

the Big South Trail in Comanche Peak Wilderness area of the Roosevelt National Forest in Colorado. Despite a week-long search, Jaryd was never found. With this bill, perhaps some good can come from this tragedy.

I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCRED0) for bringing this legislation to the floor to deal with the memory of Jaryd and perhaps to warn other families and children about some of the dangers of being in a wilderness area, and to prevent other tragedies such as Jaryd's death.

I urge my colleagues to support this. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. This bill is a good bill, and I recommend an "aye" vote on it.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House today is considering H.R. 3817, the bill to address the lessons to be learned from the story of a young boy, Jaryd Atadero, who became separated from his family in the Comanche Peak wilderness area in Colorado last year and has never been found.

I am a cosponsor of this bill, which would also remind us all of the need for vigilance for the safety of our children not only in the mountains but elsewhere as well.

The Resources Committee revised the bill to address some concerns raised by the Administration, and as it comes before the House today it enjoys the support of both sides of the aisle in our committee. I want to commend my Colorado colleague, Mr. TANCRED0, for working with the committee and with the Forest Service to resolve their concerns. I urge approval of the bill.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. 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 Colorado (Mr. TANCRED0) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3817, 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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read:

"A bill to dedicate the Big South Trail in the Comanche Peak Wilderness Area of Roosevelt National Forest in Colorado to the legacy of Jaryd Atadero."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM CENTER ACT

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2919) to promote preservation and public awareness of the history of the Underground Railroad by providing financial assistance, to the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2919

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 "National Underground Railroad Freedom Center Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (hereinafter "Freedom Center") was founded in 1995;

(2) the objectives of the Freedom Center are to interpret the history of the Underground Railroad through development of a national cultural institution in Cincinnati, Ohio, that will house an interpretive center, including museum, educational, and research facilities, all dedicated to communicating to the public the importance of the quest for human freedom which provided the foundation for the historic and inspiring story of the Underground Railroad;

(3) the city of Cincinnati has granted exclusive development rights for a prime riverfront location to the Freedom Center;

(4) the Freedom Center will be a national center linked through state-of-the-art technology to Underground Railroad sites and facilities throughout the United States and to a constituency that reaches across the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and beyond; and

(5) the Freedom Center has reached an agreement with the National Park Service to pursue a range of historical and educational cooperative activities related to the Underground Railroad, including but not limited to assisting the National Park Service in the implementation of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to promote preservation and public awareness of the history of the Underground Railroad;

(2) to assist the Freedom Center in the development of its programs and facilities in Cincinnati, Ohio; and

(3) to assist the National Park Service in the implementation of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act (16 U.S.C. 4691).

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) PROJECT BUDGET.—The term "project budget" means the total amount of funds expended by the Freedom Center on construction of its facility, development of its programs and exhibits, research, collection of informative and educational activities related to the history of the Underground Railroad, and any administrative activities necessary to the operation of the Freedom Center, prior to the opening of the Freedom Center facility in Cincinnati, Ohio.

(3) FEDERAL SHARE.—The term "Federal share" means an amount not to exceed 20 percent of the project budget and shall include all amounts received from the Federal Government under this legislation and any other Federal programs.

(4) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The term "non-Federal share" means all amounts obtained by the Freedom Center for the implementation of its facilities and programs from any source other than the Federal Government, and shall not be less than 80 percent of the project budget.

(5) THE FREEDOM CENTER FACILITY.—The term "the Freedom Center facility" means the facility, including the building and surrounding site, which will house the museum and research institute to be constructed and developed in Cincinnati, Ohio, on the site described in section 4(c).

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From sums appropriated pursuant to the authority of subsection (d) in any fiscal year, the Secretary is authorized and directed to provide financial assistance to the Freedom Center, in order to pay the Federal share of the cost of authorized activities described in section 5.

(b) EXPENDITURE ON NON-FEDERAL PROPERTY.—The Secretary is authorized to expend appropriated funds under subsection (a) of this section to assist in the construction of the Freedom Center facility and the development of programs and exhibits for that facility which will be funded primarily through private and non-Federal funds, on property owned by the city of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, and the State of Ohio.

(c) DESCRIPTION OF THE FREEDOM CENTER FACILITY SITE.—The facility referred to in subsections (a) and (b) will be located on a site described as follows: a 2-block area south of new South Second, west of Walnut Street, north of relocated Theodore M. Berry Way, and east of Vine Street in Cincinnati, Ohio.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$16,000,000 for the 4 fiscal year period beginning October 1, 1999. Funds not to exceed that total amount may be appropriated in 1 or more of such fiscal years. Funds shall not be disbursed until the Freedom Center has commitments for a minimum of 50 percent of the non-Federal share.

(e) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated to carry out the provisions of this Act shall remain available for obligation and expenditure until the end of the fiscal year succeeding the fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated.

(f) OTHER PROVISIONS.—Any grant made under this Act shall provide that—

(1) no change or alteration may be made in the Freedom Center facility except with the agreement of the property owner and the Secretary;

(2) the Secretary shall have the right of access at reasonable times to the public portions of the Freedom Center facility for interpretive and other purposes; and

(3) conversion, use, or disposal of the Freedom Center facility for purposes contrary to the purposes of this Act, as determined by the Secretary, shall result in a right of the United States to compensation equal to the greater of—

(A) all Federal funds made available to the grantee under this Act; or

(B) the proportion of the increased value of the Freedom Center facility attributable to such funds, as determined at the time of such conversion, use, or disposal.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Freedom Center may engage in any activity related to its objectives addressed in section 2(a), including, but not limited to, construction of the Freedom Center facility, development of programs and exhibits related to the history of the Underground Railroad, research, collection of information and artifacts and educational activities related to the history of the Underground Railroad, and any administrative activities necessary to the operation of the Freedom Center.

(b) PRIORITIES.—The Freedom Center shall give priority to—

(1) construction of the Freedom Center facility;

(2) development of programs and exhibits to be presented in or from the Freedom Center facility; and

(3) providing assistance to the National Park Service in the implementation of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act (16 U.S.C. 4691).

SEC. 6. APPLICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Freedom Center shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing or accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require. Each application shall—

(1) describe the activities for which assistance is sought;

(2) provide assurances that the non-Federal share of the cost of activities of the Freedom Center shall be paid from non-Federal sources, together with an accounting of costs expended by the Freedom Center to date, a budget of costs to be incurred prior to the opening of the Freedom Center facility, an accounting of funds raised to date, both Federal and non-Federal, and a projection of funds to be raised through the completion of the Freedom Center facility.

(b) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall approve the application submitted pursuant to subsection (a) unless such application fails to comply with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. REPORTS.

The Freedom Center shall submit an annual report to the appropriate committees of the Congress not later than January 31, 2000, and each succeeding year thereafter for any fiscal year in which Federal funds are expended pursuant to this Act. The report shall—

(1) include a financial statement addressing the Freedom Center's costs incurred to date and projected costs, and funds raised to date and projected fundraising goals;

(2) include a comprehensive and detailed description of the Freedom Center's activities for the preceding and succeeding fiscal years; and

(3) include a description of the activities taken to assure compliance with this Act.

SEC. 8. AMENDMENT TO THE NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM ACT OF 1998.

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 679; 16 U.S.C. 4691 and following) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 4. PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC SITES OR STRUCTURES.

"(a) AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.—The Secretary of the Interior may make grants in accordance with this section for the preservation and restoration of historic buildings or structures associated with the Underground Railroad, and for related research and documentation to sites, programs, or facilities that have been included in the national network.

"(b) GRANT CONDITIONS.—Any grant made under this section shall provide that—

"(1) no change or alteration may be made in property for which the grant is used except with the agreement of the property owner and the Secretary;

"(2) the Secretary shall have the right of access at reasonable times to the public portions of such property for interpretive and other purposes; and

"(3) conversion, use, or disposal of such property for purposes contrary to the purposes of this Act, as determined by the Secretary, shall result in a right of the United States to compensation equal to all Federal funds made available to the grantee under this Act.

(e) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary may obligate funds made available for a grant under this section only if the grantee agrees to match, from funds derived from non-Federal sources, the amount of the grant with an amount that is equal to or greater than the grant. The Secretary may waive the requirement of the preceding sentence with respect to a grant if the Secretary determines that an extreme emer-

gency exists or that such a waiver is in the public interest to assure the preservation of historically significant resources.

(d) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for purposes of this section \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 2001 and each subsequent fiscal year. Amounts authorized but not appropriated in a fiscal year shall be available for appropriation in subsequent fiscal years."

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.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2919 sponsored by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) would bring financial assistance to the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio in order to promote preservation and public awareness of the history of the Underground Railroad. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) is to be commended for working very hard to bring all the parties together in order to move this measure forward.

The Freedom Center would interpret the history of the Underground Railroad and link the many Underground Railroad sites to a national center in keeping with the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act.

From the end of the 18th century to the end of the civil war, the Underground Railroad flourished, symbolizing the ideal of freedom. In 1995, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center was founded in Cincinnati to interpret the history of the Underground Railroad by bringing together exhibits that linked the scattered Underground Railroad sites through state-of-the-art technology.

The Freedom Center is the first public-private partnership with the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act to coordinate the sites and activities within the National Park Service. This bill helps to complete the network of the various network sites of the Underground Railroad.

I would like to commend again the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) for his efforts to ensure that the Underground Railroad's legacy is preserved and enhanced for all Americans to study and draw inspiration from.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2919, as amended.

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 by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN). This is follow-on legislation to the legislation that we passed

to establish a National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program and will provide for the construction of a facility known as the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), and I would just like to add that the gentleman worked extremely hard on this bill, and through his good works, we now have this legislation ready to be passed.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) for yielding this time to me to speak about H.R. 2919. I want to thank him personally for the effort he has put into this. Simply put, we would not have been on the floor today without his help in the subcommittee and the full committee, and over the last 2 years giving me guidance and support.

I also want to commend the gentleman from Cleveland, Ohio (Mrs. JONES), my colleague on the other side of the aisle, who is an original cosponsor of this bill and who has put in a lot of hard work and has a real personal commitment to commemorating the Underground Railroad history.

I also want to thank, of course, the chairman of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG); and the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER); as well as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO); and the subcommittee staff and committee staff who worked with us diligently over the last couple of years on this project.

What has become known, Mr. Speaker, as the Underground Railroad was a system of cooperation among African-American slaves, freed slaves, abolitionists, and other sympathetic whites to help slaves escape bondage and obtain freedom. Two years ago, this Congress overwhelmingly approved the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act, legislation that joined together for the first time the historic sites all around the country in a network administered by the National Park Service. That legislation was a start in promoting the preservation of historic sites and increased public awareness of this remarkable chapter in our Nation's history.

Now, before us today, Congress has the opportunity to build on that start and to do more, to take the next step toward preserving endangered Underground Railroad sites and toward educating future generations of Americans about this remarkable story of cooperation and reconciliation.

The legislation takes two important steps: first, it authorizes limited Federal matching funds for the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, the National Interpretive Museum, which is being developed on the river front in Cincinnati, Ohio. This is a very

exciting undertaking that takes the best thinking nationally, including working with the National Park Service and working with the Smithsonian, and also uses state-of-the-art technology and private sector creative resources to communicate real uplifting Underground Railroad stories to underscore the value of freedom and the importance of cooperation.

Second, this legislation authorizes the Department of the Interior to provide funds directly to endangered or threatened Underground Railroad sites nationwide, to ensure that these vital historic sites will be preserved for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that preserving these sites and telling the story of the Underground Railroad is a noble and very important mission. At a time when the news is all too often filled with stories of racial tension and misunderstanding, we need positive examples and hopeful role models that encourage understanding, cooperation, respect, and reconciliation. I urge my colleagues to reaffirm their support today and to commemorate this important part of our Nation's heritage by passing the bill before us.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2919, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center Act. And I'd like to commend my colleague from Ohio and the original cosponsor of this bill—STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES—for her hard work on this bill and her personal commitment to commemorating the history of the Underground Railroad movement. I'd also like to thank House Resources Chairman DON YOUNG and Ranking Member GEORGE MILLER—along with Parks Subcommittee Chairman JIM HANSEN and Ranking Member CARLOS ROMERO-BARCELO, and the subcommittee and committee staff—for their support.

Mr. Speaker, the Underground Railroad was a system of cooperation among African-American slaves, free African-Americans, abolitionists and other sympathetic whites to help slaves escape their bonds and obtain freedom. Two years ago, Congress overwhelmingly approved the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act, legislation that joined together, for the first time, the historic sites of the Underground Railroad in a network administered by the National Park Service. That legislation was a start in promoting the preservation of historic sites and increased public awareness of this remarkable chapter in our nation's history.

Now, Congress has the opportunity to build on the Network to Freedom Act—to take the next step toward preserving endangered Underground Railroad sites and educating future generations of Americans about this remarkable story of cooperation and reconciliation.

This legislation takes two important steps. First, it authorizes limited matching Federal funding for the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center—the national museum being developed on the riverfront in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Second, it authorizes the Interior Department to provide funds directly to endangered or threatened Underground Railroad sites nationwide to ensure that these vital historic sites will be preserved for future generations. Let me talk briefly about each of those components of the bill.

FREEDOM CENTER FUNDING

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center will be a national education and distributive museum center located on the Ohio River, scheduled to open in 2003. The mission of the Freedom Center will be to dramatize the Underground Railroad's stories of cooperation and courage to better educate and inspire us in our lives today.

It is an exciting undertaking that is taking the best thinking nationally and using state of the art technology and private sector creative resources to communicate real, uplifting Underground Railroad stories to underscore the value of freedom and the importance of cooperation. Importantly, the Freedom Center is working closely with the National Park Service as well as the Smithsonian in developing the project.

As a distributive educational museum, the Freedom Center will also establish regional centers, or "freedom stations," in other areas of the country, especially those that are significant to the Underground Railroad, both in the North and the South. Many of these regional centers will partner with local Underground Railroad sites, linking them with other sites across the country and disseminating information.

Last year, under the able leadership of subcommittee chairman RALPH REGULA of Ohio, Congress appropriated \$1 million in initial construction funding for the Freedom Center. The legislation we are considering today authorizes \$16 million over 4 years for construction of the Freedom Center. I want to make it clear that this federal role is a relatively small part of the overall funding, and all of it is subject to non-Federal funds being raised. In fact, because the Freedom Center has created an innovative public/private partnership, the funding for this initiative involves the lowest percentage of federal matching funds of any of the national museums.

Most other national museums have raised only one-third to one-half of construction and/or operating from non-Federal sources. However, the non-Federal role in the Freedom Center would exceed 80 percent. But I want to make the point that, though limited, these federal funds are extremely important because they are used to leverage additional funds from the private sector.

The Freedom Center has already raised \$36 million toward its goal of \$90 million. And, an aggressive private sector funding campaign will provide a significant portion of the remaining \$54 million. Incidentally, in addition to funding for construction, technology, and exhibit design and installation, the goal of \$90 million includes an operating endowment of \$10 million.

PRESERVING THREATENED URR SITES

The second key component of this legislation is an authorization for the Secretary of the Interior, through the Park Service, to provide \$2.5 million annually for the preservation of historic Underground Railroad sites nationwide—particularly endangered or threatened sites that might otherwise be lost.

These grants would be available to any historical site that meets the criteria for inclusion on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom that Congress established two years ago.

Unfortunately, as community groups around the country will tell you, many Underground Railroad sites have already been lost. And,

many other sites do not qualify for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places because the structures have been altered or may have deteriorated over time.

We can't afford to lose any more of these historic sites. And this grant money is key to proper recognition and preservation of the Underground Railroad.

I believe preserving these sites and telling the story of the Underground Railroad is a noble and important mission. At a time when the news is too often filled with stories of racial tension and misunderstanding, we need positive examples and hopeful role models that encourage understanding, cooperation, respect and reconciliation. I urge my colleagues to reaffirm their support for commemorating this important part of our nation's heritage by passing H.R. 2919 today.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2919, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center Act.

This bipartisan legislation, offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES), will accomplish two important goals in the preservation and commemoration of the Underground Railroad.

I would also like to thank the chairman of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG); and the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER); for working together to forge a compromise and bring this bill to the floor, a bill that meets the needs of protecting and enshrining the history of the Underground Railroad. I was happy to play a minor role in moving this bill through committee.

This legislation will allow the creation of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Ohio. The center will be dedicated to communicating to the public the importance of the quest for human freedom that provided the foundation for the historic and inspiring story of the Underground Railroad.

Additionally, this legislation will create a \$2.5 million annual program to preserve and restore historic properties associated with the Underground Railroad throughout our Nation. The Underground Railroad, which consisted of a number of routes leading from deep Southern States, like Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, to free States in the North, like Ohio, Pennsylvania, and my home State of New York, was made up of safe houses where slaves who escaped could rest, get fed, and hid from those people who were seeking to return them to a life of slavery.

The creation of the Freedom Center, as well as the new Federal investment in other sites involved in the history of the Underground Railroad, will play a key role in educating our diverse society about slavery, the origins of the abolitionist movement, and the story of African Americans in the early years of our Republic.

Again, I am pleased that the committee has been able to work out a compromise that will benefit our Nation's history and allow for the protection and preservation of many more Underground Railroad sites. I ask all Members to support this legislation.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2919. This opportunity is of particular significance because today one of the finest gentlemen of the House, a true statesman, my predecessor, the gentleman from Ohio, the Honorable Louis Stokes, is on the floor. And it is significant that I have the opportunity to continue his legacy by having an opportunity to speak on legislation that was part of his original work here in the House of Representatives, the underground railroad.

I want to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) for their hard work and dedication. The Freedom Center Act will help establish the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. The goal of the center is to preserve and promote the legacy of the underground railroad. The core feature will be its preservation of stories of the underground railroad in an interactive state of the art technology link to existing underground railroad sites.

The freedom center's mission is to educate the public about the historic struggle to abolish human slavery and secure freedom for all people. The museum will be the first of its kind in the Nation and Cincinnati is an ideal location because of its prominence in the underground railroad movement.

To preserve the legacy of the underground railroad, it is important that we think back, that some estimates say 40,000 slaves escaped via the railroad system in 22 States. According to the Ohio Humanities Council, Ohio has more underground railroad lines than any other State, numbering almost 150 sites.

H.R. 2919 supports this collaborative by, among other things, making grants for the preservation and restoration of historic buildings or structures associated with the underground railroad across this Nation.

I rise today to build upon the work of the Honorable Louis Stokes and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and I thank my colleagues for this opportunity to be heard.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2919, the National

Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. As we all know and as has been discussed previously, this is a way to preserve and link the underground railroad sites nationwide for the first time within the National Park Service.

I am a member of the Subcommittee on Interior of the Committee on Appropriations, and this is something that we do have concern about.

This bill is designed to protect and preserve the stories and the tales and the reality of the endangered sites of the underground railroad for future generations, and we believe that it is a story that should be told for future generations.

Last week, I joined Mr. DAVIS and Mr. LEWIS and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) to make an announcement about a resolution that we have urging the Speaker of the House to name a study committee to make recommendations on how this House can commemorate the fact that the United States Capitol was partially built with slave labor, 400 slaves to be exact.

As we in this country get together to reconcile racial differences, I believe an important component is to talk about our mutual history. It does seem like we have carefully, for many years, many decades, side stepped the issue of slavery in the construction of this great country. In Georgia, for example, where I am from, Savannah, Georgia, 1733, when it was founded, slavery was against the law, but as time progressed, economic pressure brought in slavery. Yet, as I look back to the history of my great State and the other States, certainly along the East Coast and then many as we expanded West, slaves were there helping build our country, all the way.

So I do not think we should be afraid to discuss this. I do not think it should be side stepped. I think we owe it to Americans, African Americans, Native Americans, Asian, Hispanic, white and black together to discuss this. I think it is something that we owe to our society.

So I am a supporter of this legislation, because it is long since that we are saying let us go back and honor the social and humanitarian movement to resist slavery in the United States prior to the Civil War and this, of course, was not something that just happened for a short period of time but went on for many years from about the 1830's to 1865.

It spanned more than 22 States and crossed all the way into the Mexican and Canadian borders.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that if we have a National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, it will help educate the public about the human struggle to abolish slavery and secure the freedom of all people. So I am a supporter of it and I urge Members of the House to vote for it.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for this bill sponsored by my friend, the gentleman from Ohio. I believe the

bill he has worked so diligently on is fundamental to re-discovering, preserving, and trumpeting the important contribution of the Underground Railroad in chipping away at the institution of slavery.

I am a cosponsor of this bill, which will provide funding to establish the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. It is important to keep in mind that only 20 percent of total funding for the Freedom Center will come from the Federal Government—the lion's share of funding will be from private and local sources.

This important Center—the first of its kind in the nation—will be a clearinghouse for the education, collection, and dissemination of information on the Underground Railroad.

The Underground Railroad spanned 29 states, and is known for its role in the mid-1800s movement of enslaved African Americans seeking freedom from bondage in the South. For the slaves who had the courage and determination to free themselves, the Underground Railroad network provided shelter, food, supplies, transport, and discretion, which was invaluable during the dangerous journey to freedom.

The history of the Underground Railroad tells a story of strong determination of those who were dedicated to the freedom of a people.

It also tells a story of very special collaborations between people of diverse racial, cultural, and religious backgrounds. Without modern methods of communication—telephones, faxes, or the Internet—many people—Africans, Caucasians, Native Americans, and Quakers—banded together for a greater good: to provide freedom to some, and to end the abomination of slavery for all.

These people risked their lives on a daily basis to seek freedom or assist in helping others find it. It is estimated that in the 20 years prior to the Civil War, upwards of 40,000 slaves escaped bondage via the Underground Railroad.

Because of the nearly silent legacy of the people who passed through the Underground Railroad and provided assistance to freedom-seeking slaves, this Center is vital to reconstructing and communicating the significance of the Underground Railroad.

As a "distributive educational museum," an additional mission of the Freedom Center will be to establish regional centers, or "freedom stations."

In my district in northeast Indiana, we have been working to identify and protect numerous sites in Steuben, Allen and Noble Counties.

Carl Wilson has been working with a regional group in Ft. Wayne for two years. Carl and I have also worked with the Steuben County group as well. A key stop on the Underground Railroad may become a key point of a new bike trail in Angola, Indiana. We have been pleased to work with the Cincinnati museum in these efforts.

I believe one of the greatest challenges will be to distinguish between alleged and genuine Underground Railroad sites. Many of these alleged sites have been identified through the decades by local folklore—oral histories, notes found in family Bibles, and other unofficial documentation.

To complicate the identification process, many of these sites are in significant decay or are no longer known as part of Underground Railroad network.

These sites will need to be systematically reviewed and scientifically established.

Then, these sites should be linked together to provide Americans with a "holistic" approach to visiting and studying Underground Railroad locations. It is my understanding that the Freedom Center will assist in identifying nearly 60 Freedom Stations across America by 2003.

The history of the Underground Railroad is not only fundamental to understand the history of African Americans in this nation, the anti-slavery movement, and the Civil War, it is also fundamental to truly understand the significance of the cornerstone tenant of this nation: freedom.

This Center will educate and remind all of us about the long and winding path we have taken in America to achieve the goal of freedom for all.

I urge my colleagues to support this very important bill to provide funding for the Freedom Center in Cincinnati. Thank you.

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 bill, H.R. 2919, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

OREGON LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2000

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1629) to provide for the exchange of certain land in the State of Oregon.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1629

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 "Oregon Land Exchange Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) certain parcels of private land located in northeast Oregon are intermingled with land owned by the United States and administered—

(A) by the Secretary of the Interior as part of the Central Oregon Resource Area in the Prineville Bureau of Land Management District and the Baker Resource Area in the Vale Bureau of Land Management District; and

(B) by the Secretary of Agriculture as part of the Malheur National Forest, the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, and the Umatilla National Forest;

(2) the surface estate of the private land described in paragraph (1) is intermingled with parcels of land that are owned by the United States or contain valuable fisheries and wildlife habitat desired by the United States;

(3) the consolidation of land ownerships will facilitate sound and efficient management for both public and private lands;

(4) the improvement of management efficiency through the land tenure adjustment program of the Department of the Interior, which disposes of small isolated tracts having low public resource values within larger blocks of contiguous parcels of land, would serve important public objectives, including—

(A) the enhancement of public access, aesthetics, and recreation opportunities within or adjacent to designated wild and scenic river corridors;

(B) the protection and enhancement of habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species within unified landscapes under Federal management; and

(C) the consolidation of holdings of the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service—

(i) to facilitate more efficient administration, including a reduction in administrative costs to the United States; and

(ii) to reduce right-of-way, special use, and other permit processing and issuance for roads and other facilities on Federal land;

(5) time is of the essence in completing a land exchange because further delays may force the identified landowners to construct roads in, log, develop, or sell the private land and thereby diminish the public values for which the private land is to be acquired; and

(6) it is in the public interest to complete the land exchanges at the earliest practicable date so that the land acquired by the United States can be preserved for—

(A) protection of threatened and endangered species habitat; and

(B) permanent public use and enjoyment.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act—

(1) the term "Clearwater" means Clearwater Land Exchange—Oregon, an Oregon partnership that signed the document entitled "Assembled Land Exchange Agreement between the Bureau of Land Management and Clearwater Land Exchange—Oregon for the Northeast Oregon Assembled Lands Exchange, OR 51858," dated October 30, 1996, and the document entitled "Agreement to initiate" with the Forest Service, dated June 30, 1995, or its successors or assigns;

(2) the term "identified landowners" means private landowners identified by Clearwater and willing to exchange private land for Federal land in accordance with this Act;

(3) the term "map" means the map entitled "Northeast Oregon Assembled Land Exchange/Triangle Land Exchange", dated November 5, 1999; and

(4) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate.

SEC. 4. BLM—NORTHEAST OREGON ASSEMBLED LAND EXCHANGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of Clearwater, on behalf of the appropriate identified landowners, the Secretary of the Interior shall exchange the Federal lands described in subsection (b) for the private lands described in subsection (c), as provided in section 6.

(b) BLM LANDS TO BE CONVEYED.—The parcels of Federal lands to be conveyed by the Secretary to the appropriate identified landowners are as follows:

(1) the parcel comprising approximately 45,824 acres located in Grant County, Oregon, within the Central Oregon Resource Area in the Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management, as generally depicted on the map;

(2) the parcel comprising approximately 2,755 acres located in Wheeler County, Oregon, within the Central Oregon Resource Area in the Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management, as generally depicted on the map;

(3) the parcel comprising approximately 726 acres located in Morrow County, Oregon, within the Baker Resource Area of the Vale District of Land Management, as generally depicted on the map; and

(4) the parcel comprising approximately 1,015 acres located in Umatilla County, Oregon, within the Baker Resource Area in the Vale District of the Bureau of Land Management, as generally depicted on the map.

(c) PRIVATE LANDS TO BE ACQUIRED.—The parcel of private lands to be conveyed by the appropriate identified landowners to the Secretary are as follows:

(1) the parcel comprising approximately 31,646 acres located in Grant County, Oregon, within the Central Oregon Resource Area in the Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management, as generally depicted on the map;

(2) the parcel comprising approximately 1,960 acres located in Morrow County, Oregon, within the Baker Resource Area in the Vale District of the Bureau of Land Management, as generally depicted on the map; and

(3) the parcel comprising approximately 10,544 acres located in Umatilla County, Oregon, within the Baker Resource Area in the Vale District of the Bureau of Land Management, as generally depicted on the map.

SEC. 5. FOREST SERVICE—TRIANGLE LAND EXCHANGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of Clearwater, on behalf of the appropriate identified landowners, the Secretary of Agriculture shall exchange the Federal lands described in subsection (b) for the private lands described in subsection (c), as provided in section 6.

(b) FOREST SERVICE LANDS TO BE CONVEYED.—The National Forest System lands to be conveyed by the Secretary to the appropriate identified landowners comprise approximately 3,901 acres located in Grant and Harney Counties, Oregon, within the Malheur National Forest, as generally depicted on the map.

(c) PRIVATE LANDS TO BE ACQUIRED.—The parcels of private lands to be conveyed by the appropriate identified landowners to the Secretary are as follows:

(1) the parcel comprising approximately 3,752 acres located in Grant and Harney Counties, Oregon, within the Malheur National Forest, as generally depicted on the map;

(2) the parcel comprising approximately 1,702 acres located in Baker and Grant Counties, Oregon, within the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, as generally depicted on the map; and

(3) the parcel comprising approximately 246 acres located in Grant and Wallowa Counties, Oregon, within or adjacent to the Umatilla National Forest, as generally depicted on the map.

SEC. 6. LAND EXCHANGE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the land exchanges implemented by this Act shall be conducted in accordance with section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1716) and other applicable laws.

(b) MULTIPLE TRANSACTIONS.—The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may carry out a single or multiple transactions to complete the land exchanges authorized in this Act.

(c) COMPLETION OF EXCHANGES.—Any land exchange under this Act shall be completed not later than 90 days after the Secretary and Clearwater reach an agreement on the final appraised values of the lands to be exchanged.

(d) APPRAISALS.—(1) The values of the lands to be exchanged under this Act shall be