

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, November 17, 2014.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4049, the Ashland Breakwater Light Transfer Act, as ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources. I appreciate your inclusion of changes requested by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as this bill moves forward.

I agree to allow the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to be discharged from consideration of H.R. 4049 with the understanding that this discharge does not affect the Committee's jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and does not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, I expect the negotiated text to be the text considered on the floor. Finally, as stated in your letter, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I fully expect the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to be represented on the conference committee.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and for agreeing to include a copy of this letter in the Committee on Natural Resources filed bill report, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

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

First of all, I would like to commend Representative DUFFY, with whom I share lakeshore on the world's largest freshwater lake and also borders on our district. I tell you, Mr. DUFFY, I found the television commercial with you and your family to be my favorite commercial of the last election, of which there were not many favorable commercials for anyone.

So it is with a fun and joyful spirit that I rise in support of your legislation to prove to those beautiful children of yours that a lot of us really like each other and know how to get along and support the efforts of one another.

Mr. Speaker, with that in mind, H.R. 4049 transfers ownership and management of the Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light to the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Thanks to the leadership of the late Democratic Senator Gaylord Nelson, Congress established the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in 1970.

The area consists of 21 islands and 70 acres of shoreline in Lake Superior. It is a popular tourist destination in the summer and home to the 35,000-acre Gaylord Nelson Wilderness area.

Apostle Islands already manages eight historic lighthouses which were transferred to the National Park Service in 1986. This bill would add one more to the collection and contribute to the mission of protecting these historic cultural resources. Additionally,

the text of this bill ensures that the Coast Guard will continue to maintain historic access to the lighthouse.

We support passage of this bill and look forward to working with the majority to advance more legislation that helps to enhance our national parks.

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

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) for yielding, and I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for his kind remarks about my ads, which I know there weren't many positive ads in the Duluth market, but I did have one. So I appreciate that, Mr. NOLAN, and thank you for your support of what is a very important bill for folks in northern Wisconsin.

I have a picture of what this actual lighthouse looks like right off the community of Ashland. This bill, H.R. 4049, is the bill that will transfer the Ashland Breakwater Light from the Coast Guard to the National Park Service.

This lighthouse has stood here for over 100 years, standing strong on the shores of Lake Superior in dark nights and in storms, guarding our ships in their safe passage to our harbor, but also welcoming back travelers who have left the greater Ashland community and on the way home.

I had a chance to live in Ashland for 10 years, raising my children. My second-born son was born there. I think my third, fourth, and fifth were born there as well. I lose count after a while, but it is a great community. This lighthouse is a big part of our identity in Ashland.

Right now, the lighthouse has an uncertain future because the Coast Guard has indicated several times, most recently in 2012, that they are going to give up management of the lighthouse. No public entity, aside from the National Park Service's Apostle Islands National Lakeshore have stepped forward and indicated that they would obtain and maintain this very important lighthouse in our community.

Absent this legislation, there is no guarantee that this historic lighthouse would be maintained and continue to operate and be accessible for educational purposes. H.R. 4049 will allow the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore to maintain the lighthouse alongside, as Mr. NOLAN and I think Mr. LABRADOR mentioned, eight other lighthouses they maintain.

Just a little trip down history lane: in 1986, the Coast Guard transferred eight of these lighthouses to the National Park Service, but they didn't transfer this one. All we are doing right now is saying let's redraw that line and include this one with the other eight, so the National Park Service can now manage this lighthouse as well.

If I were looking at this bill, I might say, "Well, I have a concern if I am a fisherman or a boater who might use

the waters outside the lighthouse." I can guarantee you that the way this is written and the way the line is drawn there will be no additional rules or regulations coming from the Feds that are going to affect your ability to fish or boat right around the lighthouse.

We have adequately addressed that concern in this House by having so many different folks come together, people across the aisle who share a border and a lake, but also share a love for the environment and all it has to offer.

We also have support of the National Park Service who supports this bill; the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Wisconsin DNR; the Wisconsin Historical Society; the Ashland Chamber of Commerce, which is very important; the city of Ashland; and a lot of local outdoor recreational communities.

With that, I would urge passage of H.R. 4049, and I want to thank everyone for their support for what is a very important bill to my community in northern Wisconsin.

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

Mr. LABRADOR. 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 Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4049, 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.

IDAHO COUNTY SHOOTING RANGE LAND CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5040) to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Idaho County in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5040

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 "Idaho County Shooting Range Land Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COUNTY.—The term "County" means Idaho County in the State of Idaho.

(2) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Idaho County Land Conveyance" and dated April 11, 2014.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO IDAHO COUNTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after notification by the County and subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall convey to the County, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in subsection (b).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in subsection (a) consists of approximately 31 acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and generally depicted on the map as “Conveyance Area”.

(c) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize the legal description of the parcel to be conveyed under this section.

(2) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct any minor error in—

(A) the map; or

(B) the legal description.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(d) USE OF CONVEYED LAND.—The land conveyed under this section shall be used only as a shooting range.

(e) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary shall require the County to pay all survey costs and other administrative costs necessary for the preparation and completion of any patents for, and transfers of title to, the land described in subsection (b).

(f) CONDITIONS.—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (a), the County shall agree—

(1) to pay any administrative costs associated with the conveyance including the costs of any environmental, wildlife, cultural, or historical resources studies;

(2) to release and indemnify the United States from any claims or liabilities that may arise from uses carried out on the land described in subsection (b) on or before the date of the enactment of this Act by the United States or any person; and

(3) to accept such reasonable terms and conditions as the Secretary determines necessary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. NOLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LABRADOR. 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 Idaho?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am the author of H.R. 5040, which directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey a 31-acre parcel of land to Idaho County, Idaho, to use for public recreation.

Idahoans deeply value their Second Amendment rights, and many use firearms for hunting and shooting sports. The safe and proper use of firearms is often a tradition passed down from generation to generation. People need a safe designated area where they may sight in their rifles and teach safe firearms practices.

Nearly 6 years ago, a county in my district, Idaho County, began the process of searching for a suitable location to install a shooting range to serve the

needs of the county residents interested in exercising their Second Amendment rights.

Idaho County, which is 83 percent controlled by the Federal Government, began working with the local BLM office in Cottonwood, Idaho, to identify land that the BLM could transfer to the county for use as a shooting range.

The BLM identified a buried landfill in the county as a suitable location because the site is already used casually by recreational hunters and the general public as a shooting range. The land also provides the proper safety barriers because it is situated on an elevated bench, approximately 240 feet above a nearby road and surrounded by hills. The county and the local BLM officials agreed the site was perfect for a shooting range.

The county began the process of seeking an administrative transfer from the BLM, but soon ran into procedural roadblocks. The site of the proposed shooting range is within a portion of the Lower Salmon River, which was identified by the BLM for potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. Because of existing BLM regulations, the parcel cannot be transferred to the county administratively.

As my staff and I met with the Idaho County commissioners to come up with a solution, we determined the only path forward was to introduce legislation in Congress to convey the land from the BLM to the county. My bill, the Idaho County Shooting Range Land Conveyance Act, would convey the 31-acre parcel to Idaho County for use as a shooting range.

The BLM has spent a great deal of time and resources studying the proposed site and has determined the land would be perfect for a shooting range. The local BLM office in Cottonwood has been instrumental in gathering necessary environmental data to support the land conveyance, and I am grateful for their ongoing efforts to work with my staff and finally resolve this issue.

My office has also worked closely with the Idaho County commissioners and Idaho County sheriff to develop a plan to manage the land for public use as a shooting range. Part of the plan includes allowing Idaho County law enforcement to use the range to conduct firearms training and qualifications.

Idaho County has waited nearly 6 years for this process to be completed. Idaho County residents want a safe, remote location to exercise their Second Amendment rights, and my bill will provide a solution that is long overdue.

I urge support for the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Representative LABRADOR for the work he has done on behalf of his constituents and their recreational activities in their future.

H.R. 5040 transfers 31 acres of public land to Idaho County for the purpose of

establishing a public shooting range. The county will pay the administrative costs associated with the transfer and release the United States from any future liability.

Historically, a bill of this nature would contain stronger language to guarantee that the transferred land would continue to be used for a public purpose or the ownership would automatically revert back to the United States Government.

These so-called reversionary clauses ensure that, once transferred, the land is not sold or developed in a way not intended by Congress.

It is important for Congress to establish clear and fair expectations when transferring management of an asset owned by the American taxpayer. We encourage Idaho County to use the land as intended by this bill.

With that said, this bill merits our support, and we urge its adoption by the House.

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

Mr. LABRADOR. 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 Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5040.

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.

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GRAND PORTAGE BAND PER
CAPITA ADJUSTMENT ACT

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3608) to amend the Act of October 19, 1973, concerning taxable income to members of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3608

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 “Grand Portage Band Per Capita Adjustment Act”.

SEC. 2. EQUAL TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PER
CAPITA INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF
FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.

Paragraph (4) of section 7 of the Act of October 19, 1973 (25 U.S.C. 1407(4)) is amended by striking “pursuant to the agreements of such Band” and inserting “or the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, or both, pursuant to the agreements of each Band”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho.