

have received \$9 million in Federal funds and \$11.3 million in private matching funds.

As every witness testified, there is an overwhelming need to extend this important conservation program and there is no question that these conservation funds have had a profound impact on protecting this irreplaceable species. While everyone enjoys seeing elephants at the National Zoo, it is far more important that they continue to exist in the wild in Burma, India and Thailand. The road to extinction is a one-way street and we must work to ensure that the Asian elephant does not make that journey.

I am proud to urge my colleagues to vote "aye" on H.R. 465, the Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act. It is an appropriate and sound investment of U.S. tax dollars.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. 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. 465, 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.

NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1239) to amend the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 to provide additional staff and oversight of funds to carry out the Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1239

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 "National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Amendments Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES.

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 4691 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking section 3(d);

(2) by striking section 4(d); and

(3) by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"(a) AMOUNTS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$2,500,000 for each fiscal year, to be allocated as follows:

"(1) \$2,000,000 is to be used for the purposes of section 3.

"(2) \$500,000 is to be used for the purposes of section 4.

"(b) RESTRICTIONS.—No amounts may be appropriated for the purposes of this Act except to the Secretary for carrying out the responsibilities of the Secretary as set forth in this Act."

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by section 2 shall take effect at the beginning of the fiscal year immediately following the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS) 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 may 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, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1239, introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), seeks to further the commitment made by Congress with the passage of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 by reconfiguring the authorization of funds to carry out the act.

Mr. Speaker, the Underground Railroad was a historic protest movement against slavery which helped escaped slaves find freedom in Northern States and Canada prior to the Civil War.

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 established the Underground Network to Freedom Program administered by the National Park Service. Today the program carries out important activities in more than 27 States and the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my friend and colleague from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for his work on this legislation. He has been a real leader in this bipartisan effort to enhance the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program. We support passage of H.R. 1239, as amended, and urge its adoption by the House today.

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

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1239, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to commend the sponsor, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), as well as the chairman of the subcommittee Mr. GRIJALVA, for explaining this bill. We appreciate the work that has been done to improve the bill, and look forward to see the program succeed. I urge Members' support.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), the author and sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1239, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Reauthorization Act. I introduced this legislation with my good friend, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

The widespread bipartisan support this legislation has received with 67 co-sponsors and endorsement by the National Parks Conservation Association has demonstrated that black history is synonymous with American history as life experience shared by all citizens of America.

I would like to thank Chairman RAHALL and Mr. DON YOUNG of the Natural Resources Committee for bringing this important legislation to the floor, and I would especially like to thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), the subcommittee chairman, and his counterpart, Representative ROB BISHOP, for their support. And my congratulations to Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS on her recent addition to her family and her finding time to come and support this legislation as well.

With passage of this legislation, I hope that the National Park Service will give the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom its due priority with adequate staffing to maintain the growing network. Toward that end, I would also like to thank the staff of the respective committees who helped to expedite this matter.

Mr. Speaker, when I joined my esteemed former colleague, as did many other Members, and the person to whom I am referring is Representative Lou Stokes, in 1998, he led the effort to establish the National Underground Railroad to Freedom. I don't think any of us could have foreseen the emergence of the National Park Service as one of the largest stewards of black history in the United States. Nor could we have predicted the rapidly expanding support and interest for one of the most intriguing multicultural collaborations in the history of our Nation.

The Network to Freedom is a key feature that diversifies engagement in interpretive opportunities of our National Park System. It has grown to 300 programs, sites, and partners in 28 States and the District of Columbia. This network is a national treasure of historic buildings, routes, programs, projects, and museums with thematic connections to the Underground Railroad.

The legislation before us today appropriately adjusts the authorization levels for the Network to Freedom to reflect the growth of interest nationally, and the resulting expansion of opportunities. These adjustments will help to resolve the financial challenges facing the Network to Freedom that include the lack of consistent development grants and administrative support for affiliates.

Mr. Speaker, this bill protects the interpretive interests of our National Park System by providing the necessary support staff and oversight for

the Network to Freedom to exist in perpetuity. It is time to take a stand for the future of our national parks and American history.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and preserve a vital asset to the history of our Nation, the Underground Railroad.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1239, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Reauthorization Act. I introduced this legislation in February with my good friend Representative Castle of Delaware as one contribution to the celebration of Black History Month.

The widespread bi-partisan support this legislation has received with 67 cosponsors and endorsement by the National Parks Conservation Association has demonstrated that Black history is synonymous with American history as a life experience shared by all citizens of America.

I would like to thank Chairman RAHALL and Ranking Member YOUNG of the Natural Resources Committee for bringing this important legislation to the floor. I would also like to thank Subcommittee Chairman GRIJALVA and Representative ROB BISHOP for their support and minor adjustments to this legislation to meet the needs of the National Park Service administration. With passage of this legislation, I hope that the National Park Service will give the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom its due priority with adequate staffing to maintain the growing network.

Mr. Speaker, when I joined my esteemed former colleague Representative Louis Stokes in 1998 to establish the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, I do not think we could have foreseen the emergence of the National Park Service as one of the largest stewards of black history in the United States. Nor could we have predicted the rapidly expanding support and interest for one of the most intriguing multicultural collaborations in the history of our Nation.

In this polarized historical moment of American politics, remembering the Underground Railroad as a unifying narrative in our history could not be timelier. The sacrifice at the risk of death made by conductors and travelers of the Underground Railroad was an unprecedented contribution to the abolition of slavery. The contributors to this network included the members of the Society of Religious Friends, commonly referred to as the Quakers, as well as other concerned individuals. Thus, the Underground Railroad was one of the first synergistic partnerships that fostered the development of the thriving multicultural society that is the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, the Network to Freedom is a key feature that diversifies engagement in interpretive opportunities of our national park system. It has grown to 300 programs, sites, and partners in 28 states and the District of Columbia. This network is a national treasure of historic buildings, routes, programs, projects, and museums with thematic connections to the Underground Railroad.

The legislation before us today appropriately adjusts authorization levels for the Network to Freedom to reflect the growth of interest nationally and the resulting expansion of opportunities. As a part of a concerted movement to overcome the funding challenges that threaten all national parks, this legislation moderately

expands the operating funds of Network to Freedom to an authorization for appropriations up to \$2 million and establishes appropriate oversight for grant funds. These adjustments will help to resolve the financial challenges facing the Network to Freedom that include the lack of consistent development grants and administrative support for affiliates.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will protect the interpretive interests of our National Park System by providing the necessary support staff and oversight for the Network to Freedom to exist in perpetuity. It is time to take a stand for the future of our National Parks and American history.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and join me in preserving a vital asset to the history of our Nation: the Underground Railroad.

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. 1239, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 to authorize additional funding to carry out the Act, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON. MARK UDALL, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Hon. MARK UDALL, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a subpoena, issued in the Municipal Court of the City of Westminster, Colorado, for testimony in a criminal case.

I do not appear to have any relevant or material testimony to offer. Accordingly, after consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

MARK UDALL,
Member of Congress.

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2798) to reauthorize the programs of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2798

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 "Overseas Private Investment Corporation Reauthorization Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Since its founding in 1971, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (in this section referred to as "OPIC") has helped to mobilize and facilitate private capital by United States investors in developing and emerging market countries in support of United States foreign policy and development goals.

(2) OPIC assistance should not, in any way, support projects in countries that reject their obligations to support international peace, security, and basic human rights.

(3) OPIC assistance should not be provided to those who support enemies of the United States.

(4) OPIC assistance is a privilege and should be granted to persons that, along with their affiliated companies, demonstrate responsible and sustainable business practices, particularly with regard to the environment, international worker rights, and efforts against genocide and nuclear proliferation. Denial of OPIC assistance is not a penalty or sanction.

(5) Over OPIC's 35-year history, OPIC has supported \$177,000,000,000 in operating investments in more than 150 developing countries, helping to create more than 800,000 jobs and some \$13,000,000,000 in host-government revenues.

(6) OPIC projects have generated \$71,000,000,000 in United States exports and supported more than 271,000 United States jobs.

(7) Projects assisted by OPIC in fiscal year 2006 are projected to generate \$1,000,000,000 in United States exports, support more than 2,700 United States jobs, and have a positive impact on the United States balance of payments.

(8) In fiscal year 2006, 87 percent of all OPIC-supported projects supported small-and-medium-sized businesses in the United States.

(9) In an era of limited Federal budgetary resources, OPIC has consistently demonstrated an ability to operate on a self-sustaining basis to support United States companies, all at a net cost of zero to the United States taxpayer.

(10) OPIC has reserves totaling approximately \$5,300,000,000 and will make an estimated net budget contribution to the international affairs account of \$159,000,000 in fiscal year 2008.

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF OPIC PROGRAMS.

Section 235(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2195(a)(2)) is amended by striking "September 30, 2007" and inserting "September 30, 2011".

SEC. 4. PREFERENTIAL CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN INVESTMENT PROJECTS.

Section 231(f) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2191(f)) is amended to read as follows:

"(f) to give preferential consideration to investment projects in less developed countries the governments of which are receptive to private enterprise, domestic and foreign, and to projects in countries the governments of which are willing and able to maintain conditions that enable private enterprise to make its full contribution to the development process;"