

of a Native Hawaiian with at least 25 percent Native Hawaiian blood quantum to assume a grandparent's lease upon the death of the grandparent. It is not uncommon for Native Hawaiian grandchildren to be raised by their grandparents. This measure will support the traditional extended family values among the Native Hawaiian community.

The House consented to these same changes to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act upon passage of H.R. 1332 in the 104th Congress. That measure, sponsored by Mr. GALLEGLY, then chairman of the subcommittee with jurisdiction over these matters in the 104th Congress, contained language identical to the text of the current resolution by Mr. ABERCROMBIE of Hawaii which is cosponsored by Mr. GALLEGLY and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. The other body was prepared last year to accept this provision as contained in H.R. 1332 and now as in House Joint Resolution 32, but adjourned before it could be taken up.

Both of the proposed changes to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act by the State of Hawaii are meritorious and deserve the approval of the House today. These measures are sound and directly benefit Native Hawaiians by emphasizing the importance of the extended family and self-reliance. I urge my colleagues to approve House Joint Resolution 32 so that these measures can promptly begin to benefit Native Hawaiian families.

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

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Joint Resolution 32, which provides congressional approval of two amendments to the Hawaiian Homes Act of 1920 passed by the Hawaii State Legislature. These amendments involve the establishment of a Hawaiian hurricane relief fund and rules governing eligible successors to a Hawaiian homes lease.

It may seem strange to some that the Congress has to approve changes made by a State legislature. But this action is required as a result of the unique history of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.

The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was passed by the Congress in 1921 to set aside some 200,000 acres of land for the use and benefit of the Native Hawaiian people, whose government had been illegally overthrown with the assistance of the U.S. Government in 1893.

The Federal Government maintained primary responsibility for the administration of these lands until Hawaii became a State in 1959. The Hawaii Statehood of Admissions Act transferred the day-to-day administration of the lands to the State of Hawaii, but the Federal Government retained oversight responsibility of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. Accordingly, the Hawaii Statehood Admissions Act requires that any changes made by the Hawaii State Legislature affecting the administration of the Hawaiian home lands be approved by the Congress.

House Joint Resolution 32 seeks to approve two such amendments to the act. The first is a 1993 law establishing a Hawaiian hurricane relief fund and authorizing the Hawaii Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to obtain homeowner's insurance for lessees.

The Hawaiian Islands are vulnerable to devastating hurricanes, as demonstrated by Hurricane Iniki in 1992, which virtually wiped out an entire island. It has been difficult for home-

owners in Hawaii to obtain insurance against such potential disasters. For homesteaders on Hawaiian homes lands the effort is even more difficult because of they are not land owners.

The law passed by the State legislature for which we seek approval today will assist many Hawaiian homesteaders in obtaining adequate hurricane insurance coverage.

The second amendment approved by the Hawaii State legislature allows homestead lessees to designate grandchildren who are at least 25 percent Native Hawaiian as successors to the lease. The original Hawaiian Homestead Act limited leases to those of 50 percent or more Native Hawaiian blood. This amendment approved by our State Legislature will allow Hawaiian homesteads to stay within the family for another generation.

These changes adopted by the elected body of the State of Hawaii reflect the will of the people of Hawaii in administering this important law. I would ask my colleagues to support the actions of our State and support House Joint Resolution 32.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. DOOLITTLE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, House Joint Resolution 32.

The question was taken.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, could the Chair advise how many votes are required, how many Members have to be standing? I did not see the required number of votes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair counted one-fifth of those Members present as standing. The yeas and nays are ordered.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the joint resolution just considered.

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

There was no objection.

NATIONAL GEOLOGIC MAPPING REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 709) to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 709

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 "National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) in enacting the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31a et seq.), Congress found, among other things, that—

(A) during the 2 decades preceding enactment of that Act, the production of geologic maps had been drastically curtailed;

(B) geologic maps are the primary data base for virtually all applied and basic earth-science investigations;

(C) Federal agencies, State and local governments, private industry, and the general public depend on the information provided by geologic maps to determine the extent of potential environmental damage before embarking on projects that could lead to preventable, costly environmental problems or litigation;

(D) the lack of proper geologic maps has led to the poor design of such structures as dams and waste-disposal facilities;

(E) geologic maps have proven indispensable in the search for needed fossil fuel and mineral resources; and

(F) a comprehensive nationwide program of geologic mapping is required in order to systematically build the Nation's geologic-map data base at a pace that responds to increasing demand;

(2) the geologic mapping program called for by that Act has not been fully implemented; and

(3) it is time for this important program to be fully implemented.

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31b) is amended—

(1) by striking "As used in this Act:" and inserting "In this Act:";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (3), (4), (5), and (7), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

"(2) ASSOCIATION.—The term 'Association' means the Association of American State Geologists.";

(4) by inserting after paragraph (5) (as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection) the following new paragraph:

"(6) STATE.—The term 'State' includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.";

(5) in each paragraph that does not have a heading, by inserting a heading, in the same style as the heading in paragraph (2), as added by paragraph (3), the text of which is comprised of the term defined in the paragraph.

(b) GEOLOGIC MAPPING PROGRAM.—Section 4 of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31c) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a national cooperative geologic mapping program between the United States Geological Survey and the State geological surveys, acting through the Association.

"(2) DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, AND ADMINISTRATION.—The cooperative geologic mapping program shall be—

"(A) designed and administered to achieve the objectives set forth in subsection (c);

"(B) developed in consultation with the advisory committee; and

"(C) administered through the Survey.";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading by striking "USGS" and inserting "THE SURVEY";

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by single-indenting the paragraph, double-indenting the subparagraphs, and triple-indenting the clauses;

(ii) by inserting "LEAD AGENCY.—" before "The Survey";

(iii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking "Committee on Natural Resources" and inserting "Committee on Resources"; and

(II) by striking "date of enactment of this Act" and inserting "date of enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1997";

(iv) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking "State geological surveys" and inserting "Association"; and

(II) by striking "date of enactment of this Act" and inserting "date of enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1997"; and

(v) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by striking "date of enactment of this Act" and inserting "date of enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1997";

(II) by striking "Committee on Natural Resources" and inserting "Committee on Resources";

(III) in clauses (i) and (ii) by inserting "and the Association" after "the Survey";

(IV) by adding "and" at the end of clause (ii); and

(V) by striking "and" at the end of clause (iii) and all that follows through the end of the subparagraph and inserting a period;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting "RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—" before "In addition to"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A) by striking "State geological surveys" and inserting "Association"; and

(D) by single-indenting the paragraph and double-indenting the subparagraphs;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2) by striking "interpretive" and inserting "interpretative"; and

(B) in paragraph (4) by striking "awareness for" and inserting "awareness of"; and

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by inserting "FEDERAL COMPONENT.—" before "A Federal";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting "SUPPORT COMPONENT.—" before "A geologic"; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

"(D) geochronologic and isotopic investigations that—

"(i) provide radiometric age dates for geologic-map units; and

"(ii) fingerprint the geothermometry, geobarometry, and alteration history of geologic-map units,

which investigations shall be contributed to a national geochronologic data base";

(C) in paragraph (3) by inserting "STATE COMPONENT.—" before "A State"; and

(D) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

"(4) EDUCATION COMPONENT.—A geologic mapping education component—

"(A) the objectives of which shall be—

"(i) to develop the academic programs that teach earth-science students the fundamental principles of geologic mapping and field analysis; and

"(ii) to provide for broad education in geologic mapping and field analysis through support of field studies;

"(B) investigations under which shall be integrated with the other mapping components of the geologic mapping program and shall respond to priorities identified for those components; and

"(C) Federal funding for which shall be matched by non-Federal sources on a 1-to-1 basis.";

(c) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Section 5 of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31d) is amended—

(I) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established a 10-member geologic mapping advisory committee

to advise the Director on planning and implementation of the geologic mapping program.

"(2) MEMBERS EX OFFICIO.—Federal agency members shall include the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency or a designee, the Secretary of Energy or a designee, the Secretary of Agriculture or a designee, and the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology or a designee.

"(3) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1997, in consultation with the Association, the Secretary shall appoint to the advisory committee 2 representatives from the Survey (including the Chief Geologist, as Chairman), 2 representatives from the State geological surveys, 1 representative from academia, and 1 representative from the private sector."; and

(2) in subsection (b)(3) by striking "and State" and inserting "State, and university".

(d) GEOLOGIC MAPPING PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Section 6 of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31e) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by inserting "cooperative" after "national";

(2) by striking paragraph (3)(C) and inserting the following:

"(C) for the State geologic mapping component, a priority-setting mechanism that responds to—

"(i) specific intrastate needs for geologic-map information; and

"(ii) interstate needs shared by adjacent entities that have common requirements; and";

(3) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5) and inserting the following:

"(4) a mechanism for adopting scientific and technical mapping standards for preparing and publishing general-purpose and special-purpose geologic maps to—

"(A) ensure uniformity of cartographic and scientific conventions; and

"(B) provide a basis for judgment as to the comparability and quality of map products; and"; and

(4) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (5).

(e) NATIONAL GEOLOGIC-MAP DATA BASE.—Section 7 of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31f) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) STANDARDIZATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Geologic maps contributed to the national archives shall have format, symbols, and technical attributes that adhere to standards so that archival information can be accessed, exchanged, and compared efficiently and accurately, as required by Executive Order 12906 (59 Fed. Reg. 17,671 (1994)), which established the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

"(2) DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS.—Entities that contribute geologic maps to the national archives shall develop the standards described in paragraph (1) in cooperation with the Federal Geographic Data Committee, which is charged with standards development and other data coordination activities as described in Office of Management and Budget revised Circular A-16.";

(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 8 of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31g) is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking "Committee on Natural Resources" and inserting "Committee on Resources"; and

(2) by striking "program, and describing and evaluating progress" and inserting "program and describing and evaluating the progress".

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 9 of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31h) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the national cooperative geologic mapping program under this Act—

"(1) \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 1998;

"(2) \$28,000,000 for fiscal year 1999; and

"(3) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2000.

"(b) ALLOCATION OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount of funds that are appropriated under subsection (a) for any fiscal year up to the amount that is equal to the amount appropriated to carry out the national cooperative geologic mapping program for fiscal year 1996—

"(A) not less than 20 percent shall be allocated to State mapping activities; and

"(B) not less than 2 percent shall be allocated to educational mapping activities.

"(2) INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the amount of funds that are appropriated under subsection (a) for any fiscal year up to the amount that exceeds the amount appropriated to carry out the national cooperative geologic mapping program for fiscal year 1996—

"(A) for fiscal year 1998—

"(i) 75 percent shall be allocated for Federal mapping and support mapping activities;

"(ii) 23 percent shall be allocated for State mapping activities; and

"(iii) 2 percent shall be allocated for educational mapping activities;

"(B) for fiscal year 1999—

"(i) 74 percent shall be allocated for Federal mapping and support mapping activities;

"(ii) 24 percent shall be allocated for State mapping activities; and

"(iii) 2 percent shall be allocated for educational mapping activities; and

"(C) for fiscal year 2000—

"(i) 73 percent shall be allocated for Federal mapping and support mapping activities;

"(ii) 25 percent shall be allocated for State mapping activities; and

"(iii) 2 percent shall be allocated for educational mapping activities.";

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming [Mrs. CUBIN] and the gentleman from Puerto Rico [Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ], each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming [Mrs. CUBIN].

(Mrs. CUBIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 709, a bill to amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992. This law is a codification of cooperative federalism. It expressly authorizes the practice of the U.S. Geological Survey using a small but significant portion of its geologic mapping budget to find mapping projects of priority to the State geologic surveys on a 50-50 matching share basis. In this manner, the act promotes the basic scientific endeavor the mapping the bedrock geology and superficial deposits of this country. Most people do not realize the importance of geologic mapping. It meets society's needs for geologic hazards identification and abatement, for groundwater protection, land use planning and mineral resources identification.

H.R. 709 reauthorizes this cooperative program for three years, 1998 to the year 2000. It establishes thresholds for the sharing of funds between Federal, State and academic components. In general, the administration has agreed to dedicate not less than 20 percent of the budget line for geologic mapping to the cooperative State map component

and not less than 2 percent to the education mapping or ed map component. The ed map function is to ensure small amounts of granted moneys will be available for student training in fields of mapping skills.

This bill was amended in subcommittee by my friends, the ranking member, the gentleman from Puerto Rico [Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ] and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands [Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN]. The sum of those amendments clarified the definition of State to include the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands.

I do believe, Mr. Speaker, that the matching funds requirement is important because it assures greater scrutiny of budget requests than would otherwise be the case. The various State legislatures making funds available for their geological surveys, as well as the committee and the Congress overseeing Federal budgets, must be satisfied the mapping program brings useful results. I believe the program is indeed an important part of the U.S. Geological Survey's mission, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 709.

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

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Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. First of all, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Wyoming [Mrs. CUBIN], our chair of the subcommittee, for her attitude and openness and her cooperation in the process of this bill. It has been a real pleasure working with her as the ranking member, and I look forward to a lot more of this bipartisan cooperation that we have had in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, we bring this bill, reauthorizing the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, to the floor today with the full support of the Committee on Resources. Democrats and Republicans alike voted to favorably report this bill to the House, and the Clinton administration has endorsed the bill.

We need geologic mapping in our society for many worthwhile purposes, including emergency preparedness, environmental protection, land use planning and resource extraction.

The Earth provides the physical foundation for our society. We live upon it and we use its resources. Therefore, we need to work toward a better understanding of the Earth's resources and its inherent dangers.

Geologic maps are one effective way to convey the Earth science information needed for better understanding and decision-making by all of us: people in Federal agencies, State and local

government, private industry and citizens alike.

The National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 authorized the USGS to organize a national program of geologic mapping through a partnership with State geologic surveys, academia and the private sector. This cooperative relationship is essential to develop the extensive amount of material for informed decision-making.

I understand that nothing in current law or the reauthorization bill prevents Puerto Rico or other territories from participating in this valuable program. However, we wanted to be absolutely clear on this issue. Therefore, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands, Delegate CHRISTIAN-GREEN, and I offered amendments in the Committee on Resources that designate the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the other territories and the District of Columbia as eligible to participate in the geologic mapping program. The bill before us today contains these amendments.

Accordingly, it is my pleasure to support the adoption of the bill, and I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote yes on H.R. 709, as amended.

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

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada [Mr. GIBBONS].

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking the gentlewoman from Wyoming for her diligent work on H.R. 709, the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1997. This legislation becomes very important when we address the issues of safety in the environment. H.R. 709 reauthorizes the Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, which was a legislative response to troubles in the National Academy of Sciences with their lack of basic geologic mapping efforts in this country.

Being a geologist myself, I can personally attest to the importance that mapping has on many aspects of our society. Geologic maps benefit safety regulations, telling us where natural disasters may occur. They also map fault lines and water flow patterns, which are important to identify when building infrastructure for transportation. Without a detailed geologic map of the United States, we will continue to address issues such as safe drinking water and environmental systems understanding, in the same way someone drives a car at night without headlights.

It is important for us to explore and understand what resources we have and how best to use them before we foolishly make unscientific decisions without the full knowledge of our underlying environment.

I also believe detailed geologic mapping provides the basic information for solving a broad range of societal problems. These include delineation and protection of our sources of safe drinking water, environmental systems understanding and foundations of eco-

system management, the identification and mitigation of natural hazards, such as earthquake-prone areas, volcanic eruptions, landslides and other ground failures, as well as many other land use planning requirements.

This legislation would provide an array of benefits for States. It would assist State and local communities with land and water decisions, aid farmers and ranchers with crop decisions, encourage habitat protection for endangered species, and aid the mining industry with site determination for mineral resources.

Another benefit of this legislation is its funding formula. The appropriation from the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1997, which requires a 50-50 matching of Federal funds from non-Federal sources, will involve State colleges and universities. This, I believe, sets an excellent precedent, allowing the Federal Government, States and colleges to cooperate in a unified, intelligent manner.

H.R. 709 authorizes in the fiscal year 1998 \$26 million to be appropriated, 75 percent for Federal mapping and supporting mapping activities, 23 percent for State mapping activities, and 2 percent for educational mapping activities. Funds for fiscal year 1999 are \$28 million and for fiscal year 2000 are \$30 million. Each year the funding formula decreases the Federal mapping activities by 1 percent and increases State mapping activities accordingly. Since fiscal year 1993, approximately \$7.5 million in Federal appropriated funds have been matched by State moneys in this cooperative peer review process of producing geologic maps.

It appears that only about one-fifth of this Nation is mapped to adequately address the issues described in section 2 of this bill. Congress has finally begun to understand the importance of geologic mapping, and it is time that we use our dollars wisely to bring about the best science to this country. H.R. 709 will achieve this goal in a cooperative partnership with little money and a big return on science that benefits our constituents.

To close, Mr. Speaker, the reauthorization of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 will allow a joint venture of Federal, State and academic institutions to continue on the appropriate path of mapping the geology of this Nation. As section 2, paragraph (B) states, "Geologic maps are the primary database for virtually all applied and basic Earth science investigation." It is because of this continued need for core science that I urge all Members to support H.R. 709, and I believe this bill is in the best interest of science and this Nation as well.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA].

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentlewoman

from Wyoming, the chairlady of our subcommittee, that has taken the initiative and leadership in passing unanimously by our Committee on Resources this very important piece of legislation. I thank my good friends from Puerto Rico and our Democrat ranking member of the subcommittee for bringing to the attention of the Members what I consider to be a little oversight in the fact that the National Geological Mapping Reauthorization Act did not include the insular areas.

I am very happy that the gentlewoman from Wyoming has taken the initiative, with my good friend from Puerto Rico, to see that the proper amendments are made to change this reauthorization act.

Mr. Speaker, I am also happy to see my good friend from Nevada. Who could be a better expert than a person who is knowledgeable about geological issues, a geologist himself, my good friend, the gentlewoman from Nevada [Mr. GIBBONS]. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to consider his expertise and the importance of this piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 709.

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 709, the National Geological Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1997 and urge my colleagues to support its passage.

I want to begin by commending my colleague, the Gentlewoman from Wyoming, chair of the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, the Honorable BARBARA CUBIN for her leadership in guiding H.R. 709 through the subcommittee, as well as, the full Resources Committee and on to the floor of the House today.

I also want to commend the gentleman from Puerto Rico, the ranking member of the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee, the Honorable CARLOS ROMERO-BARCELÓ for his leadership on this bill as well.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 709 would reauthorize the National Geological Mapping Act of 1992 through the year 2000. It would also amend the act to designate that 20 percent of the total amount appropriated be allocated to the State component of the program. During the markup of H.R. 709 in the subcommittee, my colleague, Mr. ROMERO offered an amendment to correct an apparent oversight and make the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, and my district of the Virgin Islands eligible to participate in the State mapping component of the bill. I then offered an amendment to my colleague's amendment to make the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands also eligible for participation in H.R. 709's program components.

I want to thank my friend, Mr. ROMERO for offering his amendment on the behalf of those of us from the U.S. non-State areas. To often we are overlooked or ignored making actions such as his amendment necessary. I also want to thank Mr. ROMERO and Chairman CUBIN for accepting my amendment to H.R. 709 as well.

H.R. 709 is a worthwhile piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker and I urge my colleagues to support its enactment.

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to state that I certainly appreciate the help of the ranking minority member in adding the other additions to the bill that were originally left out. I, too, feel it was more of an oversight, that it is very important and certainly does improve the quality of the bill.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CUBIN. 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. 709, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wyoming?

There was no objection.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming [Mrs. CUBIN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 709, 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.

CONCERNING URGENT NEED TO IMPROVE LIVING STANDARDS OF SOUTH ASIANS LIVING IN THE GANGES AND BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER BASIN

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 16) concerning the urgent need to improve the living standards of those South Asians living in the Ganges and the Brahmaputra River Basin, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 16

Whereas some 400,000,000 people live in Bangladesh, northern India, and Nepal near the Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers and their tributaries;

Whereas these people comprise the largest concentration of poor people in the world;

Whereas this region lacks the resources, especially the infrastructure, that can pull its residents out of poverty;

Whereas almost every year flooding by the Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers produces death and destruction, sometimes on a vast scale;

Whereas during the dry seasons, water supplies do not meet the needs of the region's people, especially farmers;

Whereas despite these problems, the region has great potential for development;

Whereas Bangladesh, India, and Nepal have recognized for many years that the water resources of the region, if properly managed, could contribute greatly to the welfare of millions of people in the region;

Whereas the Governments of Bangladesh and India signed a 30-year agreement on December 12, 1996, for the purpose of sharing the water of the Ganges River; and

Whereas in 1996 the Governments of India and Nepal signed and ratified a treaty enabling the joint development of the water resources of the Mahakali River: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) congratulates the Governments of Bangladesh and India for their recent agreement on sharing the water of the Ganges River;

(2) congratulates the Governments of India and Nepal on their treaty enabling the joint development of the water resources of the Mahakali River;

(3) respectfully offers its encouragement for the three governments to continue their cooperation which can do much to relieve the poverty of those people living the Ganges and Brahmaputra River Basin; and

(4) urges international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and the international community to offer whatever advice, encouragement, and assistance is appropriate to help in this effort.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. HILLIARD] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

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

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the chairman and ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific for crafting House Concurrent Resolution 16, a concurrent resolution concerning the urgent need to improve the living standards of those South Asians living in the Ganges and the Brahmaputra River Basin.

Bangladesh, India, and Nepal all depend on the Ganges and the Brahmaputra Rivers for their vital irrigation needs. The recent signing of the 30-year water sharing treaty between India and Bangladesh and the ratification of the India-Nepal water resources treaty are both historic agreements that will enable the people in these lands to better plan and utilize their precious resources.

Bangladesh's recent Presidential election gives new hope to the fragile democracy there, and the water sharing agreement will help to put it on more solid ground. We commend them for their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I support the resolution, and I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER], the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

House Concurrent Resolution 16 does concern the need to improve the living standards of those South Asians living in the Ganges and the Brahmaputra River Basin.