

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.

□ 1415

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

Since 1989, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act has required that each Federal dollar spent on the conservation project be matched by private, non-governmental money. However, due to the irreplaceable nature of the breeding waterfowl habitat in Canada, a decision was made not to require matching funds for Canadian projects from private Canadian sources.

As a result of the economic downturn, however, it has become increasingly difficult to meet the 100 percent matching requirement here in the United States. According to the Fish and Wildlife Service, there will be some \$70 million worth of projects in Canada during the current 5-year funding cycle which began in 2007. Under the current law, this means that \$70 million in private matching money must be provided.

Under H.R. 3433, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act would be amended to require at least 50 percent of non-Federal share of projects in Canada be paid for by Canadian non-governmental entities. There was unanimous support for this measure during our committee markup, and this is an appropriate change in our Federal law.

I would also like to compliment the author of this bill, Congressman WITTMAN of Virginia, for his outstanding leadership and for his service on the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

I urge an "aye" vote.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3433.

I introduced H.R. 3433 to provide for a simple, timely and essential change to the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Under current law, Congress appropriates money each year to be spent on projects to acquire, enhance, protect and restore wetlands in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

In fact, this remarkable program, which is now celebrating its 20th anniversary, has funded over 1,600 projects to conserve more than 20 million acres of wetlands and associated uplands across North America. This conservation has helped ensure improved waterfowl hunting across North America.

Since 1989, this landmark law has required that each Federal dollar spent on a conservation project be matched by non-federal money.

However, due to the irreplaceable nature of the breeding waterfowl habitat in Canada, a decision was made not to require matching funds from Canadian sources. Therefore, projects in Canada have been matched by conservation dollars from the United States.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the North American Wetlands Council has approved conservation projects in Canada worth nearly \$70 million during its current 5-year funding cycle which began in 2007. Under law, this means that \$70 million in private matching funds must be provided.

Under my legislation, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act would be amended to allow up to 50 percent of the non-federal share of projects in Canada to be paid for by Canadian conservation supporters. My legislation will allow and encourage our Canadian

conservation partners to fund a greater number of important wetland preservation projects north of the border.

The authorization of appropriations for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act does not expire until September 30, 2012. We simply cannot wait to make this change because the nonmatching share imbalance will continue to grow and must be paid before the authorization expires.

The language of this legislation has been fully vetted and been endorsed by all interested parties including the Fish and Wildlife Service, the member of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council which includes Ducks Unlimited, as well as the National Audubon Society and the American Bird Conservancy.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 3433.

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

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I again urge support of 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. 3433.

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.

#### REAUTHORIZING DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMISSION

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3476) to reauthorize the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3476

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

#### SECTION 1. REAUTHORIZATION OF DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMISSION.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 5 of Public Law 100-573 (16 U.S.C. 460o note) is amended by striking "20" and inserting "30".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall be deemed to have taken effect on October 30, 2008.

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 gen-

tleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation, sponsored by Representative GARRETT, will authorize the Citizen Advisory Commission for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area for the next 10 years. The advisory commission has provided two decades of guidance and input that has assisted in the management of the national recreation area and should be allowed to continue its work.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3476.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is the National Park Service's largest outdoor recreation area in the Northeastern United States. This recreation area includes 67,000 acres along 40 scenic miles of the Delaware River in the States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. With 5 million recreational visits each year, it is our 10th most visited national park.

Our colleague, Mr. GARRETT, introduced H.R. 3476 to enhance citizen participation in the administration of the park by extending the recreation area's Citizen Advisory Commission for another 9 years to the year 2018. I am pleased to join Mr. GARRETT in support of this legislation.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT), the author of this fine piece of legislation.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman from Alaska for recognizing what a fine piece of legislation it is and appreciate his support of this legislation as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3476. It is a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizens Advisory Commission through the year 2018. And both Representative CARNEY and I believe that this citizen action group serves as an important liaison between the National Park Service, their officials, and the neighbors in the area.

Many of my constituents have asked me to extend this commission, and I am pleased to have worked with Representative CARNEY on this legislation to do just that. Communication is the key to addressing and resolving citizens' concerns, and it's clear that the residents and the park users value the opportunity to respond to the park decisions as well as propose alternatives when they come up with those.

The Delaware Water Gap region has a turbulent history, if you know of it. One was marked by improper government interference and Federal invasion of rights of private property owners.

Back in the mid-1950s, the Federal Government proposed a plan to build a