

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

inventory and analysis program has documented hardwood trees to be an “abundant, sustainable, and legal resource.”

Our hardwood forests are managed by thousands of small landowners and families who take care of this resource. Constituents of mine in southwest Indiana play a role in maintaining our hardwood stocks, and the same is true both throughout Indiana and across this country. Americans should be proud of this strong environmental record, and as Members of Congress, we ought to keep this fact in mind as we look for opportunities to support best practices in stewardship and environmental management.

For example, environmentally preferable construction programs are increasingly important to the building and trade industry; and should Congress direct support for these programs, we should remember domestic hardwoods and their potential to contribute to an environmentally friendly future. I was proud the House passed an amendment I offered to H.R. 2187 earlier this year to preserve sustainable hardwood lumber as a green construction resource for local school districts.

I thank my colleagues for their support of this resolution and of the domestic hardwood lumber industry.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 81, a resolution that recognizes the importance and sustainability of the United States hardwood industry and urges that the United States hardwoods and the products derived from U.S. hardwoods be given full consideration in any program that's directed at constructing environmentally preferable commercial, public, or private buildings.

As the title of the resolution indicates, we feel it's important that Congress recognizes the importance and sustainability of U.S. hardwoods and the industry as a whole. This is especially imperative as Congress considers changes to existing or new programs and standards that include green building requirements or guidelines. Green buildings are designed to cut down on energy costs and encourage the use of sustainable or renewable resources to protect our environment. What better renewable resource than American-grown hardwood? Hardwoods meet both of these criteria and must be included in any congressional initiative that encourages or requires the construction of environmentally friendly buildings.

In addition to playing a key role in green building, the hardwood industry is one that has created thousands of jobs in nearly every State and in hundreds of congressional districts. In Kentucky we have over 1,200 hardwood businesses alone, as well as over 100 in Kentucky's Fourth District. Two that I would point out would be GreenTree Forest Products in Fleming County,

Kentucky, which employs hundreds of local people in the Buffalo Trace counties of central Kentucky and also harvests plants, sustains and renews its fiber hardwood products in that area; and Northland Corporation, a finishing operation that produces very high-quality hardwoods from the State and the region that are exported to the entire world as part of the global economy.

At a time when unemployment has increased to a staggering 11 percent in Kentucky and 9.6 percent nationwide, it's crucial that we support the many small hardwood industry businesses that keep our communities going, create local jobs, and keep people employed.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH) for working with me on this bipartisan resolution. I would also like to thank our 51 cosponsors for helping us to get this resolution to the floor, including my fellow Kentuckians, Congressmen Rogers, Whitfield, Chandler, and Guthrie.

H. Res. 81 is an important statement acknowledging the environmental attributes of hardwoods, as well as the importance of this industry for jobs in our communities. I urge support for the resolution.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. CHILDERS).

Mr. CHILDERS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, today I am also proud to be a cosponsor of House Resolution 81 and see this important measure brought to the floor for a vote.

I represent Mississippi's First Congressional District, a district strong in forestry and timberland. This industry is dominated by small-based, family-owned businesses which will benefit from the passage of this resolution. These small landowner businesses often have fewer than 50 acres, much of which may at one time have been crop or cattle farm. Many landowners have rededicated these lands solely to the production of timber. These timber stands are valuable long-term investments which expand to job opportunities in a myriad of related businesses: sawmills, logging, trucking, insurance, and many others.

Hardwood lumber growers and manufacturers in Mississippi's First District are valuable members of the communities in which they live and, like many others in Mississippi, have children and grandchildren who hope to stay in these businesses and continue to enjoy all that life offers closer to home. Hardwood timber stands are a critical part of savings and investment for many of my First District families. Without strong markets for lumber, those investments would plummet.

House Resolution 81 will help ensure stronger markets without government intrusion. Instead, we are offering a strong statement from the House that this private enterprise industry is one

which should continue to reap the rewards of decades of good business decisions and stewardship of the land.

The benefits of Mississippi hardwoods are much the same as the benefits enjoyed in nearly every State of the union, from the sheer beauty these forests offer to the hundreds of good jobs tied to them. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting “yes” on this important measure.

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

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. PERRIELLO).

Mr. PERRIELLO. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of recognizing the importance of sustaining the United States hardwoods industry.

As an Eagle Scout growing up in the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains, I developed a deep respect for our country's great natural resources. Today we will recognize that our hardwood industry also plays a crucial role in sustaining not just the local economies of our Nation but many of the counties in central and Southside, Virginia. Across the Commonwealth of Virginia, over 180,000 jobs are provided in the forest products industry, a number that must be maintained during these tough economic times.

The impact of hardwood as an industry in Southside, Virginia, includes businesses like Columbia Forest Products, which produces a formaldehyde-free hardwood plywood, and also Swedwood, the first Ikea manufacturing plant in the United States. I am committed to continuing my work to put Southside, Virginia, at the forefront of advanced wood products manufacturing. This includes the Danville Community College's Center for Advanced Manufacturing in Wood Products Technology and ensuring that forestry is given its due consideration in carbon offsets and efforts for this country's energy independence. Products from our forestry industry provide innovative ways to continue on the path to energy independence while maintaining American jobs.

I thank Mr. ELLSWORTH and other colleagues and other allies for their support of the hardwood industry.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the resolution, 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 agree to the resolution, H. Res. 81.

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.

PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST
BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT
OF 2009

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1002) to adjust the boundaries of Pisgah National Forest in McDowell County, North Carolina.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1002

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 “Pisgah National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT, PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST, NORTH CAROLINA.

(a) **BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.**—The boundaries of Pisgah National Forest in McDowell County, North Carolina, are hereby modified to include a parcel of land consisting of approximately 301 acres, of which approximately 213 acres are owned by the United States and administered by the Forest Service, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed Proclamation Boundary Change, Grandfather Ranger District, Pisgah National Forest” and more particularly delineated and described according to the final boundary adjustment map and boundary description prepared by the Forest Service.

(b) **AVAILABILITY AND CORRECTION.**—The maps referred to in subsection (a) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Regional Forester, Atlanta, Georgia. The Secretary of Agriculture may make minor corrections to the maps.

(c) **LAND ACQUISITION.**—Subject to the appropriation of funds to carry out this subsection and the consent of the owner of the private land included within the boundaries of Pisgah National Forest by subsection (a), the Secretary of Agriculture may acquire the private land.

(d) **MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED LAND.**—Any federally owned lands that have been or hereafter may be acquired for National Forest System purposes within the boundaries of Pisgah National Forest, as modified by subsection (a), shall be managed as lands acquired under the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the Weeks Act), and in accordance with the other laws and regulations pertaining to the National Forest System. Nothing in this subsection shall limit the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to adjust the boundaries of Pisgah National Forest pursuant to sections 10 and 11 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 519, 521).

(e) **RELATION TO LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ACT.**—For purposes of section 7 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–9), the boundaries of Pisgah National Forest, as modified by subsection (a), shall be considered to be boundaries of Pisgah National Forest as of January 1, 1965.

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 such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1002 was introduced by Congressman HEATH SHULER of North Carolina. This bill would authorize the Forest Service to purchase privately held land and modify the boundaries of the Pisgah National Forest in McDowell County, North Carolina. This will improve access to Catawba Falls, a prime recreational and tourist site in the region. The Forest Service has already purchased adjacent land for preservation, and this purchase would allow for parking and trailhead expansion in the falls area. A fiscal year 2010 appropriations request was made for the funds needed to purchase this land, and the money was included in the Interior appropriations bill that passed the House on July 7.

H.R. 1002 has the bipartisan support of the entire North Carolina congressional delegation, as well as the support of the U.S. Forest Service, and I support its passage today.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1002. This bill expands the boundary of the National Forest in North Carolina. The expanded boundary will make it possible for the Forest Service to purchase a privately owned parcel of land for the purpose of creating a parking area and trail access. As my colleague has noted, the Forest Service supports this bill and funding is included in the fiscal year 2010 Interior appropriations bill to purchase the land. The bill passed out of committee unanimously. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of the legislation from North Carolina, Mr. SHULER.

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1002, the Pisgah National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2009. I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their hard work and their support.

This bill would simply extend the current boundary of the Forest Service to include 213 acres of land that is already owned and maintained by the U.S. Forest Service, as well as 88 acres currently owned by a regional non-profit land trust.

□ 1445

This bill has bipartisan support from the entire North Carolina delegation, for which I am very grateful.

This bill will help the Federal Government meet several objectives. First,

it will clarify the boundary that identifies parcels of land that are already owned by the Forest Service. Secondly, it will help to guarantee the conservation of pristine acreage that promotes water quality as well as tourism in the region of western North Carolina. Third, it will help thousands of visitors each year access Catawba Falls, a uniquely beautiful cascade that is already on Forest Service property.

H.R. 1002 explicitly protects the rights of private property owners. This bill will preserve the natural treasures and make sure that the public has adequate access to publicly owned land. In addition to being cosponsored by the entire North Carolina delegation, this bill has received unanimous and bipartisan support in the House Committee on Agriculture.

I am grateful to all of my colleagues for their support, as well as to the staff of the Committee on Agriculture for all of their hard work.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding me this time, and I offer my support to my colleague from North Carolina for the bill he has put forward.

I rise today to speak on issues of forestry, and specifically to House Resolution 81 which recognizes the importance and sustainability of the U.S. hardwoods industry.

My rural district in Pennsylvania is comprised of sprawling forest lands and the Allegheny National Forest. For generations, the economic engine of this region has been oil and gas production and the harvesting of some of the finest hardwoods in the country.

American hardwoods are valued here and around the world for their natural beauty, long life, sustainability, and many applications from furniture to flooring to musical instruments.

There are more than 100 privately owned businesses in my district. Most are family owned, whose well-being and the well-being of their employees are dependent upon the American hardwoods. More than a billion dollars in hardwoods and hardwood products are exported from the United States each year. Even with this growing market demand, the supply of hardwood resources has continued to grow as forests, both public and private, are managed for growth and harvest.

In addition to the enormous economic benefits which the timber industry has on our rural economy, timber harvesting in Pennsylvania is an essential part of forest health and management efforts. For example, when decaying timber or wood waste is removed from the forest floor, it creates a much fuller and more vibrant forest in the long run. Forest management helps to create a stronger carbon sink than an unmanaged forest.

In addition, the U.S. Forest Service spends \$2 billion per year, half their