

It is vital that we get our scientific development out of the lab and into the marketplace. We've put a lot of investment into our labs. We need to make sure that this provides the economic engine of growth for our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will focus our scientific community through innovative, large-scale, and collaborative R&D. We need to remain a leader in networking in information technologies. This is a good bipartisan bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL. I would like to point out that our efforts on this bill have been really a true illustration of the bipartisan work which the Science Committee and this Congress is capable of.

I believe Ms. JOHNSON will attest that our staffs have worked well together to ensure this measure reflects good policy for our Nation's networking and information technology. I want to thank her, and I want to thank her staff for their work on this bill.

Additionally, I would also like to thank Chairman BROOKS as chairman of the Research and Science Education Subcommittee for his leadership on the bill, and Mrs. BIGGERT for her many years of championing this issue.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3834, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and many thanks to my good friend and fellow Texan, RALPH HALL, for bringing H.R. 3834 to the House floor as part of cyber-week.

Just about every aspect of our lives is somehow connected to the internet in one way or another. My hometown of San Antonio is often referred to as "Cyber-City USA," due to the work of the Air Force, private industry, and the University of Texas at San Antonio's Institute for Cybersecurity.

Cyber-crimes risk our personal finances, proprietary business information, and national security know-how. Hackers have sought to physically damage our air traffic control system, DoD and NASA satellites, and electrical grid.

Hackers from a variety of countries, especially China and Russia, as well as those working inside the United States, cause a great deal of damage to our nation's economy and national security. The GAO reported this week that cyberattacks on the federal government have exploded by 680 percent in the past five years.

The NITRD program is a unique collaboration among Federal research and development agencies that coordinate Federal R&D projects to advance information technologies such as computing, networking, and software, while avoiding duplication of efforts. One of the primary goals of the NITRD program is to accelerate development and deployment of these technologies to maintain American leadership in the IT field. The NITRD program was first authorized in 1991, and the House Republican Task Force on Cybersecurity, chaired by my Texas colleague, MAC THORNBERRY, identified it as in need of an update.

This is a good bill for which I thank Science, Space and Technology Chairman RALPH HALL

and Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for bringing to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3834, 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. HALL. 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.

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#### SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS BACKCOUNTRY ACCESS ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4849) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue commercial use authorizations to commercial stock operators for operations in designated wilderness within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I yield to the gentleman from Washington, the chairman of the committee.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

This legislation addresses an urgent need at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in California. Because of a lawsuit, the National Park Service has chosen not to issue commercial packer permits this year. These permits allow mules and horses into the park to carry visitors and supplies. Unfortunately, this not only means the loss of hundreds of jobs, it also canceled long-planned family vacations into the outdoors. For many Americans, whether elderly or handicapped, stock animals are the only option if they want to visit our national parks.

Today, we have the option to right a wrong and allow these permits to be awarded to responsible stewards of our parks. This bipartisan legislation was worked out between Members of both parties in the California delegation. Time is very crucial here. This only extends what has been happening for decades in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. We must act now if

there's any hope in preserving the season for those individuals who have planned and paid for their visit in the national park.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Further reserving my right to object, Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today, as amended this morning, gives the Secretary of the Interior the authority to reopen the wilderness areas in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks to pack and saddle animals for the 2012 and 2013 seasons.

Earlier this week, I joined with my colleagues, JIM COSTA, MIKE THOMPSON, JOHN GARAMENDI, and SAM FARR, in a letter to Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member MARKEY of the Natural Resources Committee. We asked the committee, on behalf of our California constituents, to resolve a situation that's already affecting families and businesses and harming the regional economy.

In response to a court order, the National Park Service has not been allowing pack animals into the parks' wilderness areas this year. This situation has caused economic harm to outfitters, packers, guides, and other permit holders who rely on the income that the park visitors bring to the area, and it's causing visitors to reconsider their trips to the park and the wilderness areas.

Today, this House is taking this action, and I want to thank Mr. MARKEY and Chairman HASTINGS. I spoke to Chairman HASTINGS less than 24 hours ago on the content of our letter, and both he and Mr. NUNES came forward and asked whether or not we could do this by unanimous consent, and that's why we're here this morning.

I want to thank the staffs of both of the majority and the minority side of this committee for all of their work. They worked overnight because very early this morning we all signed off on this legislation.

I think that this legislation is a very good deal for families and visitors to the park. It's a good deal for the businesses who depend upon spring and summer wilderness trips for their livelihood.

The high country wilderness in the Sierras is one of the premier experiences the National Park System has to offer, and for many, the only way to have this experience is through use of pack animals for whatever personal reasons, either frailty, age—age would be my reason. I think it's important. I've had the honor and the pleasure to hike the high country in Kings Canyon and in Sequoia and Yosemite, and it's a unique experience, unique to the American Sierra Mountains system.

I hope that the Senate will be able to take this up by unanimous consent quickly so, again, the people planning to take the trips will have certainty, the packers will have certainty, and the surrounding businesses around Sequoia-Kings Canyon Park will have certainty that the summer trade will be there.

Again, I want to thank the chairman of the committee for his immediate response to our letter of concern. I want to thank my colleagues who joined me on that.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4849

*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 “Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Backcountry Access Act”.

#### SEC. 2. COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATIONS IN DESIGNATED WILDERNESS WITHIN THE SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS.

(a) ISSUANCE OF COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATIONS.—Notwithstanding the decision or any other provision of law, the Secretary shall issue such packer permits at the levels of commercial services authorized by the Secretary in 2011 until the Secretary—

(1) makes an extent necessary determination that addresses the violations of the Wilderness Act found in the decision; and

(2) begins to issue packer permits for operations in designated wilderness within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in accordance with that extent necessary determination.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) DECISION.—The term “decision” means the January 24, 2012, ruling by the United States District Court for the Northern District of California in *High Sierra Hikers Association v. United States Department of the Interior*, et al., Case No. C09-4621 RS.

(2) EXTENT NECESSARY DETERMINATION.—The term “extent necessary determination” means a determination on the need for commercial services within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park wilderness under to section 4(2)(5) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(5)).

(3) PACKER PERMIT.—The term “packer permit” means a commercial use authorization granted to a commercial stock operator.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF WASHINGTON

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 5, strike “Notwithstanding” and all that follows through line 8 and insert the following: “Notwithstanding the decision, for the 2012 and 2013 seasons, the Secretary shall issue packer permits at no more than the levels of commercial services authorized by the Secretary in 2011 until the Secretary—”.

Page 2, line 15, strike the period and insert “reflected in a Record of Decision for the Wilderness Stewardship Plan.”.

Page 2, line 22, strike “C09-4621” and insert “C 90-4621”.

Page 3, line 2, strike “to section 4(2)(5)” and insert “section 4(d)(5)”.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask

unanimous consent that the amendment be considered read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House and a concurrent resolution of the following titles:

H.R. 298. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 East Whitestone Boulevard in Cedar Park, Texas, as the “Army Specialist Matthew Troy Morris Post Office Building”.

H.R. 1423. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 115 4th Avenue Southwest in Ardmore, Oklahoma, as the “Specialist Michael E. Phillips Post Office”.

H.R. 2079. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 Main Street in East Rockaway, New York, as the “John J. Cook Post Office”.

H.R. 2213. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Eastport Street in Iuka, Mississippi, as the “Sergeant Jason W. Vaughn Post Office”.

H.R. 2244. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 67 Castle Street in Geneva, New York, as the “Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione Post Office”.

H.R. 2660. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 North Holderrieth Boulevard in Tomball, Texas, as the “Tomball Veterans Post Office”.

H.R. 2767. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8 West Silver Street in Westfield, Massachusetts, as the “William T. Trant Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3004. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 260 California Drive in Yountville, California, as the “Private First Class Alejandro R. Ruiz Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3246. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the “Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3247. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Town and Country Commons in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the “Lance Corporal Matthew P. Pathenos Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3248. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 112 South 5th Street in Saint Charles, Missouri, as the “Lance Corporal Drew W. Weaver Post Office Building”.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 43. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

#### INTEREST RATE REDUCTION ACT

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 631, I call up the bill (H.R. 4628) to extend student loan interest rates for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 631, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4628

*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 “Interest Rate Reduction Act”.

#### SEC. 2. INTEREST RATE EXTENSION.

Subparagraph (D) of section 455(b)(7) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(b)(7)(D)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “2012” and inserting “2013”; and

(2) in clause (v), by striking “2012” and inserting “2013”.

#### SEC. 3. REPEALING PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4002 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u-11) is repealed.

(b) RESCISSION OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.—Of the funds made available by such section 4002, the unobligated balance is rescinded.

#### SEC. 4. COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO ACT OF 2010.

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. The gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, 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 H.R. 4628.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, when I talk to students and families, it's clear that today's economy doesn't hold the same promise for young adults as it once did. Our sons and daughters, many with student loan debt, are moving back home after college only to find Washington's tax-and-spend policies have made it even harder to find a job. In fact, according to a recent Associated Press report, at least half of recent graduates are unemployed or underemployed. That's unacceptable.