

met with the representatives of the association in an attempt to address their concerns. In those meetings, it became clear the only way to address their concerns would be to overturn existing Arizona State law. I encouraged them to take their charge to the State level and committed to help facilitate the initial meeting if they so desired. However, I have consistently maintained that it would be inappropriate for Congress to incorporate language that would preempt Arizona State law in this legislation.

I would also like to point out that the Arizona co-ops have an opportunity under this legislation to receive Hoover power going forward. H.R. 470 creates a pool of 103 megawatts that will be allocated to eligible entities, including rural electric cooperatives and federally recognized Native American tribes. In addition, the Salt River Project has committed, in writing, to backstop up to three megawatts of power for the Arizona co-ops should they not receive an allocation through this specific provision.

Let me remind my colleagues that 22 percent of the population in my district is tribal. This would be a wonderful means of having a vested interest and would also diversify the portfolios of the tribes in the energy sector.

Again, I rise in support of my friend Dr. HECK's legislation, H.R. 470, and encourage my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask for passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this once again is a very good bill that is before us. The fact is that the Hoover Dam in Nevada produces more than 2,000 megawatts, which is enough to power 2 million households, of clean electricity and captures more than 28 million acre feet of water for the States of Arizona, Nevada, and California.

In the more than 75 years since this engineering marvel was completed, Hoover Dam still plays a key role in fulfilling its economic, job-creation mission. This bill simply extends part of that mission, and it's all paid for by the electricity ratepayers. Their rates will cover all capital, all operating, all maintenance and other costs associated with the power component of the Hoover Dam. There is no taxpayer cost to this bill.

I want to thank Congressman HECK for bringing this bill forward, I also want to thank Congresswoman NAPOLITANO for her good work on this bill, and I would encourage my colleagues to support this no-cost, job-supporting legislation.

I urge adoption of this measure, and with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 470, a bill for the allocation of power from the Hoover dam.

I thank my colleague from Nevada, Representative HECK, for sponsoring this important resolution.

I support this bill because it will ensure that many small communities in Southern California, including the community of Colton in my district, have access to cost effective power that is provided by a renewable resource.

Close to 4,000 homes in Colton are powered by the Hoover dam. The Hoover dam is one of our nation's greatest feats of engineering. It is a symbol of American ingenuity, and representative of the success that the Roosevelt administration had in putting our nation back to work during the Great Depression.

In a time when our country struggles with its dependence on foreign oil, the Hoover dam and the power that it provides shines as a beacon of what we are capable of in harnessing renewable energy. I commend the men who generations ago built this engineering marvel, and thank those today who maintain it for our benefit.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 470—and ask that they ensure the lights will stay on for millions of families in California, Arizona, and Nevada.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 470 "Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011," which Amends the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 to modify, commencing October 1, 2017, certain statutory schedules governing contracts for delivery to specified localities in Arizona, California, and Nevada of hydroelectric power generated at Hoover Dam. The Hoover dam represents hope and prosperity that is possible if we, as legislators, do our job well. To many the Hoover Dam represents hope, and with this bill we can ensure good management of this facility into the future and hopefully create more jobs!

In the depths of the Great Depression, when like today a slow economy and high rate of unemployment caused great strife in the lives of American citizens, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt showed enormous leadership in launching the Hoover Dam project. Instead of abiding by the general wisdom of the era, that isolationism and fiscal austerity would insure the quickest economic recovery, FDR chose to use government resources to help those who were suffering the most. Through public works programs like this one, the President was able to put a massive amount of Americans back to work and construct some of this country's most impressive and meaningful structures. After construction began in 1931, it took only five years to complete, finishing two years ahead of schedule. The initiative and perseverance shown by the American workers, many of whom gave their lives to the dam, exemplifies the American spirit at its best. When people have a reason to believe in their government, they will respond accordingly in their own lives. Now it is our turn: we must ensure effective management of the dam's power production into the future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 470, 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.

CONVEYING SUBMERGED LANDS TO NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 670) to convey certain submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to give that territory the same benefits in its submerged lands as Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa have in their submerged lands.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 670

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

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN SUBMERGED LANDS TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The first section of Public Law 93-435 (48 U.S.C. 1705) is amended by inserting "the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," after "Guam," each place it appears.

(b) REFERENCES TO DATE OF ENACTMENT.—For the purposes of the amendment made by subsection (a), each reference in Public Law 93-435 (48 U.S.C. 1705) to the "date of enactment" shall be considered to be a reference to the date of the enactment of this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is my pleasure to be here on this particular bill, H.R. 670. It conveys, as was mentioned in the title, 3 miles of submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This authority will give the Pacific territory similar authority and benefits as are currently enjoyed by many coastal States and other U.S. territories, specifically Guam, the Virgin Islands and American Samoa.

The last Congress passed similar legislation out of the House by a rollcall vote of 416-0, and I hope we can beat that record today. I am pleased to have been able to work on this, and I thank the gentleman from the Northern Marianas (Mr. SABLON) for actually presenting this particular bill to us. It is a good piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Mr. SABLON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 670, a bill that conveys to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands the 3 miles of submerged lands surrounding each of our islands. I want to thank the leaders from both sides of the aisle, particularly Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member MARKEY of the Natural Resources Committee, and my very good friend, Dr. JOHN FLEMING, chairman of the Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs Subcommittee, for their support of H.R. 670.

I would like to note, also, that the language of H.R. 670 previously, as my good friend has noted, passed the House in the 111th Congress by a vote of 416–0. As we know sometimes happens, however, though favorably reported from its committee of jurisdiction, the other body took no final action. So I hope that Members of this House will join me today in making a second effort to get this bill enacted into law.

The Northern Mariana Islands is the only United States coastal jurisdiction that does not have ownership of the submerged lands off its coasts. H.R. 670 corrects that irregularity and provides the same ownership rights over the submerged lands surrounding the Northern Marianas as are provided by Federal law to Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

This bill provides equity to the people of the Northern Marianas. It returns management of these near-shore lands and waters to those who know them best and need them to be well-managed. It gives the people of the Marianas, who have such limited land resources, the power to protect and to benefit from the seas around our 14 islands.

To highlight the importance of this point, in 2006, Louisiana leased 392,118 acres of its submerged lands for oyster harvest, profiting the State and providing an economic opportunity for holders of 8,167 leases. Likewise, the State of California leases tracts off its submerged lands for oil and gas extraction, creating jobs and contributing to the State's economy. Other coastal jurisdictions have similar stories to tell about the important role that coastal lands and waters can play in economic growth.

For the area I represent, which has suffered declining GDP year after year since 2004 and a 20 percent drop in 2009, gaining control of surrounding submerged lands could help to turn things around. Whereas now the Federal Government is in charge and does nothing with the potential of these lands, H.R. 670 would put the local government in charge. We would be free to develop offshore wind farms or other energy alternatives and be responsible for protecting the rare marine environment, which is both our legacy and our trust, and also makes our islands alluring to tourists.

What H.R. 670 does for the Northern Marianas is what this Congress previously has done for other U.S. coastal

jurisdictions. In the 1941 case of *U.S. v. California*, the Federal courts found that the Federal Government owned the submerged lands off the shores of California and other coastal States. These States then turned to Congress to regain control of their submerged lands, and Congress granted these States title to the waters and submerged lands out to 3 miles in the Submerged Lands Act of 1953.

□ 1650

History repeats itself here.

In 2005, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the submerged lands and waters off our coastline did not belong to the people of the Northern Marianas—despite that we had fished and sailed there for at least 3,500 years. The Ninth Circuit did recognize, however, that Congress had the power to convey the submerged lands to the Marianas. H.R. 670 does exactly that. H.R. 670 employs the constitutional authority of this Congress to dispose of Federal property, the same authority that Congress used to convey offshore lands to Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and American Samoa under the Territorial Submerged Lands Act of 1974.

Finally, let me say there is great support for this legislation among the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, so much so that when I was sworn in as the first Representative of the Northern Mariana Islands in the House of Representatives, this was my first bill. The Governor of the Northern Marianas has expressed his support. The Northern Marianas Legislature has passed a resolution in favor of a return to local management. In addition, the Obama administration has expressed its support for the conveyance of submerged lands to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This House, too, as I said at the beginning, has given overwhelming support to the language of this bill, which passed the House unanimously on July 15, 2009.

Once again, I ask for your support. H.R. 670 costs nothing. Congress has the constitutional authority to enact this bill. It will provide equity—the same ownership and responsibility for surrounding lands and waters that every other coastal area of our Nation enjoys.

I want to thank all of those Members who are cosponsors of this bill, and I ask that my colleagues support H.R. 670.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this particular resolution.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 670, "To convey certain submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to give that territory the same benefits in its submerged lands as Guam, the Virgin Is-

lands, and American Samoa have in their submerged lands" conveys to the government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands submerged lands surrounding such islands and extending three geographical miles outward from their coastlines.

The Act provides the American public, more specifically the occupants of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, with added ways to use and enjoy land surrounding their coastlines. It is in a spirit of encouraging the most beneficial use of natural resources that I support the idea of providing an expanded use of otherwise unused land to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It is the responsibility of all Members of Congress to fulfill our moral obligation to promote harmony between Americans and their natural resources.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 670, to convey certain submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to give that territory the same benefits in its submerged lands as Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa have in their submerged lands.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 670.

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. BISHOP of Utah. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL ROTUNDA FOR CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 29) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol for an event to present the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 29

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The rotunda of the United States Capitol is authorized to be used on November 16, 2011 for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the event described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance