

(2) record such recordable disclaimer of interest simultaneously with the filing of the surveys.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$400,000 to carry out this Act. Funds appropriated to carry out the purposes of this Act may be available without fiscal year limitation.

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. 4874, introduced by our colleague on the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER), would direct the Secretary of the Interior to disclaim any Federal interests in lands adjacent to Spirit Lake and Twin Lakes in the State of Idaho resulting from faulty Federal surveys conducted in the 1880s.

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, the correction of the survey errors are long overdue. We support H.R. 4874.

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. 4874.

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.

CALLING FOR FULL APPROPRIATION OF STATE AND TRIBAL SHARES OF ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 425) calling for the full appropriation of the State and tribal shares of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 425

Whereas the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) created the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund capitalized with a reclamation fee assessed on every ton of domestic coal production, for the purposes of protecting the environment by restoring lands and waters adversely affected by past mining practices;

Whereas under the Act, each State and Indian tribe having a federally approved abandoned mine reclamation program is to be al-

located 50 percent of the reclamation fees collected in such State, or collected with respect to Indian lands under the jurisdiction of such tribe, respectively, subject to appropriations;

Whereas by the end of March 2002, \$6,400,000,000 in reclamation fees had been deposited into the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, but only \$5,000,000,000 had been appropriated from the fund, leaving an unappropriated balance of \$1,400,000,000;

Whereas by the end of March 2002, the State and tribal share of the unappropriated balance in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund was \$876,000,000;

Whereas—

(1) the State of Alabama should have received \$15,000,000 of the unappropriated balance in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund;

(2) the State of Alaska should have received \$1,800,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(3) the State of Arkansas should have received \$4,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(4) the State of Colorado should have received \$19,300,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(5) the State of Illinois should have received \$26,000,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(6) the State of Iowa should have received \$38,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(7) the State of Kansas should have received \$393,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(8) the State of Kentucky should have received \$109,800,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(9) the State of Louisiana should have received \$1,100,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(10) the State of Maryland should have received \$2,600,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(11) the State of Missouri should have received \$901,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(12) the State of Montana should have received \$39,800,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(13) the State of New Mexico should have received \$18,200,200 of such unappropriated balance;

(14) the State of North Dakota should have received \$10,200,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(15) the State of Ohio should have received \$21,500,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(16) the State of Oklahoma should have received \$1,900,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(17) the State of Pennsylvania should have received \$51,600,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(18) the State of Texas should have received \$17,300,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(19) the State of Utah should have received \$12,300,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(20) the State of Virginia should have received \$23,200,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(21) the State of West Virginia should have received \$107,400,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(22) the State of Wyoming should have received \$323,900,000 of such unappropriated balance;

(23) the Crow Tribe should have received \$6,200,000 unappropriated balance;

(24) the Hopi Tribe should have received \$4,700,000 unappropriated balance;

(25) the Navajo Tribe should have received \$26,000,000 unappropriated balance; and

Whereas such States and tribes are being denied the use of the unappropriated balance in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund

for the benefit of their citizenry and their environment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Federal budget for fiscal year 2004 should keep faith with the goals of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) by providing to eligible States and Indian tribes their lawful share of the unappropriated balance in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund so that they may further protect and enhance the environments of their States and tribal lands.

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, House Concurrent Resolution 425 encourages the administration to pay down the debt owed to 25 States and Indian tribes as part of their share to the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, or AMR Fund.

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, we support this resolution.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 425, I rise today to support its passage and to highlight the problem of abandoned mines in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The industrialization of the United States was fueled largely by Pennsylvania coal. Today, the Commonwealth still bears the scars from centuries of mining. Acid discharge still pollutes our streams and abandoned strip mines still make parts of Pennsylvania look like a lunar landscape. It is sad to see our environment in such a state but it is even more tragic that these abandoned mines pose a serious threat to the general public. So far this year, 26 people have died as a result of accidents at abandoned mine sites. Since January 2000, 78 individuals have died at abandoned mine sites. From hunters who have stumbled off rock faces to the youth who drown to the nine miners who were rescued from the Quecreek Mine after their mine was flooded by an adjacent abandoned mine, we in Pennsylvania know all too well the dangers these abandoned mines pose.

I applaud the gentlewoman from Wyoming, Mrs. CUBIN, for introducing H. Con. Res. 425, and my many colleagues from Pennsylvania for cosponsoring it. The Abandoned Mine Land Trust Fund was created to erase the scars that mining has left and the Federal budget for FY 2004 should keep faith with the goals of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 by providing to eligible states their share of the unappropriated balance in the fund so that they may further protect and enhance the environments of their states. Pennsylvania is essentially owed \$51.6 million from the fund and has more abandoned mines yet to be reclaimed than any other state.

On August 22 of this year I toured the Keim Tunnel in Dauphin County, one of the many abandoned mines in my district. I saw the effects it has on nearby streams and the potential dangers it poses to the public. In the past I have always advocated that Pennsylvania receive its full share of the Abandoned Mine Land Trust Fund. I will continue this important work and I genuinely hope that the passage of H. Con. Res. 425 will bring us one step closer to this goal.

Mr. Speaker, as we consider H. Con. Res. 425 today, we must also remember that in the very near future we will be debating the reauthorization of the Abandoned Mine Land Trust Fund. I hope that when that time arises Members of Congress from mining states, current and past, and non-mining states can get together and once and for all come up with a way to get abandoned mines in states like Pennsylvania cleaned up immediately. We owe this not only to our environment which has been scarred but also to the many people who have been killed or injured as a direct result of these abandoned mines.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I join in the support of this resolution.

It is no secret that for many years I have worked to liberate the unspent balance in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund for its intended purpose. And that is, the restoration of abandoned coal mines sites which pose a threat to human health, safety and the environment of coalfield residents.

The program has enjoyed success, to date, \$1.4 billion worth of public health and safety coal related problems have been addressed. Yet, at the same time, there exists an unspent balance in the fund of an estimated \$1.9 billion as of the end of fiscal year 2002.

The expenditure of these funds is certainly need. There remains about \$2.8 billion or so worth of outstanding high priority problems.

While record keeping is sporadic, just last week the New York Times reported there have been 78 deaths in abandoned or inactive mines since January 2000, including 26 this year.

And the West Virginia Charleston Gazette noted in an September 13th editorial: "If West Virginia could simply get its share of the \$1.4 billion locked up in the Abandoned Mine Lands reclamation fund, hundreds, if not thousands, of miners could be put to work cleaning up the industry's past messes."

It should be noted that this fund is not financed by general taxpayer dollars, but rather, from a fee assessed on every ton of mined coal. Yet, to date, both the Administration and the Congress have failed to keep faith to the coal producing States by making this money available on a more sufficient basis.

I thank the gentlelady from Wyoming, the author of this resolution, for her efforts in this matter.

I urge all Members with an interest in this issue to work with this gentleman from West Virginia to press for greater appropriations from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of and express my strong support for House Concurrent Resolution 425, which the gentlelady from Wyoming, Congresswoman BARBARA CUBIN, introduced. I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this important legislation.

Although more than \$1.5 billion collected from coal producers and dedicated for clean-

ing up our Nation's abandoned coal mine sites is currently available for reclamation projects in Pennsylvania and throughout the United States, these funds sit unappropriated in the Abandoned Mine Land Trust Fund. As a result, we are needlessly postponing important reclamation work so that the federal government's bookkeepers can offset other expenditures from the Federal budget.

In fiscal 2002, Congress appropriated \$203.5 million for abandoned mine land reclamation projects nationwide. For fiscal 2003, however, the Administration has requested just \$175.5 million for this critical program, a cut of almost 14 percent. With an estimated total cost of abandoned coal land reclamation at \$20 billion, we need to do more to fix this problem.

Past coal mining practices have had a devastating effect on the environment and the economic potential of our Nation. Additionally, this problem is widespread. In fact, more than 120 congressional districts in 27 states, represented by both political parties, are affected by the problem of abandoned mines. At the current rate of expenditures for mine land cleanup, however, some of our Nation's abandoned coal land areas will remain unreclaimed 200 years from now. That is wrong.

To fix this problem, House Concurrent Resolution 425 would ensure that the goals of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 are met by providing the States with their lawful share of the unappropriated balance of the Abandoned Mine Land Trust Fund. States need these funds to revitalize their economies, restore their environments, and protect the safety of their citizens. I therefore commend Congresswoman CUBIN for helping to bring this legislation to the Floor.

In addition to cosponsoring this important resolution, I have introduced a bill to establish an alternative to the trust fund. H.R. 3218, the Abandoned Mine Land Area Redevelopment Act would provide capital to fund the health, safety, and environmental restoration and economic redevelopment of abandoned coal mine land areas.

More specifically, my bill would allow for comprehensive regional cleanup efforts without reliance on federal appropriations by authorizing a qualified entity to issue special tax credit bonds. Holders of the Abandoned Mine Land Area Redevelopment Bonds would receive a federal tax credit in lieu of interest. Regions afflicted by abandoned coal lands would then use the proceeds from the sale of the bonds to design, undertake, and oversee a reclamation and redevelopment plan.

As we have heard today, while the Abandoned Mine Land Trust Fund provides much-needed resources for redeveloping areas devastated by coal mining, these funds have proven insufficient to address all of health, safety, and environmental problems of abandoned mine land areas. The tax credit system established by my bill would result in the complete restoration of our Nation's abandoned coal land areas in roughly 30 years.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I again thank Congresswoman CUBIN for introducing House Concurrent Resolution 425, and I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation to help our Nation's mining communities. I also look forward to working with her and my other colleagues to consider other innovative solutions like the Abandoned Mine Land Area Redevelopment Act for addressing this long-standing problem in the near future.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. 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 agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 425.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN OF THE REVOLUTION HERITAGE AREA STUDY ACT

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4830) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area in South Carolina, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4830

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 "Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area Study Act".

SEC. 2. STUDY.

The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with appropriate State historic preservation officers, States historical societies, and other appropriate organizations, shall conduct a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area described in section 3 as the Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area. The study shall include analysis, documentation, and determination regarding whether the study area—

(1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed through partnerships among public and private entities and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;

(2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklore that are a valuable part of the national story;

(3) provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features;

(4) provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities;

(5) contains resources important to the identified theme or themes of the study area that retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;

(6) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and State governments that are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants (including the Federal Government), and have demonstrated support for the concept of a national heritage area;

(7) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and State governments to develop a national