

wake of terrorist attacks. Unfortunately, unless we act now, this important pilot program will expire at the end of this year.

Governmentwide, we see Federal agencies continuing to grapple with barriers to buying the best value in the goods and services they need. Agencies need better management approaches and improved purchasing tools, including the Clinger-Cohen pilot program authority, to help acquisition managers meet their agency goals.

Indeed, the Office of Federal Procurement Policy's survey of procurement executives showed that the streamlined acquisition authority in the Clinger-Cohen pilot has had a positive impact on the Federal procurement process. These procurement executives recommend continuing the program.

The Subcommittee on Technology and Procurement Policy, which I chair, and the Committee on Government Reform, under the leadership of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), have encouraged the development of commonsense approaches to acquisition policy.

I have also been working in the subcommittee with the minority and with the administration for broader acquisition reform. I recently introduced H.R. 3832, the Services Acquisition Reform Act, SARA, which directs the Federal Government to adopt management reform techniques modeled after those of the private sector.

I have also introduced H.R. 3426, the Federal Emergency Procurement Flexibility Act, with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), my good friend, Senator JOHN WARNER and Senator FRED THOMPSON. This legislation came about after we were contacted last year by Governor Ridge and the Homeland Security Office about many of the ongoing barriers Federal agencies are experiencing in accessing the tools necessary to fight the war on terrorism. This legislation will provide agencies with the tools necessary to immediately access the latest commercial technologies, products and services to combat terrorism.

The bill before us today, H.R. 3921, the Acquisitions Streamlining Improvement Act of 2002, allows agencies to continue to use the Clinger-Cohen pilot program streamlined procedures for the purchase of commercial items.

□ 1430

Mr. Speaker, if an item is available commercially and at a competitive price, the government should not have to go through a long, drawn-out procurement process. Where there are several competitors in a marketplace, and this competition is keeping prices in line, then streamlined acquisition procedures make sense, and save time and money. They make the government run smoother.

In closing, I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) who introduced this legislation. I thank the ranking member of the committee, the

gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), and the ranking member of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER), for working with us to make good suggestions in moving this legislation forward. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) for his leadership on this legislation. It is a continuing effort that we are making on our subcommittee that the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) chairs to try to improve the process by which the Federal Government contracts for goods and services. It is, of course, a very challenging effort because it is important to not only improve and streamline the process, but at the same time ensure that the public's interest is protected, that the integrity of the contracting process is preserved, and that the taxpayers get the best deal for their dollars.

Under this bill, pilot authority that was previously granted under law is extended for an additional 2-year period of time, allowing acquisition procedures to be simplified for the purchase of commercial items up to \$5 million in value. This authority began in 1996, and it was granted a 1-year extension in last year's defense authorization bill. The bill also requires the General Accounting Office to report to us on the effectiveness of this provision and to determine whether or not it has in fact reduced administrative time and costs in awarding contracts, while at the same time protecting the public's interest.

I thank the gentleman for including several suggestions that came from our side on this issue. I believe we have a strong bill as a result, and I am hopeful that this will once again prove to be a step forward in the acquisition process followed by our Federal agencies. It is part of an effort that also involves strengthening the training, the ability of the contracting officers who, under this legislation and similar legislation, have greater responsibility and less review by their acquisition superiors. The contracting officers are the key to making this effort successful, and I am confident that the efforts that are being made to strengthen contracting throughout the Federal Government will prove beneficial to all.

The decision to allow the use of simplified acquisition procedures to purchase commercial items up to \$5 million in value is a well-intended effort to give our contracting officers more flexibility to do their job, thereby saving the taxpayers money and saving additional and unintended wastes of time and effort. This bill, by extending it for another period and sunseting it, will give us the opportunity to be sure the bill is working as we intended it.

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

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) and the ranking member of the Committee on Government Reform (Mr. WAXMAN) for helping bring this bill to the floor. I think this bill is going to continue to improve acquisition responsiveness on the part of the Federal Government so that we can meet our goals, save the taxpayers money, and get the best value. I urge the adoption of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3921.

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.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, UTAH RECREATIONAL AND VISITOR FACILITIES

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3848) to provide funds for the construction of recreational and visitor facilities in Washington County, Utah, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3848

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

SECTION 1. FUNDS FOR RECREATIONAL AND VISITOR FACILITIES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, UTAH.

The Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, is authorized to grant to the State of Utah \$2,500,000 for the development and construction of recreational and visitor facilities in the Sand Hollow Recreation Area located in Washington County, Utah, to fulfill the Federal commitment for the establishment and management thereof.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3848 provides funding for the development and construction of recreational facilities for the Sand Hollow Recreational Area in Washington County, Utah.

For several years, Washington County has been the fastest growing area in the State of Utah and a premier tourist destination. Several years ago, the Bureau of Land Management, Washington

County Water Conservancy District, and the Utah Division of State Parks, together with local leaders and stakeholders, teamed up to identify necessary recreational opportunities, programs and facilities in the Sand Hollow area near the City of St. George. In May, 2001, these agencies completed a cooperative management plan based on public input and involvement.

The Sand Hollow Area Recreation Management Plan envisions the development of two campgrounds, a full-service marina, a group campground, and four separate day-use pavilions to draw recreationists to a centralized location with diverse recreational opportunities. These facilities are essential to the success of this area, which has the potential to become the predominant recreation area in the region. The recreation area will thus serve as a buffer to urban growth in the St. George area.

The plan divided the initial funding equally between the three agencies, equating to a one-time share of \$2.5 million for the Bureau of Land Management. These funds, together with the State and water district funds, will be used to implement the plan and construct the necessary facilities. This bill authorizes the Bureau of Land Management share of these one-time initial costs to the project. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3848.

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

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

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3848 is sponsored by the esteemed chairman of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN). The bill was introduced just last month and was reported from the Committee on Resources with no hearings. As such, we have limited information on the proposal.

As the gentleman explained, the bill authorizes the Bureau of Land Management to make a grant to the State of Utah in the amount of \$2.5 million for the development and construction of recreational and visitor facilities at a State recreational area in Washington County, Utah.

While the local BLM may have indicated their willingness to help fund this project, the agency lacks the authority to spend Federal funds on facilities on State lands.

However, we would not object to consideration of H.R. 3848 by the House today. The bill is solely an authorization and should not be construed as establishing a precedent for other requests for Federal funds.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3848.

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.

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA, PUBLIC LAND CONVEYANCE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2937) to provide for the conveyance of certain public land in Clark County, Nevada, for use as a shooting range, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2937

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

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY TO CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) the Las Vegas area has experienced such rapid growth in the last few years that traditional locations for target shooting are now too close to populated areas for safety;

(2) there is a need to designate a centralized location in the Las Vegas Valley where target shooters can practice safely; and

(3) a central facility is also needed for persons training in the use of firearms, such as local law enforcement and security personnel.

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

(1) to provide a suitable location for the establishment of a centralized shooting facility in the Las Vegas Valley; and

(2) to provide the public with—

(A) opportunities for education and recreation; and

(B) a location for competitive events and marksmanship training.

(c) CONVEYANCE.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to Clark County, Nevada, subject to valid existing rights, for no consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcels of land described in subsection (d).

(d) LAND DESCRIPTIONS.—The parcels of land to be conveyed under subsection (c) are the parcels of land that are described as follows:

(1) Approximately 320 acres of land in Clark County, Nevada, in S½, sec. 25, T. 18 S., R. 60 E., Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(2) Approximately 320 acres of land in Clark County, Nevada, in S½, sec. 26, T. 18 S., R. 60 E., Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(3) Approximately 320 acres of land in Clark County, Nevada, in S½, sec. 27, T. 18 S., R. 60 E., Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(4) Approximately 640 acres of land in Clark County, Nevada, in sec. 34, T. 18 S., R. 60 E., Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(5) Approximately 640 acres of land in Clark County, Nevada, in sec. 35, T. 18 S., R. 60 E., Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(6) Approximately 640 acres of land in Clark County, Nevada, in sec. 36, T. 18 S., R. 60 E., Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(e) USE OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The parcels of land conveyed under subsection (c)—

(A) shall be used by Clark County for the purposes described in subsection (b) only; and

(B) shall not be disposed of by the county.

(2) REVERSION.—If Clark County ceases to use any parcel for the purposes described in subsection (b)—

(A) title to the parcel shall revert to the United States, at the option of the United States; and

(B) Clark County, Nevada, shall be responsible for any reclamation necessary to revert the parcel to the United States.

(f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of the Interior may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(g) RELEASE OF LAND.—The Congress—

(1) finds that the parcels of land conveyed under subsection (c), comprising a portion of the Quail Springs Wilderness Study Area, NV-050-411, managed by the Bureau of Land Management and reported to the Congress in 1991, have been adequately studied for wilderness designation under section 603 of the Federal Land Management Policy Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782); and

(2) declares that those parcels are no longer subject to the requirements contained in subsection (c) of that section pertaining to the management of wilderness study areas in a manner that does not impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness.

(h) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary shall require that Clark County, Nevada, pay all survey costs and other administrative costs necessary for the preparation and completion of any patents of and transfer of title to property under this section.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2937, introduced by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) would provide for the conveyance of certain public lands in Clark County, Nevada, for use as a regional public shooting range.

Unprecedented residential growth over the past 20 years in and around the city of Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada, has forced a number of shooting ranges to close. Those few shooting ranges that remain are close to being in violation of local ordinances that prohibit the discharge of firearms in or near residential areas.

Mr. Speaker, to address this matter, H.R. 2937 authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey approximately 2,880 acres of public lands to Clark County, Nevada, for the creation of a regional public shooting range. The actual usable land for the shooting range will be approximately 1,400 acres. The balance would go towards a buffer zone for the west and south sides of the range. This new public facility would provide users, archery, trap, skeet, rifle and pistol, and air pellets, with a safe location for competitive events and marksmanship training as well as opportunities for education and recreation. The new shooting range will also be utilized by city and county police departments.

The bill includes revision language should Clark County, Nevada, cease to use the land as prescribed. In addition,