

presidential library. That is where he was born. It could have been in Indiana. We have a national Lincoln boyhood site in southern Indiana. We in Indiana like to say that Indiana made Lincoln and Lincoln made Illinois. It also could be at Gettysburg, where he delivered this address and where we have just taken sites into Federal possession, in the Wills House, the cemetery where he gave the address. We have Ford Theater as a national site.

But the fact is the first question is why Springfield. There are many more Lincoln sites in Springfield than anywhere else in the country, and I want to make sure the RECORD notes these. They have the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, where he and Mary Todd Lincoln lived. The Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices. They have the Lincoln tomb. The Lincoln Depot, where he left Springfield for Washington, D.C., which is still preserved. They have the Lincoln log cabin, where his father and stepmother lived. They have the Lincoln ledger, his financial records. The old State capitol where he served as a State legislator and delivered his famous house divided speech. They also have outside of Springfield and New Salem a recreation of a village of his time period.

There is no question that Springfield has more historic sites related to Lincoln than anywhere else in the country. They also, through the Henry Horner Collection that was given to the Illinois State Historical Society, have 1,500 documents that were either handwritten by Lincoln or were signed by Lincoln, in addition to all sorts of broadsides, prints and photographs, including the earliest known photo of Lincoln, taken in 1846, and the only known photo lying in state.

So, clearly, they have more documents, more photos, more actual buildings related to Lincoln than anywhere else in the country. They have Edward Everett's copy of his manuscript, handwritten out for him. They have the handwritten speech of the second inaugural address with the famous "with malice toward none, with charity for all."

I think there is a compelling case that, a, we need a national Lincoln museum and library, and that Springfield should be the center. One amendment that we had in committee, and I think is important as we work with the National Park Service on things like the Lewis and Clark trip to the West where we have many historic sites and where we have other underground railroad sites; as we work together it is important that a national museum, while it will focus on his Illinois years, because that is where most of the documents are, that it will also interrelate with the other Lincoln sites around the country. So as we see this boom in heritage tourism, as many young Americans and adult Americans try to learn more about their history, that they can go to one site and at that site be referred to other sites around the country that also bring out that heritage.

□ 1430

I am excited about the efforts of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS). I hope this also will continue to be funded through the appropriations process, and I am glad that we can move this bill forth.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, and the members of the House of Representatives, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit my testimony on an issue that is very important to me, and to the 18th District of Illinois—authorization of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

A panel of world-famous historians recently voted Abraham Lincoln as the greatest American President. This comes as no surprise to those of us from the Land of Lincoln. For decades, people from all over the world have come to Illinois to learn about our 16th President, and to be inspired by his life and words. Lincoln's story is the quintessential American success story. In Lincoln, we have a man born into the most humble of circumstances overcoming hardship and repeated failures, through his own hard work and dedication, to emerge as one of the three most written about individuals in human history.

But even though Lincoln is considered by the world to be one of the nation's greatest leaders, there is no single location where the Lincoln story can be told. There are sites that interpret his pioneer days, his legal and political careers, his home life, and even his death. But there is not a facility dedicated to interpreting Abraham Lincoln's legacy and relevance to contemporary generations.

Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., one of the nation's most respected historians, recently termed it a "tragedy" that Abraham Lincoln does not have a Presidential Library.

The State of Illinois has the world's largest Lincoln collection—some 46,000 items so rare and valuable that the collection exceeds the combined Lincoln holdings of the National Park Service, the National Archives, and the Smithsonian Institution. Some of our nation's most significant artifacts are a part of that collection: five copies of The Gettysburg Address, which sets the stage for our nation's history after Civil War; the only signed copy of The Emancipation Proclamation, which echoed Lincoln's strong feelings against human bondage; and the only copy of Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, which, while advocating malice toward none and charity for all, predicted benevolent policies for post war recovery. The Illinois collection also includes such diverse artifacts as Tad Lincoln's toy cannon, Mary Lincoln's wedding skirt, and the nameplate from the front door of Lincoln's Springfield house—treasures that belong to all Americans.

But, few of you have ever seen these items, and there is a reason for that. The State of Illinois has no adequate facilities to appropriately display and interpret these items. They are kept locked in a vault beneath the old State Capitol in downtown Springfield, to be brought out only for important research or the occasional exhibit at another location.

Abraham Lincoln's example of sacrifice for his ideals should not be kept locked behind a vault door. Lincoln's message of freedom and democracy should not be kept in obscurity in the basement of a building. The life of America's greatest President should not be hidden away from all but a select few.

The proposed Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library will be a beacon of freedom for the en-

tire world. Anyone enjoying the benefits of democracy, and those who yearn to enjoy those benefits, will want to come to this new facility. The world looks to Abraham Lincoln as the highest example of freedom in a nation founded on that concept, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library will give the world a place to learn about, and be inspired by, that example.

Abraham Lincoln's message is especially relevant today, as the world's changing political situation has people searching for a champion of freedom and equality. We have that champion. He is an American who kept the United States united and demonstrated to the world that democratic ideals were not a mere abstraction, but a living reality. He is a human being who brought dignity to all human beings.

He is a martyr who died for his beliefs. He makes us proud to be Americans. Now, it's time to return the favor.

Abraham Lincoln's legacy belongs to all generations. His appeal transcends age, race, gender, class and partisan boundaries. He is one of our greatest Presidents and deserves this long overdue facility in his honor. It will be located in Springfield, Illinois, but it will be open to the world. Let's keep Lincoln's torch of freedom burning for all people. Let's help fund the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3084, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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#### TAUNTON RIVER WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY ACT OF 2000

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2778) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Taunton River in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2778

*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 "Taunton River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2000".*

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

*Congress finds that—*

(1) the Taunton River in the State of Massachusetts possesses important resource values (including wildlife, ecological, and scenic values), historic sites, and a cultural past important to the heritage of the United States;

(2) there is strong support among State and local officials, area residents, and river users for a cooperative wild and scenic river study of the area; and

(3) there is a longstanding interest among State and local officials, area residents, and river users in undertaking a concerted cooperative effort to manage the river in a productive and meaningful way.

**SEC. 3. DESIGNATION FOR STUDY.**

Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)) is amended—

(1) by designating the undesignated paragraph following (135) as paragraph (136); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(137) TAUNTON RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS.—The segment downstream from the headwaters, from the confluence of the Town River and the Matfield River in Bridgewater to the confluence with the Forge River in Raynham, Massachusetts.”.

**SEC. 4. STUDY AND REPORT.**

Section 5(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second paragraph (8) as paragraph (10);

(2) by redesignating the second paragraph (11) as paragraph (12);

(3) by redesignating the third paragraph (11) as paragraph (13);

(4) by redesignating the fourth paragraph (11) as paragraph (14);

(5) by redesignating the first undesignated paragraph as paragraph (15);

(6) by redesignating the second undesignated paragraph as paragraph (16);

(7) in paragraph (16), as so redesignated by paragraph (6) of this subsection, by striking “paragraph ( )” and inserting “paragraph (136)”; and

(8) by adding at the end the following:

“(17) TAUNTON RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary of the Interior—

“(A) shall complete the study of the Taunton River, Massachusetts; and

“(B) shall submit to Congress a report describing the results of the study.”.

**SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2778.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2778, as amended, and introduced by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY). This bill authorizes a study of the Taunton River for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Taunton River contains a variety of natural and cultural resources important to America's heritage. H.R. 2778 will assess these resources and determine whether the river meets the requirements for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The study authorized by H.R. 2778 has strong public support from State and local officials, residents, and river users.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2778, as amended.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, H.R. 2778, introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), amends the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to provide for a study of the Taunton River in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Taunton River is located in southeastern Massachusetts, about 30 miles from Boston. The Taunton and its tributaries form the second largest watershed in the Commonwealth. Much of the river corridor is forested or in agricultural use.

H.R. 2778 is a noncontroversial bill. The administration has testified in support of the study. Further, it is our understanding that there is strong local support for this initiative.

During consideration of the bill by the Committee on Resources, an amendment was adopted that made a number of technical corrections to the bill and the underlying Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. These changes improve the legislation, and we support the bill as amended.

Madam Speaker, I also have a statement from the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), the sponsor of H.R. 2778, who is unavoidably unable to be here during the consideration of this bill; and I include his statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of this bill.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues, Representative GEORGE MILLER, Representative DON YOUNG, Representative CARLOS ROMERO-BARCELO, and Representative JAMES HANSEN for bringing this important bill to the floor.

H.R. 2778 would direct the National Park Service to study the Taunton River in Massachusetts to determine if it should be added to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The 70-mile river is threatened by an alarming rate of residential and commercial development. If the river meets the necessary federal requirements and is added to the system, then its flow could not be hindered or diverted and local regional planners would be able to receive federal assistance to help manage the river.

The Taunton River is of tremendous historical and ecological value to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and also the nation. In the early 1600's, the Taunton River was the first river the Pilgrims encountered as they moved inland, and they used the river as a meeting spot with the Native Americans. Chief Massasoit of the Wompanoag tribe befriended the Pilgrims, who were ill-prepared for New England's harsh winters. Without the help of the Native Americans, the early settlers would have perished. As a result of the goodwill of the local Native Americans, the Pilgrims dedicated a day in celebration of the harvest and their good fortune. This day is celebrated

throughout the country today and is better known as our national holiday of Thanksgiving.

From an ecological standpoint, the Taunton River is a tremendous resource because of its improved water quality and the various species of marine life that thrive there. There have been numerous sightings of the American Bald Eagle. The improved water quality of the river has resulted in the river becoming a tremendous recreational resource for thousands of Southeastern Massachusetts residents. The river is part of a river water trail called the Wampanoag Commemorative canoe passage. The course, which was the main travel route for the Wampanoag Native Americans, is now used by scouting groups, conservation leaders, and recreational enthusiasts.

The river is of tremendous historical and scenic value to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I strongly support H.R. 2778 and thank my colleagues for bringing the measure to the House floor.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2778, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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## CAT ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ESTABLISHMENT ACT

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3292) to provide for the establishment of the Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3292

*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 “Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge Establishment Act”.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

The Congress finds that—

(1) as the southernmost unleveed portion of the Mississippi River, Cat Island, Louisiana, is one of the last remaining tracts in the lower Mississippi Valley that is still influenced by the natural dynamics of the river;

(2) Cat Island supports one of the highest densities of virgin bald cypress trees in the entire Mississippi River Valley, including the Nation's champion cypress tree which is 17 feet wide and has a circumference of 53 feet;

(3) Cat Island is important habitat for several declining species of forest songbirds and supports thousands of wintering waterfowl;

(4) Cat Island supports high populations of deer, turkey, and furbearers, such as mink and bobcats;

(5) conservation and enhancement of this area through inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge System would help meet the