

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation that I was proud to author, the Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2014, H.R. 4846.

This legislation involves a parcel of 10 lots that we call the “wedge” in Grand County, Colorado, in the Second Congressional District. The wedge is located just north of the town of Grand Lake and west of the famous Rocky Mountain National Park. Come visit. It is called the “wedge” because it is actually a wedge of land which divides the Arapaho National Forest from the Rocky Mountain National Park. Although this parcel is integral to the successful management of these public lands, the wedge is currently outside of the national forest boundary.

I drafted this bill after receiving a lot of feedback and strong local support to incorporate the wedge into the Arapaho National Forest to make sure that this undeveloped land is enjoyed by the millions of visitors who travel west from the top of Rocky Mountain National Park on the Trail Ridge Road scenic byway.

The U.S. Forest Service already owns seven of the 10 parcels, which are already being managed as part of the Arapaho National Forest. There is a nonprofit, the Rocky Mountain Nature Association, that owns one lot, and two lots are owned by private landowners. We have worked with the landowners and the other adjacent landowner, in order to craft this legislation, as well as local government. As a result, all interested parties have sent in letters of support.

The bill is simple. It incorporates the wedge into the Arapaho National Forest boundary; it adds the lots owned by the Forest Service to the adjacent Bowen Gulch Protection Area; and it authorizes the Federal Government to purchase land in the designated area from willing sellers.

The bill is important because the development of the wedge parcel has an important impact on the scenic beauty of the Rocky Mountain National Park. It is also a key driver of our economy in northern Colorado, and it could negatively harm the adjoining Colorado River headwaters if we don't appropriately deal with the wedge parcel. As such, the surrounding communities and landowners all support this idea that preserves the scenic qualities that the wedge has for the area.

The bill is a community-driven effort. I received letters of support from the Grand County Board of County Commissioners, the Town of Grand Lake, the Headwaters Trails Alliance, Conservation Colorado, all three affected landowners, and, of course, many aspects of the tourism industry strongly support this bill as well.

I am very grateful that the House Natural Resources Committee quickly considered this legislation and unanimously passed this legislation on September 18. I urge my colleagues on the floor to similarly support this legislation here today.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, so I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4846, 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.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH TRIBAL LAND EX- CHANGE ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4867) to provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4867

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 “Economic Development Through Tribal Land Exchange Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) **BANNING.**—The term “Banning” means the City of Banning, which is located in Riverside County, California adjacent to the Morongo Indian Reservation.

(2) **FIELDS.**—The term “Fields” means Lloyd L. Fields, the owner of record of Parcel A.

(3) **MAP.**—The term “map” means the map entitled “Morongo Indian Reservation, County of Riverside, State of California Land Exchange Map”, and dated May 22, 2014, which is on file in the Bureau of Land Management State Office in Sacramento, California.

(4) **PARCEL A.**—The term “Parcel A” means the approximately 41.15 acres designated on the map as “Fields lands”.

(5) **PARCEL B.**—The term “Parcel B” means the approximately 41.15 acres designated on the map as “Morongo lands”.

(6) **PARCEL C.**—The term “Parcel C” means the approximately 1.21 acres designated on the map as “Banning land”.

(7) **PARCEL D.**—The term “Parcel D” means the approximately 1.76 acres designated on the map as “Easement to Banning”.

(8) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(9) **TRIBE.**—The term “Tribe” means the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, a federally recognized Indian tribe.

SEC. 3. TRANSFER OF LANDS; TRUST LANDS, EASEMENT.

(a) **TRANSFER OF PARCEL A AND PARCEL B AND EASEMENT OVER PARCEL D.**—Subject to any valid existing rights of any third parties and to legal review and approval of the form and content of any and all instruments of conveyance and policies of title insurance, upon receipt by the Secretary of confirmation that Fields has duly executed and deposited with a mutually acceptable and jointly instructed escrow holder

in California a deed conveying clear and unencumbered title to Parcel A to the United States in trust for the exclusive use and benefit of the Tribe, and upon receipt by Fields of confirmation that the Secretary has duly executed and deposited into escrow with the same mutually acceptable and jointly instructed escrow holder a patent conveying clear and unencumbered title in fee simple to Parcel B to Fields and has duly executed and deposited into escrow with the same mutually acceptable and jointly instructed escrow holder an easement to the City for a public right-of-way over Parcel D, the Secretary shall instruct the escrow holder to simultaneously cause—

(1) the patent to Parcel B to be recorded and issued to Fields;

(2) the easement over Parcel D to be recorded and issued to the City; and

(3) the deed to Parcel A to be delivered to the Secretary, who shall immediately cause said deed to be recorded and held in trust for the Tribe.

(b) **TRANSFER OF PARCEL C.**—After the simultaneous transfer of parcels A, B, and D under subsection (a), upon receipt by the Secretary of confirmation that the City has vacated its interest in Parcel C pursuant to all applicable State and local laws, the Secretary shall immediately cause Parcel C to be held in trust for the Tribe subject to—

(1) any valid existing rights of any third parties; and

(2) legal review and approval of the form and content of any and all instruments of conveyance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 Alaska?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4867 authorizes an acre-for-acre land exchange between the Morongo Band of Mission Indians and a non-Indian landowner to resolve a land use and access dispute.

Under the exchange, the private landowner would transfer clear title to a 41-acre parcel of land he currently owns within the Morongo Reservation, which is located in the State of California, to the Secretary of the Interior, who would then hold the land in trust for the benefit of the tribe. The Secretary would simultaneously transfer to the private landowner clear title to a 41-acre parcel of the tribe's trust land on the edge of the reservation, affording reasonable access for his economic use of the property. The bill additionally authorizes conveyances of easements by the tribe and the city of Banning to address certain city and tribal needs.

The Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs held a hearing on H.R. 4867, which was followed by Natural Resources Committee approval by

unanimous consent. This legislation is noncontroversial, and I urge the House to pass this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to commend my colleague, Representative RUIZ of California, for sponsoring this legislation, for working so hard to bring all of the diverse interests to the table, and for coming up with a noncontroversial, bipartisan solution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) to speak on his legislation.

Mr. RUIZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of my bill, H.R. 4867, the Economic Development Through Tribal Land Exchange Act, which is a noncontroversial, bipartisan bill that passed unanimously out of the House Natural Resources Committee and is supported by the Department of the Interior.

The bill would aid economic development in the city of Banning, California, through a land swap, supported by all of the parties involved. Currently, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians and a private landowner, Mr. Lloyd Fields, would like to exchange two parcels of land which are nearly identical in size and value, but they are restrained from doing so because one of the parcels is currently held in trust by the United States on behalf of the tribe.

My bill facilitates an equitable land swap between the Morongo Tribe and the landowner to provide more consolidated reservation land for the tribe and commercial development opportunities for the landowner, the city of Banning and Riverside County.

The bill is consistent with the Department of the Interior's policy of promoting land consolidation within Indian country and facilitating economic development. We can all support this type of commonsense, bipartisan legislation for the simple reason that it benefits all parties involved and spurs job creation.

This bill serves as a model for how land use issues can be addressed by a community's coming together while upholding the sacred government-to-government relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.

I would like to thank Chairman Robert Martin of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians in the city of Banning for bringing this issue to my attention; my colleague, Representative PAUL COOK from California, for being an original cosponsor; and Senator BOXER from California for introducing the companion bill. I would also like to thank the Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs' Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member HANABUSA for holding a hearing on this bill as well as to thank Chairman HASTINGS and

Ranking Member DEFAZIO for considering this bill in committee and for their help in bringing it to the floor today.

I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 4867, the Economic Development Through Tribal Land Exchange Act.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4867, 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.

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 12 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 4 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5682, APPROVAL OF THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 748 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 748

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5682) to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and (2) one motion to recommend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado, Mr. POLIS, my friend,

pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the past 6 years, President Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State Kerry, and Senate Democrats have made sure that the American people would continue to wait for the Keystone pipeline.

The Keystone pipeline provides jobs, energy security, and perhaps most of all a closer and better relationship with our friends from Canada.

Mr. Speaker, quite honestly, the bottom line is we need to do business with our friends in Canada rather than friends in other places around the world who may be using that money that they receive for reasons that are not in America's best interest. We trust the Canadians.

Today we have a bill on the floor because we believe that House Republicans, being led by Dr. BILL CASSIDY, can lead us to a way to construct the Keystone pipeline, provide us with a closer relationship with Canada, and make sure that the TransCanada application to construct the Keystone XL pipeline will be done. That is why we are here on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

With that said, I rise in support of not only this rule that will provide the context for the bill but also the legislation.

Let me be perfectly clear today: this bill to approve the Keystone pipeline is a jobs bill. Over the last few years, too many Americans have been out of work, not always in the right places where jobs were available, but too many Americans are out of work, and this is an area where people are out of work and need the work and can get it.

Wages have been stagnant, and median incomes for American families have fallen because this administration and the policies of the Democratic Party have led to a stagnation of the free enterprise system, and an opportunity in particular in the area of energy has been a political issue rather than a jobs issue for the American people.

The Keystone pipeline would support tens of thousands of great-paying jobs and help resolve some problems in this area and across a multistate area of the West. Yet President Obama, Secretary Hillary Clinton, and Senate Democrats have stood constantly and consistently in the way of job-creating, shovel-ready projects.