

thank you for the recent Congressional Commendation. It is quite an honor to be one of the first organizations in the Northern Mariana Islands to be so recognized by the United States Congress.

Thank you and I look forward to your reply,

IGNACIO V. CABRERA,
Chairman, Friends of the Monument.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

Mr. FLAKE. I just want to welcome the gentleman from the Northern Marianas to this Chamber, and it's great to have him here. This is something that we have wanted for a long time, to have this territory represented here in the U.S. Congress.

This is a good bill. It's a bill that some of us have worked on for years to ensure that the submerged lands are where they belong, that the ownership is there, and that the rights that accrue to that attain to the Northern Marianas.

So I just stand in support of this legislation. Again, welcome, the gentleman from the Northern Marianas. We're glad he's here in Congress where he belongs.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I have one additional speaker. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my good friend, Mr. HASTINGS, for yielding some time on this issue, and I greatly appreciate the people of the Mariana Islands wanting to control their own property. And I congratulate them on the introduction of this legislation, and I certainly support it. And I think it's very laudable that we are bringing this forward, and I very much support it.

I think States and territories should control their own property. We have too much Federal control of State property and Federal property, and I am glad to see this legislation. And I congratulate you and my friends on the other side for bringing this forward.

I am also concerned about the submersion though of the American taxpayer in just a sea of debt. We have created more debt in this Congress, this administration has proposed more debt over the next 5 years than has been created by every single Presidency since George Washington all the way through George W. Bush. And the American people are drowning in a sea of debt, and we are creating more and more debt for those people. We are robbing our children and our grandchildren of their future. The American people are going to live at a lower standard than we live today because of the debt that we are creating, and I am very concerned about that.

We have got to stop the spending. It's egregious. It's absolutely outrageous the amount of money that's being spent by this Congress. And we see bill after bill, a nonstimulus bill, an omni-

bus bill, a Wall Street bailout that our previous administration brought to us and that this Congress and this administration continued and spent the other half.

We have a health care bill that's being introduced just today that is going to create more debt, and it's going to destroy the health care system and put a Washington bureaucrat between patients and their doctor. And Washington bureaucrats are going to be making health care decisions for their patients. And the American people need to stand up and say "no." It's going to overwhelm them, a tremendous sea of debt that's being created by this Congress, and it has to stop.

And, Mr. Speaker, I just hope that the American people will understand what's going on here and will rise up, call their Congressman, call their two U.S. Senators and say "no" to this health care bill that's being introduced today. "No" to the tax and cap, so-called cap-and-trade bill that's nothing but a revenue bill that's not about the environment. Say "no" to that. "No" to this continued tsunami of spending that's going on here.

We've got a spending addiction here in Congress. I'm an addictionologist. I've practiced addiction medicine in my family practice. In addiction medicine, we say where there is not denial there is not an addiction. Congress has an addiction, a spending addiction, and they are denying it. We are denying it, and the spending has to stop.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman is the last speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 934, recognizing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' (CNMIs') ownership of submerged lands lying three geographical miles outside of mainland coastlines.

First and foremost, I want to commend my good friend, Congressman SABLAN of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for taking the initiative to introduce this important legislation. This bill is an example of the continued efforts by the Congress to support the Territories.

H.R. 934 seeks to officially award the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands submerged lands that are located three geographical miles outside of mainland coastlines. Submerged lands qualify as lands permanently or periodically covered by tidal waters up to, but not above, the line of high tide. American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands were granted ownership over our own respective submerged lands by the 93rd session of the Congress, before the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands became a territory of the United States. The CNMI wishes to be afforded the same opportunities granted to the other territories by having these submerged lands officially recognized as a part of their Territory.

Mr. Speaker, by allowing these submerged lands to be recognized, they will fall under the

jurisdiction of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as opposed to that of the U.S. Seeing as the submerged lands are located so closely to the mainland, having them fall within the jurisdiction of the CNMI will allow for sufficient justice to be served. Commonwealth citizens and officials, instead of officials residing thousands of miles away, will be implementing and enforcing laws that apply to their population.

The U.S. government will still have claim over gas, oil, and other mineral deposits that may be possibly found on these lands. It should be noted that H.R. 934 applies solely to those lands that are submerged; the U.S. government will still have full control and possession of lands above sea level that do not belong to the Commonwealth. Additionally, it does not circumvent any actions that may be taken or regulations that have been put forth by U.S. naval authorities regarding these submerged lands.

It is apparent that H.R. 934 serves to benefit the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and will not be detrimental to the United States. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 934. Again, I thank my colleagues for their support of this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 934, 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. BROUN of Georgia. 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.

VALIDATING NEVADA LANDS TRANSFER

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 762) to validate final patent number 27-2005-0081, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 762

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

SECTION 1. FINAL PATENT AND LAND RECONFIGURATION IN CLARK COUNTY AND LINCOLN COUNTY, NEVADA.

Patent No. 27-2005-0081 and its associated land reconfiguration issued by the Bureau of Land Management on February 18, 2005, is hereby affirmed and validated as having been issued pursuant to and in compliance with the provisions of the Nevada-Florida Land Exchange Authorization Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-275), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 for the benefit of the desert tortoise and other species and their habitat to increase the likelihood of

their recovery. The process utilized by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management in reconfiguring the lands as shown on Exhibit 1-4 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Planned Development Project MSHCP, Lincoln County, NV (FWS-R8-ES-2008-N0136) and the reconfiguration provided for in Special Condition 10 of Army Corps of Engineers Permit No. 200125042 are hereby ratified.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

□ 1445

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 762, introduced by Congressman DEAN HELLER, would validate the final patent to lands in Clark and Lincoln Counties in Nevada. Congresswoman SHELLEY BERKLEY has also worked to advance this bill.

In 2005, the Bureau of Land Management issued a final patent to reconfigure certain leased and patented lands slated for development. This adjustment was intended to provide habitat for the conservation of the endangered desert tortoise.

However, several groups objected to the process that the BLM used to adjust these lands, claiming that it failed to comply with Federal law and that it failed to provide appropriate habitat for the tortoise. The group sued the BLM and the property owners.

In 2007, the parties agreed to settle the lawsuit. H.R. 762 will implement one of several settlement stipulations by validating the final patent to the reconfigured land. All parties to the litigation support this legislation.

In addition to Congressman HELLER, I would like to highly commend Congresswoman SHELLEY BERKLEY for her leadership and tireless efforts in getting this bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, we support H.R. 762, and urge its adoption by the House today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in support of H.R. 762. H.R. 762 will validate an existing patent for land in addition to the associated land configurations located in Clark and Lincoln Counties in Nevada. This action best enables the recovery of the threatened desert tortoise and other species and their habitats.

I, too, would like to congratulate Mr. HELLER of Nevada for bringing this issue to our attention and for moving quickly to resolve this on behalf of his constituents.

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

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today alarmed at the spending that is going on in Washington, D.C. More specifically, I want to talk about the President's ignoring article II, section 2 of the U.S. Constitution that says, when you appoint somebody in a significant role who is part of your administration, you need to have the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate. Irrespective of this, President Obama has named 33 czars outside of the traditional infrastructure of Washington.

Now, in its day, czarist Russia had 18 czars over a 300-year period of time, but here, in a 7-month period of time, President Obama now has 33 czars. I guess his vision is a czarist America. I'm not sure. We have a Great Lakes czar, a regulatory czar, an automobile czar, a Guantanamo closure czar, a TARP czar, a new TARP czar, all kinds of different czars, none of whom have gone in front of the U.S. Senate.

Now, why is going in front of the U.S. Senate important aside from the constitutional requirement?

Well, for one thing, you get an automobile czar who has got some shady business dealings—a 31-year-old who doesn't know a spark plug from a lug nut. Why do you think this person could turn around Detroit? Well, we found out now he's on his way out the door ignominiously. Maybe that embarrassment to the administration could have been prevented had this 31-year-old boy genius auto czar had to sit in front of the Senate as do judicial appointees and cabinet appointees.

I think a lot of people think, well, yeah, the Senate approves Cabinet members, but they also approve deputy under secretaries. Hundreds and even thousands of people have to come before the U.S. Senate for the constitutional requirement. The Constitution can be inconvenient to this administration—I realize that—but again, article II, section 2 says you must seek the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate.

How about the energy czar? The energy czar is a member of some wacko socialist group who believes the way to deal with global warming is for large industrial countries—i.e., the United States of America, and this would be non-czarist America—to shrink their economies in order to offset their emissions. That's the belief of the group that the energy czar belongs to.

Wouldn't it be interesting to talk to the energy czar and ask her why she thinks this is a good group to be a member of? What would the socialist group have to offer to the United States of America at this point?

Perhaps the Senate would like to talk to the stimulus accountability czar.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the gentleman.

The word "accountability" attracts my attention because the stimulus accountability czar spent \$18 million designing a Web page. A show of hands of how many of you want some of that action. Eighteen million dollars to design a Web page? Talk about stimulating the economy. Boy, that was one way to spend our money. Again, the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate, article II, section 2, may have avoided that type of expenditure.

What do these people get paid, Mr. Speaker? \$172,000 a year. Thirty-three people times \$172,000—not to mention the myriad of staffs and entourages that we important people in Washington, D.C., have to go everywhere with. You never see somebody just walking in by him or herself. You always see the entourage that tells the whole world "I am important." Therefore, I get back to the constitutional question:

If you are important, and if you have to have this big staff that costs the taxpayers millions of dollars, why not comply with the U.S. Constitution's article II, section 2: advice and consent of the U.S. Senate?

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have no more time or people asking for time. If the gentlewoman is the last speaker on that side, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge all Members to support this very good bill.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 762.

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. BROUN of Georgia. 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.

PROVIDING FOR SALE OF FEDERAL INTEREST IN SALT LAKE CITY LAND

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1442) to provide for the sale of the Federal Government's reversionary interest in approximately 60 acres of land in Salt Lake City, Utah, originally conveyed to the Mount Olivet Cemetery Association under the Act of January 23, 1909, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1442

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

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL REVERSIONARY INTEREST, MT. OLIVET CEMETERY, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

(a) **CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.**—If, within one year after the completion of the appraisal required by subsection (c), the Mount Olivet Cemetery Association of Salt Lake City, Utah (in this section referred to as the "Association"), submits to the Secretary of the Interior an offer to acquire the Federal reversionary interest in all of the approximately 60 acres of land in Salt Lake City, Utah, conveyed to the Association under the Act of January 23, 1909 (chapter 37, 35 Stat. 589), the Secretary shall convey to the Association such reversionary interest in the lands covered by the offer. The Secretary shall complete the conveyance not later than 30 days after the date of the offer.

(b) **SURVEY.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete a survey of the lands described in subsection (a) to determine the precise boundaries and acreage of the lands subject to the Federal reversionary interest.

(c) **APPRAISAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete an appraisal of the Federal reversionary interest in the lands identified by the survey in subsection (b). The appraisal shall be completed in accordance with the "Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions" and the "Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice".

(d) **CONSIDERATION.**—As consideration for the conveyance of the Federal reversionary interest under subsection (a), the Association shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the appraised value of the Federal interest, as determined under subsection (c). The consideration shall be paid not later than 30 days after the date the conveyance is made.

(e) **COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.**—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (a), all costs associated with the conveyance under subsection (a), including the cost of the survey required by subsection (b) and the appraisal required by subsection (c), shall be paid by the Association.

(f) **DEPOSIT AND USE OF PROCEEDS.**—The Secretary shall deposit the proceeds from the conveyance under subsection (a) in the Federal Land Disposal Account established by section 206 of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C. 2305). The proceeds so deposited shall be available to the Secretary for expenditure in accordance with subsection (c) of such section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring to the House for its consideration this legislation sponsored by the gentleman from Utah, Representative JIM MATHE-SON.

In 1909, Congress authorized the transfer of 60 acres of Federal land in Salt Lake City, Utah, to the Mount Olivet Cemetery Association for use as a public cemetery. The legislation contained a reversionary clause to the Federal Government if the land were not used for the purpose of a cemetery.

Today, in order to raise revenue to operate the cemetery, the Mount Olivet Cemetery Association hopes to sell 13 undeveloped acres of this parcel to an adjacent school, and it has requested that the Federal Government relinquish its reversionary interest.

This noncontroversial bill, which was favorably reported out of the Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent, authorizes the conveyance of the reversionary interest to the association in exchange for appropriate consideration based upon a survey and appraisal of the property.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman MATHESON has worked diligently on behalf of this legislation. The administration supports the bill, and I ask my colleagues to support its passage as well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago, a parcel of Federal land in Salt Lake City was conveyed to the Mount Olivet Cemetery Association. H.R. 1442 directs the Secretary to accept an offer from the association to purchase certain reversionary interests in 60 of those acres. The bill requires the sale to be accomplished at no cost to the taxpayer and for the appraised value of the rights.

I support the bill because it reduces, although only by 60 acres, excessive Federal land holdings at a time when the Department of Interior is facing a multibillion-dollar maintenance backlog for the lands it already owns.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) such time as he may consume.

Mr. MATHESON. Well, first, I thank my colleague from Guam for recognizing me.

I am pleased to rise in support of this bill. You have heard the description of the bill, and if I could, I will just briefly point out what the repercussions are if we don't move this legislation.

This cemetery is a nonprofit entity. It has been around for about 100 years.

It is suffering some financial distress in terms of its endowment. It has figured and has looked at choices for how it could maintain itself and create greater financial viability. The notion of selling off a piece of the land that's undeveloped will ensure the integrity of the cemetery for the future. If, in fact, this cemetery were to go bankrupt and if this nonprofit couldn't continue to maintain it, the land would revert back to the Federal Government. I do not think the Bureau of Land Management wants to be in the business of owning and operating a cemetery in Salt Lake City, Utah.

So here we have a situation that is based on legislation that occurred 100 years ago, and today, we're making a substantive solution to a problem that has developed since, and there is no harm to the taxpayer. This is a commonsense bill, but I've got to tell you something: while it sounds simple, it wasn't simple, and I really want to commend the Resources Committee staff for being so helpful in working through this issue to find the right way to get it done. It may have passed the committee by unanimous consent, but that does not mean it did not take a lot of work and effort to make the right decision. So I want to thank the committee staff so much. I want to thank Chairman RAHALL and Subcommittee Chairman GRIJALVA.

I encourage the passage of this bill.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1442, 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. BROWN of Georgia. 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.

□ 1500

JOINT VENTURES FOR BIRD HABITAT CONSERVATION ACT OF 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2188) to authorize the Secretary