

U.S. currency. Think how the \$20 bill and other denominations have been redesigned over the last decade. As new bills become more difficult to counterfeit, some criminals have turned to counterfeiting rare specimens of older currency, which have none of the security features that we now recognize. Others have invested in counterfeiting rare coins. Some people have gone to great lengths to create realistic fakes—using modern design software and 3-D laser printers to make extremely close replicas, and even purchasing the old equipment used by the mint to strike the original coins.

As you might have guessed, most of the counterfeits are coming from China—where else?

The criminals have also cleverly taken advantage of the certification system used by collectors to assure authenticity, and they've turned it on its head.

Grading services, also called collectibles certification services, evaluate the authenticity and condition of a rare coin and then put it into a special holder called a slab, encapsulating it together with a description of the coin and its condition. The slab is designed to protect the coin, but it also protects the integrity of the grading. If the slab is tampered with, the grading is voided.

Some counterfeiters have now realized they can counterfeit the slab and the certificate as well. This has the advantage of making it harder to examine the coin since dealers are reluctant to break open the slab to examine the coin more closely unless they are absolutely certain that it is a fake.

□ 2015

H.R. 2754, the Collectible Coin Protection Act, amends the Hobby Protection Act to deal with these new problems. Under existing law, it is unlawful to make in the United States or to import into the United States an imitation coin or other numismatic item unless it is plainly and permanently marked with the word "copy."

The Federal Trade Commission has the authority to enforce the Act, and there is also a provision allowing private individuals to enjoin violations or to recover damages for violations that affect them.

H.R. 2754 extends the current law in three ways. It makes it unlawful to sell, as well as manufacture or import, the counterfeit coin that is not marked with the word "copy."

Second, the bill makes it unlawful to provide substantial support or assistance to a manufacturer, importer or seller if the person providing assistance knows or should have known that the manufacturer, importer or seller is engaged in any act or practice that violates the Hobby Protection Act.

Third, the bill provides additional remedies for violations that involve unauthorized use of registered trademarks belonging to a grading service. The additional remedies are the same that are usually provided for under the Trademark Act.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has no cost to the taxpayer. It should deter some of the counterfeiting practices that are now rampant in the marketplace and provide additional tools to deal with unrepentant dealers who go ahead with their schemes to defraud consumers.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in support of H.R. 2754, the Collectible Coin Protection Act. I introduced this bill with the bipartisan support of Energy and Commerce full committee Ranking Member Mr. HENRY WAXMAN and Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade Subcommittee Chairman Mr. LEE TERRY, as well as three other colleagues, because the manufacture and sale of counterfeit coins is rapidly increasing across the country.

Manufacturing and selling imitation coins is a little-known black market industry here in the United States. With the invention of 3-D printers, anyone with a computer can now create a fake coin with relative ease that, for all intents and purposes, appears genuine in size and in color and in weight.

Unloading these imitation coins off on unsuspecting collectors has become big business and cuts to the very core of our ability to control and regulate the currency. By the time the collector realizes that he has been scammed, it is absolutely too late.

Current law, Mr. Speaker, makes it illegal to manufacture or import imitation coins meant for sale unless that coin is plainly and permanently marked with the word "copy." Mr. BURGESS made reference to that a moment ago.

My bill would extend current law and make it illegal to sell an imitation coin that is not conspicuously marked with the word "copy."

My bill would also make it unlawful for an individual to provide substantial support or assistance to anyone who manufactures or imports or sells counterfeit imitation coins in violation of the law.

And this bill would also extend trademark infringement protections available under the Trademark Act of 1946 for unauthorized use of a registered trademark in connection with an unlawful sale or other violation involving an imitation coin.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents in North Carolina and Americans across the country deserve to have the peace of mind to know that they will receive what they believe they are purchasing.

Individuals who sell fake products have a real and significant impact on our economy. The manufacture and sale of counterfeit imitation currency cannot be permitted to continue.

I'm confident my bill will provide greater protection for our Nation's currency and for those who collect it.

And so I thank Mr. BURGESS, and I thank all of my colleagues. I ask my colleagues to support this piece of legislation and vote "aye."

Again, I ask my colleagues to look at this and work with us, and let's get it passed and let's stop this black market that's emerging in our country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "aye" on H.R. 2754.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2754.

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.

REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM PROGRAMS

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1300) to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize the volunteer programs and community partnerships for the benefit of national wildlife refuges, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1300

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

SECTION 1. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM VOLUNTEER, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP, AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Section 7(g) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(g)) is amended by striking "2011 through 2014" and inserting "2015 through 2017".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. RUNYAN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RUNYAN. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the legislation that I have, H.R. 1300, which would reauthorize the volunteer programs and community partnerships at National Wildlife Refuges from FY15 to FY17.

Volunteers are the backbone of our National Wildlife Refuge system. In

fact, in FY12, volunteers contributed 1,594,246 hours of work at the wildlife refuges across the country. The value of this work, estimated at \$21.79 per hour, has an overall value contribution to FY12 estimated to be over \$34 million.

With this annual authorized appropriation of just \$2 million, we have received a value of return on investment of over 17 times. This kind of return on investment sets an example of how to effectively leverage a limited government investment.

The simple fact of the matter is that refuges cannot remain open without the contribution of volunteers and community groups. Volunteers currently contribute more than 20 percent of all refuge work, an equivalent to 766 full-time employees.

Volunteers have also allowed visitors centers to remain open during sequestration. As a result of volunteer work, the Fish and Wildlife Service has recently stated, "There are no immediate plans to close volunteer and education centers for sustained periods of time because of sequestration."

My home district in New Jersey is home to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, which benefits from one of the best community volunteer programs in the country, The Friends of Forsythe. I have seen firsthand the invaluable contribution these volunteers make at Forsythe, and know that the refuge cannot continue to operate without the contributions of these volunteers.

I urge passage of H.R. 1300.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join Mr. RUNYAN in support of H.R. 1300, a bill that will reauthorize volunteer and community partnerships for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is an incredible asset to our country. In addition to protecting habitat that is essential to the survival of many bird and mammal and fish species, the system provides recreational opportunities that translate into jobs for Americans.

The 45 million people who visit a wildlife refuge each year to hunt and to fish and paddle, or simply watch wildlife, generate \$1.7 billion in sales for local economies. They support more than 34,000 jobs and contribute \$185 million in much-needed tax revenue.

My State of North Carolina has 10 National Wildlife Refuges, and there are 516 of them across the country.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1300 would reauthorize valuable volunteer and community partnership programs that benefit the refuge system.

Sequestration has tightened even more the scarce resources we have to

keep the National Wildlife Refuge System open and operational. The system depends on refuge volunteers, and we thank those volunteers, 56,000 of them, in fact, who contributed more than 2.15 million hours, valued at almost \$47 million in just 2012 alone. Generations of Americans would not be able to enjoy these national treasures if not for gracious volunteers.

Therefore, I commend my colleague, Mr. RUNYAN of New Jersey, for his work on this bill. I thank him for his work on the Natural Resources Committee, even thank him for his work on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and for all that he does in introducing H.R. 1300, along with Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member SABLAN.

I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. RUNYAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1300, 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.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014—Continued

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). Pursuant to House Resolution 312 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2610.

Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) kindly resume the chair.

□ 2028

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2610) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes, with Mr. WOODALL (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on an amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) had been postponed, and the bill had been read through page 50, line 6.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (INCLUDING RESCISSION)

SEC. 160. The limitations on obligations for the programs of the Federal Transit Administration shall not apply to any authority under 49 U.S.C. 5338, previously made available for obligation, or to any other authority previously made available for obligation.

SEC. 161. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated or limited by this Act under the Federal Transit Administration's discretionary program appropriations headings for projects specified in this Act or identified in reports accompanying this Act not obligated by September 30, 2015, and other recoveries, shall be directed to projects eligible to use the funds for the purposes for which they were originally provided.

SEC. 162. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds appropriated before October 1, 2012, under any section of chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, that remain available for expenditure, may be transferred to and administered under the most recent appropriation heading for any such section.

SEC. 163. Of the funds made available for the discretionary bus and bus facilities program under 49 U.S.C. 5309 in fiscal years 1999 through 2007, 2009 and 2010, \$88,047,709 shall be rescinded: *Provided*, That of the funds made available to carry out new fixed guideways and extensions to existing fixed guideways under 49 U.S.C. 5309 in fiscal years 1998 through 2000 and 2005 through 2006, \$38,290,300 shall be rescinded: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available for the alternatives analysis program under 49 U.S.C. 5339 in fiscal year 2012, \$25,000,000 shall be rescinded.

SEC. 164. For purposes of applying the project justification and local financial commitment criteria of 49 U.S.C. 5309(d) to a New Starts project, the Secretary may consider the costs and ridership of any connected project in an instance in which private parties are making significant financial contributions to the construction of the connected project; additionally, the Secretary may consider the significant financial contributions of private parties to the connected project in calculating the non-Federal share of net capital project costs for the New Starts project.

SEC. 165. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this Act shall be used to enter into a full funding grant agreement for a project with a New Starts share greater than 50 percent.

SEC. 166. None of the funds in this Act may be available to advance in any way a new fixed guideway capital project towards a full funding grant agreement as defined by 49 U.S.C. 5309 for the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas if the proposed capital project is constructed on or planned to be constructed on Richmond Avenue west of South Shepherd Drive or on Post Oak Boulevard north of Richmond Avenue in Houston, Texas.

□ 2030

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. I wish to enter into a colloquy with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Houston is the fourth most populous city in the country; but unlike other large cities, we have struggled to have an effective mass transit system. Ten