

stakeholder and government partnerships, implement science-driven, landscape-level bird conservation strategies and coordinate related conservation activities. Joint ventures have already leveraged funds and science-based data to protect, restore or enhance over 13 million acres of habitat across this country. Joint ventures falling under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan have invested \$4.5 billion to conserve 15.7 million acres of waterfowl habitat. The Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, of which Maryland is a member, focuses on bird habitat in the Atlantic Flyway. The efforts of this joint venture have positively impacted over 280,000 acres across Maryland. Joint ventures successfully coordinate the activities of various stakeholders to protect migratory birds and conserve their habitats. Joint ventures, in sum, are an exemplary model that enjoy strong bipartisan support.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation on behalf of all of their constituents who seek to preserve and enjoy both these migratory birds and their habitats.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia, Dr. PRICE.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend from South Carolina for his leadership on this issue and for allowing me to speak for a few moments. This is clearly a bill that is supported on a bipartisan basis and something that ought to move forward. It's something that many care about. I would suggest, however, that what the American people mainly care about right now are the economy and jobs. The economy, spending, borrowing, the national debt.

The national debt, as of June 30, stood at \$11,545,275,346,431. Mr. Speaker, I know that's hard to believe; but that's \$37,609.23 for every man, woman and child in America. And over the last month, our national debt has increased by \$223.7 billion, a remarkable amount of increase. Since the Democrats took control of Congress in January of 2007, the national debt has increased \$2.9 trillion. That's over \$9,300 a person. At the end of April, the U.S. Government owed China \$763.5 billion. This year alone our debt to China has increased by over \$36 billion. So the economy is front and center for the American people. It is what is causing them the greatest amount of heartache and the greatest amount of concern. It's what moms and dads across this land are worried about when they tuck their kids in at night. The American people are hurting. Millions of Americans are out of work, and hundreds of thousands continue to lose their jobs each and every month.

Now the present administration, the Obama administration, and the Democrats in charge here in Congress promised that their trillion-dollar "stimulus" package would create jobs immediately, they said, and unemployment wouldn't rise over 8 percent if their

program was adopted. President Obama, in fact, said recently that the stimulus bill had "done its job" and is "working exactly as we anticipated." Well, Mr. Speaker, I know that comes as a surprise to the American people, as 1.96 million Americans have lost their jobs since the stimulus was enacted. I'm not quite certain that they believe the stimulus has "done its job" and worked exactly as they anticipated. In June alone almost 500,000 jobs were lost, increasing unemployment to 9.5 percent, the highest level in 26 years. So it's clear that the trillion-dollar stimulus package isn't working, Mr. Speaker; and the American people have a right to know, where are the jobs, where are the jobs?

Now the good news is that Republicans have a real plan, a real plan for a real recovery—fiscal discipline here in Washington; tax relief for working families, small businesses and family farms, the job creation engine of our Nation. So the American people deserve a recovery plan. They do, indeed. They deserve a plan that puts Americans back to work. No more borrowing, no more spending, no more unemployment. Mr. Speaker, the good news is that Republicans have a positive plan, positive solutions for the economy, for jobs, for energy self-sufficiency and, yes, for health reform. So whether it's the economy and jobs that the American people are concerned about, whether it's being able to put gasoline in their cars so they can get to work for their second or third job, trying to make ends meet at home, whether it's providing health care for themselves and their families, positive solutions do exist. The American people want us, as a Congress, to embrace those positive solutions, and I urge the Congress to act in a positive way.

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. I have no further speakers and yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Again, I 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. 2188, 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.

LOS PADRES FOREST LAND CONVEYANCE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 129) to authorize the conveyance of certain National Forest System lands in the Los Padres National Forest in California, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 129

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

SECTION 1. LAND CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY, LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST, CALIFORNIA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of Agriculture may convey to the White Lotus Foundation all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the real property within the Los Padres National Forest in California described in subsection (b).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The real property subject to conveyance under this Act is certain land located in Santa Barbara County, California, consisting of approximately 5 acres, as shown on the map titled "San Marcos Pass Encroachment for Consideration of Legislative Remedy", dated June 1, 2009.

(c) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the real property to be conveyed under this Act shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

(d) VALUATION.—Any appraisal of the real property to be conveyed under this Act shall conform to the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions, and the appraisal shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary.

(e) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration for conveyance of real property under this Act shall be in an amount not less than the appraised fair market value.

(f) TREATMENT OF PROCEEDS.—The gross proceeds from the conveyance of real property under this Act shall be deposited in the fund established by Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the "Sisk Act"; 16 U.S.C. 484a). The amount so deposited shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, for expenditure in the Los Padres National Forest.

(g) PRE-EXISTING RIGHTS.—As a condition of the conveyance authorized under subsection (a), the Secretary shall require the White Lotus Foundation to continue to allow existing access to any roadway that may be conveyed by this Act.

(h) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under this Act as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(i) SURVEY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The White Lotus Foundation shall pay the reasonable costs of survey, appraisal, and any other administrative costs associated with the conveyance.

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 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. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 129 was introduced by our colleague from California, Representative ELTON GALLEGLY. The bill would authorize the Forest Service to sell 5 acres of land within the Los Padres National Forest to resolve an encroachment issue. A portion of a small business owned by the White Lotus Foundation sits on 5 acres of the national forest. The 5 acres in question are separated from the majority of the forest by a road. The foundation was unaware of the encroachment when it purchased the land. Under the terms of the legislation, the White Lotus Foundation will be responsible for all the costs associated with the conveyance, including any necessary reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Mr. Speaker, we support passage of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

H.R. 129 corrects a problem resulting from the way a small section of the Los Padres National Forest boundary crosses an old road. This road provides the only access to property owned by the White Lotus Foundation. This bill authorizes the Secretary to sell five acres to the foundation and requires that the sale be accomplished at no cost to the taxpayers.

I support the bill and reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California, the author of the bill, Mr. GALLEGLY.

(Mr. GALLEGLY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to thank the gentlelady from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO), my good friend, for her work on this; and I rise today in strong support of H.R. 129.

This bill would authorize the Forest Service to convey a small parcel of land on the perimeter of the Los Padres National Forest to a nonprofit organization, the White Lotus Foundation. In 1983, the White Lotus Foundation inherited property in the hills above Santa Barbara, California, on the border of Los Padres National Forest. After operating in the location for over 25 years, the Forest Service sent a letter to the White Lotus Foundation notifying them of a parcel that was 0.05 acres, just a few actual square feet, of encroachment on the Forest Service land. It required them to remove all encroachments by December 31, 2008, or they would begin enforcement action.

The encroachment in question is located on a loop of the only road that

allows White Lotus and the rest of the public access to and from the White Lotus property. Due to the steep topography, the foundation has no other reasonable alternatives.

The loop lies on flat ground which was held for the purpose of providing space for equipment storage for fire and flood emergencies and provided access to a water pump and other necessary equipment. There is no other flat ground on which to move these items, and without this space, the foundation would be forced to cease operations.

My legislation will not cost the taxpayers a single penny. The White Lotus Foundation will pay for the land, the survey, and all administrative costs. There are no exemptions from NEPA or other environmental laws. The land in question is not protected by wilderness or any other specifically designated area.

Finally, my legislation does not even mandate this land be conveyed. It merely allows the Forest Service to convey the land and to determine the amount to be conveyed; meaning, if the Forest Service does not feel this land conveyance is in its best interest, it does not have to sell any Federal land to the White Lotus Foundation.

In closing, I want to thank the chairman, Chairman RAHALL, Ranking Member Mr. HASTINGS, for allowing this legislation to be considered today; and I urge support of this legislation, H.R. 129.

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. I think we have one more speaker.

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia, Dr. BROUN.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Mr. BROWN from South Carolina, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation and want to remind the American public, Mr. Speaker, if I could speak to them, that we have a tremendous Federal debt and deficit that's growing every moment that this Congress is in session.

We have a tremendous amount of resources all across this country in forests, in Federal property; and I believe we must be good stewards of our environment. It's absolutely critical. In fact, we are charged from a biblical perspective to be good stewards of our environment, and I am a conservationist of the first order. In fact, I began my political activism being involved in the conservation movement. I'm a life member of many conservation movements such as the Wild Sheep Foundation, the Safari Club International, where I was a political action vice president, political affairs vice president for Safari Club International. I'm a member of Quail Unlimited,

Ducks Unlimited, and I can go on and on. So my conservation credentials are very numerous.

But we have Federal property all over this country where the Federal Government is not managing it properly. The Park Service can't take care, by their own admission, of the Federal National Park System today. The Forest Service does a much better job than the Park Service does in managing its properties. But we have national forests all over this country that have timber growing. It's a renewable resource.

Mr. Speaker, we can handle some of this Federal deficit and debt by starting to manage these Federal properties in a more responsible, scientific manner that will not harm the environment, will not harm the properties, will not harm—actually will help the wildlife.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I rise to support this legislation, I ask this House, I ask this Congress, I ask the American people to start demanding good management practices of our natural resources, and that's going to include good, responsible wildlife management; that's going to include considering hunting on all Federal properties as a management tool which is absolutely critical in proper wildlife management.

So, Mr. Speaker, I do rise in support of this legislation. I assume that it will pass, and I hope that it does. But we need to look beyond that and start being good stewards of our environment, and we have not been.

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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 gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 129, 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.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.