

a prompt manner. Our congressional districts share a border, and this piece of land to be conveyed to Miami-Dade County actually sits just about on that very border.

But regardless of congressional districts, the conveyance of this property will be of great benefit to all of the residents in south Florida, particularly for the families living in Pinecrest, Palmetto Bay and Cutler Bay. This land will soon bring them increased safety and important peace of mind. Miami-Dade County expects to build the only fire station that would be equipped to swiftly address emergency situations in these communities. I'm a local resident of this area myself, so I can say that we have all too long needed this fire station.

I commend Congressman DIAZ-BALART as well as the House for swiftly moving this bill to make the lands available for its creation. I must point out that the fire station would be nothing without the brave men and women who will serve there. Our firefighters put their lives on the line for us each and every day, and I know that all of south Florida thanks them for their supreme dedication.

Along with my colleague Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, I also had the opportunity of meeting with the leaders of the Palmetto Bay community, and they strongly support this bill that will go a long way to ensuring the safety and well-being of all of our residents. I thank Mr. LUCAS for the time, and I thank Mr. DIAZ-BALART for his leadership.

Mr. HOLDEN. I continue to reserve, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 940.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LOUISIANA FOREST LAND CONVEYANCE

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 940) to provide for the conveyance of National Forest System land in the State of Louisiana.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 940

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND DEFINITIONS.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds it in the public interest to authorize the sale of certain

federally owned land in the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana for market value consideration.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this Act:

(1) The term “Collins Camp Properties” means Collins Camp Properties, Incorporated, a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Louisiana.

(2) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION TO SELL LAND.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Subject to valid existing rights and subsection (b), the Secretary is authorized to sell by quitclaim deed the following lands in the State of Louisiana at public or private sale, including by competitive sale by auction, bid or otherwise:

(1) All federally owned lands within section 9, Township 10 North, Range 5 West, in Winn Parish, Louisiana.

(2) A parcel of land consisting of 2.16 acres situated in the SW¼ of section 4, Township 10 North, Range 5 West, Winn Parish, Louisiana, as more specifically depicted on a certificate of survey dated March 7, 2007, by Glen L. Cannon, P.L.S. 4436.

(b) FIRST RIGHT OF PURCHASE.—Subject to valid existing rights and the provisions of section 4, for a period of one year after the date of enactment of this Act, upon tender of consideration from the Collins Camp Properties, the Secretary shall sell and quitclaim to said corporation all right, title and interest of the United States in—

(1) up to 47.92 acres within section 9, Township 10 North, Range 5 West, in Winn Parish, Louisiana, as generally depicted on a certificate of survey dated February 28, 2007, by Glen L. Cannon, P.L.S. 4436, said land comprising the Collins Campsites; and

(2) the 2.16 acres described in subsection (a)(2).

(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may configure the lands to maximize marketability or achieve management objectives, and may prescribe such terms and conditions on the land sales authorized by this Act as the Secretary deems in the public interest.

(d) CONSIDERATION.—Land sales authorized by this Act shall be for cash consideration equal to the market value of the land.

(e) MARKET VALUE.—The market value of the land sold under this Act shall be as determined by an appraisal approved by the Secretary and done in conformity with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; or, if sold by means other than that provided in subsection (b), market value may be determined by competitive sale.

(f) HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES.—(1) In any disposal of lands authorized by this Act, the Secretary shall meet disclosure requirements for hazardous substances, but shall otherwise not be required to remediate or abate those substances.

(2) Nothing in this section shall otherwise affect the application of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (“CERCLA”, 42 U.S.C. 9601, and following) to conveyances of lands out of Federal ownership.

SEC. 3. PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF LAND.

(a) DEPOSIT OF RECEIPTS.—The consideration received by the Secretary for the sale of land under this Act shall be deposited into the account in the Treasury of the United States established by Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the Sisk Act; 16 U.S.C. 484a).

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Monies deposited pursuant to subsection (a) shall be available to the Secretary until expended, without further appropriation, for the acquisition of lands and interests in land in the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana.

SEC. 4. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(a) COSTS.—The Secretary shall require the Collins Camp Properties to pay at closing the reasonable costs of appraisal and any administrative and environmental analyses required by law or regulation.

(b) PERMITS.—An offer by Collins Camp Properties shall be accompanied by written statements from holders of Forest Service special use authorizations agreeing to relinquish their authorizations upon a sale to Collins Camp Properties. For any holder not providing such written authorization, the Secretary shall require the Collins Camp Properties to administer such authorization according to its terms until the date of expiration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

H.R. 940 was introduced by Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER of Louisiana. This bill would authorize the Forest Service to sell certain residential parcels of land in the Kisatchie National Forest, located in Winn Parish, Louisiana. The total land sold would be just over 50 acres, and a local nonprofit group already living in residence on the site would have the right of first refusal to purchase the land at fair market value. H.R. 940 has the bipartisan support of all seven members of the Louisiana congressional delegation as well as the support of the U.S. Forest Service, and I urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 940, a bill which gives the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to sell 50 acres of national forest land along the Lower Saline Lake in the State of Louisiana. The bill, drafted with the assistance and support of the Forest Service, gives the first option to purchase this tract to a group of residents who already own cabins on the land.

The sale of 50 acres relieves the Forest Service from the burden of performing maintenance and cleanup of the land and gives the task to private citizens who are ready and willing to assume this responsibility. CBO has scored this bill, and it will not have a cost for the taxpayers. The purchaser of the land will be responsible for all costs and fees associated with the transaction, further ensuring that the taxpayers will not be forced to pay for this legislation. This bill passed out of

the House Agriculture Committee unanimously, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ALEXANDER) for whatever time he may consume.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Thank you for yielding to me. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member, the chairman and the members of the committee for passing this important piece of legislation. The entire Louisiana delegation are cosponsors of this. The National Forest Service is in support of it. In fact, they provided the language that is in this bill. As it's been said, CBO has scored it as zero. From the sale of this land, the proceeds will go back to the National Forest Service for money that they have spent over the years, providing maintenance for this 50 acres of land that will be sold to this not-for-profit group.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, the minority has no further speakers; therefore, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 940.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1430

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE UNITED STATES HARDWOODS INDUSTRY

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 81) recognizing the importance and sustainability of the United States hardwoods industry and urging that United States hardwoods and the products derived from United States hardwoods be given full consideration in any program directed at constructing environmentally preferable commercial, public, or private buildings.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 81

Whereas hardwood trees grown in the United States are an abundant, sustainable, and legal resource, as documented by annually by the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program of the United States Forest Service;

Whereas, despite development pressure and cropland needs, Department of Agriculture data shows that the inventory of United States hardwood has more than doubled over the past 50 years;

Whereas the Department of Agriculture reports that annual United States hardwood growth exceeds hardwood removals by a significant margin of 1.9 to 1, and net annual growth has exceeded removals continuously since 1952;

Whereas the World Bank ranks the United States in the top 10 percent of all countries for government effectiveness, regulatory quality, and rule of law with respect to hardwood resources;

Whereas United States hardwoods have been awarded the highest conservation crop rating available under the Department of Agriculture Environmental Benefits Index;

Whereas United States hardwoods are net absorbers of carbon and are widely recognized to be critical to reducing the United States carbon footprint;

Whereas United States hardwoods are a valuable raw material which, when utilized properly, provide an incentive for landowners to maintain their land in a forested condition rather than clearing the land for development or other alternative land use;

Whereas United States hardwoods are a renewable resource and bio-based material;

Whereas United States hardwoods are recyclable, and hardwoods used in construction can often be restored and reused in later construction;

Whereas United States hardwoods are grown primarily in those States located along or east of the Mississippi River and in the Pacific Northwest, but, with a presence in every State, the hardwood industry is one of the major sources of economic activity and sustenance in many rural communities;

Whereas United States hardwoods are grown by thousands of small family landowners who may harvest trees only once or twice in a generation; and

Whereas United States hardwoods and the products derived from United States hardwoods are prized throughout the world as a superior and long-lasting building material: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that United States hardwoods are an abundant, sustainable, and legal resource under the United States rule of law; and

(2) urges that United States hardwoods and products derived from United States hardwoods should be given full consideration in any program directed at constructing environmentally preferable commercial, public, or private buildings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this resolution.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 81 recognizes the importance of the U.S. hardwoods

industry and recognizes the value of sustainable, abundant hardwoods as an important building material.

In the United States hardwood trees are grown primarily by small-family forest landowners who use long-term sustainable practices to grow and manage their trees.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution recognizing the important role of hardwood producers in the United States of America.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution offered by the gentleman from Indiana. The hardwood industry is an important industry for many rural communities across the country, employing more than 500,000 people in all 50 States. The products of this industry are a part of our daily lives. Indeed, we can see the products of their labor in this very Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution calls for any future green building programs to give full consideration to the inclusion of hardwood material. This is a commonsense idea to allow the clean, renewable resources to be included in any program that promotes environmentally friendly construction of public and private buildings.

The hardwood industry is of vital economic importance to hundreds of thousands of families across rural America, and I believe it's important to show these families that we appreciate the work they do and the responsible manner in which they cultivate their natural resources.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH).

Mr. ELLSWORTH. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 81, which recognizes the importance and sustainability of the United States hardwoods industry. I introduced this resolution along with Congressman Geoff Davis of Kentucky and a group of our colleagues from across the country. This bipartisan support demonstrates the national importance of our domestic hardwood lumber industry, and I am pleased this Congress is recognizing the contributions the hardwood industry makes to both our economy and our environment.

Hardwood forest owners are stewards of a valuable national resource, and their efforts to conserve hardwood forests have been a remarkable success. Over the last 50 years, hardwood lumber stocks have more than doubled and hardwoods continue to grow almost twice as fast as they are harvested. The U.S. Forest Service analysis supports the evidence of this strong conservation record: the Forest Service's forest