

support this legislation at the same time. However, in fairness, I guess in fairness to the sponsor, we should do that again since his original bill did pass, and by machinations then over in the Senate, his bill was stripped and sent back to us in his title, with his number and name, but not with his bill.

Had the Democratic Party leadership not tried so hard with so many machinations to make sure that Republicans were not allowed to try and make amendments to the omnibus land bill, his bill would have passed the first time, legitimately, and it would be done and passed by now. So let us remember that, unfortunately, the good representative from New Jersey lost out because of games that were played on a bill totally separate to this particular one, and I find those games were unfortunate. This bill, however, I once again want to make very clear that I support this bill, and I will urge my colleagues to support it. We passed another bill dealing with Civil War battlefields with a Republican chief sponsor. It is only fair and appropriate that we now look at Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefield sites with the Democratic sponsor.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1694, 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 authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CRANE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2009

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 388) to assist in the conservation of cranes by supporting and providing, through projects of persons and organizations with expertise in crane conservation, financial resources for the conservation programs of countries the activities of which directly or indirectly affect cranes and the ecosystems of cranes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 388

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 "Crane Conservation Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to perpetuate healthy populations of cranes;

(2) to assist in the conservation and protection of cranes by supporting—

(A) conservation programs in countries in which endangered and threatened cranes occur; and

(B) the efforts of private organizations committed to helping cranes; and

(3) to provide financial resources for those programs and efforts.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONSERVATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "conservation" means the use of any method or procedure to improve the viability of crane populations and the quality of the ecosystems and habitats on which the crane populations depend to help the species achieve sufficient populations in the wild to ensure the long-term viability of the species.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term "conservation" includes the carrying out of any activity associated with scientific resource management, such as—

(i) protection, restoration, and management of habitat;

(ii) research and monitoring of known populations;

(iii) the provision of assistance in the development of management plans for managed crane ranges;

(iv) enforcement of the Convention;

(v) law enforcement and habitat protection through community participation;

(vi) reintroduction of cranes to the wild;

(vii) conflict resolution initiatives; and

(viii) community outreach and education.

(2) CONVENTION.—The term "Convention" has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532).

(3) FUND.—The term "Fund" means the Crane Conservation Fund established by section 5(a).

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

SEC. 4. CRANE CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations and in consultation with other appropriate Federal officials, the Secretary shall use amounts in the Fund to provide financial assistance for projects relating to the conservation of cranes for which project proposals are approved by the Secretary in accordance with this section.

(b) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—

(1) APPLICANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An applicant described in subparagraph (B) that seeks to receive assistance under this section to carry out a project relating to the conservation of cranes shall submit to the Secretary a project proposal that meets the requirements of this section.

(B) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—An applicant described in this subparagraph is—

(i) any relevant wildlife management authority of a country that—

(I) is located within the African, Asian, European, or North American range of a species of crane; and

(II) carries out 1 or more activities that directly or indirectly affect crane populations;

(ii) the Secretariat of the Convention; and

(iii) any person or organization with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of cranes.

(2) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—A project proposal submitted under paragraph (1)(A) shall include—

(A) a concise statement of the purpose of the project;

(B)(i) the name of each individual responsible for conducting the project; and

(ii) a description of the qualifications of each of those individuals;

(C) a concise description of—

(i) methods to be used to implement and assess the outcome of the project;

(ii) staff and community management for the project; and

(iii) the logistics of the project;

(D) an estimate of the funds and the period of time required to complete the project;

(E) evidence of support for the project by appropriate government entities of countries in which the project will be conducted, if the Secretary determines that such support is required to ensure the success of the project;

(F) information regarding the source and amount of matching funding available for the project; and

(G) any other information that the Secretary considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility of the project to receive assistance under this Act.

(c) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) not later than 30 days after receiving a final project proposal, provide a copy of the proposal to other appropriate Federal officials; and

(B) review each project proposal in a timely manner to determine whether the proposal meets the criteria described in subsection (d).

(2) CONSULTATION; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—Not later than 180 days after receiving a project proposal, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary, after consulting with other appropriate Federal officials, shall—

(A) consult on the proposal with the government of each country in which the project is to be carried out;

(B) after taking into consideration any comments resulting from the consultation, approve or disapprove the proposal; and

(C) provide written notification of the approval or disapproval to—

(i) the applicant that submitted the proposal;

(ii) other appropriate Federal officials; and

(iii) each country described in subparagraph (A).

(d) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary may approve a project proposal under this section if the Secretary determines that the proposed project will enhance programs for conservation of cranes by assisting efforts to—

(1) implement conservation programs;

(2) address the conflicts between humans and cranes that arise from competition for the same habitat or resources;

(3) enhance compliance with the Convention and other applicable laws that—

(A) prohibit or regulate the taking or trade of cranes; or

(B) regulate the use and management of crane habitat;

(4) develop sound scientific information on, or methods for monitoring—

(A) the condition of crane habitat;

(B) crane population numbers and trends; or

(C) the current and projected threats to crane habitat and population numbers and trends;

(5) promote cooperative projects on the issues described in paragraph (4) among—

(A) governmental entities;

(B) affected local communities;

(C) nongovernmental organizations; or

(D) other persons in the private sector;

(6) carry out necessary scientific research on cranes;

(7) provide relevant training to, or support technical exchanges involving, staff responsible for managing cranes or habitats of cranes, to enhance capacity for effective conservation; or

(8) reintroduce cranes successfully back into the wild, including propagation of a sufficient number of cranes required for this purpose.

(e) PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY; MATCHING FUNDS.—To the maximum extent practicable, in determining whether to approve a project proposal under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to a proposed project—

(1) that is designed to ensure effective, long-term conservation of cranes and habitats of cranes; or

(2) for which matching funds are available.

(f) PROJECT REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each person that receives assistance under this section for a project shall submit to the Secretary, at such periodic intervals as are determined by the Secretary, reports that include all information that the Secretary, after consulting with other appropriate government officials, determines to be necessary to evaluate the progress and success of the project for the purposes of—

(A) ensuring positive results;

(B) assessing problems; and

(C) fostering improvements.

(2) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1), and any other documents relating to a project for which financial assistance is provided under this Act, shall be made available to the public.

SEC. 5. CRANE CONSERVATION FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund established by the matter under the heading “MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND” in title I of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (112 Stat. 2681–237; 16 U.S.C. 4246) a separate account to be known as the “Crane Conservation Fund”, consisting of—

(1) amounts transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit into the Fund under subsection (c); and

(2) amounts appropriated to the Fund under section 7.

(b) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), upon request by the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the Fund to the Secretary, without further appropriation, such amounts as the Secretary determines are necessary to provide assistance under section 4.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amounts in the Fund available for each fiscal year, the Secretary may expend not more than 3 percent, or \$150,000, whichever is greater, to pay the administrative expenses necessary to carry out this Act.

(3) LIMITATION.—Not more than 20 percent of the amounts made available from the Fund for any fiscal year may be used for projects relating to the conservation of North American crane species.

(c) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept and use donations to provide assistance under section 4.

(2) TRANSFER OF DONATIONS.—Amounts received by the Secretary in the form of donations shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in the Fund.

SEC. 6. ADVISORY GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To assist in carrying out this Act, the Secretary may convene an advisory group consisting of individuals representing public and private organizations actively involved in the conservation of cranes.

(b) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—

(1) MEETINGS.—The advisory group shall—

(A) ensure that each meeting of the advisory group is open to the public; and

(B) provide, at each meeting, an opportunity for interested persons to present oral or written statements concerning items on the agenda.

(2) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide to the public timely notice of each meeting of the advisory group.

(3) MINUTES.—Minutes of each meeting of the advisory group shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be made available to the public.

(c) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the advisory group.

SEC. 7. FUNDING.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014, to remain available until expended.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. 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 gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 388, the Crane Conservation Act, was reintroduced in the 111th Congress by our colleague from Wisconsin, Congresswoman TAMMY BALDWIN. The bill is identical to noncontroversial legislation that passed the House during the 110th Congress.

The overall purpose of the bill is to assist in the conservation of the world’s 15 crane species, including the two crane species found in North America, the whooping crane and the sandhill crane. The bill would establish a new crane conservation fund to finance Federal matching grants that support critical conservation projects that conserve these highly endangered birds and their scarce and shrinking habitats in Europe, Asia, South Asia, Africa, and North America. The legislation also mirrors other highly popular and effective wildlife conservation funds authorized under the Multinational Species Conservation Fund that support other critically endangered wildlife species and their habitats.

Mr. Speaker, cranes play an important iconic role in cultures around the world. These birds are viewed as universal symbols of peace, happiness, and good fortune. I ask Members on both sides to support passage of this noncontroversial bill that will help to conserve this family of large, charismatic birds.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to actually speak on this particular bill, H.R. 388, the Crane Conservation Act. Under this legislation, a new international conservation fund is going to be established to assist up to 15 species of cranes that are in Africa, Asia, Australia, North America—I guess every-one except South America.

There are currently seven crane species that are protected under our Endangered Species Act. The two most imperiled species reside here in the United States and are covered.

The United States already has several laws on the books which can help conserve domestic cranes and their habitats, which includes such things as the Migratory Bird Treaty, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, wetlands conservation statutes, and the Endangered Species Act.

With the current economic crisis the United States finds itself in—exacerbated by our spending bills in the stimulus, in the budget, and the omnibus bills which simply spend too much, tax too much, and borrow too much—it is highly questionable whether this is the time to once again create another multinational fund to spend taxpayers’ money overseas. Other countries should be required to step up to the plate to save their own wildlife without relying on American funds going there.

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I will submit for the RECORD the following exchange of letters between the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Foreign Affairs concerning H.R. 388 and H.R. 411.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, April 21, 2009.

Hon. NICK J. RAHALL II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 388, the Crane Conservation Act of 2009, and H.R. 411, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2009.

These bills contain provisions within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In the interest of permitting your Committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of these important bills, I am willing to waive this Committee’s right mark up these bills. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bills, the Committee on Foreign Affairs does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bills which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction.

Further, I request your support for the appointment of Foreign Affairs Committee conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation. I would ask that you place this letter into the Congressional Record when the Committee has these bills under consideration.

I look forward to working with you as we move these important measures through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

HOWARD L. BERMAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, April 21, 2009.
Hon. HOWARD BERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Ray-
burn H.O.B., Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your willingness to allow floor consideration of H.R. 388, the Crane Conservation Act of 2009 and H.R. 411, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2009, to proceed unimpeded.

I understand that this waiver is not intended to prejudice any future jurisdictional claims over these provisions or similar language. I also understand that you reserve the right to seek to have conferees named from the Committee on Foreign Affairs on these provisions, and would support such a request if it were made.

This letter will be entered into the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 388 and H.R. 411 on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

With warm regards, I am
Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL II,
Chairman,
Committee on Natural Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield such time as she may consume to the sponsor of H.R. 388, our distinguished colleague from Wisconsin, Representative BALDWIN.

Ms. BALDWIN. I thank the gentleman from the U.S. Virgin Islands, Dr. CHRISTENSEN, for yielding time. And I also thank the chairman of the full committee for reporting out this bill for consideration on the suspension calendar.

I rise today in support of the Crane Conservation Act of 2009, legislation to help protect and preserve the world's 15 species of cranes for generations to come.

Cranes are the most endangered family of birds in the world, with 11 of the world's 15 crane species at risk of extinction. Their special characteristics and unique ability to bring people together across city, State, and international boundaries place them in a class worthy of our conservation efforts.

Cranes are revered throughout the world for their beauty, grace, and long-distance migrations, frequently spanning numerous countries. In fact, their appeal is so vast that they figure prominently in the culture, folklore, and art of many people around the world. They are featured in the silks, sculpture, poetry, and folk tales of many cultures. And because of their long lifespans, they have become symbols of longevity and good fortune.

These magnificent birds also have served as ambassadors of harmony and peace in the international arena. Representatives from nations with various political struggles have reached beyond the instability to address the conservation of cranes. In fact, about 2 years ago, representatives from bordering nations, including India, China, Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan, and others, met in an attempt to overcome strained relations and send a message of goodwill

for the sake of protecting this threatened species. Similarly, African nations which share troubled borders also have joined together in recent years to stop the illegal trade of cranes.

In North America, the whooping crane is the rarest of the crane species. Back in the year 1941, only 21 whooping cranes existed in the entire world. Today, there are almost 400 birds in existence. The resurgence is attributed to the bird's tenacity for survival and to the efforts of conservationists in the United States and Canada. In fact, since 2001, coordinated efforts have focused on encouraging young whooping cranes to migrate from their breeding grounds in Wisconsin's Necedah National Wildlife Refuge to their destination in Florida.

In an effort to reintroduce a migratory flock into their historic range in the eastern United States, the recovery team used ultralight aircraft to train and lead these young cranes on their spectacular journey, stretching from city to city and State to State. Fortunately, these efforts have been successful, and the Crane Conservation Act would complement them, both domestically and internationally.

This bill will provide the resources to support initiatives that protect cranes and, importantly, their habitats, which have deteriorated due to industrial development, pollution, and other human disturbances, including wars and other violent conflicts. The bill will also provide the means for the United States to fulfill various international obligations and commitments, thus having a large environmental and cultural impact across the globe.

Additionally, the Crane Conservation Act will provide resources for the United States to bring people and governments around the world together to protect ecosystems, develop adequate habitats, and encourage overall goodwill. Specifically, the Crane Conservation Act will authorize up to \$5 million per year to be distributed in the form of conservation project grants to protect cranes in the wetlands and grasslands and other ecosystems on which they depend.

Congress has passed similar bills in support of globally significant and endangered wildlife species, including tigers, rhinos, elephants, and neotropical migratory birds. And just as these efforts took significant steps in international wildlife conservation, the Crane Conservation Act would play a similar and promising role in improving endangered wildlife and their habitats.

This bill, in identical form, passed on the suspension calendar last session. I encourage my colleagues to support the Crane Conservation Act of 2009.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas, who is an expert not only in cranes and whooping cranes, but on whoopings themselves.

Mr. GOHMERT. I appreciate my friend from Utah yielding in such an amazing form.

I do appreciate my friend from Wisconsin's sensitivity over cranes. And she is right; they are a thing of beauty. We have seen whooping cranes in Texas. I am glad they are protected; they are beautiful.

We have heard President Obama say recently that we are going to have to make some tough choices, that we are going to have to scour through our appropriations, our authorizations, our budgets and cut things that are not really essential. And it is my understanding that of the 15 crane species here, 13 are not in the United States.

Currently, it is clear we are borrowing a great deal of our money that we use as we appropriate from this floor from the Chinese. As I understand it, many of these crane species are not located in the United States, but are located in Asia. What an incredible irony, that we could borrow money from the Chinese for which we will owe principal and interest to the Chinese, and then potentially turn around and pay money to help habitats in China. The irony is astounding.

□ 1430

I know all of us have people in our districts who are struggling to maintain their own habitat. As we make tough decisions in this body, this ought to be one that is not that tough: The American people keeping their habitat or cranes in a foreign country keeping their habitat. I think we ought to vote for Americans to keep their habitat. We have got to make some tough choices. It is time to quit borrowing money from China. It's time to quit printing additional money. It's time for some responsibility on this floor. We owe that to future generations not to put them in debt to pay foreign countries to create habitats for cranes.

With that I would urge a "no" vote on this bill.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to respond briefly to some of the mischaracterizations that have been raised about this legislation.

As I stated earlier, the Crane Conservation Act is identical to non-controversial legislation that passed the House during the 110th Congress. This legislation also mirrors other highly popular and effective wildlife conservation funds authorized under the Multinational Species Conservation Fund that support other critically endangered wildlife species and their habitats. It is no exaggeration to say that the grants awarded through these funds have been pivotal in the recovery of some of the most endangered wildlife populations on the planet. Cranes are no less deserving.

I think that it is also important to note that grants awarded through these funds generate non-Federal matching contributions commonly in excess of three or four times the amount of the Federal grant. As a result, these wildlife programs are some of our most effective conservation programs in leveraging additional funds from partner organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is expected that future grants awarded from a crane conservation fund will provide the same kind of leveraging benefit as demonstrated by the other funds authorized under the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. The track record for these programs has proven that they are not only good for wildlife conservation, they are also a great value to the Federal taxpayer.

Again, I ask Members on both sides to support passage of this non-controversial bill.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I will conclude simply by saying this is a noble concept, but what Dr. CHRISTENSEN argued is exactly the problem inherent in this noble concept. What we are continuing to do more and more is carve out specific funds for specific animal species that then add up to the total that we are doing rather than realizing our common goals and what we need to deal with. There are seven species that are covered already, two of those in the United States already covered on prior pieces of legislation. This is simply extra funding that is not going to assist necessarily on the American side; it is going to assist overseas in other countries where, quite frankly, in these conditions they should be stepping up to deal with their own wildlife problems, not relying on the United States simply to bail them out once again with another special fund crafted out for American money to go overseas.

This is simply another one of several funds that keep growing all the time without any coordinated policy to it. And that is the danger of this bill. It's not the issue at hand. It's not trying to protect these species. It is the haphazard way we go about creating these funds to try to fund specific entities rather than coming up with a comprehensive overall plan and not requiring our friends in other countries to step up to the plate as well.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 388, the Crane Conservation Act of 2009. I strongly endorse this effort to provide financial resources and foster international cooperation to restore and perpetuate healthy populations of endangered species and to protect threatened habitats.

This bill establishes a fund to support specific conservation activities by "any wildlife management authority" of a foreign country that meets certain criteria, as well as groups and individuals with demonstrated, relevant expertise. While supporting such efforts is a key element of any effective conservation strategy, it seems to me that such funding in effect constitutes a new form of foreign assistance that ought to be carefully coordinated with our other foreign aid programs.

In the first place, it is essential that the Secretary of the Interior, who will be administering these programs, consult closely with the Secretary of State to ensure that these activities will not conflict with our overall foreign policy objectives. For instance, if there are problems with corruption or transparency and account-

ability in a particular government, the State Department would be in a better position to know which entities are reliable partners, and to ensure that funding is not diverted to unauthorized purposes. There may also be some countries to which all other government-to-government aid has been terminated for political or human rights reasons, and in which these conservation activities ought to be conducted exclusively through non-governmental organizations.

Secondly, the State Department, the United States Agency for International Development, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Peace Corps and other foreign policy agencies may be carrying out their own environmental programs in a given—country. The conservation activities supported by this new fund must be coordinated with ongoing and planned efforts of such agencies in order to avoid duplication and overlap and to seize openings for collaboration. Without a mechanism for consultation with the State Department and USAID, opportunities to build synergy among programs will be lost and the risks of waste and inefficiency will escalate.

In light of these concerns, I would strongly urge that in implementing these new provisions, the Secretary of Interior develop a mechanism for full and meaningful consultation with the State Department, USAID and the foreign policy agencies under the Department's guidance.

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I again just ask colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 388, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 388.

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. GOHMERT. 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.

GREAT CATS AND RARE CANIDS ACT OF 2009

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 411) to assist in the conservation of rare felids and rare canids by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of rare felid and rare canid populations and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 411

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 "Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are to provide financial resources and to foster international cooperation—

(1) to restore and perpetuate healthy populations of rare felids and rare canids in the wild; and

(2) to assist in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations worldwide.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CITES.—The term "CITES" means the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, done at Washington March 3, 1973 (27 UST 1087; TIAS 8249), including its appendices.

(2) CONSERVATION.—The term "conservation"—

(A) means the methods and procedures necessary to bring a species of rare felid or rare canid to the point at which there are sufficient populations in the wild to ensure the long-term viability of the species; and

(B) includes all activities associated with protection and management of a rare felid or rare canid population, including—

(i) maintenance, management, protection, and restoration of rare felid or rare canid habitat;

(ii) research and monitoring;

(iii) law enforcement;

(iv) community outreach and education;

(v) conflict resolution initiatives; and

(vi) strengthening the capacity of local communities, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and other institutions to implement conservation programs.

(3) FUND.—The term "Fund" means the Great Cats and Rare Canids Conservation Fund established by section 5.

(4) IUCN RED LIST.—The term "IUCN Red List" means the Red List of Threatened Species Maintained by the World Conservation Union.

(5) RARE CANID.—The term "rare canid"—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), means any of the canid species dhole (*Canis alpinus*), gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*), bush dog (*Speothos venaticus*), African wild dog (*Lycan pictus*), maned wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*), and Darwin's fox, (*Pseudalopex fulvipes*), including any subspecies or population of such a species; and

(B) does not include any subspecies or population that is native to the area comprised of the United States and Canada or the European Union.

(6) RARE FELID.—The term "rare felid"—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), means any of the felid species lion (*Panthera leo*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*), snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*), clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardina*), and Borneo bay cat (*Catopuma badia*), including any subspecies or population of such a species; and

(B) does not include—

(i) any species, subspecies, or population that is native to the United States; and

(ii) any tiger (*Panthera tigris*).

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

SEC. 4. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of funds and in consultation with other appropriate Federal officials, the Secretary shall use amounts in the Fund to provide financial assistance for projects for the conservation of rare felid and rare canids for which project proposals are approved by the Secretary in accordance with this section.