

that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 171.

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 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUDBURY, ASSABET, AND CONCORD WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ACT

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 193) to designate a portion of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 193

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 "Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild and Scenic River Act".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF SUDBURY, ASSABET, AND CONCORD SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS, MASSACHUSETTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild and Scenic River Study Act (title VII of Public Law 101-628; 104 Stat. 4497)—

(A) designated segments of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, totaling 29 river miles, for study and potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; and

(B) directed the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers Study Committee (in this section referred to as the "Study Committee") to advise the Secretary in conducting the study and in the consideration of management alternatives should the rivers be included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

(2) The study determined the following river segments are eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System based on their free-flowing condition and outstanding scenic, recreation, wildlife, cultural, and historic values:

(A) The 16.6-mile segment of the Sudbury River beginning at the Danforth Street Bridge in the town of Framingham, to its confluence with the Assabet River.

(B) The 4.4-mile segment of the Assabet River from 1,000 feet downstream from the Damon Mill Dam in the town of Concord to the confluence with the Sudbury River at Egg Rock in Concord.

(C) The 8-mile segment of the Concord River from Egg Rock at the confluence of the Sudbury and Assabet Rivers to the Route 3 bridge in the town of Billerica.

(3) The towns that directly abut the segments, including Framingham, Sudbury, Wayland, Lincoln, Concord, Bedford, Carlisle, and Billerica, Massachusetts, have each demonstrated their desire for National Wild and Scenic River designation through town meeting votes endorsing designation.

(4) During the study, the Study Committee and the National Park Service prepared a comprehensive management plan for the segment, entitled "Sudbury, Assabet and Con-

cord Wild and Scenic River Study, River Conservation Plan" and dated March 16, 1995 (in this section referred to as the "plan"), which establishes objectives, standards, and action programs that will ensure long-term protection of the rivers' outstanding values and compatible management of their land and water resources.

(5) The Study Committee voted unanimously on February 23, 1995, to recommend that the Congress include these segments in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System for management in accordance with the plan.

(b) DESIGNATION.—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(160) SUDBURY, ASSABET, AND CONCORD RIVERS, MASSACHUSETTS.—(A) The 29 miles of river segments in Massachusetts, as follows:

"(i) The 14.9-mile segment of the Sudbury River beginning at the Danforth Street Bridge in the town of Framingham, downstream to the Route 2 Bridge in Concord, as a scenic river.

"(ii) The 1.7-mile segment of the Sudbury River from the Route 2 Bridge downstream to its confluence with the Assabet River at Egg Rock, as a recreational river.

"(iii) The 4.4-mile segment of the Assabet River beginning 1,000 feet downstream from the Damon Mill Dam in the town of Concord, to its confluence with the Sudbury River at Egg Rock in Concord; as a recreational river.

"(iv) The 8-mile segment of the Concord River from Egg Rock at the confluence of the Sudbury and Assabet Rivers downstream to the Route 3 Bridge in the town of Billerica, as a recreational river.

"(B) The segments referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in cooperation with the SUASCO River Stewardship Council provided for in the plan referred to in subparagraph (C) through cooperative agreements under section 10(e) between the Secretary and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and its relevant political subdivisions (including the towns of Framingham, Wayland, Sudbury, Lincoln, Concord, Carlisle, Bedford, and Billerica).

"(C) The segments referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be managed in accordance with the plan entitled 'Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic River Study, River Conservation Plan', dated March 16, 1995. The plan is deemed to satisfy the requirement for a comprehensive management plan under subsection (d) of this section."

(c) FEDERAL ROLE IN MANAGEMENT.—(1) The Director of the National Park Service or the Director's designee shall represent the Secretary of the Interior in the implementation of the plan, this section, and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act with respect to each of the segments designated by the amendment made by subsection (b), including the review of proposed federally assisted water resources projects that could have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which the segment is established, as authorized under section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1278(a)).

(2) Pursuant to sections 10(e) and section 11(b)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(e), 1282(b)(1)), the Director shall offer to enter into cooperative agreements with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, its relevant political subdivisions, the Sudbury Valley Trustees, and the Organization for the Assabet River. Such cooperative agreements shall be consistent with the plan and may include provisions for financial or other assistance from the United States to facilitate the long-term protection, conservation, and enhancement of each of the segments designated by the amendment made by subsection (b).

(3) The Director may provide technical assistance, staff support, and funding to assist in the implementation of the plan, except that the total cost to the Federal Government of activities to implement the plan may not exceed \$100,000 each fiscal year.

(4) Notwithstanding section 10(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(c)), any portion of a segment designated by the amendment made by subsection (b) that is not already within the National Park System shall not under this section—

(A) become a part of the National Park System;

(B) be managed by the National Park Service; or

(C) be subject to regulations which govern the National Park System.

(d) WATER RESOURCES PROJECTS.—(1) In determining whether a proposed water resources project would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which the segments designated by the amendment made by subsection (b) were included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the Secretary of the Interior shall specifically consider the extent to which the project is consistent with the plan.

(2) The plan, including the detailed Water Resources Study incorporated by reference in the plan and such additional analysis as may be incorporated in the future, shall serve as the primary source of information regarding the flows needed to maintain instream resources and potential compatibility between resource protection and possible additional water withdrawals.

(e) LAND MANAGEMENT.—(1) The zoning bylaws of the towns of Framingham, Sudbury, Wayland, Lincoln, Concord, Carlisle, Bedford, and Billerica, Massachusetts, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, are deemed to satisfy the standards and requirements under section 6(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1277(c)). For the purpose of that section, the towns are deemed to be "villages" and the provisions of that section which prohibit Federal acquisition of lands through condemnation shall apply.

(2) The United States Government shall not acquire by any means title to land, easements, or other interests in land along the segments designated by the amendment made by subsection (b) or their tributaries for the purposes of designation of the segments under the amendment. Nothing in this section shall prohibit Federal acquisition of interests in land along those segments or tributaries under other laws for other purposes.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out this section not to exceed \$100,000 for each fiscal year.

(g) EXISTING UNDESIGNATED PARAGRAPHS; REMOVAL OF DUPLICATION.—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking the first undesignated paragraph after paragraph (156), relating to Elkhorn Creek, Oregon; and

(2) by designating the three remaining undesignated paragraphs after paragraph (156) as paragraphs (157), (158), and (159), respectively.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) 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. 198, introduced by the gentleman from Massachusetts

(Mr. MEEHAN), would amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by designating a 29-mile segment of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System. The management of the rivers will follow the direction of a cooperative agreement between the National Park Service and a local River Stewardship Council. This bill makes it clear that Federal land acquisition, including easements, is prohibited.

H.R. 193 would also authorize an appropriation to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the provisions of this bill. This appropriation shall not exceed \$100,000 per fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, the amendment to this bill simply makes a technical correction to the numbered sequence of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure.

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

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. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 193, introduced by the gentleman from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN), would designate segments of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers totaling 29 miles in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Title VII of Public Law 101-628 authorized the study of these river systems. The study has been completed, and the river systems were found feasible and suitable for designation.

H.R. 193 would implement the recommendations of the river study, including providing for management of the river segments by the Secretary of the Interior in cooperation with a coordinating committee and in accordance with a management plan that has been completed as part of the study.

The Committee on Resources favorably reported identical legislation last Congress and an identical Senate bill passed the House last fall, with an unrelated amendment. Unfortunately, final action on that measure was not able to be completed prior to adjournment.

The bill is supported by the entire Massachusetts delegation as well as the administration. We believe that it, again, deserves the support of the full House. It is a bipartisan bill, and we would urge to our colleagues the adoption of H.R. 193.

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

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

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN).

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 193.

I would like to thank my colleagues in the House from both parties, and in particular the distinguished gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) for his cooperation not only this year but the last session as well.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), chair of the Committee on Resources; the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER); and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) in particular for all of their efforts and continuing support of this legislation.

H.R. 193 will amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate portions of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers in Massachusetts as "wild and scenic." This designation will protect these rivers from Federal projects that would otherwise have direct and adverse impacts on the free-flowing character of those rivers.

My constituents from Sudbury, Wayland, Lincoln, Concord, Carlisle and Billerica, and others from Framingham and Bedford, have invested an enormous amount of time and energy and effort in securing wild and scenic status for portions of these three beautiful rivers.

With the help of the National Park Service and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, they completed a congressionally authorized study that demonstrated the rivers' exemplary characteristics and recommended them for wild and scenic designation.

This legislation is a product of a grassroots movement that started over a decade ago. All eight towns bordering the rivers have voiced unanimous support for the designation through numerous town meeting votes. They have also approved the river conservation plan that will guide the rivers' management. It is important to note, as the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) has, that H.R. 193 explicitly precluded any Federal taking of private land.

Mr. Speaker, the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers have been cherished by Massachusetts residents for hundreds of years and are known throughout the New England region for their exceptional scenic, ecological, recreational and historic value. The historical significance of events along these rivers goes back to the American Revolution, as their banks served as a Revolutionary War battleground.

Today, people come from all over the country to visit the Old North Bridge on the Concord River where the famous "shot heard around the world" was fired. This confrontation sent British troops into retreat and back to Boston in an event that would take on global significance in man's universal struggle for liberty.

American poets, novelists and philosophers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau have drawn inspiration over the years from these rivers, which were featured in many of their works. Over 100 years

ago, Nathaniel Hawthorne eloquently wrote, "Rowing our boat against the current, between wide meadows, we turn aside into the Assabet. A more lovely stream than this, for a mile above its junction with the Concord, has never flowed on Earth." Nowhere indeed, except to lave the interior of a poet's imagination."

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Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this bill.

Mr. MARKEY. I rise in support of H.R. 193, the "Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild and Scenic River Act." Wild and scenic areas are found not only in the vast expanses of the American West but also in pockets in the midst of the cities and towns of the East. As the areas around Boston, including my own district, become increasingly crowded and urban, it is important to preserve natural areas where the beauty and tranquility of nature can become a part of the everyday lives of local communities.

Through the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord rivers has flowed a remarkable current of history and beauty. Back in 1837 Ralph Waldo Emerson commemorated events that had taken place above the Concord River in 1775 with his unforgettable words, "by the rude bridge that arched the flood, their flag to April's breeze unfurled, here once the embattled farmers stood, and fired the shot heard round the world." Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote of the beauty of the Assabet: "Rowing our boat against the current, between wide meadows, we turn aside into the Assabeth. A more lovely stream than this, for a mile above its junction with the Concord, has never flowed on Earth,—where, indeed, except to lave the interior of a poet's imagination."

Today we have even greater need of scenic rivers to excite the "poet's imagination" in each of us. This bill, by giving Wild and Scenic River status to the Assabet, Sudbury, and Concord rivers, will help ensure that they continue to inspire local communities and the nation in this and future generations. I would like to thank my distinguished colleague Mr. MEEHAN for his tenacious leadership on this bill, and I am glad to join the bipartisan roster of its supporters.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). 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. 193, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within