

this bill pass unanimously out of the committee.

K-12 school districts spend billions on their energy bills every year, approximately \$6 billion a year, according to Energy Star, second only to personnel costs, exceeding the costs of textbooks and exceeding the costs of supplies.

Energy expenses are one of the few costs that can be reduced while, at the same time, improving classroom instruction. In fact, high-performance schools can lower a school district's operating costs by up to 30 percent.

There are numerous Federal initiatives already available to schools to help them become more energy efficient. However, these programs are spread across the Federal Government, making it challenging, time consuming, and costly for schools to identify and take full advantage of these programs. I have heard it said that you practically need a degree in library science to research and find all of these programs.

First introduced in the Senate as S. 1084 by Senators MARK UDALL and SUSAN COLLINS, the bipartisan Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act aims to provide a coordinating structure for schools to help them better navigate available Federal programs and financing options.

This legislation doesn't spend an additional dime and keeps decision-making authority with the States, with the school boards, and with the local officials.

The bill establishes a clearinghouse through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, which will disseminate information on Federal programs and financing mechanisms that may be used to develop energy efficiency, distributed generation, and energy retrofitting projects for schools.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill. Again, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding and for his assistance in this matter.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I will inquire if the gentleman from Maryland is prepared to close, as I am.

Mr. SARBANES. I am prepared to close.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support Congressman CARTWRIGHT's bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank our colleagues across the aisle, and I urge the approval of this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4092, 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.

COLLINSVILLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION ACT

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 316) to reinstate and transfer certain hydroelectric licenses and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Collinsville Renewable Energy Production Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(2) LICENSE.—The term "license" means—

(A) the license for Commission project number 10822;

(B) the license for Commission project number 10823; or

(C) both.

(3) TOWN.—The term "Town" means the town of Canton, Connecticut.

SEC. 3. REINSTATEMENT, EXTENSION, AND TRANSFER OF EXPIRED LICENSES.

Notwithstanding the termination of the license, the Commission may, at the request of the Town, in accordance with section 4(a), and after reasonable notice—

(1) reinstate the license;

(2) extend for 2 years after the date on which the license is reinstated the time period during which the licensee is required to commence the construction of the project subject to the license; and

(3) subject to section 4, transfer the license to the Town.

SEC. 4. CONDITIONS OF TRANSFER.

(a) APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER.—The Town may request the reinstatement, extension, and transfer of the license by filing an application for approval of the transfer.

(b) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—The application for approval of the transfer shall set forth in appropriate detail the qualifications of the Town to hold the license and to operate the property under license, which qualifications shall be the same as those required of applicants for the license.

(c) COMMISSION APPROVAL.—The Commission may approve the transfer on a showing that the transfer is in the public interest.

(d) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF LICENSES.—The Town shall be subject to—

(1) all the conditions of the license and all the provisions and conditions of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.), as though the Town were the original licensee; and

(2) any additional terms and conditions the Commission determines to be necessary, including conditions for the protection, mitigation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife and related habitat under sections 10(f) and 18 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 803(j), 811).

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.

The Commission shall supplement the environmental impact statement or similar analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) prepared in connection with the issuance of the original license to examine all new circumstances and in-

formation relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the reinstatement of the license or the impact of the license.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 316 would provide the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, with limited authority to reinstate two terminated hydroelectric licenses and transfer them to a new owner, the town of Canton, Connecticut.

The licenses are associated with the upper and lower Collinsville dams on the Farmington River in Connecticut. Both projects are under 1 megawatt each.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the Collinsville hydropower legislation introduced by Congresswoman ESTY of Connecticut.

The bill would authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reinstate licenses for two hydroelectric projects on the Farmington River and to transfer these licenses, as was indicated, to the town of Canton, Connecticut.

This noncontroversial, but very, very important legislation has passed the House by voice vote in three consecutive Congresses and has now passed the Senate with a few nonsubstantive changes. It is high time to get this bill to the President's desk, Mr. Speaker.

With that, I would like to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY), the sponsor of the bill.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my good friend and colleague from Maryland, Congressman SARBANES, as well as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER), for their roles in bringing this bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise as a proud sponsor of the Collinsville Renewable Energy Production Act.

This bill provides, as has been noted, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, commonly known as FERC, the authority to reinstate, extend, and transfer the licenses of two dams in my district to the town of Canton in order to redevelop hydropower at these two facilities that have been dormant since 1966.

The upper and lower Collinsville dams on the Farmington River were first built in the 18th and 19th centuries to power an ax manufacturer. Although this business closed in the 1960s, the dams have remained and are a lasting symbol of the manufacturing history of the Farmington Valley.

Today's legislation provides Canton the opportunity to create local clean energy and to stimulate local economic development along the scenic Farmington River.

As provided in the Senate's amendment to H.R. 316, Canton would need to file an application for approval with FERC that describes the town's qualifications to hold these licenses and to operate the dams.

It would require the town to be subject to the same conditions as in the original licenses, as well as any additional terms that FERC may deem necessary after reviewing the application.

I am aware that there are legitimate environmental concerns about the impact on the river and the surrounding ecosystem's health. These concerns are reflected in part with the addition of fish ladders to the hydrodams in the ensuing years since the closing of the facility.

To address those concerns, FERC would need to update the environmental impact statement provided for in the original licenses before they could be reinstated, extended, and transferred to the town.

If the Commission, under the authority provided in this bill, approves the application to reinstate these permits, the upper and lower Collinsville dams would provide nearly 2 megawatts of power. That is enough to power more than 1,500 homes.

It is important for me to acknowledge that the passage of this bill today is only possible because of the work and support of many others who have labored over this for many years.

First, I want to thank Senator CHRIS MURPHY—my colleague, friend, and neighbor—who championed this issue for several sessions here in the House, and our senior Senator, RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, for their leadership and sponsorship of the Senate amendment, which is before us today.

My thanks also go out to Chairman WHITFIELD, as well as Chairman UPTON and Ranking Members WAXMAN and RUSH and their staffs, for their bipartisan support to advance this legislation.

I also want to thank First Selectman Richard Barlow for all he has done over many years to spearhead this effort at home.

Finally, as I mentioned, 1½ years ago, when this bill first came to the floor, I want to honor two gentlemen, Art Fournier and Mark Quattro, environmental and community leaders who sadly are no longer with us, but who championed this effort for many years. We could not be here today without their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, roughly 5,000 bills have been introduced in the House of Rep-

resentatives this Congress. Of those 5,000 pieces of legislation, this bill, H.R. 316, represents just the 167th bill which hopefully will pass both the House and the Senate.

I am honored and humbled to be able to work with colleagues across the aisle in this Congress to advance clean energy legislation that empowers local communities to harness local resources to produce renewable electricity and, at the same time, supports and advances local economic development.

There is much more that we can and should do to advance energy production and to protect our environment, but today is an excellent start.

I urge my colleagues to support the motion to concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 316.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I will just say this is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to congratulate Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. This is an important bill. I salute her persistence.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support 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 Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 316.

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. KINZINGER of Illinois. 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.

THERMAL INSULATION EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4801) to require the Secretary of Energy to prepare a report on the impact of thermal insulation on both energy and water use for potable hot water.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4801

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

SECTION 1. REPORT ON ENERGY AND WATER SAVINGS POTENTIAL FROM THERMAL INSULATION.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies and relevant stakeholders, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the impact of thermal insulation on both en-

ergy and water use systems for potable hot and chilled water in Federal buildings, and the return on investment of installing such insulation.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report shall include—

(1) an analysis based on the cost of municipal or regional water for delivered water and the avoided cost of new water; and

(2) a summary of energy and water savings, including short term and long term (20 years) projections of such savings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the Speaker for the time today to discuss H.R. 4801, the Thermal Insulation Efficiency Improvement Act.

□ 1630

Today, millions of gallons of water and energy are wasted due to heating losses that could be prevented through the increased use of thermal insulation. The purpose of this legislation is to help identify opportunities in which we can maximize energy and water efficiency through the minimization of waste in our Federal facilities.

With the Federal Government being the single-largest consumer of energy in the country, the potential savings from the increased use of thermal insulation has the potential to be very significant in the amount of resources, both natural and financial, that can be saved.

For example, we have seen what the benefits of mechanical insulation maintenance in commercial buildings can be, with savings potentially topping \$4.8 billion annually. That is enough energy savings to light nearly 4 million homes per year.

Up to this point, there have only been small-scale studies conducted to show the benefits such insulation can have on water and energy resources that are otherwise being wasted. The potential increase in energy efficiency is tremendous, as has been shown through the use of mechanical insulation, but this has not yet been demonstrated on a large scale.

That is why I introduced H.R. 4801 with Congressman MCNERNEY. This legislation takes a step in the right direction in demonstrating the benefits of thermal insulation not only to the private sector, but to show the Federal Government how it can increase energy