

primary Federal program that focuses national attention on lakes, their monitoring, protection, and management.

I was pleased that the committee selected two lakes in upstate New York, Otsego Lake and Lake Oneida, to receive priority consideration for demonstration projects in this bill.

Otsego Lake in New York is at the headwaters of the Susquehanna River, the largest single fresh water source for the Chesapeake Bay. Otsego Lake is biologically unique in that deep water oxygen concentrations provide habitat for cold water fisheries, such as lake trout, Atlantic salmon, brown trout, whitefish, and cisco, which are now in jeopardy because of the sustained loss of bottom oxygen in the late summer and fall.

Oneida Lake in New York is the largest inland lake in the State and home to 74 species of fish. The lake watershed covers five counties and more than 800,000 acres. This lake is experiencing water quality problems and its use has been impaired. There are significant concerns regarding sediment and nutrient runoff to the lake from tributaries and agriculture and urban land use trends. In addition, algae, rooted vegetation, and invasive species are problems for this lake.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this is a completely noncontroversial measure; and I do not oppose this open rule.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this open and fair rule.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further request for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3039, CHESAPEAKE BAY RESTORATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 470 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 470

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3039) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to assist in the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule.

The bill shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. REYNOLDS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 470 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 3039, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to assist in the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, the rule also provides that the bill shall be open for amendment at any point, and authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Additionally, the rule allows the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and to reduce voting time to 5 minutes on a postponed question if the rule follows a 15 minute vote.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, the Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States and is an important commercial, recreational, and historical center for thousands of residents in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia.

The Chesapeake Bay is protected and promoted under a unique voluntary partnership under the Chesapeake Bay

Agreement, first adopted in 1983. The signatories to the agreement are the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the States of Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, along with the District of Columbia. The agreement directs and conducts the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.

Over the past two decades, much progress has been made in restoring the Chesapeake Bay. Area wildlife is recovering, toxic pollutant releases are down, and bay grasses have increased. However, much more needs to be done, particularly regarding water clarity and restoring the oyster population.

This bill addresses the need for a cooperative Federal, State, and local effort in restoring the Chesapeake Bay by authorizing \$180 million for the Chesapeake Bay Program for fiscal years 2000 through 2005. In addition, the bill requires Federal facilities to participate in watershed planning and restoration activities.

Finally, the bill requires a study of the state of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and a study of the Chesapeake Bay Program's effect on this ecosystem.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying bill.

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, this is an open rule. The debate time will be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The rule permits amendments under the 5-minute rule.

This is the normal amending process in the House. All Members on both sides of the aisle will have the opportunity to offer germane amendments.

Mr. Speaker, the Chesapeake Bay is one of the most important bodies of water within the United States. Activities in the Bay make significant contributions to our economy through commercial fishing and shipping. The Bay supports extensive wildlife and vegetation. It also provides Americans with numerous recreational opportunities.

Years of man-made pollution have threatened the Bay and the life within it. However, there has been progress, and it is being made under the Chesapeake Bay Agreement signed by the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the States of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3039 will authorize money over a 6-year period for the United States Federal Government to support the agreement. The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure. The legislation is necessary to help protect

the Bay and its resources for all Americans. This is an open rule, we support it, and we urge its adoption.

1345

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE CLEAN LAKES PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). Pursuant to House Resolution 468 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2328.

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2328) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Clean Lakes Program, with Mr. GILLMOR in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, first of all, perhaps most importantly, I want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY) for his leadership in being the principal architect and author of this legislation to reauthorize and improve the Clean Lakes Program.

This bill will help restore and protect our Nation's 41 million acres of fresh water lakes by reauthorizing the EPA Clean Lakes Program. The bill authorizes \$250 million of grants to help States clean up their lakes, and it increases to \$25 million the amount to help States mitigate against the harmful effects of acid mine drainage and acid rain.

The EPA no longer requests funding under the Clean Lakes Program, and has forced the States to stretch their limited nonpoint source funds to clean up their lakes. This legislation restores this important program and places a national focus and a priority on our lakes. It allows funds to solve the wide range of problems impairing our many

lakes. Very importantly, Mr. Chairman, it relies on locally-based solutions involving restoration, rather than new Federal regulations.

I certainly want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI), and the entire committee for their support in moving this environmental legislation forward. It passed the subcommittee and the full committee unanimously by voice vote. I know of no opposition to it.

I would certainly urge overwhelming support for this important environmental legislation.

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

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 2328, to reauthorize the Clean Lakes Program. I want to express my appreciation to our chairman for his support of this initiative and for launching the hearings directing the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), to move ahead with this legislation, which is a derivative of and an extension of the monumental Clean Water Act of 1972.

That legislation, which I had the privilege to participate in as a member or administrator of the staff of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation at the time, was then, as it still is, one of the most far-reaching and successful environmental laws Congress has ever enacted.

We have made a lot of progress over the years with the Clean Water Act. It is going on 30 years. One of the reasons is the collaborative partnerships that the act established between the States and the Federal Government to restore and maintain, as the opening directive of that act provides, restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters.

We have not quite reached the objective of swimmable and fishable in all of the Nation's waters, but we are moving in the right direction.

Section 314 of that act established the Clean Lakes Program. That program directs EPA to work with the States to identify and implement programs to control, reduce, and mitigate levels of pollution in the Nation's lakes.

It has been a valuable resource to reduce pollution. We have funded approximately \$145 million of grant activities since 1945 in 49 States and 18 Indian tribes, 700 individual site assessments, restoration, and implementation projects. But it is only a start.

The most recent national water quality inventory shows that States have reported that only 40 percent of lake acreage across this country has been assessed to determine whether the lakes meet the designated uses. Of that

number, 40 percent are still impaired in some fashion. That means that 30 million acres of lakes across this country have a significant likelihood that the waters are not safe for fishing, swimming, or to support aquatic life in the lake and in the surrounding basin.

Body contact sports was one of the principal objectives of the Clean Water Act of 1972, so people could indeed use the lakes: swim, fish, walk through the lake waters on the edge, as we do with small children in Minnesota and elsewhere across this country. But we have not attained that objective.

This bill will help move us in that direction. It reauthorizes the Clean Lakes Program through 2005. It increases significantly the level of funding to \$50 million a year. The funding would be directed to the States to diagnose the current condition of individual lakes and their watershed, to determine the extent and source of pollution, to develop lake restoration and protection plans that can actually be implemented, not just ideas and studies that remain on a shelf and gather dust, but plans that can actually be implemented.

Secondly, to address the concern of acidity in lake levels, in lakes across this country, we provide authorization for programs aimed at restoring lake water quality and mitigating the harmful effects of lake acidity. Canada actually was ahead of the United States in addressing the problem of acid rain.

Sweden was ahead of Canada. It was in the mid-1970s that Swedish scientists examined lakes that were in the early stages of death, death from acid rain coming from the Ruhr Valley in Germany, traveling over a thousand miles and being deposited on Swedish lakes that soon became clear, so clear you could see right to the bottom, no fish, no plant life. Dead lakes.

We were slow to assess that problem and appreciate the United States. Canada caught on first because the prevailing winds carry acid depositions from the United States north into Canada. Canada mounted a massive counterattack on acid rain problems, and that led to the U.S.-Canada Air Quality Agreement, in addition to the U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Quality Agreement, that has resulted in restoration in lakes in Canada that were nearing the death levels of lakes in Sweden.

Mr. Chairman, this legislation will move us further along in the United States, in the direction of addressing the problems of the harmful effects of acid rain and high lake water acidity. This legislation also adds four lakes to the priority demonstration projects included in the Clean Lakes Program, one of which is Swan Lake, which is in my district, which is of tremendous regional significance for the people living in the iron ore mining country; a 100-square-mile lake in Itasca County that includes the City of Nashwauk, northeast of that lake, there are a wide