

I feel privileged to have known and worked closely with President Fisher during the time he and I worked together on economic development summits in southeast Fort Worth. Those were a huge success and were helpful to the small businesses that were in an economically challenged area. He was always available and helpful to me personally. His stances on preventing banks that are too big to fail from coming to the taxpayer for bailouts was inspiring.

On behalf of the 26th District of Texas, I commend President Richard Fisher on a job well done. I congratulate him on his retirement and wish him every success in the future.

#### PRESIDENT DECEIVED AMERICANS ABOUT OBAMACARE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in yesterday's Charleston Post and Courier, Charles Krauthammer points out the President's deceit when misrepresenting ObamaCare before shoving it through a Democratic Congress.

According to the column, an "October 2013 video has surfaced that shows MIT Professor Jonathan Gruber, a principal architect of ObamaCare, admitting that, in order to get it passed, the law was made deliberately obscure and deceptive. It constitutes the ultimate vindication of the charge that ObamaCare was sold on a pack of lies."

As more is revealed about the truth behind the President's manipulation when passing ObamaCare, "It's refreshing that 'the most transparent administration in history' . . . should finally display candor about its signature act of social change. Inadvertently, of course. But now we know what lay behind Obama's smooth . . . arrogance . . . that rules in the name of the citizenry it mocks, disdains, and deliberately, contemptuously deceives."

It is sad Democratic elitists believe their voters are stupid.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. The President should take action to never forget September the 11th and the global war on terrorism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must remind all Members that remarks in debate may not engage in personalities toward the President.

#### MIZZOU 175TH BIRTHDAY

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize my alma mater, the University of Missouri, as it celebrates 175 years of providing quality education, cutting-edge research, and practical extension services to all Missourians.

Mizzou was the first State university established west of the Mississippi and

is a school rich with tradition. I am humbled to be a graduate of such a longstanding, esteemed institution.

The University of Missouri was home to the first journalism school in the world and is still recognized as one of the best schools around the world for agriculture, business, and journalism, just to name a few.

The core values of the University of Missouri—respect, responsibility, discovery, and excellence—leave a mark on every individual influenced by this institution and have helped shape me as an American citizen and lawmaker.

Throughout my career in education and public service, I have striven to uphold the values of the university and sleep well knowing that all alumni, present and future, will do the same.

I am so proud to be a Tiger, and I wish a very happy birthday to Mizzou. Go Tigers!

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

#### FEDERAL DUCK STAMP ACT OF 2014

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5069) to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase in the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5069

*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 Duck Stamp Act of 2014".*

##### SEC. 2. INCREASE IN PRICE OF MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMP TO FUND ACQUISITION OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS.

*The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act is amended—*

*(1) in section 2(b) (16 U.S.C. 718b(b))—*

*(A) by striking "1990, and" and inserting "1990,"; and*

*(B) by striking "for each hunting year thereafter" and inserting "for hunting years 1991 through 2013, and \$25 for each hunting year thereafter";*

*(2) by adding at the end of section 2 (16 U.S.C. 718b) the following:*

*"(C) REDUCTION IN PRICE OF STAMP.—The Secretary may reduce the price of each stamp sold under the provisions of this section for a hunting year if the Secretary determines that the in-*

*crease in the price of the stamp after hunting year 2013 resulted in a reduction in revenues deposited into the fund.";* and

*(3) in section 4 (16 U.S.C. 718d)—*

*(A) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting before the period the following: "in which there shall be a subaccount to which the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer all amounts in excess of \$15 that are received from the sale of each stamp sold for each hunting year after hunting year 2013";*

*(B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking "So much" and inserting "Except as provided in paragraph (4), so much";*

*(C) in subsection (b)(2), by striking "paragraph (3)" and inserting "paragraphs (3) and (4)"; and*

*(D) by adding at the end of subsection (b) the following:*

*"(4) CONSERVATION EASEMENTS.—Amounts in the subaccount referred to in subsection (a)(3) shall be used by the Secretary solely to acquire easements in real property in the United States for conservation of migratory birds."*

##### SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORT ON EXPENDITURES.

*Section 4 of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718d) is further amended—*

*(1) in subsection (c)—*

*(A) by striking so much as precedes "The Secretary may" and inserting the following:*

*"(c) PROMOTION OF STAMP SALES.—"; and*

*(B) by striking paragraph (2); and*

*(2) by adding at the end the following:*

*"(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall include in each annual report of the Commission under section 3 of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715b)—*

*"(1) a description of activities conducted under subsection (c) in the year covered by the report;*

*"(2) an annual assessment of the status of wetlands conservation projects for migratory bird conservation purposes, including a clear and accurate accounting of—*

*"(A) all expenditures by Federal and State agencies under this section; and*

*"(B) all expenditures made for fee-simple acquisition of Federal lands in the United States, including the amount paid and acreage of each parcel acquired in each acquisition;*

*"(3) an analysis of the refuge lands opened, and refuge lands closed, for hunting and fishing in the year covered by the report, including—*

*"(A) identification of the specific areas in each refuge and the reasons for the closure or opening; and*

*"(B) a detailed description of each closure including detailed justification for such closure;*

*"(4) the total number of acres of refuge land open for hunting and fishing, and the total number of acres of refuge land closed for hunting and fishing, in the year covered by the report; and*

*"(5) a separate report on the hunting and fishing status of those lands added to the system in the year covered by the report."*

##### SEC. 4. EXEMPTION FOR TAKINGS BY RURAL ALASKA SUBSISTENCE USERS.

*Section 1(a)(2) of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718a(a)(2)) is amended by striking "or" after the semicolon at the end of subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting "or", and by adding at the end the following:*

*"(D) by a rural Alaska resident for subsistence uses (as that term is defined in section 803 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3113))."*

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLEMING. 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 Louisiana?

There was no objection.

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

As author of H.R. 5069, I am pleased that we are considering this bipartisan bill that has been cosponsored by the dean of the House of Representatives, the leadership of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, and the entire Louisiana House congressional delegation.

The Federal Duck Stamp Act will modestly increase the price of the Federal duck stamp for the first time in 23 years and, by so doing, restore the buying power of this conservation tool which has been used to acquire, conserve, lease, and restore thousands of acres of wetlands.

Wetlands are critical to the survival of not only migratory waterfowl but to the millions of Americans who live along our coastlines. The U.S. Geological Survey has calculated that for every 2.5 miles a hurricane travels across wetlands, the storm surge is reduced by 1 foot. It is therefore likely that wetlands were directly responsible for saving lives and property in the gulf coast that were devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

This legislation has been endorsed by Ducks Unlimited and more than 30 national conservation organizations, including the National Rifle Association, Boone and Crockett Club, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.

In their support letter, these groups noted that, "In order for us to pass down our hunting heritage from generation to generation, sustain a vital and viable resource for wildlife and people, we must increase the price of the duck stamp this year."

I urge adoption of H.R. 5069, and I want to thank all of the Members who join with me in this effort.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5069 would authorize an increase in the price of the Federal duck stamp from \$15 to \$25. Duck stamp revenue funds the purchase and conservation of wetland habitats critical to maintaining waterfowl populations and other wildlife prized by hunters. This increase will restore the purchasing power of the duck stamp dollars to nearly 1991 levels, the last time Congress increased the price of the duck stamp.

The current price of the stamp is \$15, which equates to less than \$9 in 1991. The increase is expected to generate \$5 million in revenue for securing con-

servation easements on land in the United States.

While I take issue with some of the requirements and restrictions this bill would place on the Fish and Wildlife Service, the opportunity to generate these additional funds for wetland conservation with the support of hunters and other nature lovers is one that we must take advantage of.

I support the passage of the bill and congratulate the author of the legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say in closing that not only do we have huge bipartisan support for this bill, but I just want to point out, as an example, in 2012, we spent, essentially, an equal amount of money on both the fee simple land purchase and the easement. Around \$16- to \$17 million each. But look at the bang for the buck we got. We purchased 14,747 acres fee simple, but on easements we got 48,144.

So it is obvious that not only is this a huge savings to the taxpayer, this is a much better deal, but also think about the maintenance costs that are now going to be unnecessary because landowners with the easements will continue to maintain the land rather than taxpayers.

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleagues and I will vote on the Federal Duck Stamp Act of 2014. This bill would raise the price of Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps (more commonly known as "Duck Stamps"), for the first time in 23 years, from \$15 to \$25. I am a proud supporter of this legislation and ask my colleagues to vote in favor.

Ever since Congress created the Duck Stamp program in 1934, hunters have bought duck stamps to help pay for the protection of wildlife habitats. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service uses the money generated from these sales to acquire new land or preserve existing wildlife refuges for water fowl. Duck Stamps also serve as an entrance pass for any national wildlife refuge that charges admission, so they are in effect a user fee for hunters and bird watchers.

Today, because of rising land prices and inflation in general, the value of the Duck Stamp has fallen by 40 percent, depriving conservation efforts of crucial funds. As an avid hunter, I understand the importance of investing in our wildlife habitats. We need to pass these traditions on to the next generation, so they can learn the importance of being good stewards of the land.

Since the federal government already owns nearly one third of our country's land, this bill prohibits new land acquisition and requires the funds generated from the fee increase to be used solely for acquiring easements for migratory birds. But since the funds collected from Duck Stamp sales are technically classified as revenues, increasing the fees to allow for higher spending on protecting migratory-bird habitats does not comply with the House's "Cut as You Go" rule (Rule XXI, Clause 10).

In the past, we've made exceptions for spending increases that are offset with rev-

enue increases for selected programs when there is a close connection between the revenues and the spending. For example, budget resolutions often include reserve funds that effectively waive the "Cut as You Go" rule for deficit-neutral legislation designed to achieve a specific purpose.

Because the funds generated from this legislation will be user fees, not taxes, and this bill reduces the deficit, I support granting a waiver of the "Cut as You Go" rule for consideration of this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5069, 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.

#### REMOVING A USE RESTRICTION TO CERTAIN LAND IN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5162) to amend the Act entitled "An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center" to remove the use restriction, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5162

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

#### SECTION 1. REMOVAL OF USE RESTRICTION.

The Act entitled "An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center", approved October 31, 1990 (Public Law 101-479), is amended to read as follows:

#### "SECTION 1. REMOVAL OF USE RESTRICTION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any restrictions in the deed, on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the parcel comprised of approximately 3.03 acres of land transferred by the United States on April 11, 1989, to the county of Rockingham, Virginia, in deed book number 953 at page 600, together with improvements thereon may be used by the county as if the land had been transferred in fee simple with no use or other restrictions.

"(b) DOCUMENTATION.—As soon as practical after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall take such actions as are necessary to issue a fee simple deed with no restrictions to the land described in subsection (a) to the county of Rockingham, Virginia."

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

## GENERAL LEAVE

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