

House in June 2000 with 400 aye votes. Unfortunately, the other body has not yet acted on it.

The Pribilof Islands, St. Paul and St. George, are located in the Bering Sea and serve as the breeding ground of the North Pacific fur seal. The islands were settled when Russian fur seal traders forcibly kidnapped, relocated and enslaved Native Alaskan Aleuts to conduct fur seal harvests.

This bill compensates local communities for expenses they incurred when the Federal Government, formerly the sole landowner and employer on the islands, withdrew its jobs and municipal services. It also authorizes funds to complete the environmental cleanup of the mess the Federal Government left on the islands during its 120-year reign. Finally, the bill establishes what NOAA must do before its responsibilities on the islands are terminated.

This bill makes good on our promises to a group of Native Americans who served as virtual slaves to this country's government for 120 years. I urge support of this legislation. It is long overdue.

This measure also includes coral reef conservation provisions previously passed by the Senate. Coral reefs are threatened by a variety of natural impacts and human activities including coral disease, hurricanes, destructive fishing practices, pollution, and changing ocean conditions. Despite these threats, coral reefs support the economies of many local communities and are essential habitat for many of this nation's recreational and commercial fisheries.

This legislation establishes new Federal-State-local partnerships to work on conservation and restoration programs. It authorizes Federal matching grants to protect and restore these valuable natural resources. It also authorizes NOAA to conduct mapping, monitoring, assessment, education, conservation, and management activities relating to coral reefs.

Title IV would authorize a study, subject to appropriations, to determine the environmental and biological factors causing the recent die-offs and strandings of gray whales from the eastern Pacific stock. In addition, the study should include information from studies of the western Pacific stock of gray whales to the extent practicable. This study will give marine mammal scientists information on a number of issues regarding gray whales including, among other things, whether the eastern Pacific stock has reached the carrying capacity of the eastern Pacific Ocean. The language authorizes \$290,000 for Fiscal Year 2001 and \$500,000 for each of Fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004.

Title V would make two additional catcher vessels eligible to participate in the Bering Sea pollock fishery cooperatives authorized under the American Fisheries Act.

I urge my colleagues to vote "aye" on this measure.

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. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, although I must tell the gentleman that I am going to ask for a vote on this legislation because I am concerned about how these bills are being presented at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this package of ocean and fishery related bills.

This package includes the coral reef conservation legislation passed by the other body. The environmental health and condition of our Nation's coral reef resources are in a state of serious decline due to a combination of factors including polluted run-off and marine debris.

Consequently, it is critical for the Congress to establish a comprehensive program at the Federal level to support scientific research, mapping, monitoring and restoration activities on the State and local level.

I note that this package also includes a provision to direct the National Marine Fisheries Service to initiate a new scientific study concerning the eastern population of Pacific gray whales.

For reasons that are poorly understood, hundreds of Pacific gray whales have washed up on the California coast over the past two years—either in an emaciated condition, or dead. The increased frequency and number of strandings has generated great concern among marine mammal biologists in California, and up and down the Pacific coast.

We need to better understand why these strandings are happening, and I urge NOAA to initiate this important study as quickly as possible.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

Mr. SAXTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, this measure also includes, and I would like to point out, the coral reef conservation provisions similar to the legislation I introduced, H.R. 3919. This bill is extremely important in this regard, as coral reefs are threatened by a variety of natural impacts and human activities, including coral disease, hurricanes, destructive fisheries practices, pollution and changing ocean conditions. Despite these threats, coral reefs support the economies of many local communities and are essential habitat for many of this Nation's recreational and commercial fisheries.

This legislation establishes new Federal-State-local partnerships to work on conservation and restoration programs. It authorizes Federal matching grants to protect and restore these valuable natural resources. It also authorizes NOAA to conduct mapping, monitoring, assessment, education, conservation and management activities relating to coral reefs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote on this measure.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which is vital for the health and future of America's coral reef resources. The estimated 4,200,000 acres of U.S. coral reef resources in the U.S. Exclusive Economic

Zone (EEZ) are at high risk and in dire need of enhanced protection, research and management. This bill creates a much needed comprehensive mechanism to protect the Nation's coral reefs, as well as support the activities of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and other stakeholders. Coral reefs truly are the "rainforests of the oceans." There have been many concerted efforts by the Administration, Congress, states, and local communities to protect and safely manage corals. Since the Coral Reef Task Force released its National Action Plan in March, Federal, state, territorial, and local partners have moved forward to improve our protection of these valuable and fragile areas through effective stewardship of coral reefs. This bill would provide needed authorization for coral conservation project funding and enhance needed partnerships to protect reefs. Designing an effective bill has taken ten long years, and I am pleased to see the efforts of Chairman YOUNG, Mr. MILLER, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. FALCONE, and our Senate colleagues paying off in such grand fashion for a true success for our environment and marine resources.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. 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 Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1653, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. 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.

COMMENDING MEN AND WOMEN WHO FOUGHT WILDFIRES IN 2000

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 434) commending the men and women who fought the year 2000 wildfires for their heroic efforts in protecting human lives and safety and limiting property losses.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 434

Whereas the 2000 wildfire season in the United States was the largest and most severe in the last 50 years and consisted of more than 85,000 wildfires;

Whereas almost 7,000,000 acres of public lands and adjacent State and private lands were subjected to these wildfires;

Whereas over 30,000 professional and volunteer firefighters participated in fighting and controlling these wildfires;

Whereas the Hotshot firefighting crews were instrumental in providing the expertise and training necessary to restrict the severity of these wildfires;

Whereas volunteer firefighters from across America and members of the Armed Forces played a crucial role in combating these wildfires and preventing them from destroying thousands of homes;

Whereas, in addition to the American firefighters, 1,800 men and women from Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and Mexico joined in the fight against these wildfires;

Whereas the information and coordination of the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, greatly assisted in minimizing the effects of these wildfires;

Whereas the support from local residents, communities, and counties helped maintain the high morale of the firefighters;

Whereas, in spite of the rugged terrain and the intense speed and size of the year 2000 wildfires, the firefighter crews managed to limit property losses to 852 structures; and

Whereas, if not for the hard work and dedication of these firefighters, the lives of thousands of Americans could have been lost, the loss of property could have been extensive, and the scenic beauty of the public lands and adjacent State and private lands could have been severely altered: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) commends the men and women, including professional firefighters, volunteers, and military personnel, who fought wildfires on public domain lands during the 2000 wildfire season for their bravery, their extraordinary efforts to contain the wildfires, and their commitment to protect lives, property, and the surrounding communities; and

(2) mourns the loss of life of the 16 persons who died while defending the fire lines.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) 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.

House Concurrent Resolution 434 commends the heroic men and women who fought fires during this, the worst fire season in 50 years. This resolution, introduced by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), also mourns the loss of the 16 who lost their lives while protecting others.

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.

I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 434. This fire season, nearly 7 million acres of land burned throughout the West in over 85,000 wildfires. Nearly 1,000 homes were destroyed. Yet, through the valiant efforts of over 30,000 wildland firefighters, both professional and volunteer, property damage and loss of life were minimized. These brave and dedicated men and women work far from home for long periods of time, under grueling conditions, and with few rewards to protect our land, our homes and our lives.

I join my colleagues in commending those extraordinary workers who literally put their lives on the line every day. Sadly, during the course of this fire season, 16 firefighters died in the line of duty. I join my colleagues in recognizing their sacrifice and mourn-

ing their loss. I want to thank the sponsors of this resolution, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), who particularly felt the impact of these fires in their States and join them in expressing gratitude to the firefighters.

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), the author of this legislation.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 434. This legislation commends the heroic men and women who fought fires during this 2000 wildfire season. It was the worst fire season in 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation also mourns the tragic loss of 16 firefighters who lost their lives while protecting others. The 2000 wildfire season in the United States was the largest and most severe in the last 50 years and consisted of more than 85,000 wildfires. More than 7 million acres of public lands and adjacent State and private lands were subjected to these wildfires.

□ 1415

More than 30,000 professional and volunteer fire fighters risked their lives to participate in fighting and controlling these wildfires. In spite of the rugged terrain and the intense speed and the size of the year 2000 wildfires, the firefighter crews managed to limit property losses to just 852 structures. It could have been so much worse.

Mr. Speaker, if not for these fire fighters, the loss of lives and property could have been far more extensive than it was.

So let this United States House of Representatives honor those fire fighters who tragically lost their lives and those who stood on the lines to protect others by passing House Concurrent Resolution 434 today.

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

Mr. Speaker, I must add, as I look at the tremendous fires we have had in the West at this time, that a lot of this is because we have not managed the forests. That argument has been going on. We have held hearings on it. We have not managed the forests. We have not cleaned the forests. We have not thinned the forests and when some of these people get the idea to let Mother Nature do it, we paid big time for it this last fire season. I hope now we all wake up to the idea that we have to go back and manage the forests and the public lands of America and take good care of them rather than let them just go helter skelter like we have done, and we pay for it.

Last January we had a hearing, and past foresters all said this will be the worst fire year we have ever had. Those men were true prophets. They were

right. That is what we had, and that is what we get for neglecting the forests.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 434 to commend wildland firefighters and I do so in praise and appreciation for the splendid and courageous job that these firefighters performed this year.

As many of you know, this year marked one of the most horrific fire years in our Nation's history. Almost 7 million acres burned and it's still not over. As many of you know the Cerro Grande fire, which occurred within my district, scorched over 40,000 acres and consumed over 400 homes and businesses within Los Alamos, NM. The New Mexico firefighters displayed exemplary courage and professionalism when combating this inferno.

Even today, in North Carolina, Missouri and Illinois for example, large fires still burn uncontrolled as a result of low moisture and high winds.

This year more than 30,000 firefighters, including 6 military battalions, performed firefighting duties enduring numerous hazardous conditions away from their friends and loved ones. Through it all, these committed men and women performed with enthusiasm and bravery despite their many hardships.

I strongly believe that we will continue to see severe fire years in the future and will therefore again call upon these professional and dedicated firefighters to utilize their skills in service to their fellow men and communities.

Notwithstanding this prognosis, I am optimistic that our cadre of firefighters will continue to perform when called upon.

On the same note, I am also pleased with the bipartisan support of H.R. 2814, The Wildland Firefighters Pay Equity Act, cosponsored by myself, and Mr. POMBO which provides fair and equitable pay to the thousands of wildland firefighters. This legislation has passed this chamber and now awaits Senate approval.

I strongly support H. Con. Res. 434 in tribute to all of those who have sacrificed this year. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am an original cosponsor of this resolution and I rise in its support.

The resolution commends the men and women who fought the year 2000 wildfires for their heroic efforts in protecting human lives and safety and limiting property losses.

As the resolution notes, this summer's wildfire seasons was the most severe in the last 50 years. Across the country, there were more than 85,000 wildfires that affected almost 7,000,000 acres of public lands and adjacent State and private lands—and more than 30,000 professional and volunteer firefighters were called upon to join in fighting them.

These were men and women from all parts of the country, including members of the Armed Forces, and also 1,800 men and women from Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and Mexico.

In Colorado, though we were more fortunate than some of our western neighbors, we had several major fires along the Front Range and in other parts of the state. In addition, Coloradans joined in fighting fires in Montana, Idaho, and elsewhere.

As the resolution says, without their hard work and dedication, there could have been

even greater loss of lives and the loss of property could have been even greater than it was.

So it is very appropriate for the Congress to commend all those who joined in this effort, and to remember and mourn the 16 persons who died while fighting these fires.

I urge adoption of this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 434.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DILLONWOOD GIANT SEQUOIA GROVE PARK EXPANSION ACT

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4020) to authorize an extension of the boundaries of Sequoia National Park to include Dillonwood Giant Sequoia Grove, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4020

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I—ADDITION OF LAND TO SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

SEC. 101. ADDITION TO SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall acquire by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange, all interest in and to the land described in subsection (b) for addition to Sequoia National Park, California.

(b) LAND ACQUIRED.—The land referred to in subsection (a) is the land depicted on the map entitled "Dillonwood", numbered 102/80,044, and dated September 1999.

(c) ADDITION TO PARK.—Upon acquisition of the land under subsection (a)—

(1) the Secretary of the Interior shall—

(A) modify the boundaries of Sequoia National Park to include the land within the park; and

(B) administer the land as part of Sequoia National Park in accordance with all applicable laws; and

(2) The Secretary of Agriculture shall modify the boundaries of the Sequoia National Forest to exclude the land from the forest boundaries.

TITLE II—UPPER HOUSATONIC NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") shall conduct a study of the Upper Housatonic National Heritage Area (in this section referred to as the "Study Area"). The study shall include analysis, documentation, and determinations regarding whether the Study Area—

(1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are

best managed through partnerships among public and private entities and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;

(2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs and folklore that are a valuable part of the national story;

(3) provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historic, cultural, and/or scenic features;

(4) provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities;

(5) contains resources important to the identified theme or themes of the Study Area that retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;

(6) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and State governments who are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the Federal Government, and have demonstrated support for the concept of a national heritage area;

(7) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and State Governments to develop a national heritage area consistent with continued local and State economic activity; and

(8) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study, the Secretary shall consult with the State historic preservation officers, State historical societies and other appropriate organizations.

SEC. 202. BOUNDARIES OF THE STUDY AREA.

The Study Area shall be comprised of—

(1) part of the Housatonic River's watershed, which extends 60 miles from Lanesboro, Massachusetts to Kent, Connecticut;

(2) the towns of Canaan, Cornwall, Kent, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, and Warren in Connecticut; and

(3) the towns of Alford, Dalton, Egremont, Great Barrington, Hinsdale, Lanesboro, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlboro, Pittsfield, Richmond, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Washington, and West Stockbridge in Massachusetts.

SEC. 203. REPORT.

Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which funds are first available for this title, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives a report on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study.

SEC. 204. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated \$300,000 to carry out the provisions of this title.

TITLE III—WITHHOLDING OF ROYALTY PAYMENTS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES

SEC. 301. ROYALTY PAYMENTS UNDER LEASES UNDER THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS ACT.

(a) ROYALTY RELIEF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A State lessee may withhold from payment any royalty due and owing to the United States under any lease under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) for offshore oil or gas production from a covered lease tract if, on or before the date that the payment is due and payable to the United States, the State lessee makes a payment to the State of Louisiana of 44 cents for every \$1 of royalty withheld.

(2) TREATMENT OF WITHHELD AMOUNTS.—Any royalty withheld by a State lessee in accordance with this section shall be treated as paid for purposes of satisfaction of the royalty obligations of the State lessee to the United States.

(3) CERTIFICATION OF WITHHELD AMOUNTS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall—

(A) determine the amount of royalty withheld under this section; and

(B) promptly publish a certification when the total amount of royalty withheld under this section is equal to the sum of—

(i) \$18,115,147; plus

(ii) simple annual interest on the difference, on January 1 of each year, between the amount referred to in clause (i) and the total amount of royalty withheld under this section, determined at 8 percent per year for the period beginning March 21, 1989, and ending on the date on which the amount of royalty withheld under this section is equal to the amount referred to in clause (i).

(b) PERIOD OF ROYALTY RELIEF.—Subsection (a) shall apply to royalty amounts that are due and payable in the period beginning on October 1, 2001, and ending on the date on which the Secretary publishes a certification under subsection (a)(3)(B).

(c) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

(1) COVERED LEASE TRACT.—The term "covered lease tract" means a leased tract (or portion of a leased tract)—

(A) lying seaward of the zone defined and governed by section 8(g) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(g)); or

(B) lying within such zone but to which such section does not apply.

(2) STATE LESSEE.—The term "State lessee" means a person (including a successor or assign of a person), that, on the date of enactment of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-380; August 18, 1990), held lease rights in the State of Louisiana offshore leases SL10087, SL10088, and SL10187, but did not hold lease rights in Federal offshore lease OCS-G-5669.

TITLE IV—INCLUSION OF CAT ISLAND IN GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE

SEC. 401. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT TO INCLUDE CAT ISLAND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The first section of Public Law 91-660 (16 U.S.C. 459h) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking "That, in" and inserting the following:

"SECTION 1. GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—In"; and

(2) in the second sentence—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (6) as subparagraphs (A) through (F), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(B) by striking "The seashore shall comprise" and inserting the following:

"(b) COMPOSITION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The seashore shall comprise the areas described in paragraphs (2) and (3).

"(2) AREAS INCLUDED IN BOUNDARY PLAN NUMBERED NS-GI-7100J.—The areas described in this paragraph are"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) CAT ISLAND.—The area described in this paragraph is the parcel consisting of approximately 2,000 acres of land on Cat Island, Mississippi, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Boundary Map, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Cat Island, Mississippi', numbered 635/80085, and dated November 9, 1999 (referred to in this Act as the 'Cat Island Map').

"(4) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Cat Island Map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service."

(b) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—Section 2 of Public Law 91-660 (16 U.S.C. 459h-1) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of subsection (a), by striking "lands," and inserting "submerged land, land,"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(e) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—