

NAYS—65

Abercrombie	Gonzalez	Norwood
Ackerman	Hansen	Oberstar
Andrews	Hill (IN)	Ortiz
Baldacci	Hilliard	Peterson (MN)
Barcia	Holt	Phelps
Blagojevich	Isakson	Rivers
Bono	Jefferson	Roemer
Brown (OH)	John	Sanchez
Callahan	Jones (NC)	Sanders
Cardin	Kildee	Sandlin
Carson	Kind (WI)	Saxton
Chambliss	Lee	Shuster
Clay	Levin	Souder
Conyers	Lewis (GA)	Stark
Crane	Luther	Stupak
Danner	McCarthy (MO)	Tauscher
DeFazio	McDermott	Thompson (CA)
DeGette	McKinney	Watt (NC)
Delahunt	Meeks (NY)	Waxman
Deutsch	Miller, George	Woolsey
Dingell	Mink	Young (AK)
Gilchrest	Moore	

NOT VOTING—15

Dunn	King (NY)	Napolitano
Eshoo	Klink	Paul
Franks (NJ)	Lazio	Riley
Hastings (FL)	McCollum	Vento
Hefley	McIntosh	Wexler

□ 1310

Mr. VITTER and Mr. HINOJOSA changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 506, the Rule for Interior Appropriations Conference Report, I was unavoidably detained in a business meeting. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and that I may include tabular and extraneous material on the conference report to accompany H.R. 4578.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4578, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 603, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 4578) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes. The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 603, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of September 29, 2000, at page H8472.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

□ 1315

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

(Mr. REGULA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to thank those that supported the rule; and to all Members, I believe that this bill today is something we can point to with pride in supporting it.

I know there are differences on how we approached it, but this bill provides for the future of this Nation in terms of our assets, our land and our unique ecology; and I hope that all of my colleagues will look carefully at all the things that are in this bill, to realize what it means, not only to your district, but to the Nation.

As my term as chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations nears an end with this conference agreement, I would especially like to take the opportunity to thank the Members of the subcommittee. I might say that this conference was unique. For the first time in my 6 years on this subcommittee, the conference report was signed by every member of the conference committee from both parties in both Houses, and it will be supported by the administration.

I thank the Members for their support as we did work together to produce this agreement. Especially I extend my appreciation to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) for their hard work during our conference and throughout the year.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to the excellent staff on the subcommittee who have dedicated hours, numerous hours on this bill. And I wanted to also make a comment here, and that is that this bill is in the true tradition of Sid Yates, who was the previous chairman of this subcommittee. I think Sid would be very proud of what is in this bill. In his many years as chairing the subcommittee, much of what we have done are things that he cherished and worked for. And I say to you, Sid, if you are watching, that we thank you for all of your good service. This bill today perhaps is an accumulation of some of the things that you were pushing for for years and years as you chaired the committee.

This is a good bill, I say to my colleagues, one that all of us should support. It provides \$18.8 billion in the funding for the Department of the Interior and related agencies. It includes wildfire funding, a recognition that the fires are a problem on our 200 million acres of forest land. It has \$2.9 billion and of that amount, \$1.6 billion is emergency funding. And for those of my colleagues who noticed the size of this bill, keep in mind that we had to address not only fire emergencies, but

we also had to address other emergencies that were overlooked in the supplemental appropriations bill.

While it is a large number, it does represent a number of dollars that were meant to address the interests of many Members in the House. The conference report includes a new land conservation, preservation and infrastructure improvement title which makes available \$12 billion over the next 6 years for programs such as Federal and State land acquisition, urban parks, State and wildlife conservation, PILT and backlog maintenance. State and other conservation programs receive \$300 million, \$300 million to the States, including a new \$50 million State wildlife grant program.

We do ask for accountability, and I think that is our responsibility to the taxpayers to say to the States we want you to be accountable in the expenditures of these monies.

Also in this report, there is \$200 million for PILT, that is \$65 million more than what was in the bill that passed the House. And again I think it is a recognition that we have to support these local governments, the schools and local government agencies with some type of substitute for the losses that they have because of the Federal lands, and so I am pleased that we have a very substantial amount in PILT.

We have initiated several new funding provisions to prepare for wildfires, wildfires that have swept across the West. There is \$128 billion for State and rural fire and economic assistance. We recognize, and I know many of my colleagues watched the shows that the people were coming even from offshore to help fight the wildfires, and, of course, the States and local communities were very instrumental in this effort.

We have \$377 million to increase wildfire readiness, \$422 million for additional wildfire suppression and \$277 million for hazardous fuel reduction work. To address the impact of the current fire season, we have also provided \$227 million to rehabilitate areas damaged by fires and \$351 million to reimburse firefighting costs already incurred.

And I say one of the good features is that we try to clean up forests through the readiness programs and through the suppression programs, so that when we get lightning strikes, they do not burn with such intensity, because as you have fuel buildup by failure to thin and so on, you obviously add to the intensity of any blazes.

I am especially pleased that we have addressed the numerous operational and maintenance shortfalls. We have \$1.4 billion for the operation of the national parks, \$25 million more than last year. We have \$1.6 billion for the BLM which includes a \$66 million increase overall, and \$18 million for revision of the Bureau's land management plans, and \$356 million for national wildlife refuges.

Funding has been included within these operational accounts to address

maintenance priorities. This is something I have always been interested in, probably harped on it a little bit, that we must take care of what we have; We recognize this need with an additional amount of funding. We put in \$12 billion, a portion of that has to be used for maintenance, because we recognize that while it is nice to build new buildings and buy more land, it is also just as important to take care of what you have.

Funding for urban parks has increased to \$30 million and funding for State and private forestry is increased by \$48 million to \$251 million. I think particularly in the case of the urban parks, there is a recognition that as our populations become more urbanized, it is important for the quality of life in urban areas to have parks, install pocket parks, to have trees planted, to enhance the overall quality of the programs and the communities in which our urban population lives.

The conference agreement contains funding for a number of important environmental efforts, including South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Initiative, the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund, a public-private program which is funded at \$40 million for wildlife, habitat projects, and \$187 million for environmental restoration through the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, which provides funding for cleanup of abandoned mine lands.

I wish that number could be more, because I think it really is kind of a sad commentary on what we have done to some of our lands by virtue of mining without any form of reclamation, but we have to do what we can to restore these areas.

Up to \$10 million of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund may be used for the Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative, because obviously abandoned mines have an impact on streams through acid mine drainage and other types of pollutants that get into the streams.

Further, through funding for the U.S. Geological Survey, scientists can assist our land management agencies in making informed, environmentally sound decisions in natural resources that may not sound like a lot. But that is very important, because it means that these agencies work together.

Sometimes I am struck by the fact that agencies almost sound like they serve two different countries, and I am delighted that the USGS will be working with parks and forests and other agencies to use their scientific knowledge which is for the betterment of America.

We are pleased to report increases for funding American Indian health care services and education. Funding for the Indian Health Service is \$214 million more than fiscal year 2000, for a total of \$2.6 billion. I know we are all troubled by what happens in Indian health, and we are recognizing that by substantially increasing this program.

Likewise in education, we provided funding for the construction of six new

Indian schools from the Bureau of Indian Affairs priority list.

We have increased funding for important energy research and conservation programs to address the needs of consumers as we approach what is anticipated to be a difficult winter heating season. Funding for energy conservation is \$815 million; and of that, \$153 million is provided for weatherization grants that are distributed through local communities.

I might say fuel cells show a lot of promise. We are making progress in automobiles and making them more energy efficient. All of those things will help us deal with the crisis, which I think is probably here to stay, over the long period of time; we, therefore, need to be prepared for that.

The managers included increases for the several cultural agencies in the bill, including the National Gallery of Art, the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Museum, the Kennedy Center, and the Smithsonian. Further we have provided \$98 million to the National Endowment for the Arts and \$7 million for the Challenge America Arts Fund to provide art education funding to rural America and other underserved areas.

Let me emphasize that the additional money in the arts is \$7 million; it is in a separate account. It will be administered by the NEA, but it is directed to rural America and to underserved areas. We want this to be widespread, small grants.

There are a couple of stories in my local paper this week about a small grant of something like \$20,000 and what a difference it made in a school program.

Funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities is increased to \$120.3 million.

Mr. Speaker, through this bill, we will be able to accomplish a number of high priority projects for many people across this great Nation, especially in the area of land conservation and habitat restoration. The conference agreement strikes a delicate balance between those in this House who would urge us to go further and provide larger sums and those who believe that in the area of Federal land acquisition, the Federal Government already owns enough.

We have a dichotomy among our Members on this subject, but let me say I think we have tried to strike a balance in the way we have handled the funding, and we have made it subject to appropriations. I wanted to say, on the basis of my experience of 28 years in the House, that I have a lot of confidence in the Congress. I mean we have our differences and sometimes we may come to a problem in a different way, but on balance, I have been impressed by the dedication of Members over these years.

And I am pleased, frankly, that in the disbursement of the \$12 billion for State and Federal land acquisition, the responsibility for appropriating this money rests with the Members of this

House. We are elected by the people to make policy decisions, and I believe that in this bill we recognize the importance of that role.

I have great confidence that in the years ahead those who have that responsibility will exercise it wisely.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I have two technical changes to the conference report that I ask unanimous consent be printed in the RECORD at this time.

First on page 177, the increase of \$4 million for heavy vehicle propulsion is an error. The \$4 million increase is for advanced power electronics.

Secondly, page 135, the Lincoln Pond/Colonial Theater should be Lincoln Road Colony Theater.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Let the Chair just clarify for the gentleman from Ohio. Those corrections, the gentleman needs to make those in the RECORD. The gentleman cannot correct the conference report or joint statement by asking unanimous consent.

So the gentleman knows, they will show up in the RECORD; the RECORD will reflect congressional intent. But the Chair does not want the gentleman to be left with the impression that it was done by asking unanimous consent, to correct the joint statement that cannot be done.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, one last comment, I urge all the Members to look at the press release, and my colleagues will see what all is in this bill. I think we will be proud to say I voted for it.

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

□ 1330

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 8 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the fiscal year 2001 appropriations conference report. I wish to commend my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), who I think brings us today a historic bill to the floor of the House of Representatives.

I want to compliment him and his staff, led by the very able Debbie Weatherly. I also want to thank my staff, Mike Stephens and Lesley Turner, for the outstanding work and the work of all the staff members on the Committee on the Interior.

I have been impressed over the 24 years that I have served on this committee, and the last 2 years as the ranking Democratic member, about the bipartisan nature of our effort. I am particularly pleased about this bill. This is an historic measure.

I know there was some debate on the rule, but I want to thank all of the Members who voted for the rule from both parties. I think this is a good rule and it gives us a chance to consider this legislation today.

I think the reason this is historic is because we will, with the enactment of this legislation, in the first year double the amount of conservation spending that we have done in this country from

\$782 million up to \$1.6 billion, and \$400 million of that goes to coastal programs under State, Justice, and Commerce; \$1.2 billion goes to the Interior appropriations bill.

I appreciate the fact that the conference was willing to accept the amendment that I offered, with the able help of the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), who had many good suggestions, and helped advocate for this in the conference. He was a prime sponsor of this amendment with me.

I just hope we can bring the House together now, because this is such a good bill. This should be a day of celebration. This should be a day of celebration, because the President is going to sign this bill. The administration, George Frampton, said many very positive things about this legislation.

Also, the outside environmental groups, and I want to particularly thank my friend, Roger Schlickeisen of Defenders of Wildlife, and the 12 environmental groups who endorsed this legislation, and recommended that the House vote for the rule and vote for the bill, and who recognize the historic nature of this bill.

I think we can do many, many positive things from this legislation for land acquisition, both for the Federal and State. We can do work on endangered species. I see that the gentleman from California is here, who has been one of the great advocates for urban parks, which is included.

I just want to say to the gentleman from California, I know that for 4 years he and his group worked for CARA. What we tried to do is do the best we can on the Committee on Appropriations, following as much of it as we could. I hope we can work together in the future to expand upon this legislation and to make it even better.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DICKS. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his remarks on behalf of CARA, which I am very proud of. I think we did put together an incredible coalition.

I also thank him for mentioning the UPARR program on urban parks and recreation. As the gentleman has said, for the last 4 years I have tried to resurrect the funding for the urban parks initiative, and in this legislation, clearly the committee has done that. The appropriation of \$30 million will allow us to rehabilitate some of those recreational spaces, including sports facilities at public schools or regional centers available for all young people in this country that have fallen into disrepair for a whole host of reasons. We ought not to abandon them. We ought to reclaim them. We ought to give those children the recreational opportunities so many of us have had.

I want to thank the committee for that effort to put that money into the urban parks legislation.

I want to say this, that yes, we have had our differences over CARA. We have had our differences from time to time over this bill. But this committee did a remarkable job with this bill this year. What they have done in the various environmental accounts will give us an opportunity in a whole range of areas in this country, whether they are urban, suburban, or rural areas, to deal with some of the problems we are confronting in trying to hold onto agricultural land, to try to solve endangered species areas, to save the wetlands, to create the urban park space and recreational opportunities for our children, and for something that I know the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) has been a very outspoken person on, and that is maintenance of the Federal effort in our national parks. We can wear these parks out if we do not take care of them with the visitors that we have gotten. I appreciate the committee addressing this.

I have had my tussles with this committee, but I have always tried to say every year that this committee has had far more demands on it than resources; that they have been able to meet the demands of the Members. I think what has been done here with \$12 billion over the next 6 years, the manner in which it has been capped and fenced and reserved for resource programs is a magnificent start on that effort.

We know the backlog. We know the troubles our communities face. But I think we would be remiss if we did not understand that this may be the single greatest increase for the protection of the environment in this country, certainly of the natural resources in this country, in the last 25 years. Members of Congress ought to be very proud of that.

Does that mean that others and myself will not continue to fight for CARA? Of course we will. We will continue that effort, but we should not lose sight of what is happening here today with the passage of this legislation and what it means.

Finally, I just want to say to a great guy, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), as much as we have battled, I must say, I have never had more respect for an individual, because day in and day out he has tried to do the right thing with the limited resources that he has had available to him.

He has been a tough guy. He has been kind of a tough guy on the street. He understands, I think, the Federal role. We have argued about that from time to time.

I just want to say, Mr. Chairman, it has been a pleasure working with you. I am sorry that the gentleman's side chose term limits, because I think the gentleman's continued role on this committee would have been good for the country.

I want to thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) for all their effort on behalf of this particular bill, and the final result

brought about on behalf of the environment in this country.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

I want to also commend the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) for his leadership on this committee.

I have served with two great chairman, Sid Yates and the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA), and the gentleman from Ohio has done a fantastic job, and been fair to everybody. He has worked hard to do a better job on maintenance on our national parks. He pushed through the historic fee demonstration program, which will allow parks to raise money all over the country to make the parks better.

I just want to commend him for his 6 years as chairman of this committee. I have really enjoyed personally working with the gentleman. We all will see what happens next year, but I hope that the gentleman from Ohio and I can still work together on these important issues.

I want to say how much I appreciate his willingness to adopt the amendment that the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and I presented. I felt it was crucial to getting the bill enacted. I thought it moved in the direction of some of the ideas of CARA. I think it is, frankly, a better bill than CARA, in my own judgment.

But the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) was a gentleman and advocated for the House, and has been a great person to work with. I just want to say to him, I thank him for a job well done. The American people will never fully appreciate what the gentleman has done to improve our parks, our recreation areas, and to make this a better country, but we in the House understand that. We want to compliment the gentleman for his great leadership.

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

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and a gentleman who has given this committee great leadership this year.

The House has moved its bills expeditiously, and a lot of this is thanks to the chairman of the Committee and the way in which he has handled the responsibilities of leadership.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

I take the time to support the bill and to urge a very strong vote for the bill. But I wanted primarily to applaud the chairman, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), for having led this subcommittee through some very difficult times, and also the ranking member, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), and my counterpart on the minority side, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

When we listen to the debate and understand that this is a very good bipartisan bill, it just proves what can be

accomplished when we work together and try to resolve the differences.

I would say that when we listen to the debate, some might think this bill breezed through the conference committee with no trouble at all. But Mr. Speaker, this bill had all kinds of problems in conference. The debates were vigorous, the arguments were pretty powerful at times, but cooler heads prevailed. The issues were resolved in a most positive way.

So I really want to applaud especially the chairman, who led this effort. I certainly would be one who would be regretting strongly if in fact he had to step down as chairman because of the term limits requirements, but that will be whatever it will be.

The managers have done a really good job. They have brought to us today a bill that we can all support and that we can all go home and brag about, if Members feel like bragging, because this is a good bill. It does a good job for the people, and it is one the Congress can be very proud of.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, as the Members of this House know, it is my view that many of the appropriation bills which passed this House were pretty pitiful. This is not one of them. This is one of those times when the House has been able to come together and to produce a bill which will really mark a significant turning point in Congress' dealing with our trust over public lands and our wildlife resources.

It could not have happened if we had not had some very tough fights. We are supposed to come here and fight for what we believe in, and fight for what will enhance the country's future. Sometimes that means having some very tense moments. But out of that has come a product which has been unanimously supported by the committee.

That is what we are supposed to do, we are supposed to fight like the devil for what we believe in, and then resolve our differences in a constructive way, which moves the country forward. That is exactly what has happened on this bill.

As has been said, the chairman of the subcommittee is the best advertisement I know for the idiocy of term limits. He has done a fine job, and it makes no sense to have to say that, if his party stays in the majority, he would not return as chair. He has done a fine job.

Certainly the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) has performed yeoman's service in moving forward this entire question that we have wrestled with for 2 years about how to expand public support and congressional support for preserving our outdoor resources without creating a new entitlement that raises one group of people above everybody else. This will deliver

the goods without putting Congress in a procedural straightjacket.

One of the new things we do is to create a new State wildlife protection program. I know some of the State DNRs are unhappy that we did not just turn that into a simple revenue-sharing program. Frankly, I did not come here to be a tax collector for my DNR. I came here to try to protect the resources, and preserve our ability to oversee the protection of those resources at the same time.

In addition to what we do on the outdoor resource front, which is a magnificent achievement, we expand the weatherization program to deal with the needs of low-income people, now that we are having rising energy prices. We increase research into energy efficiency. We strengthen the clear water action plan. We have the first funding increase for the National Endowment for the Arts since 1996.

There are some things that I am concerned about. I would warn the Park Service that I do think that they need to recognize that there still needs to be a compromise with respect to the question of snowmobile use in our national parks. There needs to be a compromise on that. This committee did not have the jurisdiction to deal with that issue, but the Park Service needs to be flexible on that.

I also want to thank the White House, because they were terrific in seeing to it that the egregious anti-environmental riders attached to this bill were stripped out or worked into a fashion where we could grudgingly accept a couple of them. But they did wonderful work on behalf of the public that they represent. This is a great victory for them and for all of us who believe in the preservation of our outdoor resources.

I want say that this is one of those times when this institution has produced something which will move the country forward, and as I said earlier, it may not be seen as all the money that some people wanted, but any time that we can say that over a 6-year period we have tripled the amount of funding for a worthy national goal from \$4 billion to \$12 billion, we have done a good day's work.

□ 1345

We have a right to be proud of the work that we have done. I congratulate everyone, staff and Members, who had anything to do with it. I only wish that some of the other appropriation bills that are being produced could represent the same quality that this does. This is one of the truly finest chapters of this session of Congress.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW).

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, the Subcommittee on Interior has really done fine work in supporting two very important innova-

tions in my part of the country, south Florida. One is natural, and the other is man-made.

As the country knows, America's Everglades is an important part of our natural environmental heritage. People often speak about it in the same breath as the Grand Canyon, Old Faithful, Yosemite, or Redwood Forest.

I have introduced legislation which passed the other Chamber last week by a vote of 85 to 1, and that is to enact a comprehensive plan to restore the Everglades. But pending that authorization bill, the appropriations for Interior dedicates \$75.9 million towards ongoing Everglades restoration, including \$17 million for land acquisition, which is a vital step forward for the coming year.

I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) and the Subcommittee on Interior staffers, especially Debbie Weatherly, for making sure that the National Park Service has enough money, \$9.23 million, to continue the science research, construction, and land accession necessary for the environmental restoration of the Everglades National Park. I also want to thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), ranking member.

In the NPS construction account, the conference report allocates \$242 million, including \$9 million for water delivery modifications in south Florida for a total of \$75 million, a part of which is allocated to the Everglades restoration projects.

Turning now to one of the man-made cultural legacies in south Florida, the 465-seat art deco Colony Theater is a former movie house that anchors the western end of Lincoln Road Pedestrian Mall in Miami Beach and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Originally built in 1934, the theater's art deco architecture is a local landmark and has been a vital part of the economic and social fabric of Miami Beach since the years following the stock market crash of 1929, when the winter season tourist economy developed and the modestly sized art deco hotels and theaters were built. The theater has also served as a primary entertainment location for many of the 500,000 United States troops who trained in Miami Beach between 1942 and 1945.

I might also add that this was a favorite movie theater for my wife and I when we were dating when we were back in high school.

The Colony Theater Restoration Project, which has already raised \$1.8 million in State, local, and private funds, will certainly benefit from the Federal matching of \$837,000 contained in this conference report.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and the entire subcommittee and the full committee for working so hard on behalf of the people I represent in south Florida.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), in order to enter into a colloquy.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Washington for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to make note of the fact that the pending legislation once again carries a rider relating to the BLM's proposal to strengthen the regulations governing hardrock mining on lands under its jurisdiction. This is the fifth appropriations bill rider on this matter.

However, unlike some of the past riders, this one does not appear to hinder the ability of the BLM to finalize its proposed rule. In fact, I have before me letters from both the National Mining Association and the Mineral Policy Center, groups which are normally opposed to each other, both supporting the pending legislation. In this regard, I would ask the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), the distinguished ranking member of the Subcommittee on Interior, to engage in this colloquy.

It is my understanding that the hardrock mining provision of the conference report does not impede the BLM's ability to prevent undue degradation of public lands with a new and stronger rule so long as that rule is not inconsistent with the recommendations contained within a National Research Council's report on the adequacy of existing mining regulations. Is this understanding correct?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from West Virginia, that is correct.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, does not one of those recommendations direct the BLM to clarify the agency's authority to protect valuable resources not protected by other laws?

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, that is correct.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, so under the provision of the conference report, it would not be inconsistent with the Research Council report for the BLM to issue a rule that would allow the disapproval of a mine proposal if it would cause undue environmental degradation of public lands, even if the proposal complied with all other regulations.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is the same as the gentleman's, and I appreciate his bringing this to our attention.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), and I commend him for his work on the pending legislation, as well as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. HILL).

(Mr. HILL of Montana asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, and I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA), and I also want to thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), ranking member, for their sensitivity to issues that are very important to my State of Montana in this conference report.

As everybody I think in the Congress knows, in the month of August and early September, we had over a million acres in Montana destroyed by wildfire. This, as my colleagues know, Mr. Speaker, was a man-made disaster. The administration's neglect in preparation for this fire season and its neglect in managing the risk of wildfire on our public lands greatly increased the hazard these fires created.

In this bill, Congress finally addressed this issue, recognizing the growing threat of wildfire and providing very necessary funds for us to manage these risks in the future.

I particularly want to compliment the gentleman for the funds for the fire fighting effort that took place as well as additional funds to recover those areas that were badly impacted by these fires.

I also want to compliment the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) for funds to implement restoration forestry so that we can manage the 40 million to 80 million acres that the General Accounting Office has identified as at-risk forests in the West so that we can restore the health of these forests, we can reduce the wildfire risks, and we can eliminate the prospects of ecological and economic disasters.

I want to compliment them both for the increase in PILT funding. The Federal Government is a neighbor to us. It owns about a third of the State of Montana, and they provide for or help pay for local services through what we call PILT, payment in lieu of taxes. This bill has a 50 percent increase in PILT funding for rural Montana and rural communities.

I have seven reservations, and Indian health increases which we passed on this floor when we debated this bill is very important to the increasing population on those reservations.

I want to thank the gentleman for including the provision to fund the Travelers Rest acquisition, a national historic site where Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery camped twice, and where, for 10,000 years, Native Americans camped in western Montana.

The dollars for park maintenance. Montana shares with Wyoming and Idaho Yellow Stone Park, and it is home to Glacier Park. I have advocated for a long time to increase funding to deal with the backlogs of needs in our national parks, and these parks will benefit from those funds.

It is very important the funds for threatened and endangered species management at the State level. In my State, we are struggling with the impacts, budgetary and economic, of grizzly bear recovery and gray wolf recovery, and more recently east slope cut-throat trout recovery. These dollars to help these States manage these endangered and threatened species is very important.

I want to thank particularly the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) for coming to a compromise with us on the Interior Columbia Basin management plan issue, which my colleagues will recall was a very controversial issue on the floor when we debated this bill. It is a matter of great importance to those of us in the West. The fact that we are able to take measures that will ensure that any future decision on Interior Columbia Basin will work for the recovery of the forests and to benefit our economy, and that is very important.

There are many other important provisions. I just want to urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY), who is also a valued member of our subcommittee.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, this has been unquestionably a very contentious and hard fought process; but the results of it will be welcomed, I think, by every person in the country who cares about America's natural resources.

There are a lot of people that made major contributions, including the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), that built the foundation upon which this bill is constructed.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), the chairman of our full committee, we need to thank him, particularly, for his thoughtful and gentlemanly leadership. I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), who has been an outstanding chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior and has done an outstanding job in virtually every aspect of his responsibilities. I think of the Everglades and a whole host of other areas where he has made a very lasting and substantial contribution that will be a very important legacy for him and for all of Americans.

I want to also thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) on our side who made an outstanding contribution to the final provisions of this bill. I think both of these leaders on the Democratic side of the aisle made a major contribution to the preservation of America's natural resources here, and I express my appreciation to them.

The bill provides a historic level of funding to protect our parks and natural resources, \$3.9 billion more than

the current fiscal year. The National Park Service is funded at \$1.4 billion. That is \$25 million more than the current year. National wildlife refuges are increased by \$33 million over last year. Even the National Endowment for the Arts gets a small increase, \$7 million over the current fiscal year. Both the National Endowment for the Humanities and Office of Museums and Library Services will receive modest increases. Obviously we must do more in these areas, and we will in the future.

The bill also provides \$8 million for the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve, and people are going to be very grateful for that because the cost of heating homes, offices, and businesses this winter will be less expensive as a result of that provision in this bill, Mr. Speaker.

The administration and the House Senate negotiators eliminated the most egregious antienvironmental riders, and they scaled back those that remain in the bill.

The Land Conservation Preservation and Infrastructure Improvement Program provides a historic \$12 billion over 6 years for high-priority Federal and State conservation and preservation programs, a wonderful contribution.

This proposal actually improves on CARA by getting rid of the environmentally harmful provisions that would have encouraged new offshore drilling, would have allowed coastal funding to be used for environmentally damaging activities, and impose burdensome new restrictions on Federal land acquisitions. All that has been taken out in this terrific piece of legislation.

Twelve distinguished environmental conservation and historic preservation groups recognize the importance of this bill when they said as follows: "This important and historic conservation initiative represents a major contribution to the effort to protect what remains of our irreplaceable natural heritage before it is lost."

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my colleagues that, in the 6 years that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) has chaired this subcommittee, he has done an outstanding job. I can only thank him for that on behalf of my constituents and all the people of this country. I only regret that his party put in place these term limitations because the kind of leadership that he has provided has been absolutely outstanding, and he is going to be a great loss. I know he is going to continue to be on the committee, I certainly hope so; and we will have the benefit of his wisdom in that sense. I thank the gentleman from Ohio.

I thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), our ranking member on the subcommittee, for the outstanding work that he has done, for the hard-fought contentious battles that he was engaged in to make certain that this bill is the kind of bill that every Member of this House can be proud of

and every American citizen can be grateful for.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) has 9½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) has 11½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), a member of the Committee on Appropriations and a person who cares deeply about natural resource issues in our country.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) for yielding me this time. I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) for bringing this bill to the floor.

Many of us came to Washington, came to this House hoping that we could better use the national resources, the national treasure that we have to help preserve local initiatives in trying to build more livable communities.

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In thinking about it, I am sure my colleagues will agree that the most beautiful communities in the United States are usually the most economically successful. So economic development goes hand-in-hand with environmental protection or land stewardship, and this is the bill for the first time in history that allows this relationship to truly work.

I am here to applaud, to thank and praise my colleagues. For the first time since the inception of the Land and Water Conservation Fund in 1965, these funds are now earmarked for the purpose they were originally intended. That means they cannot be used for other purposes. Historically, in Congress, every time we had another problem, we would dip into that pot and use those funds. This committee changed that, and I thank them.

The people that will really thank this committee and this Congress is every county in the United States, every State in the United States, every community that now has a lot of passion about trying to work in environmental stewardship because they now have a new partner, and that partner will be the Federal Government, in a lot of different programs. Certainly every employee of the BLM, and people who follow the Bureau of Land Management; every employee of the U.S. Forest Service, of the United States Park Service, of the U.S. Wildlife Service, and the refuges that they help protect will benefit.

I just want to conclude, Mr. Speaker, by thanking the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA). I have served in the Congress with him and know him very well, and he is truly one of the leaders that people have talked about. Things

do not get done in politics unless there is leadership. I want to thank all my colleagues, all the names that have been mentioned here today, because all America benefits. It takes leadership to lift the political tide, and those Members have lifted that political tide forever.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), one of the strongest supporters of the Interior appropriation bill, and in particular the National Endowment for the Arts.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, and I want to join my colleagues in applauding the role played by the outgoing chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and also the role played by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), as well as the others in producing this bill.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, is far better than the version this House passed last June and is free of the most objectionable provisions of that bill. I am disappointed it does not contain the Conservation and Reinvestment Act as it was passed by the House, but I understand the reasons for it. This bill does greatly increase protections for open spaces, but I hope we will revisit the CARA, which would provide even greater protections.

At the same time, I strongly support the modest increase provided to the arts and humanities in this bill. Most notably, at long last, the National Endowment for the Arts will receive a well-deserved and much-needed increase.

The modest increase included in this bill would not ordinarily be cause for celebration, but when it comes to the NEA, it is historic. Given the unfortunate record this Congress has produced over the last 6 years and the parliamentary chicanery we witnessed earlier this year, it is a major victory for supporters of the arts and humanities. With this increase, we have turned a corner in our debate on the arts.

Just a few years ago, we were debating whether the NEA should be allowed to continue to exist; whether it was the proper role of government to subsidize the arts. But this increase is an acknowledgment that those of us who support government subsidy to the arts have won that fight.

The American people believe the Federal Government has a role in cultivating the arts and humanities and that we must increase our commitment in this area. With this increase, the NEA will be able to continue its mission to reach those parts of the country that have not historically received grants.

The appropriators should be hailed for increasing our commitment to arts education and community activity programs. They have also increased our support for the humanities and many cultural institutions. This is truly a victory for the cultural community.

But we cannot be satisfied with this victory. While this increase is a significant step forward, we must do more. The arts can flourish throughout this country, but only if we make a significant investment. With enormous budget surpluses projected for years to come, we clearly have the money to make this a reality. The question is will we have the will to follow up on this fine step forward.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I thank the people involved in this bill.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I can say it in shorter words; I am in awe of what the chairman, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), have done in this legislation. This is landmark legislation that Members seek for years and years to accomplish. Its impact is monumental.

To think that in the next 6 years there will be \$12 billion for land acquisition, \$2.4 of that for coastal management, is extraordinary. There will be unbelievable benefit for years because of this legislation.

I want to specifically thank both the chairman, and the ranking member, for honoring and recognizing my predecessor Stewart McKinney for what he attempted to do before he passed away—establish the McKinney Wildlife Refuge, off the coast of Connecticut.

Ninety-seven percent of the Connecticut shoreline has been developed, and 10 percent of the population of the United States lives in the immediate vicinity of Long Island Sound. We need to protect our islands and coastal wetlands.

I thank my colleagues for setting aside \$1.5 million in appropriations for the acquisition of Calves Island for the McKinney Refuge. This is a continual process \$2.5 million has already been appropriated, of the \$6 million final purchase price, leaving only a \$2 million balance for the 26 acre island off the coast of Greenwich.

I know my colleague, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) also appreciates what the committee has done for Calves Island and in the past for the Stratford Salt Marsh. We have worked on a bipartisan basis for that.

So I am here to acknowledge the good work the committee has done and to say that I am in awe of what the committee has accomplished. I thank them.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I would just conclude by saying that I think this is a great bill. I want to thank everyone who voted for the rule. I think we should pass this bill with an overwhelming vote. I would love to see it unanimous, though I doubt it will be.

Again, I want to commend our chairman and the staff. This is truly bipartisan legislation. I want to thank the White House, the President for his commitment to conservation. I want to thank George Frampton, head of the Council on Environmental Qualities, Jack Lu, Wesley Warren, Sylvia Matthews, Martha Foley, all the people from the White House who helped us through the negotiation process.

And I also want to thank the outside environmental groups who, when they evaluated our bill, came down almost unanimously on the side that it truly was what we told the American people it was: Historic legislation that will do much to improve our outdoor environment and protect it and protect endangered species. And out there in the great Northwest the money under this bill will be used to help restore our salmon runs and to restore our forests and do watershed restoration, all of these important things.

It also supports the arts. Also, out in the West, very importantly, \$2.9 billion to deal with these wildfires. This is a huge problem throughout the West. I think there is much work that we need to do as a Congress, working with the Forest Service and the BLM and the other land agencies, in order to make sure that we have taken care of those forests so that they are not susceptible to catastrophic fire. All of that is done in this bill.

So again, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the leadership of the gentleman from Ohio. I have enjoyed working with him on this bill. I urge all Members of the House to support this conference report.

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

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

I think, as the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) said earlier, this conference was a great example of a lot of give and take, some of it a little testy at times, but in the final analysis I think we have a product that is good for the future of these United States.

I would like to close and just quote one section from the conference report. Section 141: The building housing the visitors center within the boundaries of the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on Assateague Island, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center, and shall hereafter be referred to in any law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States, as the Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center.

I think our beloved colleague would be proud to have a building that is an educational and administrative center bear his name, and I am pleased that we could do that in our bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all our colleagues to vote for this landmark gift to the American people.

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for the \$7 million

increase in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) over the FY2000 budget. This much needed funding is included in the FY2001 Interior Appropriations bill before us today which I support.

These additional funds will enable art education programs to flourish and continue to reduce youth violence and enhance youth development. If we are serious about curtailing youth violence, we must continue funding projects that achieve positive results. One such project, YouthArts, is a collaboration between the NEA, the Department of Justice and national and local arts agencies. This project is located in Portland, OR, Atlanta, GA and San Antonio, TX and has been successful in positive behavior change for the at risk youth participants. These adolescents have demonstrated improved communication, self-discipline, and intrapersonal skills, as well as a decreased frequency of delinquent behavior. For example, in Portland, communications skills in the YouthArts participants shot up from 43% at the beginning of the program to a full 100% by the end of the twelve weeks. Equally impressive, in San Antonio, 16.4% of participants had a decrease in delinquent behavior compared with 3.4% of their peers in a control group. It's obvious that the NEA and this program have the potential to inspire millions of America's youth across America to explore positive alternatives in their lives.

In my district, NEA has successfully cofunded the Ailey Camp in Kansas City. Alvin Ailey is a national dance troupe which conducts a six week dance camp now in its eleventh year which has provided opportunities for more than 1,000 urban, disadvantaged middle schoolers in Kansas City. This camp provides a vehicle, through art, for children to acquire self esteem and enjoy the experience of success. In addition to dance, the camp also has creative writing, personal development, anti-violence and drug abuse programs. Statistics confirm the success of this program through improved behavior and learning by these at risk children.

Art and music education programs extend back to the ancient Greeks who applied music when teaching math, for example. Current studies reaffirm that when music such as jazz is introduced by teachers into the classrooms, learning comes alive and improves math and verbal scores. A 1999 national report by the College Entrance Examination Board found that high school students with coursework in music performance and appreciation scored higher on SAT; 55 points higher on the verbal section and 40 points higher on the math section.

The NEA also funds several programs at the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City, the only museum of its kind in the country. Throughout the 1930's, Kansas City was known for its celebrated jazz music, and hosted music luminaries such as Count Basie and Charlie "Bird" Parker. NEA funding enables the museum to preserve and present jazz so that people from all over the city, the country, and the world may appreciate one of the first original American art forms.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in full support for increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. This support sends a message that art and music in the classroom and in the public sphere are valued and vital to a more creative and enriched future for all Americans.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4578, a bill making appropriations to the Department of Interior and Related Agencies for FY 2001. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Chairman BILL YOUNG and Ranking Member Mr. DAVID OBEY of the Committee on Appropriations, and Chairman RALPH REGULA and Ranking Member Mr. NORMAN DICKS of the Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations for their work on this important bill and for their support on issues affecting the territories.

I thank the members of the appropriations committee and the subcommittee for their work to ensure that Guam received \$10 million for Compact Impact Aid in this year's interior appropriations bill given Guam's continuing economic recovery from the Asian financial crisis and our unprecedented 15.3 percent unemployment rate. Increasing Compact Aid for Guam has been a priority as the responsibility of supporting an unfunded federal mandate has placed a heavy financial burden on the people of Guam.

Also included in this legislation is the Lands Legacy Trust Fund which will provide \$12 billion over the next six years to pay for land conservation, preservation and maintenance. This is an important program that will assist the territories conserve and preserve scarce lands and natural resources for future generations. While I am appreciative of the work the members have put into this legislation, I encourage them to continue to be mindful of the needs of the territories when funding for this important program is allocated.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation, and particularly in support of the additional funding to combat invasive species and to provide arts education in rural and underserved communities.

Although I am disappointed that this legislation does not include all of the provisions included in the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, a bill that certainly has strong bipartisan support in both chambers, I am pleased that this bill funds a number of important national environmental priorities. I am also excited that we have finally given additional funding to the Challenge America Arts programs, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Office of Museum Services.

The NEA has been working hard to support quality arts projects across the country. I strongly believe that these programs help all of America's communities develop critically important cultural resources.

Through NEA grants to local communities, support is provided for more than 7,400 K-12 arts educational programs in more than 2,600 communities all across this great Nation.

The additional investment in the Challenge America Arts Fund will target additional resources to rural and underserved communities around the country. I am pleased that we have taken this positive step to ensure that every community in America has the opportunity to enjoy local arts programming and activities.

Research has consistently shown that children who are exposed to the arts do better in school and have higher self-esteem. This extra funding will help bring these benefits with children in rural and urban communities that need it most.

I would also like to commend the additional funding included in this legislation to help eradicate invasive species. In New York, we

have been forced to deal with the Asian Longhorned Beetle, which has already destroyed more than 2,600 trees. Earlier this year, these beetles were found again in New York City. This legislation will provide additional resources to fight the beetle and specifically includes \$12 million in additional funds for forest health treatments to help control and eradicate invasive species.

I commend the conferees for including these additional resources, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my colleagues on the Interior Appropriations Committee for including \$8 million in this Conference Report on HR 4578, the Department of the Interior Appropriations Act for FY2001, specifically for the maintenance of a Home Heating Oil Reserve in the Northeast.

I have fought to see this reserve created for most of the last year. I was an original co-sponsor of HR 3608, the Home Heating Oil Price Stability Act, which directs the Secretary of Energy to create a fuel oil reserve containing a total of 6.7 million barrels of heating oil. Under this legislation two million barrels of heating oil would be stored in leased storage facilities in the New York Harbor Area, and 4.7 million would be stored in one of the four existing Strategic Petroleum Reserve caverns in the Gulf Coast. The bill would give the President the authority to immediately release home heating oil to the Northeast when fuel oil prices in the United States rise sharply, during a fuel oil shortage, or during periods of extreme winter weather. I was pleased that the provisions of HR 3608 were ultimately included in HR 2884, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Reauthorization bill, which passed the House on April 12, 2000. However, this bill has seen no further action in Congress' other legislative body.

During the initial debate on this bill, we put forth an amendment on June 15, 2000, that would have provided \$10 million to actually create the Home Heating Oil Reserve. That amendment was defeated by a vote of 193-195. However, we were later successful in passing an amendment on June 27, 2000, authorizing a new regional home heating oil reserve in the Northeast during consideration of HR 4733, the Department of Energy Appropriation Act for Fiscal Year 2001. Unfortunately, the Conferees on the FY01 Department of Energy Appropriation bill saw fit to eliminate that authorization from the final Conference Report, the main reason I opposed final of that bill.

However, despite this Congress' inability to reauthorize the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and authorize the creation of a Home Heating Oil Reserve, the President has decided to move forward and create the Home Heating Oil Reserve in the Northeast under his executive authority. It is my understanding that the Department of Energy has already contracted to store one million barrels of home heating oil as part of this reserve in my home state of Connecticut. I am pleased that the members of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee have included funding to ensure that the Reserve will be ready before the long New England winter has settled in.

This is a simple bread and butter, kitchen table issue that the people of this country should expect their government to address. There is no reason that people should have to choose between putting food on their table

and heating their homes. I want to thank the members of the Committee for working to ensure that we have one more tool to combat the rising price of oil and protect our constituents from winter supply shortages.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises today to express his strong support for H.R. 4578, the conference report on the Interior appropriations bills. This Member would like to especially thank the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), the Chairman of the Interior appropriations Subcommittee and the distinguished gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee for their hard work on this important bill.

This Member greatly appreciates the inclusion of funding for the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, to begin implementing the recommendations of the recently completed General Management Plan. This bill provides \$400,000 for land acquisition for a new visitors center.

Homestead National Monument of America commemorates the lives and accomplishments of all pioneers and the changes to the land and the people as a result of the Homestead Act of 1862, which is recognized as one of the most important laws in U.S. history. This Monument was authorized by legislation enacted in 1936. At the initiative of this Member, the FY96 Interior Appropriations legislation directed the National Park Service to complete a General Management Plan to begin planning for the General Management Plan, which was completed earlier this year, made recommendations for improvements that are needed to help ensure that Homestead is able to reach its full potential as a place where Americans can more effectively appreciate the Homestead Act and its effects upon the nation.

The General Management Plan calls for the creation of a new "Homestead Heritage Center," a 28,000-square-foot energy-efficient facility which will house the Monument's collections, interpretive exhibits, public research facilities, and administrative offices. The focal point of the Center will be the Palmer-Epard Cabin, which will provide visitors with a realistic setting in which to learn about the life of homesteaders.

It is important to note that the current visitor center complex is located within a 100-year floodplain, which exposes the Monument's facilities as well as valuable artifacts and supporting materials to the threat of flood damage. The new "Homestead Heritage Center" would be located outside of the 100-year floodplain and offer protection for the Monument's historic and prehistoric collections, archives and museum galleries.

Homestead National Monument of America is truly a unique historical and interpretative treasure among the National Park Service jewels. The authorizing legislation makes it clear that Homestead was intended to have a special place among Park Service units. According to the original legislation:

"It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to lay out said land in a suitable and enduring manner so that the same may be maintained as an appropriate monument to retain for posterity a proper memorial emblematic of the hardships and the pioneer life through which the early settlers passed in settlement, cultivation, and civilization of the great

West. It shall be his duty to erect suitable buildings to be used as a museum in which shall be preserved literature applying to such settlement and agricultural implements used in bringing the western plains to its present state of high civilization, and to use the said tract of land for such other objects and purposes as in his judgment may perpetuate the history of this country mainly developed by the homestead law."

Clearly, this authorizing legislation sets some lofty goals. I believe that the establishment of the "Homestead Heritage Center" would begin the process of realizing these goals.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, this Member urges his colleagues to support passage of the conference report on H.R. 4578.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to protest the funding levels for the National Endowment for the Arts.

Last week my colleague from Indiana stood in this well to discuss the play called "Corpus Christi" a play that depicts all the Apostles as the homosexual lovers of Christ.

While the Government did not directly fund the play, the American taxpayer funded the theater through the National Endowment for the Arts. Last year, this theater received two grants, \$50,000 apiece.

Many of us in this Chamber believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. It is immoral and reprehensible to us that we must fund a theater that would stage this depraved production that some government bureaucrat considered art.

In the name of art, many on the other side of the aisle will suggest this issue be about freedom of speech. But, once again the National Endowment for the Arts has shown it has little responsibility or accountability to the taxpayers.

Does freedom of speech not come with a modicum of responsibility? Not if you're the National Endowment for the Arts. The NEA has developed a pattern, continuing to this day, of throwing dollars to organizations so that they may promote religious bigotry and pornography.

Now, I'm not against the arts. I believe there is an important role for arts in society. But let's have a standard for what should be publicly funded.

This chamber agreed to a freeze, to cap the funds for the National endowment for the Arts. But again, I see we're increasing funding for this program with little or no accountability to the taxpayer to the tune of \$105 million next year. I'm a music lover but this tune sounds flat to me.

I am offended that this program allows obscene, pornographic, immoral and blasphemous theaters to be funded with our tax dollars. Let the theater or the production company find the funding for that. From someplace other than the American taxpayer.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote on the

motion to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays were postponed earlier today.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 348, nays 69, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 507]

YEAS—348

Abercrombie	Doyle	Larson
Ackerman	Dreier	Latham
Aderholt	Edwards	LaTourette
Allen	Ehlers	Leach
Andrews	Ehrlich	Lee
Armey	Engel	Levin
Bachus	English	Lewis (CA)
Baird	Etheridge	Lewis (GA)
Baker	Evans	Lewis (KY)
Baldacci	Everett	Linder
Baldwin	Ewing	Lipinski
Ballenger	Farr	LoBiondo
Barcia	Fattah	Lofgren
Barrett (NE)	Filner	Lowey
Barrett (WI)	Fletcher	Lucas (KY)
Barlett	Foley	Lucas (OK)
Bass	Forbes	Luther
Becerra	Ford	Maloney (CT)
Bentsen	Fossella	Maloney (NY)
Bereuter	Fowler	Manzullo
Berkley	Frank (MA)	Markey
Berman	Frelinghuysen	Mascara
Biggart	Frost	Matsui
Bilbray	Gallegly	McCarthy (MO)
Bilirakis	Ganske	McCarthy (NY)
Bishop	Gejdenson	McCrery
Blagojevich	Gekas	McDermott
Bliley	Gephardt	McGovern
Blumenauer	Gilchrest	McHugh
Boehlert	Gillmor	McInnis
Boehner	Gilman	McIntyre
Bonilla	Gonzalez	McKeon
Bonior	Goodlatte	McKinney
Bono	Goodling	McNulty
Borski	Gordon	Meehan
Boswell	Goss	Meek (FL)
Boucher	Granger	Meeks (NY)
Boyd	Green (TX)	Menendez
Brady (PA)	Greenwood	Mica
Brown (FL)	Gutierrez	Millender-
Brown (OH)	Hall (OH)	McDonald
Buyer	Hastings (WA)	Miller (FL)
Callahan	Hayes	Miller, George
Calvert	Herger	Minge
Camp	Hill (IN)	Mink
Campbell	Hill (MT)	Moakley
Canady	Hilleary	Mollohan
Capps	Hilliard	Moore
Capuano	Hinchey	Moran (KS)
Cardin	Hinojosa	Moran (VA)
Carson	Hobson	Morella
Castle	Hoefel	Murtha
Clay	Holden	Nadler
Clayton	Holt	Napolitano
Clement	Hooley	Neal
Clyburn	Horn	Nethercutt
Coble	Houghton	Ney
Collins	Hoyer	Northup
Condit	Hunter	Norwood
Conyers	Hyde	Nussle
Cook	Inslee	Oberstar
Cooksey	Isakson	Obey
Costello	Jackson (IL)	Olver
Coyne	Jackson-Lee	Ortiz
Cramer	(TX)	Ose
Crowley	Jenkins	Owens
Cubin	Johnson (CT)	Oxley
Cummings	Johnson, E.B.	Packard
Cunningham	Jones (OH)	Pallone
Danner	Kanjorski	Pascrell
Davis (FL)	Kaptur	Pastor
Davis (IL)	Kasich	Payne
Davis (VA)	Kelly	Pease
Deal	Kennedy	Pelosi
DeFazio	Kildee	Peterson (PA)
DeGette	Kilpatrick	Phelps
DeLahunt	Kind (WI)	Pickett
DeLauro	Kingston	Pomeroy
DeLay	Klecza	Porter
Deutsch	Klink	Portman
Diaz-Balart	Knollenberg	Price (NC)
Dickey	Kolbe	Pryce (OH)
Dicks	Kucinich	Quinn
Dingell	Kuykendall	Radanovich
Dixon	LaFalce	Rahall
Doggett	LaHood	Rangel
Dooley	Lampson	Regula
Doolittle	Lantos	Reyes

Reynolds	Skeen	Turner
Rivers	Skelton	Udall (CO)
Rodriguez	Slaughter	Udall (NM)
Roemer	Smith (NJ)	Upton
Rogan	Smith (TX)	Velazquez
Rogers	Smith (WA)	Visclosky
Ros-Lehtinen	Snyder	Walden
Rothman	Spence	Walsh
Roukema	Spratt	Wamp
Roybal-Allard	Stabenow	Waters
Rush	Stark	Watkins
Sabo	Stenholm	Watt (NC)
Sanchez	Strickland	Watts (OK)
Sanders	Stump	Waxman
Sandlin	Sununu	Weiner
Sawyer	Sweeney	Weldon (FL)
Saxton	Tanner	Weldon (PA)
Schakowsky	Tauscher	Weller
Scott	Taylor (MS)	Weygand
Serrano	Taylor (NC)	Whitfield
Shaw	Terry	Wicker
Shays	Thomas	Wilson
Sherman	Thompson (CA)	Wise
Sherwood	Thompson (MS)	Wolf
Shimkus	Thune	Woolsey
Shows	Thurman	Wu
Shuster	Tierney	Wynn
Simpson	Towns	Young (FL)
Sisisky	Traficant	

NAYS—69

Archer	Green (WI)	Ramstad
Barr	Gutknecht	Rohrbacher
Barton	Hall (TX)	Royce
Berry	Hansen	Ryan (WI)
Blunt	Hayworth	Ryun (KS)
Brady (TX)	Hoekstra	Salmon
Bryant	Hostettler	Sanford
Burr	Hulshof	Scarborough
Burton	Hutchinson	Schaffer
Cannon	Istook	Sensenbrenner
Chabot	Jefferson	Sessions
Chambless	John	Shadegg
Chenoweth-Hage	Johnson, Sam	Smith (MI)
Coburn	Jones (NC)	Stearns
Combest	Largent	Stupak
Cox	Metcalf	Talent
Crane	Miller, Gary	Tancredo
DeMint	Myrick	Tauzin
Duncan	Peterson (MN)	Thornberry
Emerson	Petri	Tiahrt
Gibbons	Pickering	Toomey
Goode	Pitts	Vitter
Graham	Pombo	Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—16

Baca	King (NY)	Riley
Dunn	Lazio	Souder
Eshoo	Martinez	Vento
Moore	McCollum	Wexler
Franks (NJ)	McIntosh	
Hastings (FL)	Paul	
Hefley		

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Messrs. METCALF, HUTCHINSON, SCARBOROUGH, PETRI, BURTON of Indiana, TANCREDO and PICKERING changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. FOSSELLA changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 278.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr.