

the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Newlands Project Headquarters and Maintenance Yard Facility to the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UPPER HOUSATONIC VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 938) to establish the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 938

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 "Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The upper Housatonic Valley, encompassing 29 towns in the hilly terrain of western Massachusetts and northwestern Connecticut, is a singular geographical and cultural region that has made significant national contributions through its literary, artistic, musical, and architectural achievements, its iron, paper, and electrical equipment industries, and its scenic beautification and environmental conservation efforts.

(2) The upper Housatonic Valley has 139 properties and historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including—

- (A) five National Historic Landmarks—
 - (i) Edith Wharton's home, The Mount, Lenox, Massachusetts;
 - (ii) Herman Melville's home, Arrowhead, Pittsfield, Massachusetts;
 - (iii) W.E.B. DuBois' Boyhood Homesite, Great Barrington, Massachusetts;
 - (iv) Mission House, Stockbridge, Massachusetts; and
 - (v) Crane and Company Old Stone Mill Rag Room, Dalton, Massachusetts; and
- (B) four National Natural Landmarks—
 - (i) Bartholomew's Cobble, Sheffield, Massachusetts, and Salisbury, Connecticut;
 - (ii) Beckley Bog, Norfolk, Connecticut;
 - (iii) Bingham Bog, Salisbury, Connecticut; and
 - (iv) Cathedral Pines, Cornwall, Connecticut.

(3) Writers, artists, musicians, and vacationers have visited the region for more than 150 years to enjoy its scenic wonders, making it one of the country's leading cultural resorts.

(4) The upper Housatonic Valley has made significant national cultural contributions through such writers as Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edith Wharton, and W.E.B. DuBois, artists Daniel Chester French and Norman Rockwell, and the performing arts centers of Tanglewood, Music Mountain, Norfolk (Connecticut) Chamber Music Festival, Jacob's Pillow, and Shakespear & Company.

(5) The upper Housatonic Valley is noted for its pioneering achievements in the iron,

paper, and electrical generation industries and has cultural resources to interpret those industries.

(6) The region became a national leader in scenic beautification and environmental conservation efforts following the era of industrialization and deforestation and maintains a fabric of significant conservation areas including the meandering Housatonic River.

(7) Important historical events related to the American Revolution, Shays' Rebellion, and early civil rights took place in the upper Housatonic Valley.

(8) The region had an American Indian presence going back 10,000 years and Mohicans had a formative role in contact with Europeans during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

(9) The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area has been proposed in order to heighten appreciation of the region, preserve its natural and historical resources, and improve the quality of life and economy of the area.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as follows:

(1) To establish the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

(2) To implement the national heritage area alternative as described in the document entitled "Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area Feasibility Study, 2003".

(3) To provide a management framework to foster a close working relationship with all levels of government, the private sector, and the local communities in the upper Housatonic Valley region to conserve the region's heritage while continuing to pursue compatible economic opportunities.

(4) To assist communities, organizations, and citizens in the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in identifying, preserving, interpreting, and developing the historical, cultural, scenic, and natural resources of the region for the educational and inspirational benefit of current and future generations.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) HERITAGE AREA.—The term "Heritage Area" means the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, established in section 4.

(2) MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The term "Management Entity" means the management entity for the Heritage Area designated by section 4(d).

(3) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term "Management Plan" means the management plan for the Heritage Area specified in section 6.

(4) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Boundary Map Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area", numbered P17/80,000, and dated February 2003.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SEC. 4. UPPER HOUSATONIC VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area.

(b) BOUNDARIES.—The Heritage Area shall be comprised of—

(1) part of the Housatonic River's watershed, which extends 60 miles from Lanesboro, Massachusetts to Kent, Connecticut;

(2) the towns of Canaan, Colebrook, Cornwall, Kent, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, and Warren in Connecticut; and

(3) the towns of Alford, Becket, Dalton, Egremont, Great Barrington, Hancock,

Hinsdale, Lanesboro, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlboro, Pittsfield, Richmond, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Washington, and West Stockbridge in Massachusetts.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

(d) MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, Inc. shall be the management entity for the Heritage Area.

SEC. 5. AUTHORITIES, PROHIBITIONS, AND DUTIES OF THE MANAGEMENT ENTITY.

(a) DUTIES OF THE MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—To further the purposes of the Heritage Area, the management entity shall—

(1) prepare and submit a management plan for the Heritage Area to the Secretary in accordance with section 6;

(2) assist units of local government, regional planning organizations, and nonprofit organizations in implementing the approved management plan by—

(A) carrying out programs and projects that recognize, protect and enhance important resource values within the Heritage Area;

(B) establishing and maintaining interpretive exhibits and programs within the Heritage Area;

(C) developing recreational and educational opportunities in the Heritage Area;

(D) increasing public awareness of and appreciation for natural, historical, scenic, and cultural resources of the Heritage Area;

(E) protecting and restoring historic sites and buildings in the Heritage Area that are consistent with heritage area themes;

(F) ensuring that signs identifying points of public access and sites of interest are posted throughout the Heritage Area; and

(G) promoting a wide range of partnerships among governments, organizations and individuals to further the purposes of the Heritage Area;

(3) consider the interests of diverse units of government, businesses, organizations and individuals in the Heritage Area in the preparation and implementation of the management plan;

(4) conduct meetings open to the public at least semi-annually regarding the development and implementation of the management plan;

(5) submit an annual report to the Secretary for any fiscal year in which the management entity receives Federal funds under this Act, setting forth its accomplishments, expenses, and income, including grants to any other entities during the year for which the report is made;

(6) make available for audit for any fiscal year in which it receives Federal funds under this Act, all information pertaining to the expenditure of such funds and any matching funds, and require in all agreements authorizing expenditures of Federal funds by other organizations, that the receiving organizations make available for such audit all records and other information pertaining to the expenditure of such funds; and

(7) encourage by appropriate means economic development that is consistent with the purposes of the Heritage Area.

(b) AUTHORITIES.—The management entity may, for the purposes of preparing and implementing the management plan for the Heritage Area, use Federal funds made available through this Act to—

(1) make grants to the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, their political subdivisions, nonprofit organizations and other persons;

(2) enter into cooperative agreements with or provide technical assistance to the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of

Massachusetts, their subdivisions, nonprofit organizations, and other interested parties;

(3) hire and compensate staff, which shall include individuals with expertise in natural, cultural, and historical resources protection, and heritage programming;

(4) obtain money or services from any source including any that are provided under any other Federal law or program;

(5) contract for goods or services; and

(6) undertake to be a catalyst for any other activity that furthers the purposes of the Heritage Area and is consistent with the approved management plan.

(c) **PROHIBITIONS ON THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.**—The management entity may not use Federal funds received under this Act to acquire real property, but may use any other source of funding, including other Federal funding outside this authority, intended for the acquisition of real property.

SEC. 6. MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The management plan for the Heritage Area shall—

(1) include comprehensive policies, strategies and recommendations for conservation, funding, management and development of the Heritage Area;

(2) take into consideration existing State, county, and local plans in the development of the management plan and its implementation;

(3) include a description of actions that governments, private organizations, and individuals have agreed to take to protect the natural, historical and cultural resources of the Heritage Area;

(4) specify the existing and potential sources of funding to protect, manage, and develop the Heritage Area in the first 5 years of implementation;

(5) include an inventory of the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area related to the themes of the Heritage Area that should be preserved, restored, managed, developed, or maintained;

(6) describe a program of implementation for the management plan including plans for resource protection, restoration, construction, and specific commitments for implementation that have been made by the management entity or any government, organization, or individual for the first 5 years of implementation; and

(7) include an interpretive plan for the Heritage Area.

(b) **DEADLINE AND TERMINATION OF FUNDING.**—

(1) **DEADLINE.**—The management entity shall submit the management plan to the Secretary for approval within 3 years after funds are made available for this Act.

(2) **TERMINATION OF FUNDING.**—If the management plan is not submitted to the Secretary in accordance with this subsection, the management entity shall not qualify for Federal funding under this Act until such time as the management plan is submitted to the Secretary.

SEC. 7. DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES OF THE SECRETARY.

(a) **TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary may, upon the request of the management entity, provide technical assistance on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis and financial assistance to the Heritage Area to develop and implement the approved management plan. The Secretary is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the management entity and other public or private entities for this purpose. In assisting the Heritage Area, the Secretary shall give priority to actions that in general assist in—

(1) conserving the significant natural, historical, cultural, and scenic resources of the Heritage Area; and

(2) providing educational, interpretive, and recreational opportunities consistent with the purposes of the Heritage Area.

(b) **APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall approve or disapprove the management plan not later than 90 days after receiving the management plan.

(2) **CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.**—In determining the approval of the management plan, the Secretary shall consider whether—

(A) the management entity is representative of the diverse interests of the Heritage Area, including governments, natural and historic resource protection organizations, educational institutions, businesses, and recreational organizations;

(B) the management entity has afforded adequate opportunity, including public hearings, for public and governmental involvement in the preparation of the management plan;

(C) the resource protection and interpretation strategies contained in the management plan, if implemented, would adequately protect the natural, historical, and cultural resources of the Heritage Area; and

(D) the management plan is supported by the appropriate State and local officials whose cooperation is needed to ensure the effective implementation of the State and local aspects of the management plan.

(3) **ACTION FOLLOWING DISAPPROVAL.**—If the Secretary disapproves the management plan, the Secretary shall advise the management entity in writing of the reasons therefore and shall make recommendations for revisions to the management plan. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove a proposed revision within 60 days after the date it is submitted.

(4) **APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS.**—Substantial amendments to the management plan shall be reviewed by the Secretary and approved in the same manner as provided for the original management plan. The management entity shall not use Federal funds authorized by this Act to implement any amendments until the Secretary has approved the amendments.

SEC. 8. DUTIES OF OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.

Any Federal agency conducting or supporting activities directly affecting the Heritage Area shall—

(1) consult with the Secretary and the management entity with respect to such activities;

(2) cooperate with the Secretary and the management entity in carrying out their duties under this Act and, to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate such activities with the carrying out of such duties; and,

(3) to the maximum extent practicable, conduct or support such activities in a manner which the management entity determines will not have an adverse effect on the Heritage Area.

SEC. 9. REQUIREMENTS FOR INCLUSION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY.

(a) **NOTIFICATION AND CONSENT OF PROPERTY OWNERS REQUIRED.**—No privately owned property shall be preserved, conserved, or promoted by the management plan for the Heritage Area until the owner of that private property has been notified in writing by the management entity and has given written consent for such preservation, conservation, or promotion to the management entity.

(b) **LANDOWNER WITHDRAW.**—Any owner of private property included within the boundary of the Heritage Area shall have their property immediately removed from the boundary by submitting a written request to the management entity.

SEC. 10. PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.

(a) **ACCESS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to—

(1) require any private property owner to allow public access (including Federal, State, or local government access) to such private property; or

(2) modify any provision of Federal, State, or local law with regard to public access to or use of private property.

(b) **LIABILITY.**—Designation of the Heritage Area shall not be considered to create any liability, or to have any effect on any liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any persons injured on such private property.

(c) **RECOGNITION OF AUTHORITY TO CONTROL LAND USE.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify the authority of Federal, State, or local governments to regulate land use.

(d) **PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS IN HERITAGE AREA.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require the owner of any private property located within the boundaries of the Heritage Area to participate in or be associated with the Heritage Area.

(e) **EFFECT OF ESTABLISHMENT.**—The boundaries designated for the Heritage Area represent the area within which Federal funds appropriated for the purpose of this Act may be expended. The establishment of the Heritage Area and its boundaries shall not be construed to provide any nonexisting regulatory authority on land use within the Heritage Area or its viewshed by the Secretary, the National Park Service, or the management entity.

SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated for the purposes of this Act not more than \$1,000,000 for any fiscal year. Not more than a total of \$10,000,000 may be appropriated for the Heritage Area under this Act.

(b) **MATCHING FUNDS.**—Federal funding provided under this Act may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of any assistance or grant provided or authorized under this Act.

SEC. 12. SUNSET.

The authority of the Secretary to provide assistance under this Act shall terminate on the day occurring 15 years after funds are first made available for 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. 938, the bill under consideration.

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. 938, introduced by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON), and amended by the Committee on Resources, contains four titles. However, all four titles passed this House in the 108th Congress.

Title I would establish the Upper Housatonic National Heritage Area in the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It would

preserve the area's contributions in literature, art, music, architecture, iron and paper, and its electrical equipment industries.

Title II amends the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Act in order to transition their management authority from a Federal commission to a nonprofit organization, which is in line with more recent Heritage Area management.

Title III would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a suitability and feasibility study of establishing the St. Croix National Heritage Area in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Title IV would establish the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area across three counties within the State of New Mexico to commemorate the unique combination of cultures, languages, folk arts, customs, and architecture associated with the Spanish colonization of New Mexico, beginning as far back as 1598.

I urge adoption of this 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, I rise today to speak on H.R. 938. The majority has explained the pieces of this package. As the sponsor of the legislation comprising title IV, I would like to focus my remarks on the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area, which will be designated in the State of New Mexico.

I introduced this legislation earlier this year. A companion bill in the Senate, introduced by New Mexico's two Senators, currently awaits a vote on the floor of that body. In the 107th Congress, identical language passed the House unanimously. I am obviously pleased that today we, once again, have the opportunity to move closer to making this bill a law so New Mexicans can take additional steps to preserve and learn from our rich history.

The establishment of the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area is a citizen-driven effort to protect the remaining significant resources representative of the Spanish and Pueblo colonial era in north-central New Mexico. The bill identifies the northern New Mexico counties of Rio Arriba, Santa Fe and Taos as a National Heritage Area, an elite designation from Congress reserved for areas regarded as significant resources.

Northern New Mexico boasts many sites of historic and cultural significance. Our State is a blend of Pueblo and Hispanic cultures, making it a very unique and special place in our country. This legislation would identify many of the sites that tell northern New Mexico's story, help preserve them and, in the process, allow them to be more thoroughly enjoyed by New Mexicans and visitors to our State.

Preservation would directly lead to economic development of this area through enhanced tourism.

Title IV creates a nonprofit corporation governed by a 25-member board of trustees charged with developing a management plan for the heritage area. The board will be comprised of representatives from the State, affected counties, tribes, cities, and others. The corporation's plan would include recommendations for identifying, conserving and preserving cultural, historical and natural resources within the heritage area, along with strategies to promote tourism of the region's natural and cultural assets.

The city of Espanola, the city of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, Rio Arriba County, Taos County, La Jicarita Enterprise Community, the Chimayo Cultural Preservation Association, and the Eight Northern Pueblos support the Northern Rio Grande Heritage Area.

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

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER).

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Mexico for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 938, but I will confine my remarks to title I of the bill which would establish the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Let me start by thanking the gentleman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) for her persistence, her diligence, and her hard work on this legislation. It has been a pleasure working with her.

During the 106th Congress, H.R. 4312 authorized the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study of the Upper Housatonic as a potential national heritage area. The study establishes that the Upper Housatonic Valley meets the Interior Department's criteria for such a designation.

The Park Service recognizes the valley as distinctive for having a landscape that includes a blend of industrial innovations, environmental conservation initiatives, and cultural achievements of national significance.

The Upper Housatonic Valley includes 29 communities in western Massachusetts and northwestern Connecticut. I would like to highlight a few of the many contributions this region of New England brings to our national heritage.

Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edith Wharton, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Norman Rockwell, Suzy Frelinghuesen are just a few of the prominent artists and writers who have made the Housatonic Valley their home and the subject of their work. Today, visitors can see these artists' work on display in local museums before taking in a classical music concert

at Tanglewood or visiting the magnificently restored Shaker Village in Hancock. The Upper Housatonic has a rich cultural heritage and thriving artistic community to this day.

Elizabeth Mumbet Freeman is a person my colleagues may not be familiar with today, but her role in our national history is rightfully recognized in the newly reopened National Archives exhibit, Charters of Freedom.

□ 1515

A slave from Sheffield, Massachusetts, Mumbet sued in Massachusetts court for her freedom, leading to the abolition of slavery in Massachusetts in 1793. Many years later, the great civil rights leader, W.E.B. Dubois, made his home in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. His papers are archived and open to the public today in the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

As I hoped to highlight for you today, the Upper Housatonic Valley is an area rich in culture, history, and innovation against the backdrop of scenic landscapes. Its designation as a National Heritage Area will help preserve this treasure for years to come. I urge an "aye" vote in support of this legislation.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 938, a bill to establish the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area Act. The Upper Housatonic Valley, encompassing 29 towns in the hilly terrain of western Massachusetts and northwestern Connecticut, is a singular geographical and cultural region that has made significant national contributions through its literacy, artistic, musical, and architectural achievements, its iron, paper, and electrical equipment industries and its scenic beautification and environmental conservation efforts.

I would like to thank Chairman POMBO and the Resources Committee for bringing this legislation forward and for recognizing that through this broad, flexible and locally led initiative, the States of Connecticut and Massachusetts will be able to make real progress in protecting the river and its heritage. The heritage area has broad support throughout the region, from historic and civic organizations, local businesses and governments, and our State governments have expressed strong support for the establishment of a National Heritage Area and are enthusiastic about the potential for celebration and preservation of the heritage. It also has inspired the development of a local organization that has already begun hosting hiking events and historic visits.

Congress established criteria in our 2000 legislation that clarifies that designation requires a cultural, natural and historical heritage of national significance, must have broad public support and a qualified entity to manage the Area. The Park Service agreed that the Upper Housatonic Valley meets the Department's ten interim criteria for designation of a national heritage area and cite us as the best example of how to go about becoming a National Heritage Area.

The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area would extend from Lanesboro, Massachusetts, 60 miles South to Kent, Connecticut. This region of New England was

home to the Nation's first industrial iron sites from the 1730s to the 1920s. The first blast furnace was built in 1762 by Ethan Allen and supplied the iron for the cannons that helped George Washington's army to make other weapons for soldiers of the Revolutionary army. While most of the furnaces, mine sites and charcoal pits have been lost to development and time, the few that remain are in need of refurbishment. The Beckley Furnace in Canaan, Connecticut, was designated an official project by the Millennium Committee to Save America's Treasures and now has been well restored.

The Valley's history as a cultural retreat from the Boston and New York areas provides both past and current riches for the country. Since the 1930s visitors from all over have come to hear the music at Tanglewood, Music Mountain and Norfolk, see the paintings at the Norman Rockwell Museum, watch serious theater at Stockbridge and musical treats at Sharon. Today's local authors draw on a long tradition going back to the 19th century, when Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Edith Wharton lived and wrote here.

The Housatonic Valley is also rich with environmental and recreational treasures. The Housatonic River, just below Falls Village, Connecticut, is one of the prized fly-fishing centers in the Northeast and is enjoyed by fisherman from not only Connecticut and Massachusetts but the entire eastern seaboard. Olympic rowers have trained in this river as children have learned to swim, boat and fish and value its ecosystem. The Upper Housatonic Area, with its remoteness from, but ties to large cities, occupy a special niche in our national culture and I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 938, to establish the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area in Connecticut and Massachusetts. I am particularly pleased that Title 2 of the bill includes legislation I sponsored in the last Congress and again in this Congress to provide for a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing my home island of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area was also included in this package.

I want to begin by thanking Chairman RICHARD POMBO and Ranking Member NICK RAHALL for their support in including my bill in H.R. 938.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no more fitting place that should be studied for possible designation as a national Heritage Area than my home island of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. The island of St. Croix has a long, distinguished, and varied history, including being the site where Christopher Columbus first stepped onto what is now American soil. There is significant interest in preserving and enhancing the natural, historical and cultural resources of the island on a cooperative basis and such a study would provide guidance on how we can best achieve those purposes.

Even though each one of the four major islands of the U.S. Islands Virgin Islands can make a good case for designation as a National Heritage Area, the island of St. Croix with its two historic towns—Christiansted built in 1734 and Frederiksted built in 1752—is richly blessed with all of the attributes that would justify this designation.

The towns historic architecture matured over a 100-year period. The town of Christiansted

is one of the finest examples of Danish architectural designs in this hemisphere. Its history can be traced back some 4,000 years to 2500 B.C. It is also the place where one of our founding fathers and first Treasury Secretary, Alexander Hamilton, lived and worked during his formative years.

In 1493, Columbus arrived at what is now the Salt River National Historic Park and Ecological Preserve, making it the only site under the American flag where his men went ashore, as well as the first recorded hostile encounter between Europeans and Native Americans.

Frederiksted has the distinction of having been the first jurisdiction to have raised its flag in salute of the new Republic of the U.S.A., and indeed the first designed flag was done by a resident of that island.

Mr. Speaker, I can go on and on about the many unique and significant features of the island of St. Croix, but in the interest of time I would say that this is the third time that we would have passed this bill in the House and sent it to the other body and I hope that the third time will be the charm. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 938.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 938. Among its provisions, H.R. 938 incorporates bill language from H.R. 1820 which reauthorizes the Illinois and Michigan, I & M, Canal National Heritage Corridor to receive appropriations and transfers management entity status from the now defunct federal, I & M Commission to the non-profit Canal Corridor Association. I would like to commend Chairman POMBO and the House Committee on Resources for their hard work on this important piece of legislation.

The I & M Canal changed the Nation in 1848 when it opened the first shipping route between New York and New Orleans, designating Chicago as the Nation's greatest inland port. While the canal eventually fell into disuse due to new transportation methods and routes, in 1982 business and industry leaders founded the Canal Corridor Association to help revitalize the I & M Canal region, and in doing so, created a national model for regional partnership, conservation and renewal. I am proud to say that the I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor was America's charter National Heritage area, being created by an act of Congress in 1984. For 20 years, the Federal I & M Commission has worked to carry out the mission of the I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor. Its efforts have been particularly successful during the past 5 years that Phyllis Ellin has provided strong leadership as the Executive Director of the Commission.

Since 1984, the I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor has increasingly become an engine of economic growth in communities up and down the length of the Corridor; primarily through an increase in tourism but also in the use of the Corridor for recreational purposes. After consulting with local officials and those most interested and involved in the I & M Canal, it seems that the private sector approach offers more advantages to handle the increased work load brought on by the recent success of the canal and interest in heritage tourism.

As a result, H.R. 938 designates the Canal Corridor Association, CCA, as the new management entity of the I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor. The CCA seeks to enhance economic vitality by raising awareness of and expanding the parks, trails, landscapes, and

historic sites that make the I & M Canal region a special place. They have also successfully implemented education programs and improved the cultural, environmental, historic and tourism resources that the canal offers.

Under the leadership of Ana Koval I am firmly convinced that the CCA, through their governance of the I & M Canal, will continue to successfully educate citizens of the nationally historical importance of the I & M Canal and to play a pivotal role in the continued economic redevelopment of the region.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, having no additional requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, 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. 938, 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 627, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 266, by the yeas and nays; and

H.R. 2107, by the yeas and nays.

The first and third electronic votes will be conducted as 15-minute votes. The second vote in this series will be a 5-minute vote.

LINDA WHITE-EPPS POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 627.