

they are especially important from a cultural and economic point of view to Americans and Asians alike.

I want to salute the many organizations that had a role in moving this bill, such as the World Wildlife Fund, Safari Club International, the Sierra Club, and our former colleague Andy Ireland of Feld Enterprises. The bill was supported by representatives of the Indian Institute of Science and the Wildlife Preservation Trust International. The model of protection in this bill is appropriate, flexible, and carries a reasonable cost.

Madam Speaker, I reiterate my support for this important legislation and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I believe everyone who wishes to speak on the issue has done so, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). 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. 1787, 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. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 1787, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

CONCURRING IN THE SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H. CON. RES. 8, REGARDING CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 8) recognizing the significance of maintaining the health and stability of coral reef ecosystems.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate Amendments:

Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert:

That the Congress recognizes the significance of maintaining the health and stability of coral reef ecosystems, by—

(1) promoting comprehensive stewardship for coral reef ecosystems;

(2) discouraging unsustainable fisheries or other practices that are harmful to coral reefs and human health;

(3) encouraging research, monitoring, and assessment of and education on coral reef ecosystems;

(4) improving the coordination of coral reef efforts and activities of Federal agencies, academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and industry; and

(5) promoting preservation and sustainable use of coral reef resources worldwide.

Strike out the preamble and insert:

Whereas coral reefs are among the world's most biologically diverse and productive marine habitats, and are often described as the tropical rain forest of the oceans;

Whereas healthy coral reefs provide the basis for subsistence, commercial fisheries, and coastal and marine tourism and are of vital economic importance to coastal States and territories of the United States including Florida, Hawaii, Georgia, Texas, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

Whereas healthy coral reefs function as natural, regenerating coastal barriers, protecting shorelines and coastal areas from high waves, storm surges, and accompanying losses of human life and property

Whereas the scientific community has long established that coral reefs are subject to a wide range of natural and anthropogenic threats;

Whereas a wide variety of destructive fishing practices, including the use of cyanide, other poisons, surfactants, and explosives, are contributing to the global decline of coral reef ecosystems;

Whereas the United States has taken measures to protect national coral reef resources through the designation and management of several marine protected areas, containing reefs of the Flower Garden Banks in the Gulf of Mexico, the Florida Keys in south Florida, and offshore Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa;

Whereas the United States, acting through its agencies, has established itself as a global leader in coral reef stewardship by launching the International Coral Reef Initiative and by maintaining professional networks for the purposes of sharing knowledge and information on coral reefs, furnishing near real-time data collected at coral reef sites, providing a repository for historical data relating to coral reefs, and making substantial contributions to the general fund of coral reef knowledge; and

Whereas 1997 has been declared the "International Year of the Reef" by the coral reef research community and over 40 national and international scientific, conservation, and academic organizations: Now, therefore, be it

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

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

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

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

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, on April 23rd, the House of Representatives unanimously approved House Concurrent Resolution 8, a resolution that I introduced along with my colleague, the gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE].

This measure expresses strong support for research, monitoring, and education related to the coral reef ecosystems. Healthy coral reefs help provide numerous benefits to the United States and other nations. For example, coral reefs support important com-

mercial and recreational fisheries, as well as a large tourism and vacation industry, provide natural storm protection in coastal communities, and have recently become an important frontier for biomedical research.

The other body has now approved an amended version of House Concurrent Resolution 8. The amendment takes note of the alarming damage to coral reefs caused by destructive fishing practices, as unbelievable as the use of cyanide and dynamite in fishing in some areas of the globe. It further expresses the sense of Congress that international action to eliminate these unbelievably harmful practices is much needed.

I believe that this amendment is not only acceptable, but strengthens the resolution, and I am sorry that I did not think about it to begin with.

Madam Speaker, I urge the House to approve this measure as amended, and complete Congressional recognition of the importance of the coral reef ecosystems and the need to conserve them. I urge my colleagues to vote "aye".

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, before I rise in strong support of the Senate amendments to House Concurrent Resolution No. 8, I want to assure the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] that in the statement of the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER], that I submitted on the Asian elephant resolution, that it did not contain a statement, as rumored, that while he was in favor of increasing the number of Asian elephants in South Asia, that he was for decreasing the number of elephants on the Committee on Resources.

Madam Speaker, this resolution brings much-needed attention to the crisis that coral reefs are facing worldwide. I commend yet once again the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] for his leadership in introducing and passing House Concurrent Resolution No. 8, and for focusing on the subcommittee's attention on the value of and threats to coral reefs.

I also want to praise the efforts of the ranking member, the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] for his concern over cyanide fishing and the need to promote sustainable coral reef fisheries, ideas incorporated in the Senate amendments to the resolution.

Coral reefs, as I have every opportunity to observe, being from Hawaii, Madam Speaker, are vital to the environment and the economy of many islands and coastal States, territories, and nations. They are among the most biologically diverse and productive ecosystems on Earth, rivaling the tropical rain forests on land. The hard structure of the reef is built up over thousands of years by the secretions of tiny living coral animals, so a coral reef is truly a living structure. As a

living structure, thousands, perhaps millions, of individual coral animals are dying, and others are taking their place on the reef at any one time.

The problem now is that human activities have shifted that balance, and coral reefs are dying off at an alarming rate worldwide. Coral is very sensitive to water pollution, sedimentation, damage from boat groundings, or even simple physical contact by divers. These largely inadvertent injuries are a significant cause of the well-documented decline of coral reefs worldwide. Coral reefs are, in a sense, the canary in the coal mine of the ocean.

A great deal of injury is also being inflicted on coral reefs, mainly in Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific through largely illegal fishing techniques. Cyanide and other elements, such as dishwashing liquids, are being used to stun fish for capture for the aquarium trade and for the live food fish trade.

The demand for live food fish, fueled by increasing affluence in Asia, has resulted in widespread depletion of stocks of the preferred species. As a result, the live-capture boats are moving into even more remote and thus more pristine reefs. Most of the aquarium fish captured by these techniques end up in hobby tanks in the United States, I am sorry to say. Most of the live food fish end up on plates in the homes and restaurants of Southeast Asia.

More damaging than the depletion of coral reef fisheries, these chemicals kill nearby coral, and divers scrambling to get fish out of the nooks and crannies of the reef often cause substantial physical damage to the reef. In fact, research has shown that cyanide kills reef-building corals at concentrations many thousands of times less than that used by live-capture divers. While depletion of certain fish species threatens the ecological balance of the reef by removing key predators and grazers, the destruction of the reef building corals themselves tears at the very fabric of the ecosystem.

Although the State Department, NOAA, the Department of the Interior and other agencies are working through the international coral reef initiative to identify and reduce threats to coral reefs, they need our help. Thus, this resolution before us today.

These kinds of unsustainable fishing practices would not be occurring if powerful market forces were not at work. The U.S. and Asian consumer demands for reef fish is, in part, driving its destruction of coral reefs. Yet, how many aquarium hobbyists would purchase a wild-caught reef fish if they truly understood that in doing so they were contributing to the destruction of the reef environment that they sought to reproduce in their tank?

Furthermore, if affordable alternatives to wild-caught fish were available, would the educated consumer not choose them? This has worked very well in the exotic bird trade, and we

can do the same for reef aquarium species and specimens.

Many of the countries where the reefs are being destroyed, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and others, have laws on the books that protect the reefs, but there is little money for enforcement, and the more lucrative the market, the more people are willing to risk the penalties in any case.

So the keys are information and education. Only by identifying these destructive practices and consumer demands that drive them can we begin to eliminate or modify them, and only through the development of sustainable coral reef fisheries can reefs be saved.

This concurrent resolution before us today, Madam Speaker, No. 8, brings the global plight of coral reefs before Congress. It is intended to raise the level of awareness of policymakers and asks us to do more.

The scientific and environmental communities have declared 1997 the International Year of the Reef. We cannot stop ships from running aground on reefs, and we may not be able to stop global warming at this stage, but what better time for us to pay attention to the many problems plaguing coral reefs and seek practical solutions to those threats that we can address? If we do not do something soon, there may not be any reefs left to save.

With these thoughts in mind, Madam Speaker, and again thanking the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] for his leadership on this issue, I urge the House to adopt the resolution.

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

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the ranking member, the gentleman from Hawaii, for his great cooperation and his leadership in helping to bring this coral reef bill to the floor today.

Madam 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 New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to House Concurrent Resolution 8.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Madam 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 the Senate amendments to House Concurrent Resolution 8.

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

There was no objection.

DEVILS BACKBONE WILDERNESS BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1779) to make a minor adjustment in the exterior boundary of the Devils Backbone Wilderness in the Mark Twain National Forest, MO, to exclude a small parcel of land containing improvements.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1779

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 TWIN NATIONAL FOREST, MIS- SOURI.

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).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. BLUNT], and the gentleman from Texas [Mr. STENHOLM], each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. BLUNT].

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support H.R. 1779. This bill makes a minor adjustment in the boundary of the Devils Backbone Wilderness in the Mark Twain National Forest in the Seventh District in Missouri.

Don and Laverne McFarland of Pottersville, MO, purchased their home in 1979. At the time they purchased their home they relied on a neighbor who had been part of the original surveying team to help establish where their outside boundary was and where the boundary of the wilderness area was.

As it turned out, a later survey proved that his recollections from the 1930's were not accurate. That later survey left part of their improvements, a well, their garage, and their driveway, inside the boundary of wilderness land.

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The McFarlands are now in their seventies. They would like to retire and sell their property and move closer to their children and grandchildren. It is