

The 1947 Act provides the eastern courts in eastern Oklahoma, acting as Federal instrumentalities, with jurisdiction over nearly all significant transactions involving individual Indian lands that are subject to Federal restrictions against alienation, or restricted property.

Another act that had an impact on the Five Civilized Tribes restricted land was the Act of June 1918. The 1918 act subjects restricted property to the State statutes of limitation. And this has had a very negative impact on losing a lot of the land over the years.

H.R. 5308 will provide for probate proceedings and management and disposition of Indian land to proceed through one central point, the Department of the Interior, rather than through multiple State courts, which is the current practice. This would treat the restricted lands of the Five Civilized Tribes like federally protected allotments of land of all other federally recognized tribes.

Madam Speaker, another issue that H.R. 5308 addresses will be to assure that the benefits and net revenues from the sale of water shall go to the tribes and residents of the respective water basin area within the boundaries of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations.

Madam Speaker, I urge that my colleagues support the legislation.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5308, the Five Nations Citizens Land Reform Act of 2000. This legislation is by far the most significant Indian land bill affecting the restricted allotments of members of the Cherokee, Creek, Seminole, Choctaw and Chickasaw nations in eastern Oklahoma. I want to thank my colleague, Representative WES WATKINS of Oklahoma, for sponsoring this legislation. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill.

The legislation would bring equity and fairness to the Indian people who own allotted lands of the five great Indian nations in Eastern Oklahoma. For much of the 20th century, these people have been the object of special laws applicable only to their lands that are unlike any other Federal laws of Indian land tenure—laws that have afforded these lands much less protection than is afforded to trust allotments elsewhere in the United States.

Under current Federal law, the allotted lands of the five civilized tribes are made subject to the State law of adverse possession, which has contributed to the unfair loss of land owned by many individual Indians in eastern Oklahoma. Allotments in other parts of Oklahoma and the rest of the country cannot be taken by adverse possession. This legislation would bring an end to the loss of these Indian lands by adverse possession.

Current Federal law also gives the State courts of Oklahoma jurisdiction over probating, partitioning and transferring restricted lands and the leasing of restricted mineral interests owned or inherited by members of the Five Tribes, often placing a great financial burden on Indian families who must hire private attorneys to probate estates or transfer interests in restricted land. For this reason, many estates in eastern Oklahoma that include restricted land are not being probated and land ownership has become increasingly fractionated.

Elsewhere in the United States, the Department of Interior is responsible for probating estates, partitioning lands and effecting other transactions involving allotted lands. This bill would do the same for the restricted allotments of the five tribes, and in general it would give these allotments the same protection and treatment given allotted Indian lands in the rest of the United States.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5308, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING FUNDS FOR ILLINOIS/MICHIGAN CANAL COMMISSION

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3926) to amend the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Act of 1984 to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated to the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3926

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. INCREASE IN AMOUNT AUTHORIZED TO BE APPROPRIATED TO THE ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN CANAL NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION.

Section 116(a)(1)(A) of the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Act of 1984 (98 Stat. 1467) is amended by striking "\$250,000" and inserting "\$1,000,000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 3926, introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER), amends the Illinois and Michigan National Heritage Corridor Act of 1984 to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated to the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission from \$250,000 to \$1 million.

The Illinois and Michigan Canal Heritage Corridor was established in 1984 to protect the resources associated with the canal. The canal was built in the mid-1800s and rapidly transformed Chicago into a critical Mid-Western transportation and business center. The Heritage Corridor currently con-

tains many significant historical and cultural resources along with a much-used recreational trail.

The commission has been instrumental in making the Heritage Corridor a success. This bill would authorize appropriations to match the levels currently enjoyed by other Heritage Corridors and areas. This is a small but important bill.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3926.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, H.R. 3926 would increase the amount authorized to be appropriated annually to the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission from \$250,000 to \$1 million.

H.R. 3926 is being brought to the floor under unusual circumstances by way of a discharge from the Committee on Resources. We have had no hearings or markup of the legislation in the committee despite the fact that this bill has been pending before the committee since March. We have not heard testimony from the commission, nor do we know the views of the administration on this legislation.

While H.R. 3926 may well be a non-controversial measure, we know very little about it. Members may have questions on the legislation, but the procedure being used today leaves very little opportunity to review the matter.

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3926 and as a proud cosponsor of this legislation to increase the authorization of the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission.

I want to commend my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER), for introducing this legislation, which affects my district as well as many others.

Congress first recognized the national significance of the I&M Canal in 1984 when it passed legislation that created the country's first National Heritage Corridor. Since that time, the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission has worked energetically with local individuals, organizations and communities to preserve, enhance, and celebrate this monument to American engineering and ingenuity.

When the Canal first opened in 1848, it created a vital commercial link between the Great Lakes and the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. Soon after its opening, the Chicago River became lined with grain elevators, warehouses and industry. A trip that took 3 weeks

before the canal was built took only 1 day on a boat towed by mules after the canal opened.

The I&M Canal made Chicago the Nation's largest inland port and fueled an unprecedented wave of settlement and growth in all of northeastern Illinois. Even more importantly, the canal was the final link in a new national trade route between the Eastern Seaboard and the Gulf of Mexico.

But the canal is more than a physical link between communities. It is now a link to our area's historically and culturally rich past. Individuals and communities along the canal recognize the historical importance of the canal and celebrate its contribution to local identity and progress with festivals, fairs, and other community events.

Last year, in fact, I submitted one of these festivals for the Library of Congress' "Local Legacies" project, which celebrated the Library's bicentennial by documenting America's grass-roots heritage.

Started in 1972, Old Canal Days is a community-wide festival that celebrates the heritage of the Illinois and Michigan Canal and the city of Lockport. It is a living history festival that includes reenactment of 19th century life along the canal.

As a result of festivals like Old Canal Days and the work of the Canal Commission, this corridor has become a living history museum of American enterprise, technological invention, ethnic diversity, and cultural creativity linked by parks and trails. Local teachers use the canal as a unique teaching tool for lessons on history, geography, and science.

The additional funding provided by this bill will allow the Canal Commission, the Canal Corridor Association, and Canal communities like Lemont and Lockport in my district to build on this success.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. We must preserve the canal. These additional funds are essential to shore up aging infrastructure, enhance historic programs, and increase the canal's recreational value.

I urge support of this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WATKINS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3926.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TIMBISHA SHOSHONE HOMELAND ACT

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2102) to provide to the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe a permanent

land base within its aboriginal homeland, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2102

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 "Timbisha Shoshone Homeland Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Since time immemorial, the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe has lived in portions of California and Nevada. The Tribe's ancestral homeland includes the area that now comprises Death Valley National Park and other areas of California and Nevada now administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) Since 1936, the Tribe has lived and governed the affairs of the Tribe on approximately 40 acres of land near Furnace Creek in the Park.

(3) The Tribe achieved Federal recognition in 1983 but does not have a land base within the Tribe's ancestral homeland.

(4) Since the Tribe commenced use and occupancy of the Furnace Creek area, the Tribe's membership has grown. Tribal members have a desire and need for housing, government and administrative facilities, cultural facilities, and sustainable economic development to provide decent, safe, and healthy conditions for themselves and their families.

(5) The interests of both the Tribe and the National Park Service would be enhanced by recognizing their coexistence on the same land and by establishing partnerships for compatible land uses and for the interpretation of the Tribe's history and culture for visitors to the Park.

(6) The interests of both the Tribe and the United States would be enhanced by the establishment of a land base for the Tribe and by further delineation of the rights and obligations of each with respect to the Furnace Creek area and to the Park as a whole.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

Consistent with the recommendations of the report required by section 705(b) of the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-433; 108 Stat. 4498), the purposes of this Act are—

(1) to provide in trust to the Tribe land on which the Tribe can live permanently and govern the Tribe's affairs in a modern community within the ancestral homeland of the Tribe outside and within the Park;

(2) to formally recognize the contributions by the Tribe to the history, culture, and ecology of the Park and surrounding area;

(3) to ensure that the resources within the Park are protected and enhanced by—

(A) cooperative activities within the Tribe's ancestral homeland; and

(B) partnerships between the Tribe and the National Park Service and partnerships involving the Bureau of Land Management;

(4) to ensure that such activities are not in derogation of the purposes and values for which the Park was established;

(5) to provide opportunities for a richer visitor experience at the Park through direct interactions between visitors and the Tribe including guided tours, interpretation, and the establishment of a tribal museum and cultural center;

(6) to provide appropriate opportunities for economically viable and ecologically sustainable visitor-related development, by the Tribe within the Park, that is not in derogation of the purposes and values for which the Park was established; and

(7) to provide trust lands for the Tribe in 4 separate parcels of land that is now managed

by the Bureau of Land Management and authorize the purchase of 2 parcels now held in private ownership to be taken into trust for the Tribe.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) PARK.—The term "Park" means Death Valley National Park, including any additions to that Park.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior or the designee of the Secretary.

(3) TRIBAL.—The term "tribal" means of or pertaining to the Tribe.

(4) TRIBE.—The term "Tribe" means the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe, a tribe of American Indians recognized by the United States pursuant to part 83 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling).

(5) TRUST LANDS.—The term "trust lands" means those lands taken into trust pursuant to this Act.

SEC. 5. TRIBAL RIGHTS AND AUTHORITY ON THE TIMBISHA SHOSHONE HOMELAND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights (existing on the date of enactment of this Act), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the lands, including improvements and appurtenances, described in subsection (b) are declared to be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe. All maps referred to in subsection (b) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) PARK LANDS AND BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LANDS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The following lands and water shall be held in trust for the Tribe pursuant to subsection (a):

(A) Furnace Creek, Death Valley National Park, California, an area of 313.99 acres for community development, residential development, historic restoration, and visitor-related economic development, depicted as Tract 37 on the map of Township 27 North, Range 1 East, of the San Bernardino Meridian, California, numbered Map #1 and dated December 2, 1999, together with 92 acre feet per annum of surface and ground water for the purposes associated with the transfer of such lands. This area shall include a 25-acre, nondevelopment zone at the north end of the area and an Adobe Restoration zone containing several historic adobe homes, which shall be managed by the Tribe as a tribal historic district.

(B) Death Valley Junction, California, an area of approximately 1,000 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Death Valley Junction, California", numbered Map #2 and dated April 12, 2000, together with 15.1 acre feet per annum of ground water for the purposes associated with the transfer of such lands.

(C)(i) Centennial, California, an area of approximately 640 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Centennial, California", numbered Map #3 and dated April 12, 2000, together with an amount of ground water not to exceed 10 acre feet per annum for the purposes associated with the transfer of such lands.

(ii) If the Secretary determines that there is insufficient ground water available on the lands described in clause (i) to satisfy the Tribe's right to ground water to fulfill the purposes associated with the transfer of such lands, then the Tribe and the Secretary shall, within 2 years of such determination, identify approximately 640 acres of land that are administered by the Bureau of Land Management in that portion of Inyo County, California, to the north and east of the China