

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

other city in the United States irrespective of population;

Whereas on November 1, 1921, the monument site was dedicated marking the only time in history that the 5 Allied military leaders (Lieutenant General Baron Jacques of Belgium, General Armando Diaz of Italy, Marshal Ferdinand Foch of France, General John J. Pershing of the United States, and Admiral Lord Earl Beatty of Great Britain) were together at one place;

Whereas during a solemn ceremony on Armistice Day in 1924, President Calvin Coolidge marked the beginning of a 3-year construction project by the laying of the cornerstone of the Liberty Memorial;

Whereas the 217-foot Memorial Tower topped with 4 stone "Guardian Spirits" representing courage, honor, patriotism, and sacrifice, rises above the observation deck, making the Liberty Memorial a noble tribute to all who served;

Whereas during a rededication of the Liberty Memorial in 1961, former Presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower recognized the memorial as a constant reminder of the sacrifices during World War I and the progress that followed;

Whereas the Liberty Memorial is the only public museum in the United States specifically dedicated to the history of World War I; and

Whereas the Liberty Memorial is internationally known as a major center of World War I remembrance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri, is recognized as a national World War I symbol, honoring those who defended liberty and our country through service in World War I.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentlewoman 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, Senate Concurrent Resolution 114 recognizes 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 Liberty Memorial, established in 1924 by President Calvin Coolidge, is the only public museum specifically dedicated to those who served in World War I.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. Con. Res. 114.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this concurrent resolution would recognize 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.

Begun in 1919 and completed in 1927, the Liberty Memorial is a magnificent monument and serves as the only public museum in America dedicated to the First World War.

The Memorial has hosted many distinguished visitors. The dedication

ceremony for the site marks the only time in history all 5 allied military commanders from World War I were ever in the same place. President Calvin Coolidge laid the cornerstone for the site in 1924; and the Memorial was rededicated by Presidents Truman and Eisenhower in 1961.

World War I was obviously one of the turning points in American and world history. Formal recognition of this memorial as a symbol of the sacrifice and dedication of the more than 4 million Americans who served in that great war is appropriate. We urge our colleagues to approve this legislation.

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 concur in the Senate concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 114.

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.

REVIEW OF COSTS OF HIGH ALTITUDE RECOVERIES IN DENALI NATIONAL PARK, ALASKA

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 698) to review the suitability and feasibility of recovering costs of high altitude rescues at Denali National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 698

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That no later than nine months after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") shall complete a report on the suitability and feasibility of recovering the costs of high altitude rescues on Mt. McKinley, within Denali National Park and Preserve. The Secretary shall also report on the suitability and feasibility of requiring climbers to provide proof of medical insurance prior to the issuance of a climbing permit by the National Park Service. The report shall also review the amount of fees charged for a climbing permit and make such recommendations for changing the fee structure as the Secretary deems appropriate. Upon completion, the report shall be submitted to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentlewoman 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, S. 698 requires the Secretary of Interior to examine the suitability and feasibility of recovering the costs of high altitude rescues within the Denali National Park and requiring proof of medical insurance for climbing permits.

Every year over a thousand climbers attempt Mt. McKinley in Denali National Park. Climbing the continent's highest peak is extremely dangerous and has involved deaths and daring search and rescue missions.

As a result, Denali accounts for nearly a third of the total costs of rescue activities in the entire park system. In 1998, over \$220,000 was spent on one dangerous rescue mission involving six climbers who ignored the Park Service's advice against climbing that mountain.

Given the exceptional costs and risks, many taxpayers believe there should be a way to reimburse the Park Service for rescues.

Basically, the report required under S. 698 will look at a type of insurance policy for the taxpayer against the risk incurred in an inherently dangerous activity. Under S. 698, no permitting requirements will be imposed unless a future Congress decides, based on the findings of the Secretary, that it is appropriate.

This is not a controversial bill, and I urge its passage.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 698, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to do a study related to high altitude rescues of climbers on Mt. McKinley within the Denali National Park in Alaska.

This Senate bill has not had a hearing nor a markup in the Committee on Resources. But since it only requires a report on the subject matter, I am not aware of any major controversy or opposition to the bill.

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. 698.

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