

strategy developed under paragraph (2) and consistent with the authorities regarding gifts, volunteer services, community partnerships, and refuge education enhancement under section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 741f), the Secretary of the Interior, through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall carry out a National Volunteer Coordination Program within the National Wildlife Refuge System to—

“(A) augment and support the capabilities and efforts of Federal employees to implement resource management, conservation, and public education programs and activities across the National Wildlife Refuge System;

“(B) provide meaningful opportunities for volunteers to support the resource management, conservation, and public education programs and activities of national wildlife refuges or complexes of geographically related national wildlife refuges in each United States Fish and Wildlife Service region; and

“(C) fulfill the purpose and mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System under the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.).”;

(3) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows

“(2) VOLUNTEER COORDINATION STRATEGY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—No later than one year after date of enactment of this paragraph, the Director shall publish in the Federal Register a national strategy for the coordination and utilization of volunteers within the National Wildlife Refuge System.

“(B) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The strategy shall be developed in consultation with State fish and wildlife agencies, Indian tribes, refuge friends groups or similar volunteer organizations, and other relevant stakeholders.

“(C) VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS.—The Director shall provide, subject to the availability of appropriations, no less than one regional volunteer coordinator for each United States Fish and Wildlife Service region to implement the strategy published under this paragraph. Such coordinators may be responsible for assisting partner organizations in developing and implementing volunteer projects and activities under cooperative agreements under section 7(d) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(d)).”; and

(4) in paragraph (4), by striking “for for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2009” and inserting “for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2014”.

SEC. 4. VOLUNTEER, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS, AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(e)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (f) (as amended by this Act) as subsection (g); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

“(f) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate—

“(1) evaluating the accomplishments of the volunteer program, the community partnerships program, and the refuge education programs authorized under this section, and of the National Volunteer Coordination Program and volunteer coordination strategy under section 4(a) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 742f-1); and

“(2) making recommendations to improve the effectiveness of such programs, including regarding implementing subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1) of subsection (e).”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 4(a) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act

of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 742f-1) is further amended by striking paragraph (3), and by redesignating paragraph (4) (as amended by this Act) as paragraph (3).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS) 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 within 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. 4973, the National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Improvement Act, was introduced by our colleague from Maryland, Representative FRANK KRATOVIL.

The National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses a national network of public lands and waters set aside to conserve habitat and protect natural resources and, consequently, plays an integral role in our national network of Federal public lands.

During these difficult economic times, the government has looked for efficient and practical solutions to lower costs while maintaining critical refuge systems services. The National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Program serves this purpose. Last year, volunteers contributed to more than 1.5 million hours of support, the equivalent of nearly 750 full-time employees. This is better than \$7 returned on each dollar invested.

The pending measure would make the volunteer program permanent, establish a volunteer coordination strategy, and formalize a reporting schedule to ensure oversight and accountability.

I commend Mr. KRATOVIL for his important work on behalf of this initiative, and I ask Members on both sides to support passage of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4973. While individuals have been volunteering their time and talents to the National Wildlife Refuge System for nearly 30 years, the value of their work has significantly increased from \$1.1 million to \$30.3 million. Volunteers now perform about 20 percent of the work done on refuges, and for each refuge employee, there are nine volunteers. Without these dedicated men and women, many visitor centers would be open less frequently, fewer recreational opportunities would be available, many hunting programs would not occur, and important fish and wildlife population surveys would not be completed.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 4973, the National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Improvement Act of

2010. I would like to thank Congressman KRATOVIL for introducing this important bill and acknowledging the importance of the preservation of wildlife to our nation.

This bill would reauthorize volunteer programs and community partnerships for national wildlife refuges. Volunteers are essential to the operation of these refuges and the preservation of our environment. Wildlife Refuge volunteers assist with laboratory research, photographing natural resources, conducting population services, and leading tours for visitors. Volunteers help provide important services to the public at no cost to taxpayers. Their service improves the quality of the visitor experience at our National Wildlife Refuges. This bill would also require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to publish a national strategy for the use and coordination of volunteers.

The National Wildlife Refuge system is the premier system of public lands and waters set aside to conserve America's fish, wildlife and plants. The mission of the Refuge System is to manage a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitat. It is the volunteers that help make this mission possible and this bill will make sure that these volunteers have the resources they need. I strongly support our National Wildlife Refuge system and am heartened that so many Americans choose to volunteer their time on National Wildlife Refuges.

I feel strongly about the importance of protecting our natural world. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill in efforts to preserve our environment, one small step at a time.

Mrs. LUMMIS. 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. 4973, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES FOR LOSS OF ICE IN ARCTIC

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2864) to amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 to authorize funds to acquire hydrographic data and provide hydrographic services specific to the Arctic for safe navigation, delineating the United States extended continental shelf, and the monitoring and description of coastal changes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2864

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 306 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892d) is amended—

(1) by inserting before the text the following: “(a) IN GENERAL.—”; and

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

“(b) ARCTIC PROGRAMS.—Of the amount authorized for each of fiscal years 2011 and 2012—

“(1) \$5,000,000 is authorized for use to acquire hydrographic data, provide hydrographic services, conduct coastal change analyses necessary to ensure safe navigation, and improve the management of coastal change in the Arctic; and

“(2) \$2,000,000 is authorized for use to acquire hydrographic data and provide hydrographic services in the Arctic necessary to delineate the United States extended Continental Shelf.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS) 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 within 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. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, recent scientific findings have shown that the Arctic sea ice is shrinking with significantly smaller amounts of summer sea ice cover. Consequently, more open water space in the Arctic Ocean will be available for ship travel, which will present a changed landscape for international marine commerce and national security interests and greater accessibility to natural resources. These activities are likely to create substantial new demands on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to provide hydrographic data and hydrographic services in the near term.

I support this noncontroversial legislation to amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act to give NOAA specific authorization to conduct hydrographic surveys and to provide other hydrographic services in the Arctic, and I urge Members on both sides to do likewise.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2864 would authorize hydrographic surveys in the Arctic region, an area which lacks up-to-date survey data. The last major survey in the Arctic occurred more than 60 years ago after World War II. Since the majority of U.S. foreign trade by weight moves by sea and the Arctic has the potential to become a viable shipping corridor, it is essential that we support these surveys to help create accurate nautical charts.

I compliment the author of this measure, Congressman DON YOUNG, for

his leadership. This bill has been scored by the CBO as having no cost.

I urge support of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I thank the good lady for yielding.

Just yesterday, the Alaska Dispatch chronicled the increased tourist and commercial vessel traffic in the Arctic and the challenges the Coast Guard is facing in ensuring safe navigation. For example, the Coast Guard recently announced that the Polar Sea icebreaker will be out of service until next year and the Polar Star icebreaker won't be fixed until 2013. As a result, there are no adequate icebreakers to patrol in the Arctic or come to the aid of anyone in need. Simply, safe navigation in the U.S. Arctic is in a precarious state.

My bill would amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act to authorize much-needed funds for hydrographic surveys and coastal mapping of the Arctic regions.

Sadly, we still have a long way to go before we finish the job on nautically charting critical navigation regions throughout this country. The Arctic region in particular has been ignored and lacks survey data. It is my understanding, as the good lady said, the last major hydro survey campaign in the Arctic was conducted following World War II, over 60 years ago.

Currently, base hydrographic data in the Arctic is woefully inadequate and not sufficient to support current, let alone future, marine activity. With the reduction of sea ice, there's increased vessel traffic and opportunities for more drilling, and up-to-date nautical charts or coastal maps are critical for these activities.

H.R. 2864 is an effort to move this process forward by directing NOAA to acquire additional hydrographic data and provide hydrographic services to the Arctic region.

Alaska is the only Arctic State in this Nation. It makes this bill both critically important for my State and our Nation, and I urge Members to support this legislation.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, we should take this time to congratulate my colleague, Mr. YOUNG, for his work on this legislation. Also, I would like to thank the gentlelady from Wyoming. I've enjoyed managing the bills this afternoon with her.

Mr. Speaker, I 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. 2864, 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, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

□ 1800

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HEINRICH) at 6 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 4514, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 4438, by the yeas and nays; and

H.R. 4773, by the yeas and nays.

Proceedings on H.R. 2864 will resume later in the week.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

COLONEL CHARLES YOUNG HOME STUDY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4514) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Colonel Charles Young Home in Xenia, Ohio as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 350, nays 26, not voting 56, as follows:

[Roll No. 434]

YEAS—350

Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Altmire
Andrews

Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus

Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)