

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

Mr. SABLAN. 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.

DESIGNATING SEGMENT OF ILLABOT CREEK AS A NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1593) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of Illabot Creek in Skagit County, Washington, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1593

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SEGMENTS.

Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(_____) ILLABOT CREEK, WASHINGTON.—

“(A) The 14.3 mile segment from the headwaters of Illabot Creek to the northern terminus as generally depicted on the map titled ‘Illabot Creek Proposed WSR – Northern Terminus’, dated September 15, 2009, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture as follows:

“(i) The 4.3 mile segment from the headwaters of Illabot Creek to the boundary of Glacier Peak Wilderness Area as a wild river.

“(ii) The 10 mile segment from the boundary of Glacier Peak Wilderness to the northern terminus as generally depicted on the map titled ‘Illabot Creek Proposed WSR – Northern Terminus’, dated September 15, 2009, as a recreational river.

“(B) Action required to be taken under subsection (d)(1) for the river segments designated under this paragraph shall be completed through revision of the Skagit Wild and Scenic River comprehensive management plan.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1593 would designate a segment of Illabot Creek in Skagit County, Washington, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems.

The Forest Service studied Illabot Creek for potential Wild and Scenic River designation in conjunction with the National Forest planning process. The study found that the creek possesses outstandingly remarkable values. For example, the river is home to a bald eagle communal night roost and is important habitat for bear, beaver, and spotted owls, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, we commend our distinguished colleague Representative Rick Larsen for his hard work and dedication to this legislation. We support passage of H.R. 1593, and urge its adoption by the House today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1593 will designate segments of the Illabot Creek in Skagit County, Washington, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The area being designated is located within the Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The total designated is 14.3 miles in two separate segments.

Although I personally do not believe a wild and scenic designation is necessarily the best way to manage our river resources in every instance, I understand that this bill excludes a section of the river crossed by a needed road and now has local support. I do not object at this time to the passage of this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time. I would inquire of the minority whether they have any additional speakers.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I have no further requests for time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, 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.

JUNIOR DUCK STAMP CONSERVATION AND DESIGN PROGRAM RE-AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3537) to amend and reauthorize the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3537

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 “Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Reauthorization Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) In 2007–2008, sales of the \$5 Junior Duck Stamp generated more than \$100,000 in revenue, all of which was used to provide educational materials for the program, fund scholarships for students, and support and promote the program's goal of connecting children with nature.

(2) Now in its 20th year, the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is one of this country's oldest and most successful government-sponsored, youth-focused conservation biology programs. The program continues to build strong partnerships with public and parochial schools, homeschoolers and after-school programs, and other youth-focused education programs throughout the country.

(3) The Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program continues to foster strong partnerships among Federal and State government agencies, nongovernment organizations, the business community, and others in the private sector to promote youth conservation initiatives.

(4) With its conservation-focused science and arts curriculum, the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program has helped prepare hundreds of thousands of students to become stewards of America's irreplaceable wild places and treasured outdoor heritage.

SEC. 3. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

Section 2(c)(2) of the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 719(c)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Beginning in 2010 and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the status of the Program in each State.”.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 6 of the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 719c) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for administrative expenses of the Program \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2015.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in 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 the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Congress passed the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act in 1994 to connect

children with nature through science and art. This act promotes the education of students from kindergarten through high school about migratory waterfowl and the habitats through the distribution of educational materials and the promotion of a wildlife art competition.

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Today, more than 27,000 students participate in the Nationwide Junior Duck Stamp art contest, and the winning design is reproduced as the Federal Junior Duck Stamp. The pending measure will simply reauthorize the Junior Duck Stamp Program.

I commend my good friend, Congressman SOLOMON ORTIZ from Texas, for his leadership in reauthorizing the Junior Duck Stamp Program, and we urge our colleagues to support passage of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Junior Duck Stamp Program was developed 20 years ago and first authorized by Congress in 1994. Today, more than 28,000 students participate in the conservation curriculum and annual nationwide wildlife art contest.

During hearings of this legislation, one of the witnesses was a teacher from an elementary school in Frederick, Maryland. In her statement, she noted: "As a teacher, I believe that the Junior Duck Stamp Program is an excellent learning opportunity for students at all grade levels. What is difficult for me to put into words is the looks on the curious faces of my students as they research to learn about various waterfowl and their habitat; the looks of determination as they work hard to capture the likeness of the birds; and the smiles when their entries are finally completed."

This is an excellent program, Mr. Speaker, and a sound investment of U.S. taxpayer dollars. The Junior Duck Stamp Program should be extended for an additional 5 years.

I would also like to compliment the authors of this bill, Congressmen SOLOMON ORTIZ and HENRY E. BROWN, JR., for their leadership on behalf of wildlife conservation of this Nation.

This is a good piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, and I urge an "aye" vote on H.R. 3537.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3537, the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Reauthorization Act of 2009.

I had the privilege of sponsoring the original legislation to authorize this program in 1994. As the chairman of the Oceanography, Gulf of Mexico, and Outer Continental Shelf Subcommittee of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, I was asked to help pass authorizing legislation for the Junior Duck Stamp Program.

I was familiar with the successful Duck Stamp Program but had never heard of the Junior Duck Stamp, JDS, Program.

Now, 15 years later, this is the third reauthorization of this program.

I am very happy to say that it is one of this country's oldest and most successful youth-focused conservation programs in the federal government, and over the years, JDS has expanded to all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territories.

For those of you who don't know about the JDS Program, it is a conservation-focused science and arts curriculum for grade-school and high-school students. It is an art contest centered around studies that teach the fundamentals of waterfowl anatomy and environmental science.

Students submit their artwork depicting waterfowl in natural habitat settings to a state or territory contest. Winners from these contests are submitted for the national contest. Just as in Duck Stamps, the winning artwork at the national JDS contest is used to create a Junior Duck Stamp for the following year.

The stamps are sold by the U.S. Postal Service and consignees for \$5 per stamp. Proceeds from the sale of the stamps support conservation education and are used for awards and scholarships for the students, teachers, and schools that participate in the program.

I must commend the JDS administrators and coordinators at the national, state, and local levels; the teachers and schools that support the JDS program; and the students who participate each year in the contest for the success of the Junior Duck Stamp Program.

Your dedication and hard work have made this program a premier wildlife conservation education tool, and I am proud to be associated with it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this very worthy program.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3537.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMITTING ACCEPTANCE OF NON-U.S. FUNDS FOR CANADIAN WETLAND CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3433) to amend the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to establish requirements regarding payment of the non-Federal share of the costs of wetlands conservation projects in Canada that are funded under that Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3433

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

SECTION 1. PAYMENT OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE OF PROJECTS IN MEXICO AND CANADA UNDER NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(b)(3) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4407(b)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

"(3) The non-Federal share of the United States contribution to the costs of such projects may not be derived from Federal grant programs. In the case of a project carried out in Canada or Mexico, the non-Federal share of the costs of the project may include cash contributions from non-United States sources that are used to pay costs of the project. In the case of a project carried out in Canada, funds from Canadian sources may comprise up to 50 percent of the non-Federal share of the costs of the project."

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any approved and active wetlands conservation project (as that term is used in section 8(b)(1) of such Act) carried out with assistance provided under such Act, including such a project approved before the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in 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 the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

In combating the dramatic loss of wetland ecosystems, Congress enacted the North American Wetlands Conservation Act in 1989 providing a funding mechanism to support cooperative, public-private wetlands conservation efforts throughout North America. These projects have protected, restored, or enhanced approximately 23 million acres of wetlands in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

However, the recent economic recession and the matching requirements under the act have made it difficult to generate non-Federal matching contributions for some critical wetland habitat conservation projects. The pending measure would amend the act to increase flexibility for grant recipients to meet matching fund requirements and ensure that the highest priority projects are funded throughout North America.

I commend Congressman WITTMAN of Virginia for his leadership in wetland conservation. I urge the passage of the legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume