

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1883.

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.

#### VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1442) to authorize the design and construction of a visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1442

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

#### SECTION 1. VISITOR CENTER.

Public Law 96-297 (16 U.S.C. 431 note) is amended by adding at the end the following: "**SEC. 6. VISITOR CENTER.**

"(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., is authorized to construct a visitor center at or near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia, or its environs, subject to the provisions of this section, in order to better inform and educate the public about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam War.

"(2) LOCATION.—The visitor center shall be located underground.

"(3) CONSULTATION ON DESIGN PHASE.—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. shall consult with educators, veterans groups, and the National Park Service in developing the proposed design of the visitor center.

"(b) APPLICATION OF COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—Chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Commemorative Works Act) shall apply, including provisions related to the siting, design, construction, and maintenance of the visitor center, and the visitor center shall be considered a commemorative work for the purposes of that Act, except that—

"(1) final approval of the visitor center shall not be withheld;

"(2) the provisions of section 8908(b) of title 40, United States Code requiring further approval by law for the location of a commemorative work within Area I shall not apply; and

"(3) the Secretary of the Interior shall enter into a written agreement with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. for specified maintenance needs of the visitor center.

"(c) OPERATION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall—

"(1) operate the visitor center; and

"(2) as soon as practicable, in consultation with educators and veterans groups, develop a written interpretive plan for the visitor center in accordance with National Park Service policy.

"(d) FUNDING.—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of expenses of, the establishment of the visitor center. No Federal funds shall be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the visitor center."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) and the gentleman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1442, which I introduced and that was amended by the Committee on Resources, authorizes the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to establish an underground visitor center at or near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to better inform and educate the public about the Memorial and the Vietnam War.

My colleagues may not remember, but back in 1979 Congress authorized the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to raise the necessary funds to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, known more commonly as The Wall. The Fund met its goal, raising over \$8 million. And on November 13, 1982, The Wall was opened to the public. I have no doubt that the Fund will meet its goal for the visitor center.

The Fund has been integrally involved with the Memorial since 1982, and I expect that it will also be integrally involved with the visitor center. While the center will be operated by the Park Service, the National Park Rangers will work side by side with volunteers and educators from the Memorial Fund and other veterans' organizations in assisting visitors as they seek a better understanding of the Memorial and our involvement in the war.

Today over 4.4 million people annually visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the most visited Memorial in our Nation's capital. Some come to "The Wall That Heals" to sketch the name of their fallen mother or father, brother or sister on a piece of paper, while others come for a solemn moment with a fallen comrade. It has become the quietest place in our Nation's capital.

No Federal funds will go toward the design and construction of the visitor center. Once completed, the maintenance costs will be shared by the Fund and the National Park Service.

Once built, the visitor center and The Wall will work in synergy to provide a profound educational experience unlike any other monument or memorial. While the exhibits for the visitor center will be determined once it is built, I expect that some of the 60,000 personal articles that have been left by family members over the years at the Memorial will find a permanent home.

A visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is the right thing to do. It is our moral responsibility to provide a place where the thousands of stories of profiles in courage can be told and shared with fellow Americans.

Too many visitors to The Wall walk away not truly knowing the impact the Vietnam War had on our country, the men and women who fought in Vietnam and the lives of those families who

lost their mothers and fathers, sons and daughters. While there are the names of 58,235 men and women on The Wall who made the ultimate sacrifice for democracy and security, I do not know how the draft affected their families, who they were, where they came from, or how they felt about the war. A visitor center could begin to answer some of these questions.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial will offer the visitor a more comprehensive understanding as to the evolution of the Memorial and why America got involved in Vietnam in the early 1950s, committed itself until 1973, making it our Nation's longest military conflict, spanning six Presidential administrations and sacrificing the lives of over 52,000 Americans.

I know my colleagues who unselfishly served this country during the Vietnam War with honor and duty, such as two of the original cosponsors of the bill, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), agree with me that the visitor center is needed.

This bill represents a true bipartisan effort. I would like to thank the Committee on Resources ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the Committee on Resources vice chairman, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), and our colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), for their support and efforts in moving this legislation forward.

I would also like to thank Jan Scruggs of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and a number of his colleagues from veterans organizations across the country, Don Murphy, Deputy Director of the National Park Service and his staff, and David Watkins, of the minority staff, for all of the hours that they put in working with the majority staff in moving this bill forward.

Finally, I would like to thank my constituents, Leo Burke of Stockton, California, a veteran of World War II, and Retired Air Force Colonel Robert Frank of Pleasanton, California, a veteran of the Vietnam War. Both have been instrumental in raising the awareness of H.R. 1442 and support for the visitor center.

I would also like to thank the members of the Karl Ross Post Number 16 American Legion in Stockton, California, and the Vietnam War veterans from the tri-valley area in my district for their support of this legislation.

H.R. 1442, as amended, is supported by the majority, minority of the Committee on Resources and the administration. It has been an honor for me to serve in helping to move this much-delayed legislation forward.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1442 as amended. I look forward to this important legislation becoming law.

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

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

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, any potential changes to the Vietnam Memorial or any of these magnificent memorials on our National Mall must be considered very carefully. The Wall is an incredibly powerful tool for reconciliation and healing as we have heard, and, as I have heard from many of my constituents, it is also a permanent record of sacrifice and loss.

Millions of Americans feel a deep and personal connection to The Wall, and we in Congress are its stewards.

In this instance a visitor center would allow the National Park Service and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to provide visitors to this wall a context that might further their understanding of the war.

For many visitors, the list of over 50,000 names inscribed on black granite is certainly moving, but their personal understanding of, and connection to, the events surrounding the conflict is very limited. A small underground visitor center would become an a powerful tool in expanding visitors' connection with the Memorial and its subject matter.

Certainly, there is more work to be done even after this legislation is enacted. How best to design and construct the center so that it will not intrude upon The Wall itself or any other memorial on the Mall, as well as how best to fund staff and maintain the center must all be explored.

However, development of this legislation has become a cooperative process, as we have heard, and the bill contains certain provisions that will provide guidance on each of these issues as the process of establishing the center moves forward.

Once completed, the Vietnam Memorial Visitor Center will be a welcome and informative addition to our National Mall. The gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), and all the cosponsors of H.R. 1442 are to be commended for their efforts on this important legislation.

In addition, the contributions of the administration and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund were vital during this process. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1442, as amended.

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

□ 1530

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), vice chairman of the Committee on Resources and an original cosponsor of the bill.

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of a bill which will authorize the building of a visitors center at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. I am proud to have assisted and supported the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) and the leadership and the staff of the Committee on Resources in bringing us one step closer to making the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitors Center a reality.

In this body, Mr. Speaker, I am but one of many who served our great Nation in uniform during this period of our country's history. And today we debate long-overdue legislation to create a visitors center at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the most popular memorial in Washington with more than 4 million visitors a year.

Etched row upon row the heroes listed on the wall continue to serve our Nation still today. They serve to remind us of the price of freedom.

Throughout the United States, teachers and students are benefiting from the educational programs of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. We must ensure that this noble effort continues beyond America's classrooms. It must continue when those students visit our Nation's capital. It must continue when they visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The underground visitors center must be there on that sacred site. The visitors center will create a profound learning experience for all Americans, a place where veterans and family members come to remember and often to mourn, a place where love is openly displayed, love for those lost in Vietnam.

The visitors center will teach our children the lessons we learned as soldiers and as a country. In the best traditions of war memorials, the visitors center will ensure that future generations will always remember the sacrifices that were made by our servicemembers for their country, for their freedom.

It will educate our country's youth and continue the wall's work of healing our Nation. I cannot think of a more appropriate place for a visitors center than on the hallowed grounds of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The Vietnam War was controversial. However, there is no controversy about the bravery and sacrifice of the men and women who answered the call of duty. Former President George H.W. Bush, himself a former combat pilot, wrote of the legislation that we debate today, "This center will remind all Americans that we owe these soldiers a debt of gratitude."

I echo the President's sentiments. Let us take up this historic step. Let us create a center to recognize our courageous Vietnam veterans. Let us establish this visitors center so every future generation understands the sacrifices made and as a Nation we will never forget.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to pass this historic legislation as a tribute to those who have served our country.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

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

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I certainly want to commend my good friend, the chairman of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), and also our ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), for their outstanding leadership in bringing this legislation to the floor. More especially, I want to commend also my good friend, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) and my good friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), for their outstanding contributions in making this legislation a possibility.

Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor, I rise today in support of H.R. 1442, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitors Center Act.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 1982; and with some 4.4 million visitors each year, it is the most visited memorial in Washington, D.C.

This memorial stands as a testament to the sacrifices made by the men and women during the Vietnam War. Their names are engraved in the wall to honor their memory and serve as a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice they made on behalf of our Nation. Some of them are my own relatives and friends; their names are on that wall.

H.R. 1442 is designed to enhance public education at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Specifically, it would authorize the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to design and construct an underground visitors center for the memorial. The fund would also promote the educational experience for the public, an experience culminating in self-guided tours, displays of collections and mementos of the fallen soldiers and exhibits discussing the historical significance of the memorial and the Vietnam War.

Mr. Speaker, as a Vietnam veteran, I am painfully aware of the sacrifices made by these men and women in defense of freedom. I am honored to have been able to support this legislation which I believe is crucial in educating the public about the Vietnam War, as well as preserving the memory of our fallen men and women in the military.

Mr. Speaker, this memorial is more than just a reminder of the events before, during, and after that tragic war in Vietnam. This memorial should also serve as a reminder to our national politicians and military leaders of our Nation never, never to take lightly the matter of putting our soldiers, our sailors, our Marines, and our Air Force personnel in harm's way. It should be only if there is absolutely clear evidence that the security and safety of our Nation is at risk.

I need to remind my colleagues we did not win the war in Vietnam. And

for a former Secretary of Defense to confess years later and publicly stating that as a matter of policy we were wrong to be in Vietnam, tell that to the parents and the wives and the brothers and sisters and the relatives of some 58,000 brave men and women who lost their lives in that terrible conflict, and some 400,000 who were wounded and maimed for life. And I cannot help it also, Mr. Speaker, but to state for the record that some 2 million Vietnamese, included among them tens of thousands of innocent women and children needlessly killed in that terrible conflict.

It is my sincere hope that this memorial will stand as a center for learning and telling the American people the real truth of what happened in that dark 10-year period of our Nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, I would like again to take this opportunity to thank my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), and the ranking member of this committee for their continued leadership and commitment in honoring the Vietnam Memorial. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 1442, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Act.

I am very proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation which authorizes the design and construction of a visitors center to enhance the experience of visitors to the Vietnam Memorial. I will not ever forget the impact that the wall had on me when it was first commemorated in 1982. At that time the sacrifices made by American soldiers, Marines, Navy, and Air Force in Vietnam were so fresh on everyone's conscience. However, as years pass, the Vietnam War becomes the subject of a history text book rather than a reality of life.

The sacrifices made by Vietnam veterans must not simply fade into the past. We owe much more to the soldiers who answered the call to duty and who sacrificed for our freedom. Today, most of the visitors to the wall were not alive during the Vietnam era. Many do not fully understand the message on the wall. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitors Center will ensure that Americans now and also future generations will learn and understand the true history of the Vietnam War.

I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) for his leadership on this matter so that we can continue to honor the sacrifices made by our many brave Americans.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time. I thank her for her leadership and the

gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) for his leadership as well.

Let me say what we all know, that there are no veterans, and I think all would agree, that are more deserving than Vietnam veterans, no veterans that got a rawer deal at home and in the field. We cannot do enough. They still are the homeless veterans, not simply the returning veterans.

I support this memorial. And I support it because it has been put underground. But I come to the floor to remind people that that is not where it always was. It was above ground. Now it is going underground and still there is a lot of work to be done to make sure that it is in keeping with the Mall itself. The Mall is becoming a crowded urban area, rather than the Mall it was meant to be.

The Vietnam Memorial, anybody who goes there knows that people who come to the Vietnam Memorial need some place to go. Some people that come, they bring so many things with them. They leave items. It is the most visited memorial. It is a shrine. It is not simply a memorial.

So the need for some place for people to be is apparent here. We have to be very careful, however, as we get pressure from various groups. For example, there is another memorial, because after this wonderful shrine was put there, some came forward and said, we do not like that so we want another one. And so there is another one there which, of course, people ignore because the place where people come is the place where there was a competition. And pursuant to that competition was this extraordinary memorial that could not be improved upon. But there was political pressure, and there is another memorial there that looks like all the other memorials in Washington.

And it is political pressure that I come to the floor to remind people of because political pressures are making our Mall a place where our generation is using up all of the space.

There is a portion of the Senate bill, when this goes to conference, to access the so-called reserve, the access from the White House to the Jefferson Memorial, the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial. It is unfair to future generations to say, look, I am sorry there is no space there, but we had a lot of things that we wanted to commemorate.

Mr. Speaker, I want to read a letter from the National Capital Planning Commission that reluctantly approved, or said it supported, this memorial but warned the Congress, "While we applaud efforts of the Vietnam Memorial Fund to seek ways to ensure the visitors center will not visually intrude on the historic open space of the Mall, the Commission is concerned that if this center is approved, Congress will soon find itself under increasing pressure to authorize similar education centers at other memorials throughout the monumental core, including the Vietnam Memorial, the World War II Memorial,

the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and the FDR Memorial."

My position on all these memorials is the same. Martin Luther King, when people wanted to memorialize him before 25 years, no, no exceptions. He had to wait 25 years. We wanted an African American memorial on the Mall, I was against it. It is not going to be on the Mall. We have to have one policy.

I think we have done the right thing here. But this is a real warning to the Congress that it does not have a lot more space left on that Mall.

Hon. CRAIG THOMAS,  
*Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks,*  
*U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR THOMAS: I am writing to express the views of the National Capital Planning Commission with regard to S. 1076, a bill that would authorize a visitor education center at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

As I stated previously in testimony before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the Commission is supportive of the establishment of a visitor education center. We believe such a center could help inform the millions of visitors to the nation's capital—including thousands of school-aged children—who are eager to learn more about the complex history of the Vietnam conflict and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. However, the Commission is concerned that locating an education center at the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial would set an unwelcome precedent for additional education centers at other memorials across the Mall. Instead, we believe there are alternative ways to provide visitors to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial with an education center that would be more consistent with Commission policies and avoid setting a precedent for additional visitor centers on the Mall.

Since 1991, the Commission has consistently expressed objection to constructing additional elements to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. In our view, the memorial succeeds in evoking a powerful, emotional response precisely because of its simplicity. The memorial presents a complete and timeless tribute whose impact could be diminished if it were coupled with an education center whose main focus would be historical interpretation and exhibit. In addition, as you may be aware, in September 2001, this Commission, along with the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Memorials Commission, adopted the Memorials and Museums Master Plan to guide the location of new memorials and related structures in the nation's capital. The Plan sets forth a policy stating that visitor services at memorials in Area I, which includes the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, "should be limited to only small information kiosks and restroom facilities and should not contain buildings or interior housing exhibits, displays, collection, or other interpretive products and programs normally found in museums, visitor centers, or education centers."

While we applaud efforts of the Vietnam Memorial Fund to seek ways to ensure that the visitor center will not visually intrude upon the historic open space of the Mall, the Commission is concerned that if this center is approved, Congress may soon find itself under increasing pressure to authorize similar education centers at other memorials throughout the Monumental Core, including the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the World War II Memorial, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, or the FDR Memorial. Additional structures at these sites would further diminish the Mall's cherished open landscape.

As we move forward to implement the Memorials and Museums Master Plan, we anticipate working with the National Park Service on a study that will provide a comprehensive assessment of landscape conditions, land use, and visitor services on and adjacent to the Mall. We expect the study will examine alternatives for educating visitors about memorials located on the Mall.

We look forward to working with the Committee on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact our General Counsel, Ash Jain, or myself at (202) 482-7200 if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA E. GALLAGHER, AICP,  
*Executive Director.*

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA).

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation. I want to thank its sponsor, my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), the chairman of our committee, for his leadership on this issue.

Just a few weeks from now on November 11, our Nation will observe Veterans Day. I believe one of the most moving tributes to our veterans is in fact this Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall which honors the service and sacrifice of over 3.5 million Americans who served in Southeast Asia during that conflict.

Our Nation suffered the loss of 58,000 men and women and more than 300,000 came home injured or wounded. The Vietnam wall honors those we lost and pays a testament to their sacrifice. The fact that the wall is the most visited monument in Washington speaks to the experience it offers to every visitor.

As impressive as the wall is, I believe we can enhance the experience by establishing a facility to educate visitors about the sacrifices that our troops made during the conflict. The legislation we are considering today would authorize the creation of an underground educational visitors center within the memorial's existing 2-acre site. The facility will feature photographs of those who were killed or remain missing, as well as some of the more 60,000 items that have been left at the wall over the last few years.

The visitors center would be funded by private donations through the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, a non-profit organization that raised money to build the memorial wall.

Earlier this year I was pleased to take part in a Committee on Resources hearing on the grounds of the national Mall next to the memorial. I believe an educational visitors center will serve as an important learning tool for the millions of visitors who will visit the wall each year, especially those too young to remember the conflict in Vietnam.

Through the passage of this legislation today, we can help the American school children and the public at large have a greater access to the informa-

tion about service, sacrifice, and patriotism for those whose names are inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Wall.

□ 1545

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

I just wanted to thank my speakers for coming in and supporting this important piece of legislation, and I am only sorry I did not get on the gentleman from California's (Mr. POMBO) bill early enough because it would have been something that would be tremendously important. My brother served in Vietnam.

I urge my colleagues to support and endorse this bill.

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

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

I want to thank the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA), two of my California colleagues who have worked so hard on this legislation and others over the past several months to make this a reality, and I think that their support is well-known amongst the veteran community, and I thank them for their work.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1442, as amended.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1442, 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.

#### NEVADA NATIONAL FOREST LAND DISPOSAL ACT OF 2003

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1092) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell certain parcels of Federal land in Carson City and Douglas County, Nevada, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1092

*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 "Nevada National Forest Land Disposal Act of 2003".

##### SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States owns, and the Forest Service administers, land in small and large parcels in Carson City and Douglas County, Nevada.

(2) Much of this Federal land is interspersed with or adjacent to private land, which renders the Federal land difficult, in-

efficient, and expensive for the Forest Service to manage and more appropriate for disposal.

(3) In order to promote responsible and orderly development in Carson City and Douglas County, Nevada, appropriate parcels of the Federal land should be sold by the Federal Government based on recommendations made by units of local government and the public.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide for the sale of certain parcels of Federal land in Carson City and Douglas County, Nevada.

##### SEC. 3. DISPOSAL OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS, CARSON CITY AND DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEVADA.

(a) DISPOSAL REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") shall sell any right, title, or interest of the United States in and to the following parcels of National Forest System lands in Carson City or Douglas County, Nevada:

(1) The parcel of land referred to as the "Carson Parcel", consisting of approximately 3 acres, and more particularly described as being a portion of the southeast quarter, section 31, township 15 north, range 20 east, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(2) The parcel of land referred to as the "Jacks Valley/Highway 395 Parcel", consisting of approximately 28 acres, and more particularly described as being a portion of the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter, section 6, township 14 north, range 20 east, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(3) The parcel of land referred to as the "Indian Hills Parcel", consisting of approximately 75 acres, and more particularly described as being a portion of the southwest quarter, section 18, township 14 north, range 20 east, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(4) The parcel of land referred to as the "Mountain House Area Parcel", consisting of approximately 40 acres, and more particularly described as being a portion of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter, section 12, township 10 north, range 21 east, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(5) The parcel of land referred to as the "Holbrook Junction Area Parcel", consisting of approximately 80 acres, and more particularly described as being a portion of the west half of the southwest quarter, section 7, township 10 north, range 22 east, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(6) The two parcels of land referred to as the "Topaz Lake Parcels", consisting of approximately 5 acres (approximately 2.5 acres per parcel), and more particularly described as being portions of the northwest quarter, section 29, township 10 north, range 22 east, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(b) MODIFICATION OF DESCRIPTIONS.—The Secretary may—

(1) correct typographical or clerical errors in the descriptions of land specified in subsection (a); and

(2) for the purposes of soliciting offers for the sale of such land, modify the descriptions based on—

(A) a survey; or

(B) a determination by the Secretary that the modification is in the best interest of the public.

(c) SELECTION AND SALE.—

(1) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate the sale of land under this section with the unit of local government in which the land is located.

(2) EXISTING RIGHTS.—The sale of land under this section shall be subject to all valid existing rights, such as rights-of-way, in effect as of the date of the sale. In the case of the parcel described in subsection (a)(2), all access rights in and to United States Highway 395, together with any and