

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

heritage area consistent with continued local and State economic activity; and

(8) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

SEC. 3. STUDY AREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) SOUTH CAROLINA.—The study area shall include the following counties in South Carolina: Pickens, Greenville County, Spartanburg, Cherokee County, Greenwood, Laurens, Union, York, Chester, Darlington, Florence, Chesterfield, Marlboro, Fairfield, Richland, Lancaster, Kershaw, Sumter, Orangeburg, Georgetown, Dorchester, Colleton, Charleston, Beaufort, and Williamsburg.

(2) NORTH CAROLINA.—The study area may include sites and locations in North Carolina as appropriate.

(b) SPECIFIC SITES.—The heritage area may include the following sites of interest:

(1) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SITE.—Kings Mountain National Military Park, Cowpens National Battlefield, Fort Moultrie National Monument, Charles Pickney National Historic Site, and Ninety Six National Historic Site as well as the National Park Affiliate of Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site.

(2) STATE-MAINTAINED SITES.—Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site, Eutaw Springs Battle Site, Hampton Plantation State Historic Site, Fort Watson, Landsford Canal State Historic Site, Andrew Jackson State Park, and Musgrove Mill State Park.

(3) COMMUNITIES.—Charleston, Beaufort, Georgetown, Kingstree, Cheraw, Camden, Winnsboro, Orangeburg, and Cayce.

(4) OTHER KEY SITES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.—Middleton Place, Goose Creek Church, Hopsewee Plantation, Walnut Grove Plantation, and Historic Brattonsville.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which funds are first made available for this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study.

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. 4830, introduced by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT), would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area.

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 fully support H.R. 4830.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT), the sponsor of this bill.

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

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, this is about the most important part of the campaign for the revolution, the revolution in the South, where the revolution was largely won after the fall of Charleston in the back country.

The whole matter has been popularized by Mel Gibson and others in a movie called *The Patriot*. The story now needs to be told right. There are over 200 battles and skirmishes, military incidents. We need this national corridor to tell it right.

We had 1 million visitors to 8 different battlefields in South Carolina in the year 2000, and even more now. This is a perfectly fit bill for those circumstances. The story needs to be told right and well.

I would like to commend the chairman and the ranking member for allowing this bill to come to the floor. I urge everyone to vote for it.

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 pass the bill, H.R. 4830.

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.

ANDERSONVILLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4692) to amend the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the Establishment of the Andersonville National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes", to provide for the addition of certain donated lands to the Andersonville National Historic Site.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4692

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

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL LANDS AUTHORIZED TO BE ADDED TO HISTORIC SITE.

The first section of the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the establishment of the Andersonville National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes", approved October 16, 1970, is amended by striking "five hundred acres" and inserting "520 acres".

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. 4692, introduced by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP), would amend the enabling legislation of the Andersonville National Historic Site to authorize the addition of 20 acres.

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, I commend the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) for his work on this bill. We are in support of its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP), the sponsor of the bill.

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

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time to me. I thank the committee for their strong support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is designed to increase the size of the Andersonville National Historic Site in Andersonville, Georgia, which is the site of America's only official National Prisoner of War Museum, exhibit, and the Andersonville National POW Cemetery.

It is necessary to expand the size because it is statutorily limited. In order to make the road safer and provide for better security, the Friends of Andersonville, a 501(c)(3) corporation, purchased the land and wishes to donate it. With this legislation, it can receive the land. The land can be made safer, and the Prisoners of War and America's people can properly recognize and commend the work of our POWs.

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Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. 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 (Mr. GOODLATTE). 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. 4692.

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.

CHEROKEE, CHOCTAW, AND CHICKASAW NATIONS CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3534) to provide for the settlement of certain land claims of Cherokee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw Nations to the Arkansas Riverbed in Oklahoma, as amended.