

Settlement Common Stock under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act available to missed enrollees, eligible elders, and eligible persons born after December 18, 1971, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 449

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

SECTION 1. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT TO ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT.

Section 36(d)(3) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1629b) is amended—

(1) by striking “(d)(3)” and inserting “(3)”;
 (2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “of this section” and inserting “or an amendment to articles of incorporation under section 7(g)(1)(B)”;

(3) in subparagraph (A)—
 (A) by striking “, or” and inserting “; or”;
 and

(B) by striking “such resolution” and inserting “the resolution or amendment to articles of incorporation”; and

(4) in subparagraph (B), by striking “such resolution” and inserting “the resolution or amendment to articles of incorporation”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

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 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, S. 449, which is sponsored by Alaska Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, corrects a problem related to the issuance of stock by Native corporations pursuant to the Native Alaska Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

The bill eases certain restrictions placed on Native corporations that have made it practically impossible for many of them to issue new stock to young Alaska Natives. The same legislation has already been passed by the House as part of H.R. 3351, the Native American Technical Corrections Act.

In passing this bill today, we should recognize and applaud the efforts of the congressman for all of Alaska, Mr. YOUNG, who has labored for years to bring this bill before the House today.

I urge adoption of the bill.

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

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

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, S. 449 is noncontroversial legislation to make it easier for Alaska Native corporations to issue new stock.

Although S. 449 has neither been the subject of a hearing nor a markup in the Committee on Resources, it is sensible legislation which seeks to allow for expanded partition by Alaska Natives in the Native corporations established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. I am not aware of any opposition to S. 449 and urge support for its passage.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 449, a bill to facilitate shareholder consideration of proposals to make settlement common stock under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) available to missed enrollees, eligible elders, and eligible persons born after December 18, 1971.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), as originally enacted, limited Alaska Native Regional Corporations from enrolling Natives born after December 18, 1971, as shareholders in their respective corporations. Subsequent amendments to ANCSA have allowed Regional Corporations to include Natives born after December 18, 1971 (often referred to as “New Natives” or “Shareholder Descendants”), if existing shareholders of the Corporation adopt a resolution at an annual meeting. Thus far, very few Native Corporations have adopted resolutions to include Shareholder Descendants, in part because the standard of adopting a resolution is too high.

As the law now exists, Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) may issue new stock to children of their original shareholders born after 1971 and missed enrollees and additional stock to Native Elders, but they may not do so unless a majority of the corporation’s shares approve such a change at a meeting of the corporation’s shareholders. However, because not all shareholders attend corporation meetings, it is difficult at any meeting to achieve a vote in which a majority of all shareholders, whether or not represented at the meeting, agree to have new stock issued.

S. 449 amends the law to require that only a majority of shares represented at the meeting itself assent to the issuance of new stock, so long as a quorum is present, in order for new stock to be issued.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important legislation.

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

Mr. RENZI. 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 Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 449.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ACT COMMEMORATING THE LITE, OR LIFETIME INNOVATIONS OF THOMAS EDISON

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1096) to establish the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey as the successor to the Edison National Historic Site, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1096

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 “Act Commemorating the LITE, or Lifetime Innovations of Thomas Edison”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to recognize and pay tribute to Thomas Alva Edison and his innovations; and

(2) to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance the Edison National Historic Site to ensure public use and enjoyment of the Site as an educational, scientific, and cultural center.

SEC. 3. THOMAS EDISON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—*There is established the Thomas Edison National Historical Park as a unit of the National Park System (hereafter the “Historical Park”).*

(b) **BOUNDARIES.**—*The Historical Park shall be comprised of—*

(1) all property owned by the United States in the Edison National Historic Site as well as all property authorized to be acquired by the Secretary of the Interior for inclusion in the Edison National Historic Site before the date of the enactment of this Act, as generally depicted on the map entitled the “Edison National Historic Site”, numbered 20003B, and dated April 1977; and

(2) all property authorized to be acquired for inclusion in the Historical Park by this Act or other law enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) **MAP.**—*The map of the Historical Park shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.*

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—*The Secretary shall administer the Historical Park in accordance with this Act and with the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Acts entitled “An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes,” approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) and “An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes,” approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).*

(b) **ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.**—

(1) **REAL PROPERTY.**—*The Secretary may acquire land or interests in land within the boundaries of the Historical Park, from willing sellers only, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.*

(2) **PERSONAL PROPERTY.**—*The Secretary may acquire personal property associated with, and appropriate for, interpretation of the Historical Park.*

(c) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—*The Secretary may consult and enter into cooperative agreements with interested entities and individuals to provide for the preservation, development, interpretation, and use of the Historical Park.*

(d) **REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED LAW.**—*Public Law 87–628 (76 Stat. 428), regarding the establishment and administration of the Edison National Historic Site, is repealed.*

(e) **REFERENCES.**—*Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the “Edison National Historic Site” shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Thomas Edison National Historical Park”.*

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman

from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

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 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.

H.R. 1096 redesignates the Edison National Historic site as the Thomas Edison National Historic Park. The park will encompass all lands currently contained in the historic site and property designated for inclusion by the Secretary of the Interior prior to passage of this act.

Typically, an historic site is considered by the National Park Service to contain a single historical feature, while generally a National Historic Park extends beyond single properties or buildings. Based on this definition, Edison Historic Site will be more appropriately designated as a National Historic Park. Supporters of the park anticipate that this redesignation will bring more attention, visitation, and revenue to the Edison Historic Site.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1096.

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

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

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the legacy left by Thomas Edison is among the most important in American history. Through his generosity, the National Park Service is able to interpret the legacy for future generations, and H.R. 1096 will help further that important goal.

In addition to the sponsor, other members of the New Jersey delegation, including Representatives ROB ANDREWS, FRANK PALLONE, DONALD PAYNE, and BILL PASCRELL, are to be commended for their efforts in bringing this legislation to the floor.

I urge our colleagues to support H.R. 1096.

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

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT), the author of the bill.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1096, a piece of legislation that benefits an important historic landmark from my home State of New Jersey, the Thomas Edison National Historic Site.

I also want to thank my colleagues from the other side of the aisle for their support and their hard work on

this as well, Congressman DONALD PAYNE and Congressman BILL PASCRELL for all their work in joining with me in sponsoring this important legislation.

Tom Edison's contributions, most notably the incandescent light bulb, the motion picture camera, and the phonograph, have had a profound effect on the way people live their lives around the world. In fact, Life Magazine once honored him as the most important individual for the last 1,000 years.

The Thomas Edison National Historic Site in West Orange, New Jersey is a national treasure, encompassing Edison's home of 45 years, his laboratories and offices, and a vast collection of artifacts and historic documents.

Since 1997, the Edison Preservation Foundation has successfully partnered with the National Park Service to provide resources for the restoration of the site's historic buildings, artifacts and such, and plans to establish an endowment to support it for future operation including education programs for children. This partnership is really a great example of the public/private partnership working together and can serve as a role model for other programs in the future considering scarce financial Federal resources.

Unfortunately, both the historic structures where Edison lived and worked and irreplaceable treasures they now hold are at serious risk due to extensive water and damage and age-related decay. Although the site historically has been a major education destination for students from around the region, the need for renovations has led to a temporary closure of the site to visitors. While private support through the efforts of the Edison Preservation Foundation is crucial to efforts to restore the site, a long-term commitment from the Federal Government is also necessary for future success. So to ensure this long-term commitment, we have H.R. 1096, which commemorates Edison's lifetime accomplishments; redesignates, consistent with the National Park Service guidelines, the Edison Historic Site as the National Historic Park; and authorizes appropriations for the support of the site. This legislation will enable the Edison site to more effectively compete for scarce Federal funds and it would also strengthen the Edison Preservation Foundation's ability to raise private dollars.

Finally, Thomas Edison's legacy is an important component of the history of the State of New Jersey and the United States. So it is important that this Congress affirm its support for the Edison site by advancing this legislation.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and commend him for his excellent leadership on this legislation.

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 1096, the Act Commemorating the Lifetime Innovations of Thomas Edison. The Thomas Edison Historic Site in West Orange, New Jersey is a national historic treasure, and I am privileged to have it located in my congressional district and have had the pleasure of visiting the site on a number of occasions.

The laboratory complex consists of buildings that date back to 1887. These labs house the technology and the technological innovations and artifacts that changed the course of not only America but the entire world. We have visitors from throughout the world that come to the site, many from Asian countries where technology has become a very important part of their development and in many instances even bow to the statue and pictures of Thomas Edison because they revere the importance of technology that has really lighted the world through his inventions. The labs house the technology and innovations. And from the light bulb to the motion picture camera, Edison's unparalleled innovations are being preserved for current and future generations. The first movie was made there, the Black Maria it is called, and the movie studio is as it was over 100 years ago. The light bulb, the phonograph and records that were cast there at this site all need to be preserved.

Over the years, I have witnessed a positive impact of this unit of the National Park Service. The Edison laboratory complex has opened its doors and resources to assisting in the education of the community, particularly our young people who have had an opportunity to study and to have innovative lessons there. As a former teacher, I am well aware of the value of having a piece of history accessible to augment the learning process by providing lesson plans for teachers, hosting on-site and virtual tours, and facilitating programs and activities for students. The Edison site has provided an invaluable learning experience for these young people.

Thomas Edison devoted his life to technological innovations. His work ethic and commitment to improving the quality of life for others is a lesson that is extremely applicable today. Edison's improvement on the telephone and telegraph machines put him on the cutting edge of communications technology. As we in Congress consider the reauthorization of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, Edison's legacy reminds us of how far we have come.

This June we will celebrate the reopening of the Edison complex. For 2 years the National Park Service and the Thomas Edison Preservation Foundation have worked together to restore and revitalize this historic site.

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Over 400,000 artifacts and 5 million pages of documents that trace Edison's process of inventions have been deteriorating due to poor environmental

conditions and age-related decay. Many years ago, I made a request to allocate an appropriations to address these issues, and we were able to get \$5 million about 10 years ago. The result is what we see today.

I am very appreciative that my colleagues approve this appeal. The repairs and enhancements of this century-old building will improve the preservation of the priceless artifacts, ensuring that this treasure will remain an educational and cultural destination for generations to come. Passage of this bill will ensure the long-term success of the Edison Historical Site and demonstrate the congressional commitment to our history. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to be able to thank my good friend from New Jersey, Mr. PAYNE, for his eloquence in commenting on this very important site that will be established. The site is a national historic treasure and contains the world's largest collections of materials related to Thomas Edison.

As a member of the House Science Committee, clearly we should use every opportunity to focus on America's researchers and inventors and emphasize that Thomas Edison is one of America's greatest inventors, who has shown not only his love for research and invention, but his inexhaustible energy and genius that produced 1,093 patents in his lifetime, frankly, more than any other American.

Just this weekend we spent time in the city of Houston with the State of the Black Union, and one of the issues dealt with the digital divide among African Americans. The idea of highlighting the importance of invention and the importance of technology of that time by establishing and making better the Edison National Historical Site is, I think, an asset not only to the Nation but certainly to the place where it is lodged. I frankly think that America is a Nation that has great creativity, and I am proud to be an American for that very reason. We are problem-solvers.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the further recognition of the works of Thomas Edison by establishing the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey, it causes me to be moved to comment on some of the statements that have been made earlier on the floor of the House and the week's events as relates to signs of showing that we are not creative in our governance of America today, that is, of course, the debate and the recognition of the recent contract with UAE as relates to the taking over of a number of ports throughout America.

Frankly, let me just say that this is not a debate about the UAE, though we

now know today that the Coast Guard has indicated that they are not sure that there is not a potential for there to be a security risk in light of port operations being in the hands of foreign entities.

My concern, of course, in this whole debate is the fact that we are dealing with foreign entities in one of our most difficult areas to secure. We know that a ship laden with weapons of mass destruction can be volatile and dangerous.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I will not yield at this point.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I raise a point of order on the germaneness of the subject matter.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, although I appreciate very much the gentlewoman's comments as they relate to Thomas Edison and in particular her teaching, which enlightened me on his being the greatest inventor in American history, I would ask that we look at the germaneness of the subject matter and confine debate to the relevance of the subject matter, please.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct. Debate should be confined to the pending question.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as my good friend from the Republican side wishes to extinguish debate, let me just indicate, as I started out before, that Thomas Edison represents innovativeness. Unfortunately, our present administration is not innovative.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that my colleagues will join me in being innovative by not yielding to any compromises that may quash the thoughtfulness that we would have in dealing with our homeland security, which, of course, also involves technology.

I hope that we will have a reasonable debate. My good friend from the other side of the aisle, I hope he will engage in this debate so that legislation that I am offering that is creative, that deals with putting a moratorium on any of these operations owned by foreign entities, a study by the GAO, a study by Homeland Security about our security, I hope that we will have the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to be relevant at another time.

Again, let me say I congratulate the sponsors of this legislation dealing with the Thomas Edison National Historical Park. It exudes innovativeness and respect for creativity in America.

It is sad to say that the last week's activities and our failures for America's ports show no creativity. It is time for Congress to be as creative as it can be in securing the Nation's homeland.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I wish to include these in the extension of remarks.

I want to speak in strong support of H.R. 1096—legislation to help restore the Thomas

Edison National Historic Site. I congratulate my colleague SCOTT GARRETT for introducing this worthy legislation. It has been a privilege to work closely with Representative GARRETT and Representative DON PAYNE, whose district houses a large portion of the Edison site, to preserve this national treasure.

I am proud that I represent a region of New Jersey that has given birth to some of the greatest innovations in our Nation's history: Thomas Edison's Glenmont estate in West Orange and the Great Falls National Historic District in Paterson—America's First Industrial City. Each of these impressive areas—only 10 miles apart—sprang from the imagination of two of the great pioneers in American history: Thomas Edison and Alexander Hamilton. Both of these sites—the Edison National Historic Site and the Great Falls Historic District—have been included among the most endangered historic areas in our Nation. The artifacts of both sites are in terrible physical condition and are in grave peril of being lost to the country forever.

Together, these majestic places tell the inspiring story of the rise of the greatest technological and economic power the world has ever known. I strongly believe that it is the role of the Federal Government to partner with the local community to preserve the glory of these places for all future generations to behold.

Although these sites are both close to my heart, I want to specifically voice my support for the preservation and rehabilitation of the Edison National Historic Site, which embodies Edison's legacy as a pioneer of American technology. The Edison National Historic Site, encompassing Edison's home and laboratory complex, is regarded as one of America's original research and development facilities. Half of Edison's astonishing 1,093 patents were earned during the 44 years he lived in West Orange.

The classic inventions created at this site include the phonograph, electric generating systems, the dry storage battery, and the motion picture camera. Edison left a vast collection of artifacts, models, photographs, drawings, and furnishings at the Edison site. In addition, he left nearly 3,500 notebooks documenting every experiment, idea, failure, observation and business strategy of his long career.

Even as Thomas Edison lives on as one of the leading visionaries of our time, his home and labs have tragically fallen into severe disrepair due to age-related decay. The public and private sector must work together to ensure that adults and young people alike will always be able to rediscover the genius of Edison and the impact he has had on all of our daily lives. The support of the National Park Service has enabled the Edison Preservation Foundation to create a vital public-private partnership to maintain the site as a major community and educational resource.

Despite this progress, Congressional support through H.R. 1096 is vital to the Edison site's long-term success. The legislation is an important symbol of Congress's commitment to preserving the legacy of one of America's most influential inventors and to restoring a Federal site that is a historic landmark. I urge the House of Representatives to move forward and approve this important legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. 1096, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. RENZI. 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 question will be postponed.

STE. GENEVIEVE COUNTY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE STUDY ACT OF 2005

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1728) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the French Colonial Heritage Area in the State of Missouri as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1728

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 "Ste. Genevieve County National Historic Site Study Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AREA.—The term "Area" means Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri, which includes the Bequette-Ribault, St. Gemme-Amoureux, and Wilhawk homes, and the related and supporting historical assets located in Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

SEC. 3. STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this Act, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the State of Missouri—

(1) complete a study on the suitability and feasibility of designating the Area as a unit of the National Park System, which shall include the potential impact that designation of the area as a unit of the National Park System is likely to have on land within the proposed area or bordering the proposed area that is privately owned at the time that the study is conducted; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report describing the findings of the study.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-1 et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

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 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. 1728, introduced by Congressman RUSS CARNAHAN of Missouri and amended by the Resources Committee, would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the feasibility of designating the French Colonial Heritage Area in eastern Missouri as a unit of the National Park System. This area contains some of the only existing examples of the French colonial period settlement in North America dating to circa 1785.

I urge adoption of the bill.

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

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

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I do commend the gentleman from Missouri, Representative CARNAHAN, for valuing the historic and cultural resources which make his district unique and for seeking ways to interpret and share those resources more broadly.

I spoke with him personally on the phone last night. He is in his district at the current time attending very important activities, but this legislation is just as important to him. Otherwise, he would be here speaking on this personally.

If the study we are authorizing today should support such a move, we look forward to working with Representative CARNAHAN on legislation to make this area a unit of the National Park System.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1728.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1728, the Ste. Genevieve County National Historic Site Study Act of 2005.

This bill will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility of designating areas within Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri, as a unit of the National Park System.

This study is important to the area, as it will help preserve the great history in the region.

Ste. Genevieve's historical significance derives from French colonial settlement in Missouri.

It was an outpost of the French empire and demonstrates France's efforts to colonize the central region of North America.

Today, Ste. Genevieve remains steeped in French tradition, both culturally and architecturally.

The historic region in Ste. Genevieve has a rich collection of resources, including a signifi-

cant number of 18th century French colonial structures.

Included in the proposed site study are two of the only five remaining vertical log houses known to survive in North America.

Built around 1800, each stands together on their original sites, standing as a reflection of our history, which needs to be preserved for our future.

In addition to these two homes, historic downtown Ste. Genevieve, as well as a common field used by French settlers, known as Le Grand Champ, are further examples of the history and tradition that exists in Ste. Genevieve County.

This bill is important because the study will not only ensure the preservation of local colonial history, but it will result in economic development from increased tourism and entrepreneurship.

I'd like to thank Chairman POMBO and Ranking Member RAHALL for their work on this bill. I would also like to thank my colleague and co-sponsor, Congresswoman EMERSON for her support.

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

Mr. RENZI. 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 Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1728, 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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating portions of Ste. Genevieve County in the State of Missouri as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE CREATION OF THE NASCAR-HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES CONSORTIUM

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 677) recognizing the creation of the NASCAR-Historically Black Colleges and Universities Consortium.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 677

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that, while there are 1.3 million automotive technicians currently employed, industry figures confirm that an additional 50,000 technicians are needed to fill open positions each year;

Whereas the National Automotive Dealers Association reports that 57 percent of their dealers' operating profit is generated by their parts and service departments; that dealers consider it difficult to find a qualified technician; and that 42 percent of all dealer technicians have been engaged in that line of work less than one year;

Whereas the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, Inc. ("NASCAR"),