

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Ms. HANABUSA. 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 GROUNDS FOR GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 106) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 106

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

SECTION 1. USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR SOAP BOX DERBY RACES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association (in this resolution referred to as the “sponsor”) shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, soap box derby races (in this resolution referred to as the “event”), on the Capitol Grounds.

(b) DATE OF EVENT.—The event shall be held on June 16, 2012, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

(1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and

(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsor shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsor is authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment as may be required for the event.

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board are authorized to make such additional arrangements as may be required to carry out the event.

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, with respect to the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. 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. Con. Res. 106.

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

There was no objection.

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

H. Con. Res. 106 would authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby on June 16, 2012.

This event occurs annually on the Capitol Grounds. The Soap Box Derby allows children to show off their dedication, hard work, and creativity as they compete for trophies. And as someone who has participated in derbies myself, Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. The winners of each division are then qualified to compete in the National Soap Box Derby.

I am excited to urge my colleagues to support passage of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I am delighted to support House Concurrent Resolution 106 which authorizes use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby on June 16, 2012. I would also like to offer my appreciation to the majority and to acknowledge the efforts of Mr. HOYER, who has been a consistent champion for his constituents in this event, and the entire delegation from this region, who supports this event every year.

On the date of the event, children and young adults from the Greater Washington area race down Constitution Avenue to test their craftsmanship in hand-designed and -constructed soap box vehicles in the Annual Soap Box Derby. Children between the ages of 8 and 17 will be competing for the opportunity to race in the National All-American Soap Box Derby held every August in Akron, Ohio.

Consistent with all events using the Capitol Grounds, this event is open to the public and free of charge. The organizers will work with the Capitol Police and the Architect of the Capitol to organize the details of the event.

I strongly support H. Con. Res. 106 and urge passage of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. I thought that was compelling, Mr. Speaker, and I am very excited that we are going to hear next from a gentleman who has been a big champion of the Soap Box Derby for many moons now.

With that, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may

consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank the Representative of Washington, D.C., for yielding to me, the distinguished gentlelady, Ms. NORTON, and I want to thank my friend, Congresswoman HERRERA BEUTLER from Washington State who chairs the subcommittee, and thank her very much for facilitating this coming to the floor and thank her very much for her kind remarks as well.

Mr. Speaker—and I am pleased to call you “Mr. Speaker”—I rise in strong support of this resolution which I am proud to sponsor, and I have sponsored for many, many years. This resolution allows the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to hold its 71st Annual Greater Washington Soap Box Derby on the Capitol Grounds on June 16.

This is, and I think everybody who has been involved with the Soap Box Derby knows, a wonderful tradition that brings young people from around the area to the Capitol for a fun and educational event. It has taken place since 1938, when Norman Rocca won the inaugural race, besting 223 other contestants as his soap box racer crossed the finish line.

That race has continued for over 70 years, and it has inspired thousands of the region’s young people to learn the physics behind gravity racing and the engineering used to design soap box racers.

As a Nation that wants to make things—and as the Speaker knows, I have a Make It in America agenda that I keep trying to sell that is bipartisan, and I think all of us agree that we want to make more things in America—if we are going to make more things in America and be able to export them, we will have to have people who make things. What a wonderful opportunity this is for young people to participate in making something that will then have them be successful, or, in this sense, in the race, make it, win the race.

So I think this is a wonderful enterprise. It brings young people together with their parents and teachers, and it teaches sportsmanship and hard work and pride of accomplishment. America’s soap box derbies have been called the “greatest amateur racing event in the world,” and we continue celebrating that tradition June 16 here in Washington.

The spirit of competition that fuels these racers is the same spirit that has long energized our Nation’s entrepreneurs and innovators. The young people who participate in these derbies are often sponsored by groups from their communities who recognize in them great promise for the future.

I continue to be incredibly proud of those from Maryland’s Fifth District who participate, but, indeed, from the District of Columbia, Virginia, the surrounding areas. We have celebrated a number of soap box derby champions from the Fifth District, including the

winner. The winners in 2007 and 2008, Kacie Rader and Courtney Rayle, respectively, went on to win the national championship.

I want to thank those Members who have cosponsored this resolution, my good friends from our area, not only Ms. NORTON, who has been one of our leaders, but also Representatives GERRY CONNOLLY, DONNA EDWARDS, JIM MORAN, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, and FRANK WOLF. And again, I thank my good and dear friend from Washington State for her leadership on this; and my colleague and fellow Washington area representative, we are a team on this, and I want to thank Ms. NORTON for her extraordinary leadership for not only the District of Columbia but of our region, and on so many important issues to this country.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the bipartisanship of this bill. To my good friend, the minority whip from Maryland, I can only say that the championship that your own district brought back is enough to make us think that our area teams might one day have a championship.

□ 1630

We know this much: these students have to construct these soap boxes themselves. I mean, this is your STEM leaders still to come, the engineers of the future.

I have no further speakers, and I appreciate all of the support of our good friends on the other side.

I yield back the balance of my time. Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support passage of this resolution. And with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 106.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4097) to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4097

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 “John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of 2012”.

SEC. 2. EXPANSION PROJECT FOR JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.

Section 3 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 761) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) EXPANSION PROJECT.—

“(1) AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of this subsection, the Board may undertake such activities as may be necessary to construct the expansion project.

“(B) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD.—The Board may construct the expansion project, and shall be responsible for the planning, design, engineering, and construction of the expansion project.

“(C) LIMITATIONS.—

“(i) MISSION.—All activities carried out under this paragraph shall be within the mission of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to serve as the national center for the performing arts.

“(ii) FUNDING.—The costs of planning, design, engineering, and construction of the expansion project shall be paid for using non-appropriated funds.

“(2) ANNUAL OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.—

“(A) ESTIMATES.—Before awarding a contract for construction of the expansion project, the Board shall estimate any additional annual operations and maintenance costs (or savings) associated with the project.

“(B) BUDGET REQUESTS.—The Board shall account for any additional costs identified under subparagraph (A) in making a budget request for fiscal year 2014 and each fiscal year thereafter.

“(C) BUDGET PRIORITIES.—The Board shall base a final determination on whether to proceed with the expansion project on the ability of the Board to accommodate any additional costs identified under subparagraph (A) within the other budget priorities of the Board.

“(3) ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Board may acknowledge private contributions used in carrying out the expansion project in the interior of the project, but may not acknowledge such private contributions on the exterior of the project. Any acknowledgment of private contributions under this paragraph shall be consistent with the requirements of section 4(b).

“(4) EXPANSION PROJECT DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘expansion project’ means an addition to the south end of the building of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts that—

“(A) is less than 100,000 square feet;

“(B) will improve the existing (as of the date of enactment of this subsection) accessibility and education functions of the Center; and

“(C) will become part of the existing (as of the date of enactment of this subsection) structure of the Center.”.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 13 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76r) is amended by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

“(a) MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, AND SECURITY.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Board to carry out section 4(a)(1)(H) \$22,379,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014.

“(b) CAPITAL PROJECTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Board to carry out subparagraphs (F) and (G) of section 4(a)(1) \$13,588,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 4097.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, today I am pleased to stand before you and offer for consideration of the House H.R. 4097, which would reauthorize the John F. Kennedy Center through 2014.

Everyone knows the Kennedy Center. It is one of the most outstanding national and cultural treasures that we have in our Capital City. I am pleased to be the sponsor of what I consider important legislation for several reasons.

First of all, in Congress, we get to do some exciting things. As chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, within our committee we have six subcommittees, and one does oversee public buildings. We’ve had a lot of public consternation—and rightfully so—with some of our public buildings programs under the General Services Administration. I was home last week, and everybody in America recalls the guy in the hot tub thumbing his nose at Congress and the taxpayers. That’s a bad example of behavior and wasteful expenditures of taxpayers’ dollars. But I’m pleased to be here to say that there are many in government that do have programs that are very beneficial for the country, and one is the Kennedy Center. What an incredible institution.

As the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I get to sit on their board of trustees. Actually, I’ve gone to their meetings and see how they operate. Most people don’t know, but most of their programs are funded through private donations, not public donations, although the building does stay under the responsibility of the Federal Government.

A lot of folks don’t know a lot about the history of the Kennedy Center. The Kennedy Center—and I learned this being on the board—was actually an idea of a Republican President. Dwight David Eisenhower, in the 1950s, was determined to create a national cultural center in our Nation’s Capital. This center was the idea and the genesis of one of our Presidents. Probably most people don’t know that. I learned that in the rededication of the Eisenhower Theater within the Kennedy Center. After many years, it was renovated, again, mostly through private funds and donations.