

my First Congressional District of Michigan. On April 13th the Huron Undercover Narcotics Team seized 3,000 Oxycontin tablets from a home in the rural county of Presque Isle. This is just one example of the critical work these Narcotics Teams do everyday to keep our communities safe.

This Country's Drug problems are not going away. In fact, with the emergence of prescription drugs used and dealt illegally like Oxycontin, some would argue the problems are getting worse. My question is why are we zeroing out the funding that enables programs like the Huron Undercover Narcotics Team to exist and combat this problem that is only growing more severe?

We also need to provide assistance to help regional law enforcement and first responders talk to each other in times of emergency. My bill, H.R. 1323 "The Public Safety Interoperability Implementation Act", would provide grants to local law enforcement agencies to modernize their communication systems and become interoperable. These are the kinds of resources and tools I'm talking about!! We need to do everything possible to ensure that our law enforcement officers are fully interoperable.

Currently, firefighters and law enforcement officials may not be able to communicate with each other even if they work in the same jurisdiction. The tragic events of September 11th illustrated why it is so important that our law enforcement officials are fully interoperable. 343 firefighters and 72 law enforcement officers lost their lives in the World Trade Center on September 11th. 121 of these brave firefighters lost their lives due to fact that they were unable to talk to each other.

When our first responders are confronted with an emergency situation, it is absolutely necessary that they are able to communicate with one another so they can fully assess the situation and how best to handle it. These are the kind of resources and tools our first responders need. We need to do everything possible to ensure that our law enforcement officers that play an integral role in our nations anti-terrorism efforts are fully interoperable.

We also need to ensure that programs like Thin Blue Line are fully funded. The Thin Blue Line is a non-profit, volunteer organization that assists and supports the families of injured or deceased officers of law enforcement agencies. Thin Blue Line began in Michigan and is now beginning to expand throughout the nation. Thin Blue Line volunteers assist families with applying for benefits, counseling, and answering their question during the most difficult of circumstances. These officers have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty and their families deserve to be honored, respected, and supported any way we can.

I am hopeful that we can continue to show our commitment to law enforcement by supporting their important funding needs as well as supporting these important pieces of legislation. It is the least we can do for those who put their lives on the line for us everyday.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 266.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1046.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONTRACT WITH CITY OF CHEYENNE, WYOMING, FOR WATER STORAGE IN KENDRICK PROJECT, WYOMING

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1046) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to contract with the City of Cheyenne, Wyoming, for the storage of the city's water in the Kendrick Project, Wyoming.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1046

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

SECTION 1. WATER STORAGE CONTRACTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) CITY.—The term "city" means—
(A) the city of Cheyenne, Wyoming;
(B) the Board of Public Utilities of the city; and
(C) any agency, public utility, or enterprise of the city.

(2) KENDRICK PROJECT.—The term "Kendrick Project" means the Bureau of Reclamation project on the North Platte River that was authorized by a finding of feasibility approved by the President on August 30, 1935, and constructed for irrigation and electric power generation, the major features of which include—

(A) Seminoe Dam, Reservoir, and Powerplant; and
(B) Alcova Dam and Powerplant.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation.

(4) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of Wyoming.

(b) CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into 1 or more contracts with the city for annual storage of the city's water for municipal and industrial use in Seminoe Dam and Reservoir of the Kendrick Project.

(2) CONDITIONS.—

(A) TERM; RENEWAL.—A contract under paragraph (1) shall—

(i) have a term of not more than 40 years; and

(ii) may be renewed on terms agreeable to the Secretary and the city, for successive terms of not more than 40 years per term.

(B) REVENUES.—Notwithstanding the Act of May 9, 1938 (52 Stat. 322, chapter 187; 43 U.S.C. 392a)—

(i) any operation and maintenance charges received under a contract executed under paragraph (1) shall be credited against applicable operation and maintenance costs of the Kendrick Project; and

(ii) any other revenues received under a contract executed under paragraph (1) shall be credited to the Reclamation Fund as a credit to the construction costs of the Kendrick Project.

(C) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTORS.—A contract under paragraph (1) shall not adversely affect the Kendrick Project, any existing Kendrick Project contractor, or any existing Reclamation contractor on the North Platte River System.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI).

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

H.R. 1046 provides long-term water supplies to the City of Cheyenne, Wyoming. This important bill authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to enter into a long-term water contract with Cheyenne. Due to uncertainty in the law, the Federal Government cannot enter into long-term, non-project water contracts with municipal entities without the express consent of Congress. This bill simply provides that authority.

I urge my colleagues to support this non-controversial bill that seeks to provide much needed long-term water use certainty.

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Resources and the 108th Congress approved legislation identical to H.R. 1046. We have no objection to this legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1046.

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.

POTASH ROYALTY REDUCTION
ACT OF 2005

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 485) to provide that the royalty rate on the output from Federal lands of potassium and potassium compounds from the mineral sylvite in the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be reduced to 1.0 percent, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 485

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

TITLE I—POTASH ROYALTY REDUCTION

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Potash Royalty Reduction Act of 2005”.

SEC. 102. POTASSIUM AND POTASSIUM COMPOUNDS FROM SYLVITE.

(a) **ROYALTY RATE.**—Notwithstanding section 102(a)(9) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701(a)(9)), section 2 of the Act of February 7, 1927 (30 U.S.C. 282) and the term of any lease issued under such section 2, the royalty rate on the quantity or gross value of the output from Federal lands of potassium and potassium compounds from the mineral sylvite at the point of shipment to market in the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be 1.0 percent.

(b) **RECLAMATION FUND.**—Fifty percentum of any royalties paid pursuant to this title during the 5-year period referred to in subsection (a), together with any interest earned from the date of payment, shall be paid by the Secretary of the Treasury to the payor of the royalties to be used solely for land reclamation purposes in accordance with a schedule to implement a reclamation plan for the lands for which the royalties are paid. No payment shall be made by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to this subsection until the Secretary of the Interior receives from the payor of the royalties, and approves, the reclamation plan and schedule, and submits the approved schedule to the Secretary of the Treasury. The share of royalties held by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to this subsection, and interest earned thereon, shall be available until paid pursuant to this subsection, without further appropriation; shall not be considered as money received under section 35 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191) for the purpose of revenue allocation; and shall not be reduced by any administrative or other costs incurred by the United States.

(c) **STUDY AND REPORT.**—After the end of the 4-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, and before the end of the 5-year period beginning on that date, the Secretary of the Interior shall report to the Congress on the effects of the royalty reduction under this title, including a recommendation on whether the reduced royalty rate for potassium from sylvite should apply after the end of the 5-year period.

TITLE II—SODA ASH ROYALTY REDUCTION

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act of 2005”.

SEC. 202. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The combination of global competitive pressures, flat domestic demand, and spiraling costs of production threaten the future of the United States soda ash industry.

(2) Despite booming world demand, growth in United States exports of soda ash since 1997 has been flat, with most of the world's largest markets for such growth, including Brazil, the People's Republic of China, India, the countries of eastern Europe, and the Republic of South Africa, have been closed by protectionist policies.

(3) The People's Republic of China is the prime competitor of the United States in soda ash production, and recently supplanted the United States as the largest producer of soda ash in the world.

(4) Over 700 jobs have been lost in the United States soda ash industry since the Department of the Interior increased the royalty rate on soda ash produced on Federal land, in 1996.

(5) Reduction of the royalty rate on soda ash produced on Federal land will provide needed relief to the United States soda ash industry and allow it to increase export growth and competitiveness in emerging world markets, and create new jobs in the United States.

SEC. 203. REDUCTION IN ROYALTY RATE ON SODA ASH.

Notwithstanding section 102(a)(9) of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701(a)(9)), section 24 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 262), and the terms of any lease under that Act, the royalty rate on the quantity or gross value of the output of sodium compounds and related products at the point of shipment to market from Federal land in the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be 2 percent.

SEC. 204. STUDY.

After the end of the 4-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, and before the end of the 5-year period beginning on that date, the Secretary of the Interior shall report to the Congress on the effects of the royalty reduction under this title, including—

(1) the amount of sodium compounds and related products at the point of shipment to market from Federal land during that 4-year period;

(2) the number of jobs that have been created or maintained during the royalty reduction period;

(3) the total amount of royalty paid to the United States on the quantity or gross value of the output of sodium compounds and related products at the point of shipment to market produced during that 4-year period, and the portion of such royalty paid to States; and

(4) a recommendation of whether the reduced royalty rate should apply after the end of the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 485.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 485 is a bill that actually contains the language from

bills introduced by two of my colleagues from the western United States.

Title I of this bill contains language by my friend, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE). This language provides for a 5-year period the royalty rate on potash produced from Federal lands shall be 1 percent.

Potash is used primarily as an agriculture fertilizer because it is a source of soluble potassium, one of the three primary plant nutrients; the others are fixed nitrogen and soluble phosphorus. The 5-year reduction in royalty rates provides the industry the ability to employ new and more efficient production methods in potash mining, sustain and create new jobs, extend the life of existing deposits and make technological advances that will expand the availability of the Nation's potash resources.

Title II of this bill contains language introduced by my colleague, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN), which will reduce for 5 years the royalties paid on trona to help balance the unfair playing field in the world market that U.S. trona producers face from countries like China.

The U.S. soda ash industry, which until recently was the largest in the world, has operations in Wyoming, Colorado, and California, with the bulk of total production through four plants in the State of Wyoming. The total estimated value of the industry is around \$800 million.

The current Federal royalty on soda ash produced in the United States ranges from 4 percent to 6 percent. Mines in the Rocky Mountain region, Colorado and Wyoming, pay 6 percent. Mines in California pay only 4 percent.

Until 2003, the United States was the world's largest exporter of soda ash. In 2003, China passed the United States as the world's number one exporter.

Producers in China manufacture a synthetic product while the United States exports natural soda ash. This bill will reduce the Federal royalty to the statutory minimum of 2 percent for a period of 5 years. This will make the U.S. soda ash more attractive to foreign purchases and provide a window of opportunity to tackle the global barriers that limit market access for U.S. soda ash.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 485 is supported by the majority and minority of the committee. I urge adoption of the bill.

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the House passed similar royalty relief legislation in the 108th Congress. The bill before us contains provisions sponsored by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN).