

the higher returns that have been discussed here earlier.

First, I would like to thank my fellow cosponsors—the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), Ranking Member CUMMINGS from Maryland, Congressman FARENTHOLD from Texas, Congressman CONNOLLY from Virginia, and Congressman WOODALL from Georgia—for working together on this bipartisan bill.

The Thrift Savings Plan is an important component of Federal workers' retirement assets. Given the negative impact of pay freezes, furloughs, and other challenges to the pay and benefits of our Federal workforce over the last few years, I feel it is appropriate for Congress to provide investment options that will help Federal employees maximize their retirement contributions and savings. Changing the default investment option to the L Fund makes a lot of sense because the L Funds have substantially outperformed the G Fund over the last several years. However, the bill would also allow employees who are risk averse the ability to opt out and change their investment options.

The House passed a substantially similar bill in the 110th Congress, but it was never enacted. This time around, I am hoping that this commonsense proposal will become law as a substantially similar bill in the Senate was recently approved in committee. H.R. 4193 is supported by many stakeholders, including the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, the Employees Thrift Advisory Council, and various employee organizations.

This legislation provides the dedicated men and women of our Federal workforce a reasonable option that, I believe, would help them more effectively provide for their own retirements. I urge my colleagues to join all of the cosponsors in supporting H.R. 4193.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, with that, I urge all of our Members to vote in favor of this very important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4193, 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.

FEDERAL REGISTER MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4195) to amend chapter 15 of title

44, United States Code (commonly known as the Federal Register Act), to modernize the Federal Register, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4195

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 “Federal Register Modernization Act”.

SEC. 2. FEDERAL REGISTER MODERNIZATION.

(a) REFERENCES TO PRINTING.—Chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 1502—

(A) in the heading, by striking “**printing**” and inserting “**publishing**”; and

(B) by striking “printing and distribution” and inserting “publishing”; and

(2) in section 1507 is amended—

(A) by striking “the duplicate originals or certified copies of the document have” and inserting “the document has”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “printed” and inserting “published”; and

(3) in section 1509, in subsections (a) and (b) of, by striking “printing, reprinting, wrapping, binding, and distributing” and inserting “publishing”, each place it appears.

(b) PUBLISH DEFINED.—Section 1501 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “; and” at the end of the definition for “person” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by inserting after the definition for “person” the following:

“‘publish’ means to circulate for sale or distribution to the public; and”.

(c) FILING DOCUMENTS WITH OFFICE AMENDMENT.—Section 1503 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 1503. Filing documents with Office; notation of time; public inspection; transmission for publishing

“The original document required or authorized to be published by section 1505 of this title shall be filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication at times established by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register by regulation. The Archivist of the United States shall cause to be noted on the original of each document the day and hour of filing. Upon filing, the document shall be immediately available for public inspection in the Office. The original shall be retained by the National Archives and Records Administration and shall be available for inspection under regulations prescribed by the Archivist, unless such original is disposed of in accordance with disposal schedules submitted by the Administrative Committee and authorized by the Archivist pursuant to regulations issued under chapter 33 of this title; however, originals of proclamations of the President and Executive orders shall be permanently retained by the Administration as part of the National Archives of the United States. The Office shall transmit to the Government Printing Office, as provided by this chapter, each document required or authorized to be published by section 1505 of this title. Every Federal agency shall cause to be transmitted for filing the original of all such documents issued, prescribed, or promulgated by the agency.”.

(d) FEDERAL REGISTER AMENDMENT.—Section 1504 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 1504. ‘Federal Register’; publishing; contents; distribution; price

“Documents required or authorized to be published by section 1505 of this title shall be

published immediately by the Government Printing Office in a serial publication designated the ‘Federal Register’. The Public Printer shall make available the facilities of the Government Printing Office for the prompt publication of the Federal Register in the manner and at the times required by this chapter and the regulations prescribed under it. The contents of the daily issues shall constitute all documents, required or authorized to be published, filed with the Office of the Federal Register up to the time of the day immediately preceding the day of publication fixed by regulations under this chapter. There shall be published with each document a copy of the notation, required to be made by section 1503 of this title, of the day and hour when, upon filing with the Office, the document was made available for public inspection. Distribution shall be made at a time in the morning of the day of distribution fixed by regulations prescribed under this chapter. The prices to be charged for the Federal Register may be fixed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register established by section 1506 of this title without reference to the restrictions placed upon and fixed for the sale of Government publications by sections 1705 and 1708 of this title.”.

(e) DOCUMENTS TO BE PUBLISHED IN FEDERAL REGISTER.—Section 1505 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “COMMENTS” and inserting “NEWS COMMENTARY”; and

(B) by striking “comments” and inserting “news commentary”; and

(2) in subsection (c), in the matter following paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting “telecommunications, the Internet,” after “the press, the radio,”; and

(B) by striking “and two duplicate originals or two certified copies” and inserting “document”.

(f) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERAL REGISTER AMENDMENT.—Section 1506 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 1506. Administrative Committee of the Federal Register; establishment and composition; powers and duties

“The Administrative Committee of the Federal Register shall consist of the Archivist of the United States or Acting Archivist, who shall chair the committee, an officer of the Department of Justice designated by the Attorney General, and the Public Printer or Acting Public Printer. The Director of the Federal Register shall act as secretary of the committee. The committee shall prescribe, with the approval of the President, regulations for carrying out this chapter. The regulations shall provide for, among other things—

“(1) the documents which shall be authorized under section 1505(b) of this title to be published in the Federal Register;

“(2) the manner and form in which the Federal Register shall be published;

“(3) the manner of distribution to Members of Congress, officers and employees of the United States, or Federal agency, for official use, and the number which shall be available for distribution to the public;

“(4) the prices to be charged for individual copies of, and subscriptions to, the Federal Register and any reprints and bound volumes of it;

“(5) the manner and form by which the Federal Register may receive information and comments from the public, if practicable and efficient; and

“(6) special editions of the Federal Register.”.

(g) CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS AMENDMENT.—Section 1510 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 1510. Code of Federal Regulations

“(a) SPECIAL EDITION FOR CODIFICATION OF AGENCY DOCUMENTS.—The Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, with the approval of the President, may require, from time to time as it considers necessary, the preparation and publication in a special edition of the Federal Register a complete codification of the documents of each agency of the Government having general applicability and legal effect, issued or promulgated by the agency by publication in the Federal Register or by filing with the Administrative Committee, and which are relied upon by the agency as authority for, or are invoked or used by it in the discharge of, its activities or functions, and are in effect as to facts arising on or after dates specified by the Administrative Committee.

“(b) CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS.—A codification prepared under subsection (a) of this section shall be published and shall be designated as the ‘Code of Federal Regulations’. The Administrative Committee shall regulate the manner and forms of publishing this codification.

“(c) SUPPLEMENTATION, COLLATION, AND REPUBLICATION.—The Administrative Committee shall regulate the supplementation and the collation and republication of the codification with a view to keeping the Code of Federal Regulations as current as practicable. Each unit of codification shall be supplemented and republished at least once each calendar year. The Office of the Federal Register may create updates of each unit of codification from time to time and make the same available electronically or may provide public access using an electronic edition that allows a user to select a specific date and retrieve the version of the codification in effect as of that date.

“(d) PREPARATION AND PUBLICATION BY THE FEDERAL REGISTER.—The Office of the Federal Register shall prepare and publish the codifications, supplements, collations, and user aids authorized by this section.

“(e) PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE.—The codified documents of the several agencies published in the Code of Federal Regulations under this section, as amended by documents subsequently filed with the Office and published in the daily issues of the Federal Register, shall be prima facie evidence of the text of the documents and of the fact that they are in effect on and after the date of publication.

“(f) REGULATIONS.—The Administrative Committee, with approval of the President, shall issue regulations for carrying out this section.

“(g) EXCEPTION.—This section does not require codification of the text of Presidential documents published and periodically compiled in supplements to title 3 of the Code of Federal Regulations.”.

(h) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking the items related to sections 1502, 1503, and 1504 and inserting the following:

“1502. Custody and publishing of Federal documents; appointment of Director.

“1503. Filing documents with Office; notation of time; public inspection; transmission for publishing.

“1504. ‘Federal Register’; publishing; contents; distribution; price.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

The Federal Register Modernization Act is an important bill that will allow our government to better adapt to 21st century technology while both serving the public better and saving money. Much of the Federal recordkeeping and document publishing includes outdated requirements for printed version of documents. This is especially true for the Federal Register.

Today, there are only 124 paid subscribers to the print version of the Federal Register. Despite this fact, the Federal Government is legally required to continue to produce a print version of the Register. Moreover, statutes biased towards paper-based communication also require Federal agencies to submit multiple physical copies of the same document for publication. The result is a nonsensical situation in which agencies must hand-deliver CDs to the Office of the Federal Register with identical versions of the same documents saved on it.

This commonsense legislation will fix both of these issues. First, it will allow the Register to be published rather than printed, allowing for an eventual switch to a digital-only version, patterned off of the Federal Register’s already award-winning Web site. Second, it will streamline the document submission process to eliminate the requirement for multiple copies and give the Register more freedom in how documents may be submitted.

Importantly, this bipartisan proposal has the support of the administration, and I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank Chairman DARRELL ISSA for introducing this bill. I am happy to be an original cosponsor of the Federal Register Modernization Act.

This is a good government bill that will reduce waste and save taxpayers money. This bill is based on a legislative proposal from the National Archives and Records Administration.

The Archivist of the United States sent a letter to Congress last November that read:

This legislation would modernize the Federal Register to take advantage of modern technology to increase efficiency.

The bill would give the Office of the Federal Register the flexibility to pub-

lish the Federal Register electronically. It also would allow agencies to stop sending unnecessary paper copies of documents when they send materials to be published in the Federal Register. The National Archives estimates that this one step could save almost \$900,000 over 5 years.

This is exactly the kind of legislation Congress should be passing. It is bipartisan, noncontroversial, and will make a modest update that will make the government more efficient and effective with regard to information being accessible. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California, Chairman ISSA, my distinguished colleague and the chairman of the committee.

Mr. ISSA. I would inquire if the ranking member is yielding back so that I can close.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Yes.

Mr. ISSA. Thank you. Then I will close.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Register Modernization Act does exactly what the title suggests—it modernizes the Federal Register Act.

When you look at a well-intended bill that hasn’t been addressed since the 1930s, it comes to mind how easy it is to ask something to go on and to have a Federal bureaucracy actually do a good job. The National Archives and many of the institutions here in Washington do work, but from time to time, you ask the question: At what cost?

The Modernization Act seeks to do two things: one, simply lower the cost for printing, which is no longer necessary in a digital age, and, in fact, to open the door for what I believe is the modernization that goes beyond that.

Since 1994, when the Office of the Federal Register first published its electronic edition of the Federal Register, we have, in fact, had an opening for our government to go digital beyond just any minor amount. Today, many people ask the question—and I am going to ask the question here today—if the IRS has 50 years’ worth of your tax returns, why wouldn’t we capture the workings of government digitally, hold them and, at the appropriate time, make them available for our children and our grandchildren for whatever purpose they may have in studying the history of what we do here today?

This small modernization is about cost savings, but it is also a recognition that, in this day and age, we can capture everything digitally, that we can store vast amounts of it and that we can make it searchable and valuable to the next generation. For that reason, this is a small recognition that it is time to get off paper, to save money and to have the Federal Register accessible online to offices, homes, and public libraries, and not simply to print paper because, in the 1930s, that is

what we said to do. I believe, when we look at the last decade, in which the annual page count exceeded 75,000 pages, we recognize that those pages were made possible by the same computers—the same automation—that allow us to no longer print paper.

I ask the Conference and the Congress to vote for H.R. 4195 in order to remove these outdated statutory requirements. I urge its passage.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise to speak about H.R. 4195, the “Federal Register Modernization Act,” which modernizes the Federal Register.

I want to thank Chairman DARRELL ISSA and Ranking Member ELIJAH CUMMINGS for their leadership and efforts in bringing this bill to the floor.

This bill will bring much needed transparency without compromising national security to the decisions, orders, and actions of federal agencies.

There are challenges to providing government information solely in digital format since there are constituents that lack access to technology or the skills necessary to locate information online.

Electronic documents can easily be changed and modified from original postings which challenges federal transparency.

Digital records can also challenge transparency by the capacity of systems to manage demand for accessing information online.

It would be good for transparency if we allow public and private achieving of federal registration content because constituents would have access to material in multiple ways.

This bill requires the Federal Register to be published (e.g., by electronic means), rather than printed, and that documents in the Federal Register be made available for sale or distribution to the public in published form.

This bill also revises the requirements for the filling of documents with the Office of the Federal Register for inclusion in the Federal Register and for the publication of the Code of Federal Regulations to reflect the publication requirement.

The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) does a great job by informing citizens of their rights and obligations, documenting the actions of Federal Agencies, and providing a forum for public participation in the democratic process.

The Federal Register informs citizens by publishing the following entries:

Presidential Documents, including Executive orders and proclamations;

Rules and Regulations, including policy statements and interpretations of rules;

Proposed Rules, including petitions for rule-making and other advance proposals; and

Notices, including scheduled hearings and meetings open to the public, grant applications, administrative orders, and other announcements of government actions.

Mr. Speaker, we need to make it easier for citizens and communities to understand the regulatory process and to participate in Government decision-making.

We can ensure that transparency our constituents demand by making material more searchable and easier to access.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting passage of H.R. 4195.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4195.

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. GOSAR. 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.

□ 1745

REDESIGNATING MAMMOTH PEAK AS MOUNT JESSIE BENTON FREMONT

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1192) to redesignate Mammoth Peak in Yosemite National Park as “Mount Jessie Benton Fremont”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1192

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that Jessie Benton Fremont—

(1) was the daughter of United States Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, a leading proponent of the concept of Manifest Destiny that advocated for the Nation to expand its borders westward;

(2) became fluent in French and Spanish, was a gifted writer, and was at ease in any political discussion;

(3) married John C. Frémont, who was assigned to explore the West;

(4) transformed John C. Frémont’s descriptions from his treks into prose that was used by pioneers to guide their route West;

(5) traveled to California in 1849 to join her husband at their Mariposa ranch, where gold had been discovered;

(6) became involved in John C. Frémont’s 1856 campaign for Presidency, which proposed the abolition of slavery, a notion that Jessie Benton Frémont also supported;

(7) moved to Bear Valley, California, with her husband John C. Frémont in 1858 and thereafter realized the need to preserve the land that would become Yosemite National Park for future generations;

(8) entertained men such as Horace Greeley, Thomas Starr King, and United States Senator Edward Baker of Oregon, and urged them to begin a process that ultimately led to the establishment of Yosemite National Park;

(9) influenced President Abraham Lincoln to sign the Act entitled “An Act authorizing a Grant to the State of California of the ‘Yosemite Valley’ and of the Land embracing the ‘Mariposa Big Tree Grove’”, approved June 30, 1864 (commonly known as the Yosemite Grant), the first instance of land being set aside specifically for its preservation and public use by a national government; and

(10) set the foundation for the creation of national parks and California State parks through her advocacy for and influence on the Yosemite Grant.

SEC. 2. REDESIGNATION OF MAMMOTH PEAK AS MOUNT JESSIE BENTON FREMONT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The peak known as “Mammoth Peak” in Yosemite National Park (located at NPS coordinates 37.855° N, -119.264° W) shall be redesignated as “Mount Jessie Benton Frémont” and may be known informally as “Mt. Jessie” in honor of the contributions of Jessie Benton Frémont to the approval of the Yosemite Grant.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, record, or other paper of the United States to the peak described in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to “Mount Jessie Benton Frémont”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1192 would redesignate Mammoth Peak in Yosemite National Park as Mount Jessie Benton Fremont.

The bill is brought to us by a group of local park enthusiasts and historians, with the support of the El Dorado County Historical Society. Its purpose is to recognize this pioneer who played a significant role in establishing Yosemite National Park.

Jessie Benton Fremont was the daughter of U.S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton, a prominent Democrat who was a leading proponent of the Nation’s westward expansion. In 1841, she married John C. Fremont, a prominent Republican, an American military officer, explorer, and—later—a Presidential candidate.

She traveled to California in 1849 and, soon thereafter, became one of the most influential advocates for establishing Yosemite National Park.

When we think of Yosemite, we think of John Muir. Ironically, John Muir’s first visit to the park didn’t occur until 4 years after the park was established. It only came to his attention, as it came to the attention of so many, because Jessie Benton Fremont saw the beauty of the valley, she appreciated its importance, and she began a passionate crusade to preserve it for the American people to enjoy.

Jessie Benton Fremont was herself a gifted writer, and she used her skill to transform her husband’s travel and exploration into popular narratives that were used by pioneers to guide their route west.

After she came to California in 1849, Yosemite became her passion. She published many accounts of the valley and