

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my legislation, H.R. 4823, the Sedona Red Rocks National Scenic Area Act.

I have often said that the congressional district I am fortunate to represent is the most beautiful in the country. The iconic red rocks that surround the Sedona community and extend into the Verde Valley are indeed a national treasure that is unparalleled. Millions of visitors come from across the Nation and around the globe each year to see the red rocks.

The communities throughout Red Rock Country in Arizona have, for years, discussed the long-term protection of the amazing national resource that surrounds the area. A nonpartisan community coalition came together to advocate for protection of the red rocks through a National Scenic Area, as designated by Congress.

Preserving the natural beauty of the red rocks will ensure that our great-grandchildren will be able to enjoy this unique site just as we do. Just as important, it will attract new visitors and more business to the surrounding communities, getting folks to work during this economic downturn. This bill is necessary to secure these tremendous benefits.

Last year, I circulated draft legislation to local stakeholders, to supporters, and to those with concerns. The Forest Service, the city government, the local Chamber of Commerce, the coalition, Realtors, small business owners, and concerned citizens provided valuable comments and edits to the text of this proposed bill. Through the House Natural Resources Committee, the bill has been further amended by both Republicans and Democrats and was reported from committee without objection.

Good ideas and good policy come from the people, and this bill is the culmination of much debate and feedback in the communities it will affect. Thanks to the involvement of so many people with so many different perspectives, we have put together legislation that will work better for the Sedona area now and in the future. It is the first step forward in moving towards meaningful, long-term protection of the area and towards economic development for the region.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, this is a low-cost jobs project. There is no cost to this. It is a project that I have been looking for that creates jobs that requires Federal action, not Federal spending.

It's appalling, but not surprising, that my esteemed colleagues on the other side of the aisle oppose a low-cost jobs project. They clearly do not understand what's happening to the American people who do not have a job. And when you do not have a job right now, nothing else matters. And it is unbelievable to me that, again, partisan bickering in Washington—not in Sedona—is going to stop a job creation bill.

It's time that Washington started listening to the American people. The people in Sedona are able to put aside partisan bickering and come together for the good of the community and to create jobs, and Washington cannot do the same? Believe me, I will let the folks back home know who rose in opposition, who let partisan bickering drown out their voices and drown out their common sense.

I have always said it is the American people that are going to turn this country around, not Washington, and this is exactly why. This is exactly why: Partisan bickering that gridlocks Washington.

Shame on you.

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

Apparently the gentlelady from Arizona wasn't listening to what I said in my opening remarks as to what concerns I had with this bill. I wish that she had yielded to me because I could have asked a question and maybe she could have enlightened me. But my understanding is there is absolutely nothing in Federal law that designates or describes what a scenic area is. Unlike a wilderness area, unlike a wild and scenic river, nothing describes what a scenic area is. I said in my opening remarks that the reason I oppose this is simply because the vagueness of this opens up potential litigation that will likely affect those surrounding this area. That's what my concern is. I would be willing to work with anybody to try to resolve these issues, but to suggest that my opposition to this is because I am opposed to jobs, it simply misses the point. The gentlelady was simply not listening to what I was saying.

Now, I do have a concern when there are Federal dollars that are spent, but there are no Federal dollars on this; it's simply that we don't have what a designation is. In fact, one could say, Mr. Speaker, if one were thinking in a mischievous way, that the only job creation that legislation like this would create, if it were passed, would be for the trial bar because they could sue over something that is not described in statute. Who wins by that? I don't think the private property owners around this area would win by that.

So I'm disappointed that she would use the tone of argument against our opposition as not trying to work together. There is just simply no designation for "scenic" in Federal statute. Don't you think we ought to have some designation before we designate something "scenic"?

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, it's been clear from listening to my colleague Mrs. KIRKPATRICK that not only she, but the community, recognizes that this bill is good for business and good for jobs. People come from all over the world to enjoy the unique red rock landscape and the world-class rec-

reational opportunities this place offers.

This bill helps conserve that landscape that the community relies on for tourism. In fact, there were several amendments offered by the other side of the aisle at markup, and all of the amendments offered by the minority were accepted and they addressed their concerns then. In markup, Mr. FLAKE also added to this clause a section that provided that the construction or siting of transportation projects or water projects within the scenic area or outside the scenic area would not be impacted.

This is a good bill which the people of Mrs. KIRKPATRICK's district strongly support. The community has diligently worked together to help get this bill here today, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4823, 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. BROWN of Georgia. 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.

□ 1500

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LAND CONVEYANCE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5494) to direct the Director of the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior to transfer certain properties to the District of Columbia, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5494

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

SECTION 1. TRANSFER OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall transfer to the District of Columbia by quitclaim deed all right, title, and interest of the United States to the following properties in the District of Columbia:

(1) Square 336, Lot 828, as shown on Assessment and Taxation Plat 3761-Y among the records of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia (Shaw Junior High School recreation fields).

(2) Square 542, Lot 85, as referenced on page 104 of Subdivision Book 141 and shown on Map 8634 among the records of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia (Southwest Library).

(3) Square 2864, Lot 830, as shown on Assessment and Taxation Plat 3495-G among the records of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia (Meyer Elementary School).

(4) Reservation 277-A, as shown on page 4 of Subdivision Book 134 among the records of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia.

(5) Square 2558, Lot 803, as shown on Assessment and Taxation Plat 65 among the records of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia (a portion of the Marie H. Reed Community Learning Center).

(6) Square 2558, Lot 810, as shown on Assessment and Taxation Plat 65 among the records of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia (a portion of the Marie H. Reed Community Learning Center).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. 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 the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5494 was introduced by Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON of the District of Columbia in June 2010. The bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer title to six small Federal properties to the District of Columbia.

This land transfer will allow the city government to better maintain these properties as well as plan for their future development.

Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman NORTON is a tireless advocate for the people of the District and should be commended for her work on this bill. I congratulate her on her efforts and urge the House to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands has adequately explained this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the sponsor of H.R. 5494, Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, is chairing a committee meeting at this time, so she is unable to be on the floor. Therefore under general leave, I am submitting the statement of Congresswoman NORTON for the RECORD.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, NICK RAHALL, and subcommittee chair RAÚL GRIJALVA for their delightful work in moving this important bill to the House floor. H.R. 5494 will transfer ownership of certain properties in the District from the National Park Service (NPS) to the District of Columbia. NPS supports the transfer of these small, scattered properties. These isolated parcels are of no use to NPS, but can be useful for overall livability in the city.

The District of Columbia is land-poor because the federal government owns much of the land here, and certainly the best located

land. In fact, these transfers achieve a balance between the city and NPS, by addressing the city's growing need for land in a manner consistent with NPS's mission to protect parkland. These small parcels are scattered throughout the city and include a portion of the Marie H. Reed Community Learning Center, the old Meyer Elementary School site, the Shaw Junior High School recreational fields, the Southwest Library site, and a small traffic island at the intersection of North Capitol Street and Florida Avenue. The transfer of these small parcels will allow the District to develop recreational fields, encourage economic development and improve livability in the District of Columbia.

As we begin to emerge from the Great Recession, the District needs all available tools and resources to help promote economic recovery. For years, the District has managed and maintained these properties, which have no national, regional or historical significance, and are of no interest to the federal government. My bill simply allows the District to better utilize the limited land here for the benefit of the city and its residents.

I ask my colleagues to pass this non-partisan, non-controversial land transfer bill.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5494, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer certain properties to the District of Columbia."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING PEACE CORPS COMMEMORATIVE WORK

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4195) to authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4195

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

SECTION 1. MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEACE CORPS AND TO HONOR THE IDEALS UPON WHICH IT WAS FOUND.

(a) AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK.—The Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation may establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to commemorate the formation of the Peace Corps and to honor the ideals upon which the Peace Corps was founded.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—The establishment of the commemorative work shall be in accordance with chapter 89 of title 40, United

States Code (commonly known as the "Commemorative Works Act").

(c) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS PROHIBITED.—Federal funds may not be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the commemorative work. The Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the commemorative work.

(d) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.—If, upon payment of all expenses for the establishment of the commemorative work (including the maintenance and preservation amount required by section 8906(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code), or upon expiration of the authority for the commemorative work under section 8903(e) of title 40, United States Code, there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work, the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation shall transmit the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Interior for deposit in the account provided for in section 8906(b)(3) of title 40, United States Code.

SEC. 2. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. 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 the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4195 would authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia. The Foundation was created to promote a memorial to "honor the pre-eminent historical and lasting significance of the establishment of the Peace Corps . . . and the American ideals and values upon which it was founded."

H.R. 4195 was introduced by Congressman FARR, one of six Members of Congress who have served in the Peace Corps. I commend Representative FARR for his persistence in championing the Peace Corps and this legislation, and I urge Members to support H.R. 4195.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4195 has once again been adequately explained by the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands. However, I would like to emphasize—and I