

with this. And in the tradition of Mr. Fascell and the delegation working together, it has come to fruition.

I congratulate the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) and all the rest of the delegation and, of course, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Chairman SHUSTER) and his committee for bringing us forward to this date.

This is a continuum of efforts to protect one of the most unique, captivating, spectacular resources we have in the United States of America, the Florida Keys.

This is complementary to the efforts that this body has taken with regard to the Everglades and protection of Florida Bay. This is an investment. That is well worthwhile.

If my colleagues have not visited the Florida Keys, they should. If they have visited the Florida Keys, they will understand why this is necessary legislation.

I urge support of this rule and support of the legislation.

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY), a distinguished leader, who, in the short period of time he has been in Congress, has already left quite a mark on a number of critical issues to South Florida.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), a member of the Committee on Rules, for his leadership as well. He is from South Florida and has undertaken to represent that community and the entirety of the State and the Nation in a very competent fashion.

I first want to thank the chairman and also thank especially our colleague from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) who has spearheaded this legislation which is vital, obviously, to the Florida Keys and to thank, as well, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), the chairman of the committee, for endeavoring to bring this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard quite a bit today about the importance of this bill and the positive impact it will have on the delicate marine ecosystem of the Florida Keys.

I appreciate the comments made by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) and urge people to please make their vacation plans to visit this pristine, wonderful part of Florida. I know they will not be disappointed. As my colleague clearly stated, those who have been there fully understand the magnitude and magnificence not only of the region but of the necessity for the bill.

The Federal Government has recognized the importance of this system by naming it the National Marine Sanctuary. But it currently is in jeopardy. For too long, inadequate storm water management systems and wastewater treatment systems have allowed pollutants to mar this national treasure.

I might also add, we have a similar experience around Lake Okeechobee

because of septic tanks and other things that were causing and are causing the degradation of the environment.

While we are here today to talk about the Keys, I also want to call to the attention of Members of Congress other waterways and other water bodies which would clearly have a significance and could actually use the model that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) has established today to help deal with other areas and other consequences.

But what impact will this problem have if left unchecked on the rest of us? Over 2 million people visit this beautiful area each year. But because of the inadequate infrastructure, what was once clear and beautiful water is now discolored. Beaches are often closed and public health officials warn against swimming near the shores. This poses a public health threat and a threat to the livelihood of many of the Keys' full-time residents.

The Florida Keys marine ecosystem is intrinsically linked with the Greater South Florida ecosystem, including our national park, the Florida Everglades. In devoting resources towards the restoration of this important ecosystem, we must ensure that a coordinated effort is undertaken so that the best environmental and fiscal outcome can be achieved for all concerned.

We have agreed that there is a problem by establishing the Water Quality Protection Program Steering Committee. This committee has proposed, as directed by the Congress, a comprehensive program to ensure water quality and protection embodied in this resolution, H.R. 673.

The State of Florida and the Monroe County Commission have demonstrated their commitment to this solution.

Let us pass this legislation and demonstrate the commitment of this Congress to preserving the beauty of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary for all Americans.

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I too wish to add my voice of congratulations to the distinguished gentleman from the Florida Keys (Mr. DEUTSCH) who has worked so hard on this critical issue, as well as all the other colleagues who have worked on this matter, which is of such importance to that extraordinary treasure, national treasure, which is the Florida Keys.

I urge my colleagues to support this open rule, to support the underlying very important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, 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. 1106, ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCES ACT OF 2000

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 485 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 485

*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. 1106) to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants to State agencies with responsibility for water source development for the purpose of maximizing available water supply and protecting the environment through the development of alternative water sources. The first reading of the bill will be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII are waived. 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. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute 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. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), my friend and colleague, 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 on this issue only.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very fair, simple rule, as we have just heard described to us. It provides for adequate and appropriate consideration of H.R. 1106, the Alternative Water Sources Act. It is a wide open rule that will accommodate any Member's interest in the amendment process who wishes to come forward on it.

H.R. 1102 would provide Federal grants to State and local governments so that they can move forward on developing alternative water sources. This is a critically important issue for my home State of Florida and for States across the country. We have always had water wars in America, but with an ever-increasing population and the accompanying heightened demand for water that we see in our communities, we are sure, I am afraid, we are going to see more of these disputes.

So H.R. 1102 aims to spur the development of alternate water sources which will help meet the increased demand. It is proactive. It is forward thinking. I thank my colleagues, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER) and the gentleman from New York (Chairman BOEHLERT) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Chairman SHUSTER) of the committee for their work to bring this forward at this time.

I certainly encourage my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying legislation.

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 Florida (Mr. GOSS) for yielding me the customary time.

Mr. Speaker, this is an open rule. As my colleague from Florida has described, this rule provides for 1 hour of general debate to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The rule permits amendments under the 5-minute rule, which is the normal amending process in the House. All Members on both sides of the aisle will have the opportunity to offer germane amendments.

The bill authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency to provide grants for water reclamation, reuse, and conservation projects.

America's growing population has created an increased demand for water, and this legislation will help States, local governments, private utilities, and nonprofit groups develop new water resources to meet these critical needs.

The bill was approved by a voice vote of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with bipartisan support. It is an open rule.

I urge adoption of the rule.

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distin-

guished gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) who has the adjoining district and shares the same interest I do in South Florida.

□ 1100

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS), a member of the Committee on Rules, the champion of the Everglades, for giving me the opportunity to once again to speak under another rule, to talk about an issue again critical to the State of Florida and again dealing with the importance of water. And if anyone has traveled to Florida, whether it be the Keys or to Okeechobee County or to Palatka or Jacksonville or the Panhandle, they recognize with some 45 million annual visitors a year and a population in excess of 14 million people we clearly have water on our mind. It is everywhere. It is bountiful. It is plentiful, but it is diminishing. Obviously, it is not all available for consumption. We are surrounded by both the Gulf and the Atlantic Ocean which is, of course, saltwater incapable of being used for nourishment or thirst-quenching, unless it has been desalinated and that, of course, is an expensive proposal.

I want to first thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and others who have allowed this bill to come to the floor today, and I want to thank my colleagues, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. THURMAN), the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) for their hard work on H.R. 1106.

Many States, especially my home State of Florida, currently face a water supply crisis. Our populations continue to grow but our water levels continue to decrease. If nothing is done, it is estimated that water demand will exceed supply as early as 2020. Congress must act now before this problem escalates to that dangerous level leading to potential economic and environmental crises.

I will stop there for just a moment to recognize the actions on the floor of the legislature in unanimously passing the bill provided to them by Governor Jeb Bush regarding the Florida Everglades which, of course, is a key part and component of the long-term solutions of saving Florida and obviously providing an abundant supply of water. That bill provides \$123 million over the course of the next several years in order to accomplish environmental restoration. That is critical to be acknowledged on the floor today because we will ultimately take up the restudy bill, which is a bill that has been strongly championed by the Florida delegation in order to get money necessary to complete the important re-plumbing of the Florida Everglades and surrounding environments.

Congress has recognized a similar problem before in Western States and

in the United States territories. A limited number of State governments are now eligible for funding to develop alternative water resources through the Bureau of Reclamation. We need to answer the call of high-population growth States such as Florida now with a comparable plan. Florida has taken aggressive steps through conservation and identification of alternative water sources. Unfortunately, these steps are clearly not enough.

High-population growth States need action by Congress now to prevent disastrous consequences later. So I urge my colleagues both to vote for the rule and vote for the underlying legislation, H.R. 1106, the Alternative Water Resources Act of 1999.

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the rule. I yield back the balance of the 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.

#### FLORIDA KEYS WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to House Resolution 483 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. 673.

□ 1103

#### 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. 673) to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants to the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority and other appropriate agencies for the purpose of improving water quality throughout the marine ecosystem of the Florida Keys, with Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI) 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, I would urge strong support for H.R. 673, the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Act, because it is going to help improve and maintain one of our Nation's real treasures, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

The water quality experts have found that the inadequate wastewater treatment and storm water management systems are major contributors of pollution in the nearby waters of the Florida Keys. This pollution is threatening