

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3388, the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, was introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE). This bill authorizes \$30 million per year for 10 years to be used for a variety of activities relating to protecting and restoring the water quality of Lake Tahoe. Such projects may include erosion control projects, hazardous fuel treatments, cleanup of groundwater contamination, traffic management, and acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands. All projects will involve partnerships with appropriate State and local officials. The Forest Service supports this bill, with the understanding that funds for these projects must be new appropriations and will not come from existing Forest Service funding.

The bill, as amended, ensures that any land acquisition under this bill will be funded only by the Land and Water Conservation Fund or the Santini-Burton Act.

I urge support for the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, Lake Tahoe is owned jointly by the State of California and the State of Nevada and is one of the largest, deepest, clearest lakes in the world. Yet the lake is experiencing an environmental crisis. Water clarity has declined from a visibility level of 105 feet in 1967 to 70 feet in 1999. Scientists believe damage to Tahoe's clarity could be irreversible within a decade.

Approximately 30 to 40 percent of the trees in the Lake Tahoe Basin are dead or dying and pose a risk to catastrophic fire. Thirty percent of the South Lake Tahoe water supply has been contaminated by MTBE, a gasoline additive. A number of factors have contributed to the basin's and lake's deterioration, among them land disturbance, erosion, air pollution, fertilizers, runoff, and boating activity.

Following a Presidential forum, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency estimated that it will cost \$900 million over the next 10 years to restore the lake. Since 1980, Nevada and California contributions to the effort have exceeded \$230 million. In 1997, Nevada authorized a bond issuance of \$82 million over a 10-year period. California has appropriated \$60 million of a \$275 million commitment. In addition, a coalition of 18 businesses and environmental groups have also pledged to raise \$300 million.

H.R. 3388 would authorize \$300 million, a third of the total cost on a matching basis over 10 years for environmental restoration projects at Lake Tahoe. The bill requires the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a priority list of projects to address air quality, fisheries, noise, recreation, scenic resources, soil conservation, forest

health, water quality, and wildlife. The bill would require that the Secretary give priority to projects involving erosion and sediment control, acquisition of environmentally sensitive land, fire risk reduction in urban areas and urban-wildland interface, MTBE cleanup, and management of parking and traffic.

This is a very healthy and ambitious agenda. These projects would account for \$200 million. Another million dollars will be granted to the Tahoe Regional Planning Authority and local utility districts to address well and water contamination.

Finally, the bill would authorize \$1 million to local authorities for erosion control activities, water quality, and soil conservation projects on non-Federal land. Much of this activity requires extensive consultation with State, regional, and local authorities.

I note that the bill is virtually identical to the one of Senator FEINSTEIN's passed in the Senate on October 5. There is no reason why we should not be taking up that bill and sending it to the President.

Although I do not support the limited acquisition authority in the bill, I support this legislation; and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I also want to say that I think that certainly the local governments and the private business community should be commended for the efforts that they are undertaking to dramatically alter the activities, many of which I think will, in fact, be enhanced when they are completed, but will provide for better transportation, for less contamination of the lake, for greater setbacks and protections of the lake, which is one of the great, great natural assets of our two States and one in which the people of both Nevada and California have a great deal of pride in.

I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) whose district includes that portion of Lake Tahoe. It was his vision, hard work, and leadership on this issue that is going to reward us with a preservation of the water quality of Lake Tahoe. I want to thank him for his efforts in this regard.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3388, 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.

BEND FEED CANAL PIPELINE PROJECT ACT OF 2000

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2425) to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the planning, design, and construction of the Bend Feed Canal Pipeline Project, Oregon, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2425

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 "Bend Feed Canal Pipeline Project Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. FEDERAL PARTICIPATION.

(a) The Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the Tumalo Irrigation District (referred to in this section as the "District"), is authorized to participate in the planning, design, and construction of the Bend Feed Canal Pipeline Project, Oregon.

(b) The Federal share of the costs of the project shall not exceed 50 per centum of the total, and shall be non-reimbursable. The District shall receive credit from the Secretary toward the District's share of the project for any funds the District has provided toward the design, planning or construction prior to the enactment of this Act.

(c) Funds received under this Act shall not be considered a supplemental or additional benefit under the Act of June 17, 1902 (82 Stat. 388) and all Acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto.

(d) Title to facilities constructed under this Act will be held by the District.

(e) Operations and maintenance of the facilities will be the responsibility of the District.

(f) There are authorized to be appropriated \$2,500,000 for the Federal share of the activities authorized under this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 2425 will enable the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the planning, design, and construction of the Bend Feed Canal Pipeline Project in Oregon, and for other purposes.

The Federal cost share of the costs of the project shall not exceed 50 percent of the total. The legislation authorizes \$2,500,000 for this project.

I urge an aye vote.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to this legislation, and I urge its passage.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of S. 2425, the Bend Feed Canal Pipeline Project Act of 2000. This bill was sponsored in the Senate by my good friend, Senator SMITH of Oregon, and I sponsored the companion legislation in the House.

S. 2425 would authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the planning, design, and construction of the Bend Feed Canal Pipeline Project in Oregon.

The Bend Feed Canal is built on pumice and other porous volcanic rock. Because of the porous rock, over 20 cubic feet per second of water is lost over the length of the Bend Feed Canal. This loss causes the Tumalo Irrigation District (District) to use all available water, and in drought years even that is not enough to supply the needs of its irrigators. The existing Bend Feed Canal has several segments currently piped. This creates a dangerous situation as a person falling into an open section of the canal will soon find themselves approaching a piped section which would mean almost certain death. Although the beginning of each piped section has a trash rack, with the urbanization of Bend and the development around the Bend Feed Canal, the risk to small children is great.

This legislation will allow the District to replace six segments of open canal with pipeline. In addition to the water conservation benefits, once the project is complete the District will have increased system reliability and the customers in the area will have fewer safety concerns. This is a very important step for a once largely rural community that is experiencing rapid growth.

The Bend Feed Canal Pipeline Project Act of 2000 is supported by the Tumalo Irrigation District and the Oregon Water Resources Congress.

The District would pay 50% of the costs of the project. The total cost of the project is expected to be approximately \$4 million.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support S. 2425. It is a good bill for the irrigators and it is good bill for the Bend community.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2425.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□

KLAMATH BASIN WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2882) to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct certain feasibility studies to augment water supplies for the Klamath Project, Oregon and California, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2882

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 "Klamath Basin Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT FEASIBILITY STUDIES.

In order to help meet the growing water needs in the Klamath River basin, to improve water quality, to facilitate the efforts of the State of Oregon to resolve water rights claims in the Upper Klamath River Basin including facilitation of Klamath tribal water rights claims, and to reduce conflicts over water between the Upper and Lower Klamath Basins, the Secretary of the Interior (hereafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized and directed, in consultation with affected state, local and tribal interests, stakeholder groups and the interested public, to engage in feasibility studies of the following proposals related to the Upper Klamath Basin and the Klamath Project, a federal reclamation project in Oregon and California:

(1) Increasing the storage capacity, and/or the yield of the Klamath Project facilities while improving water quality, consistent with the protection of fish and wildlife.

(2) The potential for development of additional Klamath Basin groundwater supplies to improve water quantity and quality, including the effect of such groundwater development on non-project lands, groundwater and surface water supplies, and fish and wildlife.

(3) The potential for further innovations in the use of existing water resources, or market-based approaches, in order to meet growing water needs consistent with state water law.

SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL STUDIES.

(a) NON-PROJECT LANDS.—The Secretary may enter into an agreement with the Oregon Department of Water Resources to fund studies relating to the water supply needs of non-project lands in the Upper Klamath Basin.

(b) SURVEYS.—To further the purposes of this Act, the Secretary is authorized to compile information on native fish species in the Upper Klamath River Basin, upstream of Upper Klamath Lake. Wherever possible, the Secretary should use data already developed by Federal agencies and other stakeholders in the Basin.

(c) HYDROLOGIC STUDIES.—The Secretary is directed to complete ongoing hydrologic surveys in the Klamath River Basin currently being conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

(d) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall submit the findings of the studies conducted under section 2 and Section 3(a) of this Act to the Congress within 90 days of each study's completion, together with any recommendations for projects.

SEC. 4. LIMITATION.

Activities funded under this Act shall not be considered a supplemental or additional benefit under the Act of June 17, 1902 (82 Stat. 388) and all Acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto.

SEC. 5. WATER RIGHTS

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to—

(1) create, by implication or otherwise, any reserved water right or other right to the use of water;

(2) invalidate, preempt, or create any exception to State water law or an interstate compact governing water;

(3) alter the rights of any State to any appropriated share of the waters of any body or surface or groundwater, whether determined by past or future interstate compacts or by past or future legislative or final judicial allocations;

(4) preempt or modify any State or Federal law or interstate compact dealing with water quality or disposal; or

(5) confer upon any non-Federal entity the ability to exercise any Federal right to the

waters of any stream or to any groundwater resources.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized such sums as necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act. Activities conducted under this Act shall be non-reimbursable and nonreturnable.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 2882 will enable the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct certain feasibility studies to augment water supplies for the Klamath Project, Oregon and California, and for other purposes.

I urge an aye vote.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my strong support for S. 2882, the Klamath Basin Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2000. This bill was sponsored in the Senate by Senator GORDON SMITH of Oregon, and I sponsored the companion bill on the House side with my good friend WALLY HERGER of California. I would like to thank Chairman Young of the Resources Committee and Chairman DOOLITTLE of the Water and Power Subcommittee for helping bring this bill to the floor.

The Klamath Project in Oregon and California was one of the earliest federal reclamation projects. The Secretary of the Interior authorized development of the project on May 15, 1905, under provisions of the Reclamation Act of 1902. The project irrigates over 200,000 acres of farmland in south-central Oregon and north-central California. The two main sources of water for the project are Upper Klamath Lake and the Klamath River, as well as Clear Lake Reservoir, Gerber Reservoir, and Lost River, which are located in a closed basin. The total drainage area is approximately 5,700 square miles. The Klamath River is subject to an interstate compact between the States of Oregon and California.

There are also several wildlife refuges in the basin that are an important part of the western flyway. There are suckers in Upper Klamath Lake on the Endangered Species List that require the lake to be maintained at certain levels throughout the summer. There are also salmon in the Klamath River for which federal agencies are seeking additional flow. It is my understanding that there will be significant additional flow requirements next year.

S. 2882, as amended by the Senate, would authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct feasibility studies to determine what steps can be taken to meet the growing water needs in the Klamath River Basin (Basin) of Oregon and California. The outcome of these studies will help to determine the future water use of the residents and wildlife that surround this area. It will simply evaluate the feasibility of increasing the storage capacity, and/or the yield