

to address concerns of coastal fishing interests. The bill also benefited from further changes to streamline the recovery and research grant program and clarify its scope as it advanced through the committee process.

H.R. 556 is necessary to provide a stable and reliable source of funding for critically needed research, monitoring, and implementation of recovery actions. Its provisions would apply directly to southern sea otters, but because these otters are a keystone and a sentinel species, H.R. 556 would also benefit the California coastal ecosystem as a whole.

So I urge Members, Mr. Speaker, to support the bill and reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 556, a bill which will take a threatened species and place its management needs above others, even if those species are in danger of becoming extinct.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the agency with management over the southern sea otter and most other animals listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The Service should be afforded the opportunity to make its own determination on how best to use Endangered Species Act recovery funds.

Mr. Speaker, I don't believe Congress should get into the habit of promoting one species' needs over other more endangered species. We should let the management agency do its job, guided by the Endangered Species Act.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, the southern sea otters are a keystone species, as the chairwoman pointed out. That means that if they break the chain, the whole ecological system falls apart. And essentially, what you find in the oceans are the sea urchins are kind of like the snails of the ocean. They eat the seaweed. And if the sea urchins go unchecked, you'll clearcut the oceans and have no habitat for all the fish and other things that live in the kelp beds.

So the sea otters, by eating urchins—and frankly, we have a big urchin industry in California as well—have been compatible for years and years. The problem we have with the southern sea otters is that it's a remarkable recovery, and it's a tribute to Federal law that listed them, because they were less than 100 animals, and now they're up to about 2,000.

But guess what? They're not growing and there are less than there were a few years ago. So there is something happening to this species that nobody can understand. And that's why you need specific legislation to try to get—as the bill points out, it's a research bill.

And I want to point out to the ranking member, Mr. HASTINGS, that where

he pointed out that we shouldn't have these management sort of by single caveat, although we have done, in law, the African Elephant, the Bald and the Golden Eagle—and I know those are important to you in your district—the Tule Elk Preservation Act, the Fur Seal Act, the Crown of Thorns Starfish Act, the North Pacific Halibut Act, the Salmon Conservation Act, and the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation; those are just 8 which I could quickly find, and I'm sure there's a lot more.

I think that the crisis here of the sea otter, and, frankly, it's a big economic issue, too, because those of us who live along the central coast of California, it is a big draw for tourism, and that's why the Monterey Bay Aquarium, their single-most looked at and visited exhibit is the sea otters.

So this bill came about with a lot of work from a lot of organizations. There's 13 organizations that have gone in support of this bill and brought these issues to us, including the Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Sea Otter, The Humane Society of the United States, the Marine Conservation Biology Institute, the Natural Resources Defense Counsel, Oceana, and many others, and they represent about 14 million members.

So I'm pleased that we were able to work out this bill with the committee and bring it to the floor and hopefully get it adopted so that we can figure out why this canary species, if the sea otters are dying, then something else is happening that is very keen to the coastal and near-shore environment that affects the well-being of mankind.

□ 1530

So I would appreciate your support on this bill. It is important to good science and to the preservation of our marine ecosystem.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. 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. 556, 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.

MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 509) to reauthorize the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 509

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 "Marine Turtle Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO PROVISIONS PREVENTING FUNDING OF PROJECTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 is amended—

(1) in section 2(b) (16 U.S.C. 6601(b)), by striking "in foreign countries";

(2) in section 3(2) (16 U.S.C. 6602(2))—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "in foreign countries"; and

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking "of foreign countries"; and

(3) in section 4 (16 U.S.C. 6603)—

(A) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by inserting "State or" before "foreign country"; and

(B) in subsection (d), by striking "in foreign countries".

(b) *STATE DEFINED.*—Section 3 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 6602) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(7) *STATE.*—The term 'State' means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, any other territory or possession of the United States, and any Indian tribe."

SEC. 3. LIMITATIONS ON EXPENDITURES.

Section 5(b) of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6604(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking "\$80,000" and inserting "\$150,000"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) *LIMITATION ON PROJECTS IN THE UNITED STATES.*—Not more than 20 percent of the amounts made available from the Fund for any fiscal year may be used for projects relating to the conservation of marine turtles in the United States."

SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2004.

Section 7 of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6606) is amended by striking "each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009" and inserting "each of fiscal years 2009 through 2014".

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 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. Mr. Speaker, marine sea turtles are threatened by intentional and accidental capture in fisheries, by the destruction of essential nesting habitat through coastal development, by the poaching of eggs, meat and shells, by the entanglement in marine debris, by ship strikes, and by ocean pollution.

The Marine Turtle Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2009, introduced by my friend and ranking member, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, provides a simple extension of an existing program which helps enhance our conservation of marine turtle species. While progress has been made, the status of these turtle species remains tenuous, justifying the need to reauthorize this act.

So I ask my colleagues, Members on both sides of the aisle, to support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 509, which was introduced by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN), a member of the resources committee, will extend the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to issue conservation grants to assist highly endangered marine sea turtles.

Under this measure, the authorization of appropriations is extended an additional 5 years at existing funding levels. Since 2004, 78 conservation projects have been approved to assist the imperiled green, hawksbill, leatherback, loggerhead, and Olive Ridley marine sea turtles. These projects are making a real difference in the ongoing struggle to save these species.

I urge an "aye" vote on H.R. 509. Again, I want to compliment my friend and colleague from South Carolina, Mr. BROWN.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I support this bill to restore and to protect marine sea turtles, and I urge Members to support both the turtles and the otters.

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. 509, 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.

Ms. BORDALLO. 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.

CONGRATULATING LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL TEAM

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 616) congratulating the Louisiana State University baseball team for winning the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I College World Series.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 616

Whereas, on June 24, 2009, the Louisiana State University Tigers baseball team completed a remarkable season, winning the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I College World Series Championship at the Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha, Nebraska, by defeating the top ranked University of Texas Longhorns, 11-4;

Whereas the success of the team was a direct result of the talent and resolve of every player on the Louisiana State University Tigers baseball team, including Buzzy Haydel, Jared Mitchell, Chad Jones, Derek Heleni, Leon Landry, Grant Dozar, Mikie Mahtook, Wet Delatte, Ryan Byrd, Tyler Hanover, Austin Ross, Sean Ochinko, Ryan Schimpf, DJ LeMahieu, Nicholas Pontiff, Shane Riedie, Johnny Dishon, Matty Ott, Anthony Ranaudo, Daniel Bradshaw, Randy Zeigler, Beau Didier, Louis Coleman, Chris Matulis, Chris McGhee, Micah Gibbs, Blake Dean, Austin Nola, Jordan Nicholson, Nolan Cain, Paul Bertuccini, Ben Alsop, Kevin Farnsworth, and Spencer Mathews;

Whereas the Louisiana State University Tigers baseball team's title run included winning 15 of the final 16 games and hitting 13 home runs in 6 College World Series games while averaging more than 8 runs throughout the postseason;

Whereas the Louisiana State University baseball team completed the year with a 56-17 record, including a 5-1 record in the Southeastern Conference tournament, a 3-0 record in the Regional tournament, a 2-0 record in the Super Regional contest, and a 5-1 record in the College World Series;

Whereas the 2009 College World Series Championship represents the sixth National Championship for the Louisiana State University Tigers baseball team;

Whereas the Louisiana State University Tigers baseball team is 6-0 in winner-take-all national championship games;

Whereas this victory marks the second time the Louisiana State University Tigers baseball team has won the Southeastern Conference regular season title, the SEC tournament title, and the national title in the same year;

Whereas coach Paul Mainieri successfully led the Louisiana State University Tigers baseball team back to national prominence in only his third year as head coach;

Whereas Jared Mitchell was named Most Outstanding Player of the College World Series, after hitting .347 with 2 home runs, 7 RBI, two doubles, and a triple;

Whereas Chad Jones and Jared Mitchell became the first 2 players to win a BCS football championship and a College World Series; and

Whereas Louisiana State University's national championship spotlights one of the Nation's premier State universities, which is committed to academic and athletic excellence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Louisiana State University Tigers baseball team for winning the 2009 College World Series;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the players, coaches, and support staff who were instrumental in helping the Louisiana State University baseball team during the 2009 baseball season;

(3) congratulates the citizens of Louisiana, the Louisiana State University community, and fans of Tiger baseball; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to Louisiana State University for appropriate display and distribution to the coaches and members of the 2009 Louisiana State University baseball team.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days during which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H. Res. 616 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Louisiana State University baseball team for their victory in the 2009 NCAA Division I tournament.

On June 24, the LSU Tigers captured the university's sixth national baseball championship with an impressive 11-4 victory over the talented University of Texas Longhorns. This decisive victory over the Texas Longhorns in the third game of a three-game series marked the first baseball championship for the Tigers since 2000.

We want to congratulate the coaches, the fans and the supporters of the LSU Tigers in this dramatic victory. They were rated number one going into the season, third when the tournament began; and they pulled a dramatic victory.

I must emphasize that LSU is not only an athletic powerhouse, but this university is also a premiere academic institution. They offer bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and professional degrees. The school enrolls over 26,000 students, including more than 1,400 international students and over 4,000 graduate students. LSU graduates elite athletes, renowned scholars, and famous elected officials who are changing the world as we know it.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I congratulate Louisiana State University. I want to thank Representative CASSIDY for bringing the resolution forward. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASSIDY. I thank my colleague from Arizona.

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