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act established demonstra-

tion programs to authorize up to four tribally operated Indian Health Service hospitals or clinics to test methods for direct billing and receipt of payment for health services provided to Medicare and Medicaid eligible patients. The program was established to decide whether these collections could be increased through direct involvement of the tribal health care provider versus the current practice which required such billings and collections to be routed through the Indian Health Service.

Currently, there are four tribal health care providers participating in this demonstration project: the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation of Dillingham, AK; the South East Alaska Regional Health Consortium of Sitka, AK; the Mississippi Choctaw Health Center of Philadelphia, MS; and the Choctaw Tribe of Oklahoma of Durant, OK. All participants have expressed success and satisfaction with the demonstration project and report dramatically increased collections for Medicare and Medicaid services, thereby providing additional revenues for Indian health programs at these facilities. They also report a significant reduction in the turnaround time between billing and receipt of payment, and increased efficiency by being able to track their own billings and collections. Therefore, they can act quickly to resolve questions and problems.

The Indian Health Service is required to monitor participation and receive quarterly reports from the four participants. The law also requires the Indian Health Service to report to Congress on the demonstration program at the end of fiscal year 1996. This report is to evaluate whether the objectives have been fulfilled, and whether direct billing should be allowed for other tribal providers who operate an entire Indian Health Service facility.

H.R. 3378 extends this demonstration authority for 2 more years to give Congress time to review the report the Indian Health Service must submit on September 30, 1996, and determine the future of the program. Secretary Donna E. Shalala sent a letter to Chairman DON YOUNG on August 1 in support of H.R. 3378 for the administration. I urge my colleagues to support the extension of this productive demonstration program and to vote for final passage of H.R. 3378.

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

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

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer my support for this bill which would extend for 2 more years an important demonstration project contained in section 405 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. This demonstration project allows participating tribes and tribal organizations who operate their own hospitals

or clinics to directly bill Medicaid and Medicare for services provided to eligible Indian patients. Direct billing has saved these tribes invaluable time and money that they otherwise would have lost by having to route their billing through the Indian Health Service. By saving the tribes time, the program has allowed the tribes to more efficiently manage their limited resources and improve billing practices, which in turn has generated even more income for these programs. At a time when the national level of need funded [LNF] for most Indian health programs rests at 60-70 percent, these additional dollars make an important difference in the kinds of services and quality of care these tribes can provide.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this demonstration program has been a remarkable success and hope that in time we will be able to expand this worthwhile project to other tribes and tribal organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the author of this bill, the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG], the chairman of the House Resources Committee, and the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER], the ranking Democrat of the Resources Committee, for their support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD a letter from the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BLILEY], chairman of the Committee on Commerce.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, August 1, 1996.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Resources,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On June 19, 1996, the Committee on Resources ordered reported H.R. 3378, a bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to extend the demonstration program for direct billing of Medicare, Medicaid, and other third party payors. It is my understanding that you would like the Committee on Commerce to be discharged from consideration of this measure.

I have a number of concerns about proceeding in this manner. As you know, this Committee has invested countless hours in Medicaid reform legislation. The status of our reform efforts makes separate consideration of H.R. 3378 somewhat awkward. Despite my position on this matter, I do understand your interest in having H.R. 3378 move forward expeditiously, since authorization for these demonstration projects ends September 30, 1996. Therefore, the Committee on Commerce will agree to be discharged from consideration of this legislation.

By agreeing to be discharged from consideration, this Committee does not waive its jurisdictional interest in the matter. I reserve the right to seek equal conferees during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation.

I want to thank you and your staff for your assistance in providing the Commerce Committee with a timely opportunity to review its interests in H.R. 3378. I would appreciate your including this letter as a part of the Re-

source Committee's report on H.R. 3378, and as part of the record during consideration of this bill by the House.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. BLILEY Jr., *Chairman.*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation, 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. 3378.

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

The motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APACHE NATIONAL FOREST LAND CONVEYANCE

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3547) to provide for the conveyance of a parcel of real property in the Apache National Forest in the State of Arizona to the Alpine Elementary School District 7 to be used for the construction of school facilities and related playing fields, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3547

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

SECTION 1. LAND CONVEYANCE, APACHE NATIONAL FOREST, ARIZONA.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—(1) The Secretary of Agriculture shall convey, without consideration, to the Alpine Elementary School District 7 of the State of Arizona (in this section referred to as the "School District"), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including any improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 30 acres located in the Apache National Forest, Apache County, Arizona, and further delineated as follows: North $\frac{1}{2}$ of Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 14, Township 5 North, Range 30 East, Gila and Salt River meridian, and North $\frac{1}{2}$ of South $\frac{1}{2}$ of Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of such section.

(2) The exact acreage and legal description of the real property to be conveyed under paragraph (1) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary. The cost of the survey shall be borne by the School District.

(b) CONDITION OF CONVEYANCE.—The conveyance made under subsection (a) shall be subject to the condition that the School District use the conveyed property for public school facilities and related public school recreational purposes.

(c) RIGHT OF REENTRY.—The United States shall retain a right of reentry in the property to be conveyed. If the Secretary determines that the conveyed property is not being used in accordance with the condition in subsection (b), the United States shall have the right to reenter the conveyed property without consideration.

(d) ENCUMBRANCES.—The conveyance made under subsection (a) shall be subject to all encumbrances on the property existing as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Sec-

retary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. DOOLITTLE] and the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] each will control 20 minutes.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3547, introduced by Mr. HAYWORTH, which would convey 30 acres of land on the Apache National Forest in Apache County, AZ to the Alpine Elementary School District. The school district needs the land to construct school facilities and related playing fields. The school district is willing to purchase the lands; however, the cost is prohibitive.

Eighty-five percent of Apache County is federally controlled land. As a result, school district budgets must rely heavily on their 25-percent share of receipts from national forest timber harvests, designation by law for local schools and roads. Unfortunately, appeals and litigation have halted all logging in Arizona, and as a result the Alpine Elementary School District's revenues have fallen sharply. Without this conveyance, the school district would not be able to afford to construct any facilities after acquiring the land.

H.R. 3547 stipulates that the land can only be used for school facilities. In addition, the school district will bear the costs of performing a survey to determine the exact acreage and legal description of the property.

The Subcommittee of National Parks, Forests and Lands amended H.R. 3547 to revise the acreage description and clarify the Federal Government's interest in the property. It was amended again by the Committee on Resources at the request of the administration to change the Federal interest to a right of reentry if the property is no longer used for public school facilities or related recreational purposes.

I urge the Members of the House to support the school children of Apache County by supporting Mr. HAYWORTH's reasonable bill, H.R. 3547. Once Congress enacts this legislation, the Alpine School District will have the ability to construct the school facilities that these children need and deserve.

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

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

When this bill was originally introduced, there were some concerns, but the committee has amended the legislation to address those, to address those concerns, and we have no objection to this measure.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3547 would authorize the conveyance of certain national forest lands in