To walk upon the moon . . .
A moonlit sky . . .
As upon her are placed all eyes . . .
All in wonder, all in such grace and awe . . .
As throughout time such dreams were made . . .
But, since the very dawn . . .
To walk on the moon, this rhyme . . .
For as long as woman and mankind . . .
Have looked up upon these Sea of Skies . . .
To find . . .
To find that enchanting moon, all in time . . .
This dream has grown . . .
To walk upon the Moon . . .
Lover's all in embrace . . .
On starlite nights, up there their souls are placed . . .
Such thoughts of fancy, all in hearts have raced . . .
To walk upon the Moon . . .
As a dream as old as time, has swooned . . .
As it was but forty years ago this day . . .
As three lone men, three lone souls led the way . . .
Hurdling through outer space, all out there own their own . . .
As to the moon they would go . . .
But riding on the very edge of death . . .
As their most heroic of all hearts would crest . . .
All in that historic quest, to walk upon the Moon . . .
While, upon crude primitive machines of mankind their fine lives were pledged . . .
''One step for man, one giant leap for mankind'' as said . . .
Walking On The Moon!
As generation after generation . . .
But, dreamed of solving this equation . . .
Of walking on the Moon . . .
Until, a bright star named Kennedy . . .
Into a future this torch he'd seed . . .
To walk upon the Moon to succeed . . .
As launch by launch . . . mission by mission . . .
As was set a trajectory, a course of action all in his vision . . .
By all of those, who now so lie in such soft cold quiet graves . . .
All so we could be here . . .
Walking on the Moon . . .
To them we say, God Bless you all!
And to all of those families who've lived without . . .
We pray with such thanks and gratitude, no doubt . . .
For your loved ones sacrifice, this world has blessed . . .
As those final moments passed . . .
Which now lie etched, all in our hearts to last . . .
For we will long remember, these true pioneers of space . . .
Early explorers, who would not wait
As into grave danger their fine lives they placed . . .
Armstrong, Aldrin, and Collins who stood fast . . .
Walking on the Moon . . .
For all great explorers have so met that test . . .
With a journey begun . . .
A star lite night . . .
As two lovers gaze up in sight . . .
Up upon those skies so bright . . .
But, where dreams are made . . .
For as long as courageous quests live on . . .
All carried in hearts of men and women of faith so strong . . .
They such magnificent dreams will live on . . .
Can but Mars be far behind?
Forty Years Ago This Day!

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 607 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Mission which put the first humans on the moon.

On July 20, 1969, mankind took the greatest step in exploration the world had ever known when Neil Armstrong stepped off the ladder of the lunar spacecraft and onto the dusty, cold surface of the moon. So much more than a few steps, the first walk on the moon symbolized the hopes and dreams of our nation during the difficult period of the Cold War, and together, Americans watched as a new chapter began in the history of our nation and the world.

The first moon landing is especially relevant today as we continue to unlock the many scientific mysteries of our planet and our universe. When we look back on the achievements of yesterday, it is important to remember the significance of setting goals for the future and researching for the achievements of tomorrow. Truly, we have benefitted immensely from the technological advancements that were developed forty years ago, and it is my hope that we will build on this tradition of research and scientific knowledge.

Today, on the 40th anniversary of the first moon landing, we remember this event and the sense of curiosity and awe the world felt when history was made and Neil Armstrong took that famous first ''small step for a man,'' and ''giant leap for mankind.''

I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the first moon landing, and to support initiatives such as the Science, Technology, Education, and Mathematics (STEM) initiatives so that the future may hold the promise seen that mid-July night, when a small step became the greatest mankind has ever known.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to cosponsor H. Res. 607, which commemorates the fortieth anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. Apollo 11's successful mission was certainly ''a giant step for mankind,'' that should be a source of pride for all Americans.

One of my favorite quotes regarding the moon landing was penned by philosopher Ayn Rand in 1969: ''Think of what was required to achieve that mission: think of the unpitying effort; the merciless discipline; the courage; the responsibility of relying on one's judgment; the days, nights and years of unswerving dedication to a goal; the tension of the unbroken maintenance of a full, clear mental focus; and the honesty. It took the highest, sustained acts of virtue to create in reality what had only been dreamt of for millennia.''

Rand's words not only apply to the Apollo 11 mission but to all of the work of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). As a representative of the Gulf Coast of Texas, which is home to many of NASA's most significant triumphs, I have had the opportunity to meet many NASA employees. I have always been impressed by their professionalism and dedication to their mission.

In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon by supporting H. Res. 607.

Ms. KOSMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 607, a resolution recognizing and honoring the three American heroes of the Apollo 11 mission, as well as the tens of thousands of engineers, scientists, and support personnel whose efforts were essential to the mission's success and the American qualities of ingenuity, exceptionalism, and creativity that drove their achievements.

In this very chamber, President Kennedy asked for every scientist, engineer, serviceman, technician, contractor, and civil servant to give their personal pledge that this nation will move forward, with the full speed of freedom, in the exciting adventure of space. When he made this request of our nation it was on a scale equaled only by two other feats in the history of the world; the digging of the Panama Canal and The Manhattan Project.

Just as we honor those that made the Apollo program a success, this occasion should be a time to recognize the rich history and tradition of aeronautical innovation in our nation's past and recommit ourselves to continuing this spirit of adventure and innovation that made our nation what it is today. From the Wright Brothers and Charles Lindbergh to Robert Goddard and Von Braun's Saturn V; from Alan Sheppard and John Glenn to Neil Armstrong, ''Buzz'' Aldrin, and Michael Collins, Americans have broken technological barriers and risked their lives in the quest to push the boundaries of gravity, human endurance, and space.

By dedicating themselves to pushing the boundaries of discovery at great personal risk, the three men of Apollo 11, along with the thousands of men and woman who supported them on the ground, cemented our nation's leadership in science and technology and paved the way for future accomplishments in space. It is only fitting as our nation plans to return to the moon that we honor their great accomplishments today.

I would also like to remind my colleagues and all Americans that our achievements in space have led to numerous advancements on Earth. Many discoveries and innovations, including water filtration, improvements in solar energy, and advanced flight simulation training, improve our everyday lives, and it is vital that we strongly support our human spaceflight program so that we can continue to inspire, invent, and achieve over the next 40 years and beyond.

I thank my friend Mr. HALL, a great supporter of NASA, for introducing this resolution and urge my colleagues to join us in honoring this historic occasion.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 607.

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.

AUTHORIZING NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PARKS

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 2729) to authorize the designation of National Environmental Research Parks by the Secretary of Energy, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2729

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The National Environmental Research Parks are unique outdoor laboratories that provide opportunities for environmental studies on protected lands around Department of Energy facilities.

(2) In 1972, the Atomic Energy Commission established its first official environmental research park at the Savannah River site in South Carolina.

(3) In 1976, the Department of Energy defined the mission for the research parks in accordance with the recommendations of the multiagency review team for environmental research activities at the Savannah River site.

(4) The mission of the research parks is to—

(A) conduct research and education activities to assess and document environmental effects associated with energy and weapons use;

(B) explore methods for eliminating or minimizing adverse effects of energy development and nuclear materials on the environment;

(C) train people in ecological and environmental sciences; and

(D) educate the public.

(5) The National Environmental Research Parks are located within six major ecological regions of the United States, covering more than half of the Nation.

(6) The parks are especially valuable research sites because within their borders they provide secure settings for scientists to conduct long-term research on a broad range of subjects including—

(A) plant succession;

(B) biomass production;

(C) population ecology;

(D) radioecology;

(E) ecological restoration; and

(F) thermal effects on freshwater ecosystems.

(7) The parks maintain several long-term data sets that are available nowhere else in the United States or in the world on amphibian populations, bird populations, and soil moisture and plant water stress. These data sets are uniquely valuable for the detection of long-term shifts in climate.

(8) The maintenance of these parks by the Department of Energy is consistent with statutory obligations to promote sound environmental stewardship of Federal lands and to safeguard sites containing cultural and archeological resources.

(9) Public education and outreach activities carried out on these sites provide unique learning opportunities, promote a stronger connection between these Federal facilities and the surrounding communities, and enhance public confidence that the Department of Energy is fulfilling its environmental stewardship responsibilities.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PARKS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of Energy shall designate the six National Environmental Research Parks located on Department of Energy sites as protected outdoor research reserves for the purposes of conducting long-term environmental research on the impacts of human activities on the natural environment. The six National Environmental Research Parks shall include—

(1) the Savannah River National Environmental Research Park;

(2) the Idaho National Environmental Research Park;

(3) the Los Alamos National Environmental Research Park;

(4) the Fermi Lab National Environmental Research Park;

(5) the Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park; and

(6) the Nevada National Environmental Research Park.

(b) PURPOSES.—Each site shall support—

(1) environmental research and monitoring activities to characterize and monitor present and future site conditions, and serve as control areas for comparison with environmental impacts of Department of Energy land management, energy technology development, remediation, and other site activities outside the National Environmental Research Park areas. Areas of research and monitoring on the sites may include—

(A) ecology of the site and the region;

(B) population biology and ecology;

(C) radioecology;

(D) effects of climate variability and change on ecosystems;

(E) ecosystem science;

(F) pollution fate and transport research;

(G) surface and groundwater modeling; and

(H) environmental impacts of development and use of energy generation technologies, including renewable energy technologies; and

(2) public education and outreach activities consistent with subsection (d).

(c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—To ensure the independence of the research, monitoring, public education, and outreach activities conducted on each site, the Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with a university, community college, or consortium of institutions of higher education with expertise in ecology and environmental science of the region in which the National Environmental Research Park is located.

(d) ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.—Each site shall support an outreach program to inform the public of the diverse ecological activities conducted at the park and to educate students at various levels in environmental science. Program activities may include—

(1) on-site and in-classroom education programs for elementary and secondary students;

(2) presentations to school, civic, and professional groups;

(3) exhibits at local and regional events;

(4) development of educational projects and materials for students at all levels;

(5) undergraduate and community college internships and graduate research opportunities; and

(6) regularly scheduled public tours.

(e) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Energy shall designate a National Environmental Research Park Coordinator within the Department of Energy Office of Science. The Coordinator shall—

(1) coordinate research activities among the National Environmental Research Parks as appropriate;

(2) ensure that information on best practices for research, education, and outreach activities is shared among the sites; and

(3) serve as liaison to other Federal agencies to facilitate collaborative work at the Parks.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Director of the Office of Science, for carrying out this section $30,000,000, including $5,000,000 for each National Environmental Research Park, for each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2014.

SEC. 3. SAVINGS.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the activities that the Federal Government may carry out or authorize on a site on which a National Environmental Research Park is located.

SEC. 4. SUMMER INSTITUTES PROGRAM.

The National Environmental Research Parks may be utilized to provide educational opportunities through the Summer Institutes program authorized in section 3185 of the Department of Energy Science Education Enhancement Act (42 U.S.C. 7381n).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2729, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that today the House will consider H.R. 2729, a bill that will formally authorize the National Environmental Research Parks at Department of Energy sites across the country, including one in my district at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Los Alamos National Laboratory includes a landscape of canyons, mesas and mountains, and the Rio Grande, providing a diverse range of ecosystems to explore.

The Los Alamos Park conducts ongoing environmental studies on everything from containment transport to woodland productivity to long-term climate change effects on the land. These parks have been a critical resource to the national and the global environmental research community for decades, yet they have never had a clearly defined source of support in the department before. This bill finally addresses this issue and provides important guidance for research, development, education and outreach on the parks.

H.R. 2729 was developed through a collaborative process that took into account comments and concerns from each of the DOE sites, as well as helpful input and amendments from both minority and majority Members. I'm happy to present a bill with bipartisan cosponsorship, and I look forward to working with our Senate colleagues to send this to the President's desk as soon as possible.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 2729 to authorize the designation of National Environmental Research Parks by the Secretary of Energy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2729, introduced by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), authorizes six existing parks that are located within major eco-regions of the United States. These eco-regions cover more than half of the Nation. In some cases the research parks are the only ecological sanctuaries in the entire region. The parks provide secure settings for scientists to conduct research on a broad range of subjects, such as plant succession, biomass production, environmental behavior of radionuclides, cost and effectiveness of revegetation of disturbed lands, and thermal effects on freshwater ecosystems. The parks also provide rich environments for training researchers and introducing the public to ecological sciences.

The parks have been around in concept since 1969 and in reality, actually, since 1972, when the Atomic Energy Commission, the predecessor to the Department of Energy, established its first research park at the Savannah River site in South Carolina.

Under this bill, the Parks will continue to serve their intended purpose, but will now be able to do so under their own authorization.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LUJÁN for his work on this bill, and also the work of his staff.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, the nuclear weapons production program at Hanford played a critical role in our nation's defense for decades—securing victories in World War II and the Cold War. Today, the 586–square-mile Hanford Site, which is located in the congressional district that I represent and in the community that I've called home for over 50 years, is undergoing the largest and most complex nuclear waste cleanup effort in the world.

While nuclear cleanup will continue at Hanford for decades, the local community is already looking towards life post-cleanup and is actively engaged in discussing its future and economy once this massive undertaking is completed. Clearly, the possible beneficial use of portions of land on this massive site to diversify the economy and ensure a robust post-cleanup future are options that must be open and available. As just one possible example, consideration is being given by the Department of Energy and local communities to proposals to use a piece of Hanford lands for an Energy Park. Other ideas on how to use these suitable lands include nuclear activities such as medical isotope production and uranium enrichment for fuel rod production that would power nuclear energy reactors.

At a time when decisions about future uses of lands on the Hanford Site have yet to be made, it is critical that this Congress and the federal government maintain flexibility in order to keep all options on the table—and not enact legislation that could complicate or prohibit future activities, thereby preempting the very conversations that are underway today.

Mr. Speaker, as originally introduced, H.R. 2729 would have designated the Hanford Site and surrounding lands as a permanent protected National Environmental Research Park, or NERP.

While I believe it appropriate for portions of the Hanford Site to conduct activities consistent with the NERP mission, I have very serious concerns about rushing through permanent decisions on Hanford lands via legislation that was introduced last month with zero input from either the Tri-Cities community or their elected Representative.

That's why I have been working with the Science Committee on trying to identify and agree on ways to modify and improve the bill to fully protect the unique and complex Hanford site. My overriding goal in pursuing modifications was to avoid serious unintended consequences that could very well result from H.R. 2729, including the creation of yet another overlapping land use management authority at Hanford and the permanent lockdown of future land use decisions.

I have made several suggestions to the Committee including language to: (1) enable the Secretary of Energy to modify the boundaries of the NERP, (2) exclude privately-owned lands and state lands, (3) ensure that nothing in the bill will restrict, limit or condition the ability of the Department to lease, convey or transfer lands, (4) ensure that no new land use or regulatory authority is created, (5) clearly state that this new law could not be used to launch lawsuits, and (6) to make certain that the NERP authorization is aimed at the intent of facilitating long-term research and promoting education outreach, rather than the establishment of a restrictive land use designation that could block or stifle future decisions. I support the stated intent of this legislation's authors and proponents to encourage research and education, but I fear that the language of the bill as written could be interpreted to cause real harm to the future of Hanford and the local community.

I very much appreciate the consideration of Ranking Member HALL, and the willingness of Chairman GORDON, Subcommittee Chairman BAIRD and Representative LUJÁN to listen and discuss my concerns over the past week. In the end, clarifying language that I felt was necessary to protect the interests of those I was elected to represent was not agreeable to the Committee, and they instead chose to remove Hanford from the bill altogether.

While I believe we all would have preferred an outcome that was acceptable to all Members, which did not prove possible in the past week, and the removal of Hanford from the bill is an appropriate course of action.

It took many years for the federal government to produce the massive volumes of nuclear waste at Hanford, and it will take many more years to complete the cleanup of these wastes. There is absolutely no reason to rush through legislation that could make cleanup at Hanford more difficult or take away the flexibility to make decisions on the future of the Site and the surrounding communities.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2729, 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.

PROVIDING FOR NATURAL GAS VEHICLE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1622) to provide for a program of research, development, and demonstration on natural gas vehicles, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1622

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

SECTION 1. NATURAL GAS VEHICLE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy shall conduct a 5-year program of natural gas vehicle research, development, and demonstration. The Secretary shall coordinate with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, as necessary.

(b) PURPOSE.—The program under this section shall focus on—

(1) the continued improvement and development of new, cleaner, more efficient light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty natural gas vehicle engines;

(2) the integration of those engines into light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty natural gas vehicles for onroad and offroad applications;

(3) expanding product availability by ensuring that technologies researched and developed assist engines and vehicles in meeting Federal and State requirements and standards;

(4) the demonstration and proper operation and use of the vehicles described in paragraph (2) under all operating conditions;

(5) the development and improvement of nationally recognized codes and standards for the continued safe operation of natural gas vehicles and their components;

(6) improvement in the reliability and efficiency of natural gas fueling station infrastructure;

(7) the certification of natural gas fueling station infrastructure to nationally recognized and industry safety standards;

(8) the improvement in the reliability and efficiency of onboard natural gas fuel storage systems;

(9) the development of new natural gas fuel storage materials;

(10) the certification of onboard natural gas fuel storage systems to nationally recognized and industry safety standards;

(11) the use of natural gas engines in hybrid vehicles; and

(12) researching and developing technologies and processes so as to improve and streamline the process by which natural gas conversion systems meet Federal and State requirements and standards.

(c) COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH INDUSTRY.—In developing and carrying out the program under this section, the Secretary shall coordinate with the natural gas vehicle industry to ensure cooperation between the public and the private sector.