

the lives of its residents and businesses.

I ask for my colleagues to please join me in supporting this bill.

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

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2947 releases a reversionary interest held by the United States to a parcel of land in Cook County, Minnesota. The release of this interest will allow Cook County to use this land for a local highway.

We have no objections to this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. This is another great solution to a problem that should have been solved at some other level. I appreciate the gentleman for bringing it back.

I urge its adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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. 2947.

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.

BOUNDARY MODIFICATION AND TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION, CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST, NEW MEXICO

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 491) to modify the boundaries of Cibola National Forest in the State of New Mexico, to transfer certain Bureau of Land Management land for inclusion in the national forest, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 491

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

SECTION 1. BOUNDARY MODIFICATION AND TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION, CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST, NEW MEXICO.

(a) BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.—

(1) MODIFICATION.—The boundaries of Cibola National Forest in the State of New Mexico, are modified to include the land depicted for such inclusion on the Forest Service map titled “Crest of Montezuma Proposed Land Transfer” and dated October 26, 2009.

(2) AVAILABILITY AND CORRECTION OF MAP.—The map referred to in paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service. The Chief of the Forest Service may make technical and clerical corrections to the map.

(b) TRANSFER OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND.—

(1) TRANSFER.—The Secretary of the Interior shall transfer to the administrative ju-

risdiction of the Secretary of the Agriculture, for inclusion in, and administration as part of, Cibola National Forest, the public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and identified as the “Crest of Montezuma” on the map referred to in subsection (a).

(2) EFFECT OF TRANSFER ON EXISTING PERMITS.—In the case of any permit or other land use authorization for public land transferred under paragraph (1) that is still in effect as of the transfer date, the Secretary of Agriculture shall administer the permit or other land use authorization according to the terms of the permit or other land use authorization. Upon expiration of such a permit or authorization, the Secretary of Agriculture may reauthorize the use covered by the permit or authorization under authorities available to the Secretary on such terms and conditions as the Secretary considers in the public interest.

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

(d) MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED LAND.—

(1) MANAGEMENT.—Any federally owned lands that have been or hereafter may be acquired for National Forest System purposes within the boundaries of Cibola 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; 16 U.S.C. 515 et seq.), and in accordance with the other laws and regulations pertaining to the National Forest System.

(2) WITHDRAWAL FROM MINING AND CERTAIN OTHER USES.—The land depicted on the map referred to in subsection (a) and acquired by the Secretary of Agriculture is hereby withdrawn from—

(A) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(B) location, entry, and patent under the public land mining laws; and

(C) operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws and the mineral materials laws.

(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 Cibola National Forest, as modified by subsection (a), shall be considered to be boundaries of the Cibola National Forest as of January 1, 1965.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

This legislation would authorize the transfer of a parcel of land known as the Crest of Montezuma from the Bu-

reau of Land Management to the Forest Service.

The Crest of Montezuma is remote from the current BLM-managed areas. It can be better managed by the Forest Service as part of the Cibola National Forest. Both agencies agree and support this legislation.

I urge the adoption of this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TSONGAS. I rise in support of this legislation, and applaud Congressman HEINRICH for his hard work. It is hard to reach consensus on these issues, and he has achieved that with this legislation.

With that, I yield such time as he may consume to Congressman HEINRICH of New Mexico, this bill's sponsor.

Mr. HEINRICH. I want to thank my friend from Massachusetts for the time today and for her leadership on these issues.

Mr. Speaker, the Cibola National Forest provides a stunning backdrop to the city of Albuquerque and much of central New Mexico. Stretching north to south through the Sandia and Manzano Mountains, this national forest demonstrates the value of preserving wild places near urban areas.

H.R. 491 would expand the boundaries of the forest to streamline management and improve recreational access for local residents. It would transfer a 917-acre parcel, known as the Crest of Montezuma, from the Bureau of Land Management to the Forest Service.

The Crest of Montezuma is an isolated BLM parcel adjacent to Cibola National Forest. The bill would also extend the forest boundary around three small parcels of private land adjacent to the Crest of Montezuma to allow the future purchase of these parcels subject to available funds.

The owners of these parcels are willing sellers and eager to see their land permanently protected for the public good.

H.R. 491 has strong local support from local residents, including from the Las Placitas Association, a 300-member citizen group that represents residents near the Crest of Montezuma. Local sportsmen also support the bill because of the importance of these lands as wildlife habitat.

Over the last 3 years, I've received many letters from constituents asking me to make sure that the Crest of Montezuma is managed in a way that preserves its role as a wildlife corridor and opens it up for recreation for local residents.

I am pleased to sponsor this bill to add these critical lands to the Cibola National Forest, and I ask my colleagues for their support.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I have no other speakers. Do you have anyone else on this issue?

Ms. TSONGAS. We do not. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I also yield back the balance of my time.

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. 491.

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.

LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2240) to authorize the exchange of land or interest in land between Lowell National Historical Park and the city of Lowell in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2240

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 “Lowell National Historical Park Land Exchange Act of 2012”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS.

The Act entitled “An act to provide for the establishment of the Lowell National Historical Park in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes” approved June 5, 1978 (Public Law 95-290; 16 U.S.C. 410cc et seq.), is amended in section 202, by adding at the end the following:

“(d)(1) *The Secretary may exchange any land or interest in land within the boundaries of the park for any land or interest in land owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the city of Lowell, or the University of Massachusetts Building Authority.*

“(2) *Except as provided in paragraph (3), an exchange under this subsection shall be subject to the laws, regulations, and policies applicable to exchanges of land administered by the National Park Service and any other terms and conditions that the Secretary determines to be necessary to protect the interests of the United States.*

“(3) *Where facilities or infrastructure required for the management and operation of the Lowell National Historical Park exists on the Federal land to be exchanged, and the non-Federal land or interest in land to be exchanged is not of equal value, the values shall be equalized by the payment of cash to the Secretary. The Secretary shall not be required to equalize the values of any exchange conducted under this subsection if the land or interest in land received by the Federal Government exceeds the value of the Federal land or interest in land exchanged.”.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and in-

clude 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.

H.R. 2240, introduced by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS), will authorize a land exchange between the Lowell National Historical Park and the city of Lowell, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the University of Massachusetts Building Authority.

This will allow the transfer of the visitor center parking lot in exchange for an equal number of parking spaces in a new garage to be built by the city. The Park Service property, where the current lot is located, is needed for the community development, and the stakeholders have concluded that this is a more beneficial use to the community and the park visitors.

I urge the adoption of H.R. 2240, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TSONGAS. It is with great pleasure that I rise today in support of H.R. 2240, the Lowell National Historical Park Land Exchange Act.

This legislation will facilitate the exchange of land or interest in land between the city of Lowell and the Lowell National Historical Park.

In 1978, legislation was passed establishing this park. It was championed by my late husband as well as by two Republican Members of Congress who previously represented this district. We should take bipartisan pride in its great success.

This national park was given a unique mandate to not only preserve and interpret the resources representing Lowell's central role in our 19th century industrial revolution, but also to serve as a catalyst in revitalizing the city's physical, economic, and cultural environment, all outgrowths of the city's industrial heritage.

In working together with the city of Lowell, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and many other public and private partners, the Lowell National Historical Park has played a vital role in rehabilitating over 400 structures and has since 1978 helped spur an estimated \$1 billion in private investment in the city. All of this has been done while the park has developed a compelling array of programs, exhibits, guided tours, and other interpretive programs.

□ 1700

H.R. 2240 would allow the park and its partners to continue working to advance the park's mission to preserve the city's historic industrial architecture while creating jobs and continuing to partner with the city of Lowell to advance a critical economic develop-

ment project, the Hamilton Canal District.

This legislation would most immediately allow the park to exchange a current surface parking lot for an equivalent number of spaces in a new garage that will be built by the city of Lowell adjacent to the present parking lot, guaranteeing necessary parking spaces for park visitors while freeing the surface parking lot for the incorporation into the Hamilton Canal District redevelopment.

On the space of the current parking lot and adjacent vacant property, the city, in working with private partners, plans to construct over 400,000 square feet of commercial and R&D space, generating as many as 1,600 jobs. As such, it is a critical piece in the master redevelopment plan for the area. This land exchange is supported by the Lowell National Historical Park, the city of Lowell, and all local stakeholders, and has received all major State permits and local zoning allowances.

Because the enabling law for the Lowell National Historical Park only provides for the park to receive additional land, it is not allowed to exchange land. This legislation would allow this mutually agreed-upon exchange. I want to stress that this legislation will cost the taxpayers absolutely nothing.

I thank Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member MARKEY, as well as Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA and the committee staff for working with me to advance this bill to the floor. It is my hope that my colleagues today will appreciate the importance of passing this legislation to create jobs, continue revitalizing this historic mill city, and protect a key part of our industrial heritage and economic history.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. It's another great bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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. 2240, 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. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.