

(iii) *CONSIDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS.*—Environmental concerns associated with any development of the West Butte Road shall be addressed by the County in meeting compliance requirements associated with State and Federal highway projects and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as administered by the Federal Highway Administration.

(B) *WEST BUTTE ROAD.*—Notwithstanding any other Act, the Secretary shall provide for adjustment to the right-of-way width and alignment granted under subsection (b) in portions of the West Butte Road necessary for the road to meet applicable State and Federal highway standards.

(d) *RELINQUISHMENT OF RIGHT-OF-WAY.*—The right-of-way granted to each County under subsection (b) shall be contingent upon the Counties relinquishing any right, title, or interest in and to any RS 2477 right-of-way claim held by the Counties to the portion of the road known as George Millican Road that is located in the area described in subsection (c)(1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), the author of the bill, to explain the legislation.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4953. This is a bill that would promote important transportation infrastructure improvements to an economically depressed area of central Oregon.

Rapid population growth among the Bend and Redmond corridor in central Oregon has created a perpetual bottleneck along Highway 97, a vital north-south right-of-way and highway in central Oregon. H.R. 4953 would authorize the relinquishment of rights-of-way between Crook and Deschutes Counties and the Bureau of Land Management, in effect a swap. The BLM would simply relinquish their management right to the West Butte Road, transferring that right to the counties. The counties, in turn, would relinquish their management rights to the George Millican Road, transferring those rights to the Bureau of Land Management.

West Butte Road extends from Reservoir Road in Crook County to U.S. Route 20 in Deschutes County. This legislation would allow the counties to make improvements to West Butte Road, thereby providing real and meaningful access to U.S. Highway 20, which is a major transportation route in central Oregon. Improvements to the road would provide an alternative route for trucks and other vehicles that now travel on a very busy and congested U.S. Highway 97.

A recent survey conducted by the Oregon Department of Transportation estimated that 25 percent of the trucks that now pass through Bend from Highway 20 would use this alternative route, which would save an estimated 1 hour in travel time and reduce air pollutants as a result.

Mr. Speaker, not only does H.R. 4953 alleviate traffic congestion in central Oregon, but it also spurs economic growth in Crook County, a county with a current unemployment rate of 8.2 percent. This unemployment rate is due to the dismantling of the timber industry and the exodus of industries linked to that industry. This legislation would divert the excess traffic on Highway 97, transferring to Highway 20, providing incentives to businesses, enticing them to move to Crook County. It also gives businesses currently located in Crook County a reason to stay, due to the long-term viability of its transportation infrastructure. The long-term effect would be to provide family-wage jobs, to increase economic development, reduce pollutants, reduce commute times and trucking times, and free up access on Highway 97.

This legislation is supported by both Crook and Deschutes Counties, the cities of Prineville, Bend and Redmond, the Oregon Department of Transportation and Central Oregon Area Transportation Committee.

I would especially like to thank my friend and commend Judge Scott Cooper, who has worked tirelessly to make passage of this bill a reality.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4953 is a perfect opportunity for us to step up our efforts in alleviating the County's traffic congestion problems, provide additional commerce routes in central Oregon and work to reduce unemployment. I urge passage of H.R. 4953.

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

The minority has reviewed this bill and we support the majority's explanation of it.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4953, 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.

MNI WICONI RURAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2002

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4638) to reauthorize the Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply Project.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4638

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

SECTION 1. MNI WICONI RURAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT, SOUTH DAKOTA.

Section 10(a) of the Mni Wiconi Project Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-516; 102 Stat. 2571), as amended by section 813 of the Mni

Wiconi Act Amendments of 1994 (Public Law 103-434; 108 Stat. 4545), is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by inserting “(based on October 1, 1992, price levels) and \$58,800,000 (based on October 1, 1997, price levels)” after “\$263,241,000”;

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “2003” and inserting “2008”; and

(3) in the last sentence, by inserting “(with respect to the \$263,241,000), and October 1, 1997 (with respect to the \$58,800,000)” after “1992”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) 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. 4953, the Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply Authorization Act of 2002, will extend the completion date of the Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply Project to 2008 and increase the appropriation ceiling by \$58.8 million.

The Mni Wiconi project was originally authorized under Public Law 100-516 to construct a municipal, rural and industrial water system to serve the Pine Ridge, Rosebud and Lower Brule Indian Reservations and seven counties in southwestern South Dakota. The project was developed to overcome the shortage of good quality drinking water in the region.

While the overall appropriation ceiling for the project has not been reached, two of the primary components have reached their individual allocations. Without additional funding, these two project components will not be completed.

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

Mr. Speaker, I read an article in today's CQ Daily Monitor with the following headline: “Dakota Water Project Marked by November Election Overtones.”

My purpose in supporting this legislation, however, is marked by the pressing need to keep our promise to Native Americans in South Dakota who need and deserve a safe and reliable water supply. That is my motive here, pure and simple. Native Americans deserve no less.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the author of this legislation.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Utah (Chairman HANSEN), the gentleman from California (Chairman CALVERT) and all the members of the Committee on Resources for their support of H.R. 4638, to extend the authorization of the Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply Project, which I introduced earlier this year.

This legislation is absolutely essential to the completion of this critical project, which is now over 50 percent

finished. H.R. 4638 will increase the authorization ceiling of the project by \$58.8 million and extend the authorization of the project to 2008.

Mr. Speaker, Mni Wiconi translates into "water is life," and I believe this is a fitting name for this project. Currently, many communities within the area of the Mni Wiconi project suffer from poor quality drinking water, which has been the cause of water-borne illnesses. The need for this project is simple: Clean, safe water.

The Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply Project is also a great symbol of cooperation and compromise. The project is made up of four separate rural water supply systems: Oglala, Rosebud, Lower Brule and West River/Lyman-Jones.

This project will bring healthy, safe drinking water and the potential for greater prosperity to over 52,000 South Dakotans, many of whom live in some of the most economically depressed counties in America.

When complete, Mni Wiconi will cover more than 12,500 square miles, making it the largest water project in the Bureau of Reclamation in North America. To service an area of this size, the project includes 4,500 miles of new pipeline, 60 booster stations and 35 water storage reservoirs. I am pleased to report the water treatment facility is fully operational and able to treat over 13 million gallons of water per day.

Mr. Speaker, Mni Wiconi is not just a water project, it is a unique partnership between the Oglala, Rosebud and Lower Brule Sioux Tribes and non-tribal communities in Lyman, Jones, Stanley, Haakon, Jackson, Bennett and Pennington Counties.

During a hearing on H.R. 4638 in late May, each of the four project sponsors were represented in the audience and at the witness table. Their attendance illustrated the unified support this project has from the American Indian and the non-tribal communities through the Mni Wiconi tribal area and their willingness to put differences aside to fix a common problem, poor quality water.

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Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank the Committee on Resources for their work to consider this critically important legislation. I would like to thank the gentleman from West Virginia for his work as well in making this possible and getting this legislation to the floor and enacted into law.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida). 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. 4638.

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.

SANTEE SIOUX TRIBE OF NEBRASKA WATER FEASIBILITY STUDY

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4938) to direct the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a feasibility study to determine the most feasible method of developing a safe and adequate municipal, rural, and industrial water supply for the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4938

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

SECTION 1. STUDY; REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—Pursuant to reclamation laws, the Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this section referred to as the "Secretary"), through the Bureau of Reclamation and in consultation with the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska (hereafter in this section referred to as the "Tribe"), shall conduct a feasibility study to determine the most feasible method of developing a safe and adequate municipal, rural, and industrial water treatment and distribution system for the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska that could serve the tribal community and adjacent communities and incorporate population growth and economic development activities for a period of 40 years.

(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—At the request of the Tribe, the Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the Tribe for activities necessary to conduct the study required by subsection (a) regarding which the Tribe has unique expertise or knowledge.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall transmit to Congress a report containing the results of the study required by subsection (a).

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$500,000 to carry out this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4938 is authored by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), our colleague on the Committee on Resources. I yield to him such time as he may consume to explain this legislation.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his support and for the support of the ranking member for this small, but critically important \$500,000 feasibility study to address water quality and quality needs on the Santee Sioux reservation. This reservation is located on the Nebraska-South Dakota border of northeastern Nebraska; and as has been the case in many previous bills, what we have found is that the water quality on the reservation has really been degraded.

Currently, the system is antiquated and is not working well. It is dependent upon a great number of small wells and water treatment systems; and at times, the water quality is either terrible or the water supply is relatively nonexistent.

Currently, the water distribution systems are at maximum capacity, which limits housing expansion and deters economic development. In this particular case, this small tribe needs all of the housing and all of the economic development that they can possibly secure. So this is critical as far as they are concerned.

The feasibility study authorized by H.R. 4938 would be administered by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Santee Sioux Tribe through a cooperative agreement. The study will identify safe, domestic water sources, water treatment requirements, water distribution renovations, and engineering recommendations based on a 40-year projection. A revitalized tribal water treatment and distribution system will serve the tribal communities and adjacent communities and will incorporate population growth and economic development activities in an area where economic development is desperately needed.

This bill addresses a critical need of the Santee Sioux reservation, and it has been allowed to go on far too long. I urge the House to pass this important measure for the people of the Santee Sioux Tribe, and I again thank the chairman for his support. I urge passage of H.R. 4938.

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

The minority has reviewed the legislation and agrees with the majority's explanation of it. We are glad to support the legislation by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4938.

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.

BURNT, MALHEUR, OWYHEE, AND POWDER RIVER BASIN WATER OPTIMIZATION FEASIBILITY STUDY ACT OF 2001

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 238) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies on water optimization in the Burnt River basin, Malheur River basin, Owyhee River basin, and Powder River basin, Oregon.

The Clerk read as follows: