

both mental and physical handicaps are entitled to equal rights, equal access, and equal opportunity.

The FDR Memorial serves as a reference point for those of us who are traveling down the road of progress. FDR renounced fear as it is "nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance." President Roosevelt's continued renunciation of fear, refusal to crumble, and ability to act decisively and fearlessly in spite of the pressures of the Great Depression and World War II allowed him to develop into one of the finest role models for the people of the United States.

A permanent statue of FDR as a citizen with a disability will forever inspire all citizens to forge through our fears and most difficult times. To me it is ironic, yet only fitting, that during the Great Depression, a time when our Nation was in fact disabled, a man living with a handicap, stepped beyond his limitations to lead our Nation like no other. Our 32d President not only lived with a handicap, but did so while being one of the great leaders of our country. FDR is symbolic of perseverance, and his Presidency is testimony that mental and physical handicaps are not impediments to success.

In the end, a permanent statue which portrays Franklin Delano Roosevelt as a person with a handicap will be forever a reminder that disability is part of humanity and in no way reduces a person's chance of fulfilling his or her dreams.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution, Senate Joint Resolution 29.

The question was taken.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FACILITATING A LAND EXCHANGE WITHIN THE WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST IN CHELAN COUNTY, WA

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 822) to facilitate a land exchange involving private land within the exterior boundaries of Wenatchee National Forest in Chelan County, WA, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 822

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

SECTION 1. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT, WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST, WASHINGTON.

The boundary of the Wenatchee National Forest in Chelan County, Washington, is

hereby adjusted to exclude section 1 of Township 23 North, Range 19 East, Willamette Meridian.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN].

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 822, as amended, is a bill introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. HASTINGS]. Mr. Hastings has worked hard to make this bill acceptable to the administration. The passage of this bill will benefit the people of Washington and the people of the United States.

H.R. 822 expedites a land exchange between a parcel of private property, currently within the boundaries of the Wenatchee National Forest, with the Bureau of Land Management. The Forest Service boundary needs to be removed for a land exchange to occur. The Forest Service does not have the authority to remove the boundary administratively, although they state the boundary is no longer needed. The Forest Service also agrees the old boundary does not contribute to the management of the Wenatchee National Forest. The BLM has expressed interest in acquiring the land parcel through exchange in order to consolidate their holdings which are adjacent to the private land. In order for this exchange to occur, the congressionally authorized Forest Service boundary surrounding this private property must be removed. This removal is required to allow an administrative exchange with the BLM.

Mr. Speaker, this is a noncontroversial measure that is supported by the administration, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 822.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the good gentleman from the State of Washington [Mr. HASTINGS] for his sponsorship of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 822 directs that, if the Secretary of the Interior acquires by exchange certain private lands located within the boundaries of the Wenatchee National Forest, those lands will be administered by the Bureau of Land Management instead of the Forest Service. As originally drafted, the bill was opposed by the administration. There were discussions during the committee consideration of H.R. 822 on an alternative legislative approach that would statutorily remove the acquired lands from the national forest boundary, and the Com-

mittee on Resources adopted such language as an amendments. With this change we support the legislation.

Again I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Utah, for his management of this legislation and our good friend from Washington for his sponsorship of this bill.

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington [Mr. HASTINGS], the sponsor of this bill.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense approach to a small problem, frankly, that deals with 640 acres in the Wenatchee National Forest, where an individual wants to exchange it to potentially put this into development; but he cannot exchange it unless these boundaries are removed because the other Federal agency involved, the Bureau of Land Management, would have input into that process. So this simply removes the boundary to allow negotiations to start between this individual and BLM. It does not mandate anything, it just allows the process to start.

I might add that I think this is important for Chelan County, because upwards of 75 percent of that county is in Federal control. An opportunity like this for potential development in the private sector, I think, is good for Chelan and I think good for that area.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] for moving expeditiously on this.

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

Mr. HANSEN. 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 Utah [Mr. HANSEN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 822, 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.

REQUIRING THE EXCHANGE OF CERTAIN LANDS LOCATED IN HINSDALE, CO

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 951) to require the Secretary of the Interior to exchange certain lands located in Hinsdale, CO.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 951

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

SECTION 1. LARSON AND FRIENDS CREEK EXCHANGE.

In exchange for conveyance to the United States of an equal value of offered lands acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior

which lie within, or in proximity to, the Handies Peak or Red Cloud Peak Wilderness Study Areas or the Alpine Loop Backcountry Bi-way in Hinsdale County, Colorado, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to Lake City Ranches, Ltd., a Texas limited partnership (in this section referred to as "LCR"), approximately 560 acres of selected land located in the same county and generally depicted on a map entitled "Larson and Friends Creek Exchange", dated June 1996. The exchange shall be contingent upon LCR granting the Secretary a permanent conservation easement on the approximate 440 acre Larson Creek portion of the selected lands (as depicted on the map) which limits future use of such lands to agricultural, wildlife, recreational, or open space purposes. The exchange shall also be subject to the standard appraisal requirements and equalization payment limitations set forth in section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716), and to reviews and approvals relating to threatened species and endangered species, cultural and historic resources, and hazardous materials under other Federal laws. The costs of such appraisals and reviews shall be paid by LCR. The Secretary may credit such payments against the value of the selected land, if appropriate, pursuant to section 206(f) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716(f)).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN].

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 951 is a bill introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS]. Because of the outstanding effort of the gentleman from Colorado, this bill is agreeable to the administration, to the environmental community, and to the private property owners.

I would also like to commend another colleague, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. THORNBERRY], who has added his support to this bill.

H.R. 951 requires the Secretary of the Interior to exchange approximately 560 acres of Federal land located in Colorado to Lake City Ranches, Ltd. This land is currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management. In return, the U.S. Government will receive inholdings within the proposed Handies Peak or Red Cloud Wilderness Areas, or along the Alpine Loop Backcountry Bi-way. The BLM is also granted a permanent conservation easement on 440 acres of the lands conveyed to be used for agricultural, wildlife, recreation, or open space purposes.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has very wide community support and I urge my colleagues' support of H.R. 951.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and again I commend the gentleman from Colorado for his sponsorship of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 951 provides for the exchange of certain public lands in

Hinsdale County in the State of Colorado for private lands that are located within or in proximity to several wilderness study areas and a backcountry bi-way. The bill provides that the exchange be of equal value. In addition, as a condition of the exchange, the private landowner will keep approximately 440 of the 560 acres under a conservation easement.

The exchange is supported by the local community, by the environmental groups, and the administration. I am unaware of any controversy associated with the bill and certainly will support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. 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 Utah [Mr. HANSEN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 951.

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.

VALIDATING CERTAIN LAND CONVEYANCES IN THE CITY OF TULARE, CA

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 960) to validate certain conveyances in the city of Tulare, Tulare County, CA, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 960

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that:

(1) It is in the Federal Government's interest to facilitate local development of jobs in areas of high unemployment.

(2) Railroad interests in rights-of-way prevent local communities from obtaining clear title to property for development unless the city also obtains the Federal revisionary interest in those rights-of-way.

(3) For development purposes, in order to secure needed financing, the City of Tulare Redevelopment Agency requires clear title to certain parcels of and within the city's business corridor that are part of a railroad right-of-way.

SEC. 2. TULARE CONVEYANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (c) and (d), all conveyances to the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Tulare, California, of lands described in subsection (b), heretofore or hereafter, made directly by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company, or its successors, are hereby validated to the extent that the conveyances would be legal or valid if all rights, title, and interest of the United States, except minerals, were held by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company.

(b) LANDS DESCRIBED.—The lands referred to in subsection (a) are the parcels shown on

the map entitled "Tulare Redevelopment Agency-Railroad Parcels Proposed to be Acquired", dated 5/29/97, that formed part of a railroad right-of-way granted to the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, or its successors, agents, or assigns, by the Federal Government (including the right-of-way approved by an Act of Congress on July 27, 1866). The map referred to in this subsection shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(c) PRESERVATION OF EXISTING RIGHTS OF ACCESS.—Nothing in this section shall impair any existing rights of access in favor of the public or any owner of adjacent lands over, under or across the lands which are referred to in subsection (a).

(d) MINERALS.—The United States disclaims any and all right of surface entry to the mineral estate of lands described in subsection (b).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN].

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 960, introduced by the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS] will give the Tulare Redevelopment Agency the ability to purchase lands within the railroad right-of-way that bisects their city. This bill would validate the city's title to one parcel of land that they bought from the railroad before learning the title was clouded by the Federal Government's reversionary interest. It would also allow the railroad to pass clear title to parcels of land shown on the referenced map.

This legislation is a reasonable solution to a difficult problem. The BLM has studied the issue and concluded that the lands in question are best suited for local development as planned by the redevelopment agency. The gentleman from California has worked very hard with the BLM to craft a bill that would be satisfactory to all concerned. The bill has been amended to clarify language that gives the railroad the right to pass clear title to only the redevelopment agency. Language has also been removed from the bill that the administration felt could be construed as a waiver of environmental laws. The current bill would also preserve the Federal interest in mineral rights to the lands, while at the same time disclaiming any right the Government may have to surface entry to the mineral estate. This gives the city the ability to go forward with planning, financing and development.

This bill is intended to resolve an unusual problem within the city of Tulare. The bill is not intended to be dispositive of the status of other rail properties nor is it intended to set a general policy for the treatment of railroad grants. Concerns that this action would set an undesirable precedent regarding railroad right-of-way problems are, I believe, therefore unfounded.