

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill on Friday, June 28, 2002:

S. 2578, to amend title 31 of the United States Code to increase the public debt limit.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the President of the United States:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, June 29, 2002.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: As my staff has previously communicated to you, I will undergo this morning a routine medical procedure requiring sedation. In view of present circumstances, I have determined to transfer temporarily my Constitutional powers and duties to the Vice President during the brief period of the procedure and recovery.

Accordingly, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution, this letter shall constitute my written declaration that I am unable to discharge the Constitutional powers and duties of the office of President of the United States. Pursuant to Section 3, the Vice President shall discharge those powers and duties as Acting President until I transmit to you a written declaration that I am able to resume the discharge of those powers and duties.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH.

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THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, June 29, 2002.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution, this letter shall constitute my written declaration that I am presently able to resume the discharge of the Constitutional powers and duties of the office of President of the United States. With the transmittal of this letter, I am resuming those powers and duties effective immediately.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG INDUSTRY'S NEW LOBBYING TECHNIQUE

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the prescription drug industry has come up with a new lobbying tech-

nique. Three weeks ago, the drug industry dumped almost \$3 million into a Republican fundraising event. Two weeks ago, in a party-line vote, the drug industry and Republicans pushed through a prescription drug Medicare privatization bill.

Now the drug industry is pressuring medical schools and teaching hospitals and doctors to write Congress urging us to continue permitting drug companies to engage in anticompetitive behavior. They have convinced a few of these health care providers that unless the U.S. lets the drug industry keep competition out of the market, my colleagues guessed it, research and development will dry up. Fourteen years of patent-protection monopoly prices apparently is not enough.

The same industry that consistently earns profits five points higher than other profitable industries argues that if they do not exploit America's seniors they cannot and will not do research and development. That excuse, Mr. Speaker, is wearing thin.

Private and public resources for health care are not infinite. Drug companies continue to cheat American consumers, employer-sponsored health care plans and State governments and every other health care purchaser out of billions of dollars each year. Enough is enough.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1702

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE) at 5 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas or nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6:30 p.m. today.

COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE RATHDRUM PRAIRIE/SPOKANE VALLEY AQUIFER

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 4609) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a comprehensive study of the Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Valley Aquifer, located in Idaho and Washington.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4609

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

SECTION 1. COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE RATHDRUM PRAIRIE/SPOKANE VALLEY AQUIFER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the State of Idaho and the State of Washington, shall conduct a comprehensive study of the Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Valley Aquifer for the purpose of preparing a model of the aquifer and establishing for those States a mutually acceptable understanding of the aquifer as a ground water resource.

(b) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report on the findings and conclusions of the study by not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For conducting the study under this section there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$3,500,000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

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

H.R. 4609, the Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Valley Aquifer Study Act of 2002, directs the Secretary of the Department of Interior to work with the State of Idaho and the State of Washington to conduct a comprehensive study for the Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Valley Aquifer by preparing a groundwater model to help establish a mutually acceptable understanding of the aquifer as a groundwater resource. The tools developed by this legislation will help to better coordinate and understand the various factors that influence the quantity and quality of the aquifer and encourage better cooperation between the two States charged with its maintenance operations.

I would like to commend the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NETHERCUTT), the sponsor of this legislation, for his work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NETHERCUTT).

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and I am pleased to make a statement in support of this bill.

There is nothing in the Northwest States that is more precious than our air and our water. We in eastern Washington and northern Idaho are blessed with not only these great resources but especially our clean water. We think it is some of the best water in the entire world to drink. So we want to make sure that it is protected, and that is what this bill does.

This bill was introduced by me and by the gentleman from northern Idaho

(Mr. OTTER) because we are affected by this bill, and the aquifer which traverses both States affects our respective districts. So we are proud to introduce this bill which calls for a study, as the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) mentioned, to analyze this aquifer, to understand what is there so we can make sure we protect it and wisely manage it. One of the great challenges for us in the Pacific Northwest is to make sure that our abundant resources, our natural resources, our mountains, our streams, our rivers, our lakes, our entire environment is well managed by Federal agencies and by private resources.

So in the case of the aquifer we have a situation where there are some economic interests that want to use it. They want to use it as a resource to provide industrial benefit to eastern Washington and northern Idaho.

But before they do so, we have to be sure that it is protected. What this bill does is to take a hard look at doing a model and a study to make sure we know what is there so that it can be protected.

There is also a disparity in consideration of aquifer use, of economic development, on either side of the border. Spokane, Washington, is my hometown, the major city in my district, the largest population center. It is about 32 miles from the Idaho border. Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, rests on the other side of the border in Idaho that is represented by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER), and the States of Idaho and Washington have very different consideration times for permitting, for permitting for economic benefit and use.

In Idaho, if we want to get a permit, it can take months; in Washington, it can take years. So we think that in doing this study and having the Committee on Resources in Congress adopt this position in a study, we can make sure that there is some continuity of interest in analysis and development that would rest on each side of the border, so that the legislatures of each side, each State, each respective State, would have a chance to look at this issue and understand what is there, and then make policy decisions that are coordinated rather than disparate.

So I can say to the House that there is unanimity on the part of our chambers of commerce that this is a wise approach. There are five chambers of commerce that are in Idaho and Washington State that are affected by this issue, and they are of the opinion and their memberships are of the opinion that this is a wise thing to do; that is, make sure we know what is in the aquifer, what its considerations and characteristics are, so that we can make sure we manage it wisely.

I especially want to thank the Committee on Resources. The gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and his subcommittee presented this bill in very fast consideration, very fair consideration. The entire Committee on

Resources passed it out. I especially am grateful to that Committee on Resources that took into account this very important measure that affects a large area in eastern Washington and northern Idaho.

I will restate again that the environmental protections that we seek from this bill are sensible, they are reasonable, and they are timely. It is estimated that there are millions of gallons that go through this aquifer and would be presented by it, but we have to be sure that we know what is there, and we have to be sure that what is there is wisely managed so that we protect this wonderful resource that we have in the Pacific Northwest, a clean environment, a great place to live and work, a great place to have economic development, at the same time we protect our environmental resources.

So I will thank the gentleman from Nebraska and his counterpart, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU), for his courtesy in allowing me to say a few words in support of my bill. I speak on behalf of the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER) in thanking the committee and subcommittee of jurisdiction for considering this measure, and we hope it will pass overwhelmingly.

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

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

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4609 directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of groundwater resources in certain areas of Washington and Idaho. In the Pacific Northwest, our water resources are precious resources, and we expect the results of the study to provide the States with reliable information they can use to better manage the groundwater resource which is shared between the States.

I commend my colleagues, the gentlemen from Idaho and Washington, for bringing this legislation to the floor, and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4609.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4609.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

ISSUING PERMITS FOR NATURAL GAS PIPELINES IN GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3380) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines within the boundary of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3380

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

SECTION 1. PERMITS FOR EXISTING NATURAL GAS PIPELINES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may issue right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines that exist as of September 1, 2001, within the boundary of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A permit issued under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) issued consistent with laws and regulations generally applicable to utility rights-of-way within units of the National Park System; and

(2) subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary deems necessary.

SEC. 2. PERMITS FOR PROPOSED NATURAL GAS PIPELINES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may issue right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines within the boundary of Great Smoky Mountains National Park that are proposed to be constructed across the following:

(1) The Foothills Parkway.

(2) The Foothills Parkway Spur between Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg.

(3) The Gatlinburg Bypass.

(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A permit issued under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) issued consistent with laws and regulations generally applicable to utility rights-of-way within units of the National Park System; and

(2) subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary deems necessary, including—

(A) provisions for the protection and restoration of park resources that are disturbed by pipeline construction; and

(B) assurances that construction and operation of the pipeline will not adversely affect Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3380 was introduced by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. JENKINS) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue right-of-way permits for a natural gas pipeline to tie in an existing pipeline within the boundary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

In 2000, the Sevier County Utility District in rural east Tennessee made the request of the National Park Service to grant authority to tie in a natural gas pipeline to an already existing underground natural gas pipeline along U.S. Highway 441 in the Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge spur. The existing pipeline