

without regard to the digital maps created under this section.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes the results of the pilot project and the feasibility, data needs, and costs of completing digital maps for the entire System.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report shall include a description of—

(A) the cooperative agreements that would be necessary to complete digital mapping of the entire System;

(B) the extent to which the data necessary to complete digital mapping of the entire System are available;

(C) the need for additional data to complete digital mapping of the entire System;

(D) the extent to which the boundary lines on the digital maps differ from the boundary lines on the original maps; and

(E) the amount of funding necessary to complete digital mapping of the entire System.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2004.

SEC. 7. ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives an economic assessment of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System.

(b) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—The assessment shall consider the impact on Federal expenditures of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), including impacts resulting from the avoidance of Federal expenditures for—

(1) disaster relief under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.);

(2) the national flood insurance program established under chapter 1 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4011 et seq.); and

(3) development assistance for roads, potable water supplies, and wastewater infrastructure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) 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, coastal barriers protect coastal communities and important aquatic fish and wildlife habitat from the full force of wind, wave and tidal energy. They are prone to shift and move as a result of storm, tides and currents. Despite their vulnerability, these areas are attractive locations to live and are popular vacation destinations.

Congress approved the Coastal Barriers Act in 1982 to protect these areas by establishing a system of barrier units that are not eligible for Federal development assistance, most importantly, Federal flood insurance.

S. 1752 would reauthorize the Coastal Barrier Resource System for 5 years. It requires the Secretary of Interior to undertake a pilot project to create digital maps of the system compatible with geographic information systems, and allows private landowners to voluntarily include property in the system.

The bill is similar to H.R. 1431, which passed the House by more than 300 votes in September of 1999. Unlike H.R. 1441, this bill does not contain any provisions that amend the boundaries of individual coastal barrier resource units or otherwise protected areas.

S. 1752 extends and improves the authorization for the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. It encourages the protection of coastal habitat and coastal communities at no cost to the Federal Government. I strongly urge passage of this important environmental legislation.

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I also rise in support of S. 1752, the Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act. The amendments agreed to in conference with the other body improve upon similar legislation passed by the House last year. Of note, this legislation will finally codify the guidelines for determining undeveloped coastal barriers. This action is long overdue and should help clarify future determinations made by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

I am also pleased with the provisions in this legislation that would authorize the voluntary donation of private undeveloped coastal barriers as additions to the Coastal Barrier Resources System. I also believe the digital mapping pilot program authorized by this bill is a very important innovation and first step towards modernizing all coastal barrier maps and improving their accuracy. The Fish and Wildlife Service should be encouraged to expedite the completion of this pilot program.

This legislation is noncontroversial. The Coastal Barrier Resources Act has been effective at protecting both coastal resources and the taxpayer, and I urge all Members to support this bill.

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

Mr. HANSEN. 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 Senate bill, S. 1752.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PALMETTO BEND CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1474) providing for conveyance of the Palmetto Bend project to the State of Texas.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1474

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 "Palmetto Bend Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) PROJECT.—the term "Project" means the Palmetto Bend Reclamation Project in the State of Texas authorized under Public Law 90-562 (82 Stat. 999).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of Texas, acting through the Texas Water Development Board or the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority or both.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act and in accordance with all applicable law, and subject to the conditions set forth in sections 4 and 5, convey to the State all right, title and interest (excluding the mineral estate) in and to the Project held by the United States.

(b) REPORT.—If the conveyance under Section 3 has not been completed within 1 year and 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the status of the conveyance;

(2) any obstacles to completion of the conveyance; and

(3) the anticipated date for completion of the conveyance.

SEC. 4. PAYMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of the conveyance, the State shall pay the Secretary the adjusted net present value of current repayment obligations on the Project, calculated 30 days prior to closing using a discount rate equal to the average interest rate on 30-year United States Treasury notes during the preceding calendar month, which following application of the State's August 1, 1999 payment, was, as of October 1999, calculated to be \$45,082,675 using a discount rate of 6.070 percent. The State shall also pay interest on the adjusted net present value of current repayment obligations from the date of the State's most recent annual payment until closing at the interest rate for constant maturity United States Treasury notes of an equivalent term.

(b) OBLIGATION EXTINGUISHED.—Upon payment by the State under subsection (a), the obligation of the State and the Bureau of Reclamation under the Bureau of Reclamation Contract No. 14-06-500-1880, as amended shall be extinguished. After completion of conveyance provided for in Section 3, the

State shall assume full responsibility for all aspects of operation, maintenance and replacement of the Project.

(c) **ADDITIONAL COSTS.**—The State shall bear the cost of all boundary surveys, title searches, appraisals, and other transaction costs for the conveyance.

(d) **RECLAMATION FUND.**—All funds paid by the State to the Secretary under this section shall be credited to the Reclamation Fund in the Treasury of the United States.

SEC. 5. FUTURE MANAGEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—As a condition of the conveyance under section 3, the State shall agree that the lands, water, and facilities of the Project shall continue to be managed and operated for the purposes for which the Project was originally authorized; that is, to provide a dependable municipal and industrial water supply, to conserve and develop fish and wildlife resources, and to enhance recreational opportunities. In future management of the Project, the State shall, consistent with other project purposes and the provision of dependable municipal and industrial water supply:

(1) provide full public access to the Project's lands, subject to reasonable restrictions for purposes of Project security, public safety, and natural resource protection;

(2) not sell or otherwise dispose of the lands conveyed under Section 3;

(3) prohibit private or exclusive uses of lands conveyed under Section 3;

(4) maintain and manage the Project's fish and wildlife resource and habitat for the benefit and enhancement of those resources;

(5) maintain and manage the Project's existing recreational facilities and assets, including open space, for the benefit of the general public;

(6) not charge the public recreational use fees that are more than is customary and reasonable.

(b) **FISH, WILDLIFE, AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT.**—As a condition of conveyance under Section 3, management decisions and actions affecting the public aspects of the Project (namely, fish, wildlife, and recreation resources) shall be conducted according to a management agreement between all recipients of title to the Project and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department that has been approved by the Secretary and shall extend for the useful life of the Project.

(c) **EXISTING OBLIGATIONS.**—The United States shall assign to the State and the State shall accept all surface use obligations of the United States associated with the Project existing on the date of the conveyance including contracts, easements, and any permits or license agreements.

SEC. 6. MANAGEMENT OF MINERAL ESTATE.

All mineral interests in the Project retained by the United States shall be managed consistent with Federal Law and in a manner that will not interfere with the purposes for which the Project was authorized.

SEC. 7. LIABILITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Effective on the date of conveyance of the Project, the United States shall be liable for damages of any kind arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to the Project, except for damages caused by acts of negligence committed prior to the date of conveyance by—

(1) the United States; or

(2) an employee, agent, or contractor of the United States.

(b) **NO INCREASE IN LIABILITY.**—Nothing in this Act increases the liability of the United States beyond that provided for in the Federal Tort Claims Act, (28 U.S.C. 2671 et seq.).

SEC. 8. FUTURE BENEFITS.

(a) **DEAUTHORIZATION.**—Effective on the date of conveyance of the Project, the Project conveyed under this Act shall be deauthorized.

(b) **NO RECLAMATION BENEFITS.**—After deauthorization of the Project under subsection (a), the State shall not be entitled to receive any benefits for the Project under Federal reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) 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, for the last 6 years, the Subcommittee on Water and Power has pursued legislation to shrink the size and scope of the Federal Government through the defederalization of Bureau of Reclamation assets.

S. 1474 continues the defederalization process by directing the Secretary of Interior to convey as soon as practicable after the date of enactment to the State of Texas, acting through the Texas Water Development Board of the Lavaca-Navidad River, the Palmetto Bend Reclamation Project.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote aye on this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to provide for the conveyance of the Palmetto Bend Project to the State of Texas. This legislation includes a list of six specific management measures the State of Texas must undertake as a condition of the conveyance. Specific conditions relating to fish, wildlife, and recreation management and existing obligations are detailed in the bill. These provisions in S. 1474 provide an important statutory foundation to assure protection of the public aspects of this project.

We have no objections to the enactment of S. 1474.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, Lake Texana (The Palmetto Bend Project), is located in my congressional district near Edna in the Texas Gulf Coast area about midway between Corpus Christi and Houston. Lake Texana supplies roughly 75,000 acre/feet per year of municipal and industrial water to a large multicounty area of Texas. The Lake Texana water is directly responsible for creating over 3,000 jobs in the cities of Edna and Victoria, Texas and water sales from the project make it financially self-sufficient.

S. 1474 merely facilitates the early payment of the project's construction costs (discounted, of course, by the amount of interest no longer due as a consequence of early payment) and transfers title of the Palmetto Bend Project to the Texas state authorities. Both the Lavaca Navidad River Authority and Texas Water Development Board concur that an early buy-out and title transfer is extremely beneficial to the economic and operational well-being of the project as well as the Lake Texana water users. The Texas Legislature and Governor

George W. Bush have both formally supported the early payment and title transfer.

This bill will save Lake Texana water users as much as \$1 million per year as well as provide an immediate infusion of millions of dollars to the national treasury. Additionally, all liability associated with this water project are, under my legislation, assumed by the state of Texas thus further relieving the financial burden of the federal government.

Texas has already demonstrated sound management of this resource. Recreational use of the lake has been well-provided under Texas state management to include provision of a marina, pavilion, playground, and boating docks, all funded without federal money. A woodland bird sanctuary and wildlife viewing area will also be established upon transfer with the assistance of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and several environmental organizations.

My thanks go to members and staff of both the Resources committee and the subcommittee on Energy and Water for their continued assistance with this bill as well as Senator HUTCHISON and her staff for working with me to move our bill in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request my colleague's support for S. 1474 as passed by the Senate.

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

Mr. HANSEN. 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 Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1474.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECOGNIZING LIBERTY MEMORIAL IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, AS NATIONAL WORLD WAR I SYMBOL

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 114) recognizing the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri, as a national World War I symbol honoring those who defended liberty and our country through service in World War I.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. CON. RES. 114

Whereas over 4 million Americans served in World War I, however, there is no nationally recognized symbol honoring the service of such Americans;

Whereas in 1919, citizens of Kansas City expressed an outpouring of support, raising over \$2,000,000 in 2 weeks, which was a fundraising accomplishment unparalleled by any