

Whereas community recreation programs at park and recreation facilities provide children with a safe refuge and a place to play, which helps to reduce at-risk behavior such as drug use and gang involvement;

Whereas 69 percent of the United States population believes in local park and recreation services, which supports the idea that such parks and services should be funded by taxes and user fees;

Whereas public parks and recreation facilities create enormous economic value through increased partnership, which improves the job base and the economic viability of the local economy, including business relocation and expansion in the community and increased tourism; and

Whereas parks and recreation facilities reduce fuel costs and commute times by providing a place close to home to relax, exercise, and reduce stress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the great societal value of parks and recreation facilities and their importance in local communities across the United States;

(2) recognizes and honors the vital contributions of employees and volunteers in park and recreation facilities; and

(3) supports the designation of a “National Park and Recreation Month”.

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.

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 resolution 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, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 288 was introduced by our colleague from Georgia, Representative JOHN BARROW, and would recognize July as National Park and Recreation Month. Federal, State, territorial, and local parks and recreation facilities across our Nation play a vital role in creating healthy communities. They improve our quality of life, they keep our children active and safe and connected with nature, and they create economic opportunities by attracting businesses and jobs and increasing home values.

House Resolution 288 recognizes the importance of our valued parks and recreation facilities by encouraging the designation of a National Park and Recreation Month. I commend my colleague, Representative BARROW, for his diligent work on this resolution, and I ask my colleagues to support the passage of this measure.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution has been adequately explained by the gentle-

woman from Guam. I would like to add that it is my hope that this resolution reminds the American people that public lands are theirs to fully enjoy.

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 288 designating the month of July as “National Park and Recreation Month”.

State and local parks and recreation facilities play a vital role in stimulating our nation’s economy, improving community health and wellness, enhancing quality of life, and safeguarding our nation’s natural resources. The value of state and local parks and recreation facilities and their employees is undeniable, and I have no doubt that we’re all enriched by the wonderful experiences they offer.

Park and recreation facilities aid in combating obesity and chronic disease epidemics; connect children with nature; provide opportunities for increased physical activities; and enhance the quality of life for injured military servicemembers and those with physical disabilities through therapeutic recreation.

As American families enjoy our summer season, I offer H. Res. 288 as a tribute to our state and local parks and their employees and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support this resolution, 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 agree to the resolution, H. Res. 288.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1500

WACO MAMMOTH NATIONAL MONUMENT ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1376) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Waco Mammoth National Monument in the State of Texas, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1376

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 “Waco Mammoth National Monument Establishment Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) *The Waco Mammoth Site area is located near the confluence of the Brazos and the Bosque rivers in Central Texas, near the City of Waco.*

(2) *Baylor University has been investigating the site since 1978 after the discovery of bones emerging from eroding creek banks leading to the uncovering of portions of five mammoths.*

(3) *Several additional mammoth remains have been uncovered making this the largest known*

concentration of mammoths dying from the same event.

(4) *The discoveries have received international attention.*

(5) *The University and the City of Waco have been working together to protect the site and to develop further research and educational opportunities.*

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act the following definitions apply:

(1) *NATIONAL MONUMENT.—The term “national monument” means the Waco Mammoth National Monument, established in section 4.*

(2) *SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.*

(3) *MAP.—The term “map” means the map titled “Proposed Boundary Waco-Mammoth National Monument”, numbered T21/80,000, and dated April, 2009.*

SEC. 4. WACO MAMMOTH NATIONAL MONUMENT, TEXAS.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Waco Mammoth National Monument in the State of Texas, as a unit of the National Park System, as generally depicted on the map.*

(b) *AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.*

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the national monument in accordance with this Act, the cooperative agreements described in this section, and laws and regulations generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the National Park Service Organic Act (39 Stat. 535, 16 U.S.C. 1).*

(b) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements for the management of the national monument with Baylor University and City of Waco, pursuant to the National Park Service General Authorities Act (16 U.S.C. 1a–2(1)).*

SEC. 6. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY AND BOUNDARY MANAGEMENT.

(a) *ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.—The Secretary is authorized to acquire from willing sellers lands, or interests in lands, within the proposed boundary of the national monument necessary for effective management.*

(b) *CONDITIONS.—Lands identified in subsection (a) may be acquired—*

(1) *by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, transfer from another Federal agency, or by exchange; and*

(2) *in the case of lands owned by the State of Texas, or a political subdivision thereof, or Baylor University only by donation or exchange.*

SEC. 7. CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES ON NON-FEDERAL LANDS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized, subject to the appropriation of necessary funds, to construct essential administrative or visitor use facilities on non-Federal lands within the national monument.*

(b) *OTHER FUNDING.—In addition to the use of Federal funds authorized in subsection (a), the Secretary may use donated funds, property, and services to carry out this section.*

SEC. 8. GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than three years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with Baylor University and City of Waco, shall prepare a management plan for the national monument.*

(b) *INCLUSIONS.—The management plan shall include, at a minimum—*

(1) *measures for the preservation of the resources of the national monument;*

(2) *requirements for the type and extent of development and use of the national monument;*

(3) *identification of visitor carrying capacities for national monument; and*

(4) *opportunities for involvement by Baylor University, the City of Waco, the State of Texas,*

and other local and national entities in the formulation of educational programs for the national monument and for developing and supporting the national monument.

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.

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. 1376, introduced by our colleague CHET EDWARDS, will establish a new national monument to protect the burial site near Waco, Texas, of several herds of mammoths that appear to have died in one or more floods some 68,000 years ago. The 107th Congress authorized a study of the site, and H.R. 1376 implements the results of that study. Specifically, the bill provides that the 109-acre site be managed under a cooperative agreement among the National Park Service, Baylor University and the City of Waco. Representative EDWARDS has been a tireless advocate on behalf of the preservation and interpretation of this invaluable historic site. He is to be commended for his tireless efforts. I ask my colleagues to support the passage of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1376 would designate a national monument in the middle of the city of Waco in Texas. I do not necessarily oppose the designation, but I do oppose the legislation as it is written because it lacks language protecting the property rights on lands adjacent to the monument. The National Park Service has a history of interfering with the use of lands it does not own. During the committee markup, Congressman ROB BISHOP of Utah offered a commonsense amendment that limited the Park Service's control to the boundaries of the proposed monument and prohibited the Park Service from designating buffer zones on private lands. The chairman of the subcommittee opposed the amendment, stating that the concept of buffer zones did not exist and was nowhere to be found in law. However, a quick search of the Park Service's own Web site finds 78 references to buffer zones, including references in Federal law. The amendment that was offered by Mr. BISHOP was narrowly defeated by a 22-20 vote, largely along party lines. So without language protecting private landowners adjacent to the monument, which includes homeowners, farmers

and, for that matter, even Baylor University, passing this legislation would be, in my view, irresponsible. This is not just a vague hypothetical concern. In the Park Service's own study, recommending the designation of the Waco monument, the issue of controlling neighboring lands through local zoning is specifically mentioned; and the door is left open for the Park Service to push for restrictions on adjacent private property. That's the part that concerns me with this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on H.R. 1376 until language is added protecting property rights in the buffer zone.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of the bill, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I thank the gentlewoman from Guam.

Mr. Speaker, for over 60,000 years Mother Nature preserved a unique site in the world known as the Waco Mammoth Site. Now it is our responsibility to be good stewards of this historic site. Located in my hometown of Waco, Texas, the site represents the only recorded instance of a nursery herd of Pleistocene-era mammoths in the United States. It is the largest known concentration in North America and possibly the world of Pleistocene-era Columbian mammoths, dying from possibly the same event some 68,000 years ago.

According to the Department of the Interior, the Waco Mammoth Site is a national treasure. That is why, after an extensive study, it recommended that the site be designated a national monument and made a part of the National Park System. My bill, H.R. 1376, would put into effect the Department of Interior recommendations. Specifically, the Waco Mammoth National Monument Establishment Act of 2009 will establish in Texas the Waco Mammoth National Monument as a unit within the National Park System. It would authorize the construction of administration and visitor use facilities on the site and instruct the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a management plan for the monument in consultation with Baylor University and the City of Waco. The National Park Service recommended that the most effective and efficient approach for ensuring the long-term protection of the site and maximizing opportunities for public enjoyment and education would be for the National Park Service to lead a partnership with the City of Waco and Baylor University. Under this arrangement, the National Park Service would take the lead responsibility for the protection, scientific study, and visitor enjoyment of the site while enlisting partners in this effort. The partners would take the responsibility for initiating additional recreational and educational opportunities at the site.

First discovered in 1978, the Waco Mammoth Site is a unique find of na-

tional and international importance. To date, 24 Columbian mammoths, including articulated skeletons, a giant tortoise and a camel, have been discovered; and the potential for future mammoth discoveries is high with research activities ongoing at the 109-acre site. It has become an area of significant study within the archaeological community and, as living history, has the capacity to serve as an educational resource for people of all ages for generations to come.

For nearly a decade, I have been proud to join with and support the efforts of the City of Waco, Baylor University and the Waco Mammoth Foundation to fulfill our dream of having the Waco Mammoth Site become a national monument, enjoying the ranks of American national monuments such as the Statue of Liberty. As with all positive accomplishments in life, this project has been a team effort. I especially want to salute the citizens of Waco for their vision, their dedication and generosity in supporting this project.

I can still remember, Mr. Speaker, my friend Sam Jack McGlasson standing in my driveway in the 1990s, telling me about this site for the very first time. While he and Liz are no longer with us, their vision and donation of land started us down this path over a decade ago, a path envisioned by them and former Baylor professor Calvin Smith. I remember Buddy Bostick, an early contributor to this project, telling me that we had a moral obligation to preserve for future generations what Mother Nature had protected for thousands of years. That led to my passing legislation in 2002 to have a resource study done by the Department of Interior and to later passing \$400,000 in seed money for the project. When this project was bogged down a few years ago, I remember Pastor John Wood, my father-in-law, holding a meeting at his home which resulted in a renewed focus to get things moving forward. With the incredible leadership of Gloria Young, Waco's citizens raised over \$3 million of their own money to start building a permanent protective structure so that rains and floods would not ruin this site forever. Citizens such as Gloria and F.M. Young, Paul and Jane Meyer, Gayle Lacy, Tommye Lou Davis, Karla Leeper, Don Moes and others have given generously of their own time and their resources to protect this unique, historic site for the citizens of our country and the world. That is the kind of spirit of giving that makes me proud to call Waco my home.

This bill would not be on the House floor today were it not for the tremendous bipartisan efforts of so many. With apologies to anyone whose name I do not mention, I must especially thank and congratulate Waco Mayor Virginia DuPuy, City Manager Larry Groth and his staff, and Ellie Caston at Baylor University and everyone at Baylor who worked with her. Their efforts have been tireless over many

years and instrumental to the project's success. Hardworking Federal employees, who often do not get thanked, deserve our gratitude for the role they have played in doing the Federal resource study. So thanks go to those at the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior for whom protecting special national resources is not a job but a labor of love. Last, but certainly not least, I want to express my appreciation to Natural Resources Committee Chairman NICK RAHALL and his ranking member, DOC HASTINGS, notwithstanding the legitimate principled question that he raised a minute ago, which I will address in just a moment. I also want to thank RAÚL GRIJALVA and ROB BISHOP, the chairman and ranking member of the National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee. Without their support, this bill's passage would not be possible; and I thank them for protecting America's natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, what excites me the most is knowing that generations of school children will learn firsthand at the Waco Mammoth Site about science and natural history. It will be an outdoor classroom where children can discover the richness of God's world in which we all live. At this unique site in the world, they can find that learning can be fun and a life-long adventure. When children and parents of all ages visit Waco and see the bull mammoth desperately trying to push its calf above the raging storm waters 68,000 years ago, we will all be touched by knowing that the power of parental instinct is a common bond of mankind and Mother Nature. For the benefit of future generations, I ask that my colleagues join with me in supporting H.R. 1376.

Mr. Speaker, since I was not fully aware of Mr. HASTINGS' principled questions about this, I would just add a comment or two about that. I have been a long-standing supporter of private property rights. That's why I think that the question he has raised is a very principled one. What I can say to the gentleman is that this has been supported by Democrats and Republicans; and to my knowledge, over a period of 10 years, along with the support of Baylor University and the City of Waco and our community leaders, there has not been a controversy about private property being encroached upon by this project. I would just say to the gentleman, if there is any way he could bring himself to support this bill, I would, in good faith before we move forward in the Senate, sit down with him and discuss how we could address this issue.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I would be glad to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I appreciate the gentleman yielding. As I mentioned in my opening remarks, I have no problem with the designation. I thought you described it very, very

well. You've heard those of us from the West talk about private property rights, like these things only happen in the western part of the United States. But examples like these where these buffer zones have infringed on priority property rights, as a matter of fact, have happened all over the United States, in Michigan, obviously in the West, and even in the Smoky Mountains here in the eastern part of the United States. I know the gentleman is sensitive to that. I was disappointed that the amendment failed by a very close margin. But the reason that was offered for why it didn't pass was because there is no precedence in law. In fact, there is precedence in law.

I suspect your legislation is going to pass on its merits, notwithstanding my opposition to it. But I would certainly advise the gentleman as this process moves forward to look at this very closely because this is not an isolated example. And I know that that would be an unintended consequence of what you intended with this, especially as I understand this legislation sitting in Waco.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. To respond, if I could say to the gentleman, again, I have worked consistently. I may not be from the West. I am from the Southwest, though, and private property rights are a fundamental value in my district. Again, I can assure the gentleman, I have worked for 10 years on this project, again, with leading community leaders, elected officials at the city and county level, Judge Lewis and County Commissioners' Court even contributed \$100,000 of public money to this project along with the \$3 million in private money we raised. It's been on the front pages of the Waco newspaper for years. This is the first time I have heard about any potential controversy regarding a buffer zone.

I do respect and understand the gentleman's concern about national policy. Can I ask, have you heard from individuals from Waco in terms of specific concerns about this bill?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. If the gentleman would yield.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I would be glad to.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. No. I have to say, I have not. Now having said that, there may be somebody on the staff that has. I can tell the gentleman that I have not heard specifically on this. But I just want to point out, there are examples of this in other parts of the country. Again, something that was not anticipated but, in fact, there was an infringement on those private property rights.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I will just say, Mr. Speaker, I respect the gentleman's questions. I certainly respect his concerns about protecting private property rights. I would just urge my colleagues—with respect to the questions he has raised—I would urge them because of the decade-long support and in my community—and this site is in my district—the broad bipartisan sup-

port for this bill, the many reasons I have mentioned in my floor statement why this bill needs to become law, and the sooner the better. Mother Nature has protected this for over 60,000 years. There is risk of rains and—well, we're in the middle of a drought right now. Sometimes we have counties with drought and flood relief requests in at the same time. A massive flood in this area could put the entire project and all of its treasures at risk. I would plead with the gentleman, to either himself or his colleagues, to find a way to support this bill and let's find a way to work together, which I would be glad to do as this bill goes to the Senate.

□ 1515

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I just want to make the point that this bill was marked up in July and, as I mentioned in my opening statement, there was an amendment that was offered, so the issue has been known. But like I say, this Member has not heard directly from people in Waco, but maybe others have. But again, I was talking in a larger sense, because we've seen examples of this in other parts of the country.

So I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I thank the gentleman again for his principled questions raised. I look forward to working with him. I would just ask my colleagues, both Republican and Democratic alike, since this bill is on the suspension calendar today and requires a super majority to pass, I'd ask my colleagues to respect the wishes of the citizens of my hometown of Waco who've worked on a completely bipartisan and nonpartisan basis for over a decade and been looking forward to this bill passing today.

And my commitment to the gentleman will be to work in good faith as this bill goes to the Senate to try to address, if there are local concerns in our areas about buffer zones and protecting private property rights, I'd welcome partnering with the gentleman for that purpose.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, again, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I've talked about this and it is a legitimate concern.

And so I would inquire of the gentleman from Guam if she has anymore speakers.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. If there are no more requests for time, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support the 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. 1376, 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. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY AND TOWN OF BLOWING ROCK LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1121) to authorize a land exchange to acquire lands for the Blue Ridge Parkway from the Town of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1121

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 "Blue Ridge Parkway and Town of Blowing Rock Land Exchange Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

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

(2) TOWN.—The term "Town" means the Town of Blowing Rock in the State of North Carolina.

(3) MAP.—The term "map" means the National Park Service map titled "Blue Ridge Parkway, Proposed Land Exchange with Town of Blowing Rock", numbered "601/90,000A", and dated "April, 2008".

(4) EXCHANGE.—The term "exchange" means the exchange of land authorized by section 3(a).

SEC. 3. LAND EXCHANGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (d), the Secretary may exchange approximately 20 acres of land within the boundary of the Blue Ridge Parkway that are generally depicted on the map as "Blowing Rock Reservoir", for approximately 192 acres of land owned by the Town that are generally depicted on the map as "Town of Blowing Rock Exchange Lands".

(b) MAP AVAILABILITY.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(c) TIMING.—The Secretary shall seek to complete the land exchange not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) APPLICABLE LAWS; TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The exchange shall be subject to—

(1) laws, regulations, and policies applicable to exchanges of land administered by the National Park Service, including those concerning land appraisals, equalization of values, and environmental compliance; and

(2) such terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(e) EQUALIZATION OF VALUES.—If the lands proposed for exchange are found to be not equal

in value, the equalization of values may be achieved by adjusting the acreage amounts identified in subsection (a).

(f) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—Upon completion of the exchange, the Secretary shall adjust the boundary of the Blue Ridge Parkway to reflect the exchanged lands.

(g) ADMINISTRATION.—Lands acquired by the Secretary through the exchange shall be administered as part of the Blue Ridge Parkway in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

(h) FUTURE DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY.—If the Town desires to dispose of the reservoir property that is the subject of the exchange, the Secretary shall have the right of first refusal to acquire the property for the Blue Ridge Parkway.

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.

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. 1121 is sponsored by our colleague Representative VIRGINIA FOXX of North Carolina. The bill authorizes the exchange of approximately 192 acres of land owned by the Town of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, for roughly 20 acres of land within the Blue Ridge Parkway, a unit of the National Park System. Both the town and the National Park Service support this exchange. All applicable laws and policy regarding environmental compliance and equalization of values will be followed.

This is a good bill, Mr. Speaker, that resolves a longstanding management issue for both parties, so I ask my colleagues to support the passage of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the reservoir that supplies the water to Blowing Rock, North Carolina, is on land that was donated to the Blue Ridge Parkway over 50 years ago. After the Park Service acquired the land, the reservoir continued to operate under an informal agreement until recently when the National Park Service decided to require an annual special use permit for the site and imposed water rights fees. The Park Service pronouncement means that the town faced the prospect of renting its longstanding sole source of water 1 year at a time and being charged for the water.

So I want to compliment Dr. Foxx for this legislative solution to the problem. Her bill will allow Blowing Rock to own and manage its 20-acre munic-

ipal water supply, rather than accessing it through the Park Service permitting process.

I must say, though, that I am dismayed because of the price extracted by the National Park Service because it forced the town to come up with 192 acres in exchange for 20. I think that is a bad ratio. Nevertheless, I support this legislation. I think it's a good piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the author of this legislation, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Washington and my colleague from Guam for bringing my bill forward, and I especially want to thank the committee for bringing H.R. 1121, the Blue Ridge Parkway and Town of Blowing Rock Land Exchange Act forward for consideration.

This is noncontroversial, bipartisan legislation, which is recognized by the North Carolina delegation as essential to the Blue Ridge Parkway's vital tourism industry and the town of Blowing Rock's access to public drinking water. My two colleagues have done a phenomenal job of explaining the need for this legislation and the fact that it is noncontroversial and very, very positive legislation.

In recent years, the North Carolina mountain region has experienced remarkable population growth and increased tourism, increasing the need for a reliable water supply in the towns like Blowing Rock. A testament to its importance in the region, this legislation is cosponsored by the entire North Carolina delegation.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation and again thank the committee for bringing it to the floor for consideration.

This land exchange will ensure an adequate public drinking water supply for the Town's citizens, guests and Parkway travelers. The Town's economy is heavily based on tourism generated primarily by the Blue Ridge Parkway. With thousands of annual visitors, the transfer will benefit the town's residents and the many North Carolinians who visit Blowing Rock each year.

The Blue Ridge Parkway and the Town of Blowing Rock have had a long, successful relationship and history of working together in order to serve their constituencies. This land exchange will continue to provide demonstrable benefits to both parties and the region.

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 requests for time, and so I'll yield back my time.

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