

profoundly influenced, including the Department of Education.

The Commission is now engaged in Pre-Design Programming, a concerted effort to determine what the memorial should be. Eisenhower family members, Eisenhower contemporaries, historians, Kansans, and many others have been interviewed on their vision for the memorial. A voluntary online questionnaire is available to the public. Although there are many diverse opinions on Ike's greatest achievement and the appropriate focus for his memorial, all agree that Eisenhower is, as Michael Korda presents in his new biography, "an American hero."

I am particularly proud to claim one of the greatest 20th-century Americans as a fellow Kansan. He ranks as one of the preeminent figures in the global history of the 20th century. Dwight Eisenhower spent his entire life in public service. His most well-known contributions include serving as Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in World War II and as 34th President of the United States, but Eisenhower also served as the first commander of NATO and as President of Columbia University. Dramatic changes occurred in America during his lifetime, many of which he participated in and influenced through his extraordinary leadership as President. Although Ike grew up before automobiles existed, he created the Interstate Highway System and took America into space. He created NASA, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Federal Aviation Administration. He added Hawaii and Alaska to the United States and ended the Korean War. President Eisenhower desegregated the District of Columbia and sent federal troops into Little Rock, Arkansas, to enforce school integration. He defused international crises and inaugurated the national security policies that guided the nation for the next three decades, leading to the peaceful end of the Cold War. A career soldier, Eisenhower championed peace, freedom, justice and security, and as President he stressed the interdependence of those goals. He spent a lifetime fulfilling his duty to his country, always remembering to ask what's best for America.

The development of the Pre-Design Program will produce three books to serve as an information packet for potential designers and the eventual design team for the memorial. The reasons for building a memorial to Eisenhower are only one part of the challenge set out in the Pre-Design Program. Technical considerations and guidance from the National Park Service are also included. Issues from preserving the historic view to the U.S. Capitol to providing a National Park Service Ranger station at the site are presented. This stage is the last major step prior to procuring a design team.

While the Eisenhower Memorial Commission has so far been able to efficiently manage the memorialization process, the tasks involved in design and construction require revised administrative and operational authority. H.R. 2094 provides the needed revisions and will enable the Commission to work more efficiently and effectively during design and construction when quick turnaround times are vital and daily decisions must be made. The authority provided in this legislation is based on the authority given to temporary commissions in existence for up to three years. The Eisenhower Memorial Commission has similar

needs, but exists for no set time period. The Commission will exist until the completion of the memorial.

For example, H.R. 2094 will enable the Commission to hire temporary federal employees instead of contract consultants, simplifying administration of staffing and covering the liability of its employees. H.R. 2094 will also provide for the Executive Architect to represent the Commission on the panels that will select the design team for the memorial. As currently written, the Commission's legislation prohibits its staff or members from participating in the determination of the design team.

H.R. 2094 will enable the Commission to continue working not only to ensure that the National Eisenhower Memorial is an inspiration to future generations, but also to ensure that the memorialization process is an example of responsible public work. I urge my colleagues to support passage of this measure today and I thank the leadership of the House Natural Resources Committee and of the House, as a whole, for bringing this bill before us today.

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2094, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DOUGLAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON, PUD CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 523) to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public land located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Wells Hydroelectric Project of Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, to the utility district, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 523

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 "Douglas County, Washington, PUD Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **PUBLIC LAND.**—The term "public land" means the approximately 622 acres of Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and identified for conveyance on the map prepared by the Bureau of Land Management entitled "Douglas County Public Utility District Proposal" and dated March 2, 2006.

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

(3) **PUD.**—The term "PUD" means the Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington.

(4) **WELLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT.**—The term "Wells Hydroelectric Project" means Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2149.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF PUBLIC LAND, WELLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON.

(a) **CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.**—Notwithstanding the land use planning requirements of sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713), and notwithstanding section 24 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 818) and Federal Power Order for Project 2149, and subject to valid existing rights, if not later than 45 days after the date of completion of the appraisal required under subsection (b), the Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, submits to the Secretary of the Interior an offer to acquire the public land for the appraised value, the Secretary shall convey, not later than 30 days after the date of the offer, to the PUD all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the public land.

(b) **APPRAISAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete an appraisal of the public land. The appraisal shall be conducted in accordance with the "Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions" and the "Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice".

(c) **PAYMENT.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the public land is conveyed under this section, the PUD shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the appraised value of the public land as determined under subsection (b).

(d) **MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize legal descriptions of the public land to be conveyed under this section. The Secretary may correct any minor errors in the map referred to in section 2 or in the legal descriptions. The map and legal descriptions shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(e) **COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.**—As a condition of conveyance, any costs related to the conveyance under this section shall be paid by the PUD.

(f) **DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.**—The Secretary shall deposit the proceeds from the sale in the Federal Land Disposal Account established by section 206 of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C. 2305) to be expended to improve access to public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the State of Washington.

SEC. 4. SEGREGATION OF LANDS.

(a) **WITHDRAWAL.**—Except as provided in section 3(a), effective immediately upon enactment of this Act, and subject to valid existing rights, the public land is withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, and all amendments thereto;

(2) location, entry, and patenting under the mining laws, and all amendments thereto; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws, and all amendments thereto.

(b) **DURATION.**—This section expires two years after the date of enactment of this Act or on the date of the completion of the conveyance under section 3, whichever is earlier.

SEC. 5. RETAINED AUTHORITY.

The Secretary shall retain the authority to place conditions on the license to insure adequate protection and utilization of the public land granted to the Secretary in section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 797(e)) until the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has issued a new license for the Wells Hydroelectric Project, to replace the original license expiring May 31, 2012, consistent with section 15 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 808).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days 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. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, the Wells Hydroelectric Project, operated by the Public Utility District in Douglas County, provides electricity to approximately 17,000 customers in Washington State. The central feature of the project is a dam on the Columbia River.

The utility district is in the early stages of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's relicensing process. The project's current license was granted in 1962 and will expire in May 2012. An application for relicensing must be submitted by 2010.

H.R. 523 directs the Secretary of the Interior to sell 662 acres of BLM land within the project boundary to the utility district and requires the district to pay the appraised fair market value of the land.

Importantly, the legislation requires that, even after the conveyance takes place, the Secretary of the Interior will retain authority under the Federal Power Act to place conditions on the utility district's new license, if necessary, to protect the natural resources of the area.

Mr. Speaker, we have worked closely with the sponsor and our minority colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee to improve this legislation. We thank them for that and appreciate it very much.

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 523 and yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I would like to thank Committee Chairman RAHALL and Subcommittee Chairman GRIJALVA for scheduling and for pushing this important legislation. This straightforward bill allows for the conveyance of a few small pieces of public land to the Douglas Public Utility District for fair market value and then dedicates the sales proceeds to improving public access to existing Bureau of Land Management lands in Washington State. This conveyance from one public agency to another will better facilitate the use of this land.

Congressman DOC HASTINGS is also to be commended for his work. He has worked and pushed, and it's great to see this all coming to fruition. Congressman HASTINGS is traveling from his district at this time and cannot be here.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 523, legislation I introduced to convey certain Bureau of

Land Management land to the Douglas County Public Utility District in Washington state. The Douglas County PUD operates the Wells Hydropower Project on the Columbia River, in North Central Washington. The PUD manages the Wells Hydroelectric Dam and the associated reservoir for multiple purposes, including power generation, fish and wildlife protection, and recreation. Almost all of the land encompassing the project area is owned by the PUD, with the exception of several small BLM holdings.

Passing this legislation enables the PUD to manage the project in a far more efficient manner. It also allows the BLM to concentrate its limited resources elsewhere, in areas where there are large contiguous blocks of BLM land. It is clear that we can achieve a better and more efficient management of our resources with this land conveyance.

In addition, since the Douglas PUD is a public agency under Washington state law, this conveyance simply moves land from the control of one public agency to the control of another agency. It is also important to note that the Douglas PUD has a stellar reputation as a steward of the environment. They worked diligently with federal and state agencies, tribal governments, and environmental groups to develop a model Habitat Conservation Plan for salmon and steelhead. The PUD also protects other forms of wildlife and provides public access wherever possible.

As my colleagues may recall, similar legislation passed the House last year under suspension. There is one important addition to the legislation this year. H.R. 523 calls for the proceeds of this land sale to be used to improve public access to existing BLM lands in Washington state. I am pleased that I was able to reach a consensus with members of the Natural Resources Committee to ensure that the proceeds from this sale will stay in the state where the land conveyance occurred—my home state of Washington. I am also pleased to note that these funds will go towards increasing the ability of our constituents to access their public lands.

It is my intention to see that these funds go towards projects like the Juniper Dunes Wilderness Area in Washington state. Due to its close proximity to the Tri-Cities, Juniper Dunes is a highly popular recreation area for serious hikers as well as families who are looking for an interesting place to explore with their children. Despite its popularity, it is extremely difficult for the public to visit Juniper Dunes. The Dunes are currently surrounded by private lands. Therefore, in order to visit the public area, one has to cross private property. H.R. 523 gives the BLM the financial resources and the flexibility they need to improve access to Juniper Dunes.

Finally, I am pleased that I was able to work with the Resources Committee to include language clarifying that the BLM will retain authority under the Federal Power Act for the current FERC relicensing of the Wells project. This authority will remain with the BLM until a new license is in place, which is expected in 2012.

I want to thank my colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee, specifically Chairman RAHALL, Ranking Member YOUNG and Subcommittee Chairman GRIJALVA and Subcommittee Ranking Member BISHOP and their staffs for all their hard work on this legislation. H.R. 523 will benefit the Douglas County PUD,

the BLM as well as improve vitally needed public access throughout Washington state. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 523, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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.

VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK SCHOOL LEASE ACT

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 53) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a long-term lease with the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to provide land on the island of Saint John, Virgin Islands, for the establishment of a school, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 53

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 "Virgin Islands National Park School Lease Act".

SEC. 2. LONG-TERM LEASE, VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK, SAINT JOHN, VIRGIN ISLANDS.

(a) *LEASE AUTHORIZED.*—The Secretary of the Interior may lease to the Government of the United States Virgin Islands a parcel of real property, including any improvements thereon, located within the boundaries of Virgin Islands National Park on the island of Saint John, Virgin Islands, as depicted on the map entitled "Virgin Islands National Park School Exchange", numbered 161/80,037, and dated September 19, 2007, for the purpose of providing a suitable location for the establishment of a school by the Government of the United States Virgin Islands on the island.

(b) *TERM OF LEASE.*—The lease authorized by subsection (a) may not exceed a term of 99 years.

(c) *AVAILABILITY OF MAP.*—The map referred to in subsection (a) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(d) *ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.*—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the lease under this section as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) each will control 20 minutes.