

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.

(b) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—

(1) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—A proposal for a project for the conservation of rare felid and canids may be submitted to the Secretary by—

(A) any wildlife management authority of a country that has within its boundaries any part of the range of a rare felid or rare canid species, respectively; and

(B) any person or group with the demonstrated expertise required for the conservation in the wild of rare felids or rare canids, respectively.

(2) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—To be considered for financial assistance for a project under this Act, an applicant shall submit a project proposal that includes—

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

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

(C) a description of the qualifications of the individuals who will conduct the project;

(D) a concise description of—

(i) methods for project implementation and outcome assessment;

(ii) staffing for the project;

(iii) the logistics of the project; and

(iv) community involvement in the project;

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

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

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

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

(c) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

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

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

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

(A) ensure the proposal contains assurances that the project will be implemented in consultation with relevant wildlife management authorities and other appropriate government officials with jurisdiction over the resources addressed by the project;

(B) approve or disapprove the proposal; and

(C) provide written notification of the approval or disapproval to the person who submitted the proposal, other appropriate Federal officials, and each country within whose borders the project will take place.

(d) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary may approve a project proposal under this section if the project will contribute to conservation of rare felids or rare canids in the wild by assisting efforts to—

(1) implement conservation programs;

(2) address the conflicts between humans and rare felids or rare canids, respectively, that arise from competition for the same habitat or resources;

(3) enhance compliance with CITES, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and other applicable laws that prohibit or regulate the taking or trade of rare felids and rare canids or regulate the use and management of rare felid and rare canid habitat;

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

(A) the condition and health of rare felid or rare canid habitat;

(B) rare felid or rare canid population numbers and trends; and

(C) the ecological characteristics and requirements of populations of rare felids or rare canids for which there are little or no data;

(5) promote cooperative projects among government entities, affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, and other persons in the private sector; or

(6) funds will not be appropriated for the purchase or lease of lands to be used as suitable habitat for felids or canids.

(e) PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY.—In approving project proposals under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to conservation projects that are designed to ensure effective, long-term conservation of rare felids and rare canids and their habitats.

(f) MATCHING FUNDS.—In determining whether to approve project proposals under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to projects for which there exists some measure of matching funds.

(g) PROJECT REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each person that receives assistance under this section for a project shall submit to the Secretary periodic reports (at such intervals as the Secretary considers necessary) that include all information that the Secretary, after consultation with other appropriate government officials, determines is necessary to evaluate the progress and success of the project for the purposes of ensuring positive results, assessing problems, and fostering improvements.

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

(h) LIMITATIONS ON USE FOR CAPTIVE BREEDING OR DISPLAY.—Amounts provided as a grant under this Act—

(1) may not be used for captive breeding or display of rare felids and rare canids other than captive breeding for release into the wild; and

(2) may be used for captive breeding of a species for release into the wild only if no other conservation method for the species is biologically feasible.

(i) ADVISORY GROUP.—

(1) 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 felids and canids.

(2) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—

(A) MEETINGS.—The advisory group shall—

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

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

(B) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide to the public timely notice of each meeting of the advisory group, including the meeting agenda.

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

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

SEC. 5. GREAT CATS AND RARE CANIDS CONSERVATION FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established, in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund established in title I of the Department

of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 under the heading “MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND”, a separate account to be known as the “Great Cats and Rare Canids Conservation Fund”, consisting of—

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

(2) amounts appropriated to such account under section 7.

(b) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), 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 three percent, or up to \$100,000, whichever is greater, to pay the administrative expenses necessary to carry out this Act.

(c) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATIONS.—The Secretary may accept and use donations to provide assistance under section 4, and may make public on the Internet website and in publications of the Department of the Interior that the Secretary is authorized to accept and use such donations. Amounts received by the Secretary in the form of such donations shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit into the Fund.

SEC. 6. STUDY OF CONSERVATION STATUS OF FELID AND CANID SPECIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall initiate within three months after the date of the enactment of this Act a study of felid and canid species listed under the IUCN Red List that are not rare canids and rare felids (as those terms are defined in section 3), respectively, to determine—

(1) the conservation status of such species in the wild, including identification of any such species that are critically endangered or endangered; and

(2) any such species that should be made eligible for assistance under this Act.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than two years after date of the enactment of this Act the Secretary shall report to the Congress the determinations made in the study, including recommendations of additional felid species and canid species that should be made eligible for assistance under this Act.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) to the Fund, \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014 to carry out this Act, other than section 6; and

(2) such sums as are necessary to carry out section 6.

SEC. 8. INELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.

Amounts provided as a grant under this Act may not be used for any project conducted in Iran, Syria, Cuba, Sudan, or North Korea.

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 gentleman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 411, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act, was introduced in the 111th Congress by our colleague from Washington, Congressman JAY INSLEE. The bill before the House today 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 15 imperiled cat and canid species such as the lion, cheetah, and jaguar and the African wild dog and Darwin's fox. The bill would establish a new Great Cat and Rare Canid Conservation Fund to finance Federal matching grants that support critical conservation projects to conserve these highly endangered wildlife species and their shrinking and fragmented habitats.

Moreover, this legislation is patterned after other noteworthy wildlife conservation funds authorized by the Congress that help conserve and recover critically endangered populations of rhinoceros, tigers, African and Asian elephants, great apes, and marine turtles.

Mr. Speaker, great cats and rare canids are no less deserving than these other keystone wildlife species, and I ask Members on both sides to support the passage of this noncontroversial bill.

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

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

While this legislation is similar to a bill that was approved by the House last year, and I did, in fact, vote for the bill last year, we have Members who still continue to have concerns with H.R. 411, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act.

During consideration in the Natural Resources Committee during the last Congress, this bill was amended by Congressman HENRY BROWN to target only 12 imperiled big cats and rare dog species. That was an appropriate amendment especially considering the beginning stages of this particular bill, which had well over 50 different animals listed. However, by the time it went from committee to the floor last year, this bill was expanded, and several other species that are protected under this bill but do not reach the criteria used to create the other five existing wildlife conservation funds under law were added.

I am particularly troubled that the inclusion of things like the Iberian lynx, which lives exclusively in Spain and Portugal, is added. These are clearly two countries that are not impoverished European nations. They could easily afford to conserve their own native wildlife. In addition, I note that

few of the species singled out for special treatment under this law could be considered "keystone," unlike the African elephant, the tiger, the rhino that are considered keystone criteria. Under H.R. 411, this bill, these 15 cats and dogs will now be competing for limited funds with the other iconic species.

More importantly, at a time when America has a national debt in excess of \$11 trillion, you still have to question whether this legislation is the proper priority for right now. With Federal spending, bank failures, and home foreclosures reaching historic levels, is it really appropriate to spend our constituents' hard-earned tax money to conserve an African wild dog, an Ethiopian wolf, or a Borneo bay cat in Asia? We still are taxing too much, spending too much, and borrowing too much. And this particular bill once again goes at elements and species that are not considered reaching the criteria of needing this kind of protection. If it were to go back to the original bill that came out last year from the Natural Resources Committee with the Brown amendment intact, then you would have a decent standard bill which I would firmly support. But as long as we are still expanding it to areas that don't meet the criteria that should be used on these types of issues, then I need to urge a "no" vote.

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this legislation, Congressman JAY INSLEE of Washington State.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out a few points about this bill.

First off, this is a bill we passed with broad bipartisan support last year. Two hundred ninety-four Democrats and Republicans stepped up to the plate and took a very, very modest step to try to preserve these endangered species that, in fact, are threatened and are listed on international lists. Having gone through the scientific process, these 15 species are all recognized at risk both under United States considerations and under the international consortiums of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also called CITES; and the World Conservation Union, the IUCN. We know the science is that all 15 of these species are at risk. And I want to suggest in answer to my friend's concern about this investment by Americans, there are at least three reasons Americans should have an interest in these species even though some of them are not in the United States.

Number one and perhaps most important, many of our citizens will never physically be in the presence of a cheetah or physically be in the presence of some of the fox species that are endangered here. But I can tell you that they are enjoying the presence of these spe-

cies, the Creator's creation, in the Creator's creation watching them on television. I spent a week taking care of my dad recovering from surgery, and he spent about half of his time enjoying watching these creatures, the Creator's creation, because it gives him joy. And we have got constituents who are enjoying the existence of these species. This is a very small down payment to protect that.

Number two, when we preserve these species and when we preserve their habitat, it is in our self-interest because it is in our self-interest that the rain forest in South America is preserved. That is the lungs of the planet. We cannot solve our climate change problems without it. This can, in fact, help Americans through our environmental challenges that we have.

And, third, this bill is a great investment because for every dollar we put in, and it's a very small commitment of \$5 million, but for every one of those dollars, we get \$4 from the international community to match and exceed our investment. It is a prudent investment.

So I would hope that we would continue our efforts that we had on a bipartisan basis last year of standing up for these precious species that are on the cusp. And I realize that these species are sometimes thousands of miles away from us, but they can be only months or years away from extinction; so our great-grandkids will never get to watch them except in old-time videos and old-time documentaries. We owe them more. Let's take this very small step forward and pass this bill.

I rise to present important legislation, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Conservation Act, which supports the conservation of wild big cats and canine populations outside the United States by providing financial resources to conserve 15 such species that are vital for their ecological value and are listed as endangered or threatened on the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, IUCN, Red List of Endangered Species.

Mr. Speaker, the genesis of the Great Cats and Rare Canids program is nearly a decade old, and the bill under consideration today was also introduced in the past three Congresses. In that time, these species have continued to decline in numbers. I would like to thank Representative UDALL, now Senator UDALL, who brought up this bill in the past.

This bipartisan legislation continues our tradition of protecting threatened and endangered species around the world and comes at a critical time in the survival of these animals. Of the 37 wild felid species worldwide, all are currently recognized as species in need of protection. Of the 35 wild canid species worldwide, nearly 50 percent are recognized as in need of such protection in one of these categories.

The 15 species whose conservation is supported in this bill are umbrella species that, if conserved appropriately, protect their corresponding landscapes and other species dependent on those ecosystems. They include the majestic jaguar of South and Central

America, the elusive snow leopard, the cheetah, the African wild dog, and other rare carnivore species.

If enacted, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Conservation Fund would be established, building on the success of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. Importantly, it leverages private conservation dollars from corporate and non-government sources in order to address the critical need to conserve these threatened large carnivores. Historically, for every \$1 invested by the Federal Government in the programs that are part of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund, there is a \$4 match by private donations. Since 1990, the Multinational Species Conservation Fund which has invested over \$50 million in conservation assistance to the world's charismatic species, has garnered over \$180 million in partner contributions and private funding.

A coalition of over 80 conservation organizations, zoos, sportsmen and hunting groups and other non-governmental organizations support this bill. I would particularly like to recognize Defenders of Wildlife, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Safari Club International, and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. These organizations together and their millions of members represent the broad based support among Americans all over the country for Congress to enact this critical piece of legislation.

I would like to thank Chairman RAHALL and committee staff Jim and Dave Jansen for bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, just to clarify on the record, for any kind of species to be included, they have to be included on the endangered species list, the appendix I and appendix II in the red list. Three of these 15 do not meet that criteria. Twelve are legitimate. Three don't meet that criteria.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Again I appreciate the sensitivities with regard to rare cats and dogs around the world. With regard to the previous votes on this bill in the House, to be specific, 227 Democrats voted "aye," 67 Republicans voted "aye," which also was about the same numbers, similar numbers, that voted for the bailout back in September, which was also a huge mistake. There was one Democrat that voted "no" and 118 Republicans that voted "no."

But we are even in different times now. We are still borrowing money from the Chinese. And, once again, the irony here is incredible. We are going to borrow more money from the Chinese to possibly give them money back to create habitats for wild dogs and cats that are rare.

□ 1445

There is no assurance that if we did that we wouldn't end up with moo goo dog pan or moo goo cat pan. There is no way to assure that money will not be wasted when it's sent to foreign countries.

One other thing, Iberian lynx, that cat would be eligible, and he is only

found in Spain and Portugal. We would be appropriating \$25 million over 5 years in order to send some money to the very country that has been making ridiculous accusations about the United States here in recent days. Oh, good, accuse us of ridiculous crimes, and then we will send you money for your dogs and cats. At some point we have got to stand up and be more responsible with the money we are borrowing that we are pledging our children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren will pay back.

This is not the time to be passing this bill. I know there were 294 votes, 67 Republicans last time, but I am hoping that because American habitats are again threatened for individual people in America, it's time to quit spending money for habitats in foreign countries for animals.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again yield such time as he might consume to the sponsor of the bill, Congressman INSLEE.

Mr. INSLEE. Very briefly, I just wanted to respond to my friend's assertion that the species have not been recognized by the scientific community. I want to assure the gentleman, all of the 15 species, eight cats and seven canine species, are listed on at least one of the salient lists of these endangered and threatened species, and that would be the Endangered Species Act of the United States, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also called CITES, and the third, the World Conservation Union Red List of Endangered Species. All of the species that we have selected are on at least one of those lists.

I think we will find broad scientific consensus a lot more species are in trouble than these. These are just a tiny fraction of the species that are in trouble, but, frankly, the ones whose existence our constituents enjoy. They are enjoying them in their living rooms, and this is a very small down payment to make sure that continues.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. May I inquire, Doctor, do you have other speakers?

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I have just a brief closing statement.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Just in conclusion, once again, the grants that we have pervaded in the past for things like the African elephant, the rhino, the tigers are on all three lists, not just one of the three lists. Twelve of the fifteen categories included in this are on all three, not one of the three, which is why, if you were to go back to the bill that was actually passed in the Resources Committee, the Brown amendment, and take that standard, that is one that I think is clearly defensible here on the floor.

But the fact of the matter is, we have expanded it. And once you expand it, taking not all three criteria, but any of those three criteria, you set the standard for what may or may not happen in the future. And once again, we start moving into the direction of having

dedicated reserve funds going to specific areas without having a comprehensive plan of how we want to spend that money overseas.

In our situation, in the budget crunch here that we are in, we should be much more systematic in the way we try to deal with these kind of endangered species and at least demand that everything on that list is covered on all three of those categories, not just one or two, but all three of them.

Let me just say once again, I did vote for this bill last time. And, once again, I think we could make it better and should be making it better.

I do actually want to thank the majority party for putting back an amendment that was inadvertently omitted last time that had been placed in the bill in committee and making sure that that was added in there before this bill came to the floor. That was very kind of them. I appreciate them doing that.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, President Theodore Roosevelt in a message to the Congress once said, and I am quoting, "To waste, to destroy our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it, so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed."

H.R. 411, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act, is legislation that embodies the central tenet in President Roosevelt's message by conserving our natural resources. By conserving our natural resources today, we will ensure the prosperity of future generations.

Mr. INSLEE. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. INSLEE. Just to make sure that Members will know about the lists we are talking about, the reason not all of these species are on all three lists that we have alluded to is that canine species that are not traded could not be listed under one of these lists that involve just those that are traded animals. It doesn't mean they are not endangered. It doesn't mean they are not threatened. It just doesn't mean that that is the list that pertains to only traded species.

And I can warrant that you will not find anything but scientific consensus that we have had a very well-targeted rifle shot to the most endangered cats and canines here, not the least. And I am very sensitive to my colleague's concern about our fiscal condition. It is real and his points are well taken.

But there are some things that will not wait, even in respite of our fiscal condition, and extinction is one of them. If we get in better fiscal condition 3 years from now, we can't go back and sort of gin up the DNA from these species. Once the Creator's handiwork is gone, we can't go to our grandkids

and say, well, we had a budget crunch and we just couldn't save them. So we hope we get this done.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Just for the record, I think it's important to note also that this legislation has the full support of the cochairs of the bipartisan International Conservation Caucus, which includes Congressman NORM DICKS, Congressman HAROLD ROGERS, Congressman JOHN TANNER and Congressman ED ROYCE, as well as the Safari Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Members on both sides support the passage of this noncontroversial bill.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 411, the Great Cats and Rare Canids 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 accountability 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 the Interior develop a mechanism for full and meaningful consultation with the State Department, USAID and the foreign policy agencies under the Department's guidance.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. 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. 411, 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. 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.

LAKE HODGES SURFACE WATER IMPROVEMENT AND RECLAMATION ACT OF 2009

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1219) to make amendments to the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1219

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 "Lake Hodges Surface Water Improvement and Reclamation Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. PROJECT AUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Reclamation Waste-water and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (Public Law 102-575, title XVI; 43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 16 the following:

"SEC. 16. LAKE HODGES SURFACE WATER IMPROVEMENT AND RECLAMATION PROJECT.

"(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary, in cooperation with the Olivenhain Municipal Water District, California, is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of projects to treat, reclaim, and reuse impaired surface water from Lakes Hodges in San Diego County, California.

"(b) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of the projects authorized by this section shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost.

"(c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation or maintenance of a project authorized by this section."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 2 of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 16 the following: "Sec. 16. Lake Hodges surface water improvement and reclamation project."

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 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. H.R. 1219 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to participate in the Lake Hodges Surface Water Improvement and Reclamation Project.

This project would pre-treat 13,000 acre-feet of impaired Lake Hodges water currently unavailable for consumptive use. We have no objection to this noncontroversial bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to the author of this piece of legislation, this bipartisan piece of legislation, as much time as he shall consume, the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY).

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, this bill is one that is balanced in time and in effort. At a time when snow packs on Sierra Nevada are very low, at a time when the fact that the water supplies for Southern California have been cut off dramatically through a court order restriction or outright abolition on pumping in the Delta area of the San Joaquin Valley because of the endangered delta smelt, and especially due to the fact that this problem has run into Hodges, those of us in the Federal Government can take a little bit of responsibility here, seeing the fact that a major contributing factor to the pollution problem in this lake was our procedure in the Endangered Species Act, though meaning well to preserve the species, took time that created the problem.

And let me explain to you what happened here. The lake lowered to a level where habitat for the least Bell's vireo was able to grow on the dry land during that time.

When authorities realized that this was going to become a problem, they were not allowed, because of the permitting process for what had been designated a habitat that was great for the least Bell's vireo, an endangered species at that time, now threatened, but basically to explain it is the process took so long that the lake raised back up, flooded out this habitat, and now that habitat is decomposing and polluting the waters of Lake Hodges.

No one meant this to happen. There was no intention by either the environmental agencies involved or by the local community to address this issue. It was just as our regulations go, we create these less-than-appropriate situations.

This bill is one that not only recognizes the responsibility of the Federal Government to the problem, but really is one where the local community is saying we will take on the great majority of the responsibility of addressing this issue. For every dollar of Federal funds that is committed under this bill, there will be \$3 of local funds to address this.

And this is not an issue that only affects the 50th District, my district, and