

oversight of; that is to say, we have 2 million mineral acres, and there are over 700 permits or applications for permits to drill on that small plot of land.

In North Dakota, the average number of days for getting a permit processed by the State regulatory body is about 20 days. For the Federal lands, it's anywhere from 225 to 300 or more days. That's too much. I certainly don't advocate, nor do I think anybody else could advocate, streamlining this to the point of where it only takes 10 or 20 days to issue a permit on Federal lands. Clearly, there are 325 million owners of those Federal lands. It requires a more robust environmental protection regime. But we can do better than that, and I think we ought to do better than that.

I think the North Dakota experiment is one that people will look back on and say, that's the way to do it, that's the right way to do it. We in North Dakota care a great deal about our land, about our water, and about our air, and we look forward to working closely with the Federal officials who have an equal care in making this work.

I might also just add that this similar bill was passed last year in the Senate. It did not get a hearing in the House. The same, a companion bill, has been introduced again in the Senate this year by Senator HOEVEN and cosponsored by Senator HEITKAMP. It has bipartisan support in the Senate. It has passed the committee over there. It has not gotten to the floor yet.

So, again, I appreciate the leadership that the chair and ranking members have provided on this and urge my colleagues to pass this important bill.

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

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

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 767 will broaden the geographic reach of a pilot program created in 2005 to provide additional resources to some BLM field offices to permit oil and gas development and conduct environmental reviews.

The Bureau of Land Management has testified that this pilot program has led to increased oil and gas inspection and enforcement capability as a result of hiring more skilled specialists. The Bureau of Land Management has also stated that the increase in inspections has led to better compliance by the industry and a reduction in major violations due to the increased number of inspectors in the field.

We do not oppose this bill, and I ask support for H.R. 767.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. It's an excellent bill. I urge adoption of it, 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. 767, 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, 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 motion will be postponed.

AMENDMENT TO PUBLIC LAW 93-435 WITH RESPECT TO NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 573) to amend Public Law 93-435 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands, providing parity with Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 573

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

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The first section and section 2 of Public Law 93-435 (48 U.S.C. 1705, 1706) are 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 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. SABLÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Again, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this 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.

This bill is a great bill that treats the Northern Marianas the same way as other colonies by expanding their submerged territorial miles. That would be the same as with American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. It is compatible with all other acts. It's a great bill that we passed last year by a very close vote of 397-0.

I urge adoption of this bill again. I hope this time the Senate will be wise enough to pick it up. With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLÁN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of H.R. 573. The bill conveys to the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas the 3 miles of submerged lands surrounding each of our 14 islands. I want to thank leaders from both sides of the aisle, Chairman DOC HASTINGS and Ranking Member ED MARKEY of the Natural Resources Committee, and my good friend, Dr. JOHN FLEMING, chairman of the Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs Subcommittee, and my good friend, Mr. BISHOP from Utah, for managing today's bill, all for their support of H.R. 573.

The Northern Marianas is the only coastal jurisdiction that does not have ownership of the submerged lands off its coasts. H.R. 573 corrects that irregularity. It provides the same ownership rights over the submerged lands as are provided by Federal law to Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

Today will be the third time that the House will vote to convey these lands. In both the 111th and the 112th Congress, we approved this transfer unanimously. I hope that the House will make the same decision again today.

And I hope that the other body will this time, finally, also agree that the Northern Mariana Islands should have the rights of ownership of our offshore submerged lands and natural resources as other coastal areas of America enjoy.

For thousands of years, the people of the Northern Marianas certainly believed these resources were ours. It was not until a 2005 ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that we were informed that these were not our lands but instead belonged to the Federal Government. We were grateful that there were Members of Congress who quickly responded to our plight, for at the time we had no representation here. Then-Congressman, now-Senator JEFF FLAKE, introduced a bill conveying these lands shortly after the Ninth Circuit ruling.

New Mexico Senator Pete Domenici introduced a companion to the Flake measure. As the first representative from the Northern Mariana Islands, I have continued their work on this issue, as I have said, in the 111th, the 112th, and now in the 113th Congress.

In summary, H.R. 573 costs nothing. Congress has the constitutional authority to enact it. The bill will simply provide parity—the ownership and responsibility for submerged surrounding lands and waters that every other coastal area of our Nation enjoys.

I want to thank all 36 Members who are cosponsors of this bill, and I ask that my colleagues here today support H.R. 573.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, it's a great bill. Let's hope the third time is the charm in the process. I urge support of this bill and 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. 573.

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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1704

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TERRY) at 5 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 15, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 15, 2013 at 4:23 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 601.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 767, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 701, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 384, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PILOT PROJECT OFFICES OF FEDERAL PERMIT STREAMLINING PILOT PROJECT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 767) to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to modify the Pilot Project offices of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 1, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 147]

YEAS—415

Aderholt	Daines	Hastings (FL)
Alexander	Davis (CA)	Hastings (WA)
Amodei	Davis, Danny	Heck (NV)
Andrews	Davis, Rodney	Heck (WA)
Bachmann	DeGette	Hensarling
Bachus	Delaney	Herrera Beutler
Barber	DeLauro	Higgins
Barletta	DeBene	Himes
Barr	Denham	Hinojosa
Barrow (GA)	Dent	Holding
Barton	DeSantis	Holt
Beatty	DesJarlais	Honda
Becerra	Deutch	Horsford
Benishek	Diaz-Balart	Hoyer
Bentivolio	Dingell	Hudson
Bera (CA)	Doggett	Huelskamp
Bilirakis	Doyle	Huffman
Bishop (GA)	Duckworth	Huizenga (MI)
Bishop (NY)	Duffy	Hultgren
Bishop (UT)	Duncan (SC)	Hunter
Black	Duncan (TN)	Hurt
Blackburn	Edwards	Israel
Blumenauer	Ellison	Issa
Bonamici	Ellmers	Jackson Lee
Bonner	Engel	Jeffries
Boustany	Enyart	Jenkins
Brady (PA)	Eshoo	Johnson (OH)
Brady (TX)	Esty	Johnson, E. B.
Braley (IA)	Farenthold	Johnson, Sam
Bridenstine	Farr	Jones
Brooks (AL)	Fattah	Jordan
Brooks (IN)	Fincher	Joyce
Broun (GA)	Fitzpatrick	Kaptur
Brown (FL)	Fleischmann	Keating
Brownley (CA)	Fleming	Kelly (IL)
Buchanan	Flores	Kelly (PA)
Bucshon	Forbes	Kennedy
Bustos	Fortenberry	Kildee
Butterfield	Foster	Kilmer
Calvert	Fox	Kind
Camp	Frankel (FL)	King (IA)
Cantor	Franks (AZ)	King (NY)
Capito	Frelinghuysen	Kingston
Capps	Fudge	Kirkpatrick
Capuano	Gabbard	Kline
Cárdenas	Gallego	Kuster
Carson (IN)	Garamendi	Labrador
Cartwright	Garcia	LaMalfa
Cassidy	Gardner	Lamborn
Castor (FL)	Garrett	Lance
Castro (TX)	Gerlach	Langevin
Chabot	Gibbs	Lankford
Chu	Gibson	Larsen (WA)
Cicilline	Gingrey (GA)	Larson (CT)
Clarke	Gohmert	Latham
Clay	Goodlatte	Latta
Cleaver	Gosar	Lee (CA)
Coble	Gowdy	Levin
Coffman	Granger	Lewis
Cohen	Graves (GA)	Lipinski
Cole	Graves (MO)	LoBiondo
Collins (GA)	Grayson	Loeb
Collins (NY)	Green, Al	Loeb
Conaway	Green, Gene	Lofgren
Connolly	Griffin (AR)	Long
Conyers	Griffith (VA)	Lowenthal
Cook	Grijalva	Lowey
Cooper	Grimm	Lucas
Costa	Guthrie	Luetkemeyer
Cotton	Gutierrez	Lujan Grisham
Courtney	Hahn	(NM)
Cramer	Hall	Lujan, Ben Ray
Crawford	Hanabusa	(NM)
Crenshaw	Hanna	Lummis
Crowley	Harper	Lynch
Cuellar	Harris	Maffei
Cummings	Hartzler	

Maloney,	Peterson	Simpson
Carolyn	Petri	Sinema
Maloney, Sean	Pingree (ME)	Sires
Marchant	Pittenger	Slaughter
Marino	Pitts	Smith (NE)
Massie	Pocan	Smith (NJ)
Matheson	Poe (TX)	Smith (TX)
Matsui	Polis	Smith (WA)
McCarthy (CA)	Pompeo	Southerland
McCarthy (NY)	Posey	Speier
McCaul	Price (GA)	Stewart
McClintock	Price (NC)	Stivers
McCollum	Radel	Stockman
McDermott	Rahall	Stutzman
McGovern	Rangel	Swalwell (CA)
McHenry	Reed	Takano
McIntyre	Reichert	Terry
McKeon	Renacci	Thompson (CA)
McKinley	Ribble	Thompson (MS)
McMorris	Rice (SC)	Thompson (PA)
Rodgers	Rigell	Thornberry
McNerney	Roby	Tiberi
Meadows	Roe (TN)	Tierney
Meehan	Rogers (AL)	Tipton
Meeks	Rogers (KY)	Titus
Meng	Rogers (MI)	Tonko
Messer	Rohrabacher	Tringali
Mica	Rokita	Tsongas
Michaud	Rooney	Turner
Miller (FL)	Ros-Lehtinen	Upton
Miller (MI)	Roskam	Valadao
Miller, Gary	Ross	Van Hollen
Miller, George	Rothfus	Vargas
Moore	Roybal-Allard	Veasey
Moran	Royce	Vela
Mullin	Ruiz	Velázquez
Mulvaney	Runyan	Visclosky
Murphy (FL)	Ruppersberger	Wagner
Murphy (PA)	Rush	Walberg
Nadler	Ryan (OH)	Walden
Napolitano	Ryan (WI)	Walorski
Neal	Salmon	Walz
Negrete McLeod	Sánchez, Linda	Waters
Neugebauer	T.	Watt
Noem	Sanchez, Loretta	Weber (TX)
Nolan	Sarbanes	Webster (FL)
Nugent	Scalise	Welch
Nunes	Schakowsky	West
Nunnelee	Schiff	Westmoreland
O'Rourke	Schneider	Whitfield
Olson	Schock	Williams
Owens	Schrader	Wilson (FL)
Palazzo	Schwartz	Wilson (SC)
Pallone	Schweikert	Wittman
Pascarella	Scott (VA)	Wolf
Pastor (AZ)	Scott, Austin	Womack
Paulsen	Sensenbrenner	Woodall
Payne	Serrano	Yarmuth
Pearce	Sessions	Yoder
Pelosi	Sewell (AL)	Yoho
Perlmutter	Shea-Porter	Young (AK)
Perry	Sherman	Young (FL)
Peters (CA)	Shimkus	Young (IN)
Peters (MI)	Shuster	

NAYS—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—16

Bass	Clyburn	Richmond
Burgess	Culberson	Scott, David
Campbell	DeFazio	Wasserman
Carney	Johnson (GA)	Schultz
Carter	Markey	Waxman
Chaffetz	Quigley	

□ 1729

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives: