

There was no objection.

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

I am the author of H.R. 469, which establishes the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area, encompassing roughly 18,000 acres of Federal land in central California, to preserve recreational and other existing uses in the area.

The Alabama Hills are a range of hills and rock formations near the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and are used for a variety of recreational activities.

The area has also served as a popular filming location for films and television shows. "The Gene Autry Show," "The Lone Ranger," "Bonanza," and films including "Tremors," "Gladiator," and "Iron Man" were filmed, in part, in the Alabama Hills area.

The goal of this legislation is protecting this area from the industrial-scale renewable energy development that is occurring in surrounding areas while also protecting existing uses.

The Alabama Hills Stewardship Group as well as off-road groups, the local chamber of commerce, local and national conservation groups, and many others coordinated for over 2 years to share ideas that ultimately formed the basis of H.R. 496.

In addition to the National Scenic Area designation, the bill preserves existing recreational and commercial uses of the area, including grazing, filming, hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, and authorized off-highway vehicle use.

This is a commonsense bill that will successfully balance a wide range of Federal land uses within the National Scenic Area and has extensive local support.

This legislation is the culmination of the work of countless local groups and individuals. I would especially like to thank Inyo County Supervisor Matt Kingsley and Kevin Mazzu of the Alabama Hills Stewardship Group for their tireless efforts to make the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area a reality.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to support its passage.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Congressman COOK, a fellow Marine, for crafting this bill before us.

H.R. 496 establishes the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area on approximately 18,000 acres of Federal land in southern California.

Only a few hours' drive from Hollywood, Alabama Hills features a unique collection of rock formations which attracted filmmakers for a decade, as the gentleman has told us. The area's unusual landscape has served as the backdrop for famous television and movie scenes, including "Bonanza" and even now great movies like "Iron Man."

By incorporating the area into BLM's National Conservation Lands, the establishment of the Alabama Hills Na-

tional Scenic Area will promote permanent protection of the area and encourage tourism and recreational activities.

Mr. Speaker, this bill provides a model for responsible conservation that we should seek to emulate across the country.

There are areas of Federal land throughout the United States that deserve enhanced protection. I hope we can continue to work in a bipartisan manner to preserve them for future generations through locally driven conservation initiatives.

For now, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I look forward to working with the majority to identify additional opportunities to protect public land.

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

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers.

I want to thank my colleague for the Marine tag team comment.

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

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

Mr. COOK. 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 California (Mr. COOK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 496, 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.

NATIVE AMERICAN CHILDREN'S SAFETY ACT

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 184) to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 184

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 "Native American Children's Safety Act".

SEC. 2. CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECKS.

Section 408 of the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (25 U.S.C. 3207) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) BY TRIBAL SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY FOR FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS IN TRIBAL COURT PROCEEDINGS.—

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term 'covered individual' includes—

"(i) any individual 18 years of age or older; and

"(ii) any individual who the tribal social services agency determines is subject to a

criminal records check under paragraph (2)(A).

"(B) FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT.—The term 'foster care placement' means any action removing an Indian child from a parent or Indian custodian for temporary placement in a foster home or institution or the home of a guardian or conservator if—

"(i) the parent or Indian custodian cannot have the child returned on demand; and

"(ii)(I) parental rights have not been terminated; or

"(II) parental rights have been terminated but the child has not been permanently placed.

"(C) INDIAN CUSTODIAN.—The term 'Indian custodian' means any Indian—

"(i) who has legal custody of an Indian child under tribal law or custom or under State law; or

"(ii) to whom temporary physical care, custody, and control has been transferred by the parent of the child.

"(D) PARENT.—The term 'parent' means—

"(i) any biological parent of an Indian child; or

"(ii) any Indian who has lawfully adopted an Indian child, including adoptions under tribal law or custom.

"(E) TRIBAL COURT.—The term 'tribal court' means a court—

"(i) with jurisdiction over foster care placements; and

"(ii) that is—

"(I) a Court of Indian Offenses;

"(II) a court established and operated under the code or custom of an Indian tribe; or

"(III) any other administrative body of an Indian tribe that is vested with authority over foster care placements.

"(F) TRIBAL SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY.—The term 'tribal social services agency' means the agency of an Indian tribe that has the primary responsibility for carrying out foster care licensing or approval (as of the date on which the proceeding described in paragraph (2)(A) commences) for the Indian tribe.

"(2) CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK BEFORE FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), no foster care placement shall be finally approved and no foster care license shall be issued until the tribal social services agency—

"(i) completes a criminal records check of each covered individual who resides in the household or is employed at the institution in which the foster care placement will be made; and

"(ii) concludes that each covered individual described in clause (i) meets such standards as the Indian tribe shall establish in accordance with subparagraph (B).

"(B) STANDARDS OF PLACEMENT.—The standards described in subparagraph (A)(ii) shall include—

"(i) requirements that each tribal social services agency described in subparagraph (A)—

"(I) perform criminal records checks, including fingerprint-based checks of national crime information databases (as defined in section 534(f)(3) of title 28, United States Code);

"(II) check any abuse registries maintained by the Indian tribe; and

"(III) check any child abuse and neglect registry maintained by the State in which the covered individual resides for information on the covered individual, and request any other State in which the covered individual resided in the preceding 5 years, to enable the tribal social services agency to check any child abuse and neglect registry maintained by that State for such information; and

“(ii) any other additional requirement that the Indian tribe determines is necessary and permissible within the existing authority of the Indian tribe, such as the creation of voluntary agreements with State entities in order to facilitate the sharing of information related to the performance of criminal records checks.

“(C) RESULTS.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), no foster care placement shall be ordered in any proceeding described in subparagraph (A) if an investigation described in clause (i) of that subparagraph reveals that a covered individual described in that clause has been found by a Federal, State, or tribal court to have committed any crime listed in clause (i) or (ii) of section 471(a)(20)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(20)(A)).

“(3) EMERGENCY PLACEMENT.—Paragraph (2) shall not apply to an emergency foster care placement, as determined by a tribal social services agency.

“(4) RECERTIFICATION OF FOSTER HOMES OR INSTITUTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, each Indian tribe shall establish procedures to recertify homes or institutions in which foster care placements are made.

“(B) CONTENTS.—The procedures described in subparagraph (A) shall include, at a minimum, periodic intervals at which the home or institution shall be subject to recertification to ensure—

“(i) the safety of the home or institution for the Indian child; and

“(ii) that each covered individual who resides in the home or is employed at the institution is subject to a criminal records check in accordance with this subsection, including any covered individual who—

“(I) resides in the home or is employed at the institution on the date on which the procedures established under subparagraph (A) commence; and

“(II) did not reside in the home or was not employed at the institution on the date on which the investigation described in paragraph (2)(A)(i) was completed.

“(C) GUIDANCE ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY.—The procedures established under subparagraph (A) shall be subject to any regulation or guidance issued by the Secretary that is in accordance with the purpose of this subsection.

“(5) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection and after consultation with Indian tribes, the Secretary shall issue guidance regarding—

“(A) procedures for a criminal records check of any covered individual who—

“(i) resides in the home or is employed at the institution in which the foster care placement is made after the date on which the investigation described in paragraph (2)(A)(i) is completed; and

“(ii) was not the subject of an investigation described in paragraph (2)(A)(i) before the foster care placement was made;

“(B) self-reporting requirements for foster care homes or institutions in which any covered individual described in subparagraph (A) resides if the head of the household or the operator of the institution has knowledge that the covered individual—

“(i) has been found by a Federal, State, or tribal court to have committed any crime listed in clause (i) or (ii) of section 471(a)(20)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(20)(A)); or

“(ii) is listed on a registry described in clause (II) or (III) of paragraph (2)(B)(i);

“(C) promising practices used by Indian tribes to address emergency foster care placement procedures under paragraph (3); and

“(D) procedures for certifying compliance with this Act.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. COOK) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

I rise today in support of S. 184, the Native American Children's Safety Act, which amends the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act.

The bill requires tribal Social Service agencies to perform character background investigations of all foster care parents and adults living in foster care homes prior to placement of an Indian child into a foster home.

This bill creates a framework by which tribes must conduct thorough background checks of individuals who reside in or are employed by a foster home or institution in which tribal foster placements are made.

The bill would protect Indian foster children from being placed if the background check reveals a conviction by a Federal, State, or tribal court of felony child abuse, neglect, or crimes against children.

S. 184 is the companion to H.R. 1168, sponsored by the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER). H.R. 1168 passed the House of Representatives by voice vote on June 1, 2015.

These bills are the culmination of years of work led by Mr. CRAMER as he and his colleagues in the North Dakota delegation worked to address a very sad child abuse problem plaguing an Indian reservation in his State.

Passage of S. 184 is a critical first step toward ensuring that Indian children are placed in safe, secure, and loving homes within their tribal communities.

Again, I would like to thank my good friend, the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), for his hard work on this important issue.

I urge an “aye” vote on S. 184.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware of the challenges that Native children face when it comes to their health, safety, and security. For example, Native children are 2.1 times more likely than other American children to end up in foster care. They are also 2.5 times more likely to become victims of abuse or neglect.

The Native American Children's Safety Act will help to address these disparities by strengthening background checks for prospective foster care parents prior to placement. In addition, the legislation will ensure that Federal and tribal agencies conduct these checks in a uniform manner.

The House previously passed an identical bill, H.R. 1168, introduced by our colleague from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), and it is critical that we pass the Senate version as well.

Mr. Speaker, there are many troubling issues that we in Congress must address in order to reverse the alarming trends that we see today in the health, safety, and well-being of Native children.

These kids deserve far more of our time and our attention; yet, for too long their needs have been neglected by this body.

So, Mr. Speaker, I call on Congress to reverse this pattern of neglect and to start passing legislation like the bill before us today that will help protect and provide for our Native children.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Senators HOEVEN and TESTER for introducing and moving the Native American Children's Safety Act through the Senate.

I ask my colleagues to stand with me in support of S. 184 and in support of our Native children.

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

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the author of the House companion bill.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank now my two favorite marines. That was very nice. Thanks to both of them.

Last Congress, in the Natural Resources Committee, we actually had an oversight hearing regarding the child protection crisis on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation in my State of North Dakota in response to numerous child deaths and whistleblower reports detailing unsafe tribal placement of almost 40 foster children in abusive homes, many of these homes that were headed by convicted sex offenders.

In an effort to protect these children, I did introduce the Native American Children's Safety Act in the House, which is a companion bill, as noted by previous speakers, that was introduced in the Senate by Senator HOEVEN and Senator TESTER.

Both bills passed their respective Chambers without objection. Today I am asking my colleagues here in the House to join me in passing the Senate bill so that we can get it to the President for his quick signature.

As stated, the bill implements across-the-board minimum protections for children placed in foster care at the direction of a tribal court. And, yes, the statistics are stark. Native American children are 2.5 times more likely to be victims of abuse or neglect than other American children.

But, Mr. Speaker, children exposed to violence are also more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol. They are more likely to suffer from depression and anxiety and other post-traumatic disorders.

The standards in this bill mirror existing national requirements for non-tribal foster care placements, ensuring that tribal children receive care at least equal to that in the protections afforded non-tribal children.

It is bipartisan, as you can tell. It is noncontroversial, as you can tell. It was reported out of the Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent both this Congress and the last Congress.

But I want to add this word of thanks to other folks who were very helpful. I want to thank the National Indian Child Welfare Association, the National Congress of American Indians, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Department of Health and Human Services, all of whom provided insights and suggestions for this bill.

Their counsel proved valuable in providing the flexibility to the tribes without hampering, stepping on their sovereignty, so that they could transition to these uniform standards and help save perhaps many, many lives on our reservations.

I thank my colleagues. I urge a “yes” vote.

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

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Mr. GALLEGO. 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 California (Mr. COOK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 184.

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.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5077) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5077

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 102. Classified schedule of authorizations.

Sec. 103. Personnel ceiling adjustments.

Sec. 104. Intelligence Community Management Account.

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DIS- ABILITY SYSTEM

Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Increase in employee compensation and benefits authorized by law.

Sec. 302. Restriction on conduct of intelligence activities.

Sec. 303. Authorization of appropriations for Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

Sec. 304. Modification of certain whistleblowing procedures.

Sec. 305. Reports on major defense intelligence acquisition programs.

Sec. 306. Modifications to certain requirements for construction of facilities.

Sec. 307. Information on activities of Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

Sec. 308. Clarification of authorization of certain activities of the Department of Energy.

Sec. 309. Technical correction to Executive Schedule.

Sec. 310. Maximum amount charged for declassification reviews.

TITLE IV—MATTERS RELATING TO ELE- MENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMU- NITY

Subtitle A—Office of the Director of National Intelligence

Sec. 401. Analyses and impact statements by Director of National Intelligence regarding actions by Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

Sec. 402. National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

Sec. 403. Assistance for governmental entities and private entities in recognizing online violent extremist content.

Subtitle B—Central Intelligence Agency and Other Elements

Sec. 411. Enhanced death benefits for personnel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Sec. 412. Pay and retirement authorities of the Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Sec. 413. Clarification of authority, direction, and control over the information assurance directorate of the National Security Agency.

Sec. 414. Living quarters allowance for employees of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Sec. 415. Plan on assumption of certain weather missions by the National Reconnaissance Office.

Sec. 416. Modernization of security clearance information technology architecture.

TITLE V—MATTERS RELATING TO UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA

Sec. 501. Declassification of information on past terrorist activities of detainees transferred from United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, after signing of Executive Order 13492.

TITLE VI—REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 601. Report on intelligence community employees detailed to National Security Council.

Sec. 602. Intelligence community reporting to Congress on foreign fighter flows.

Sec. 603. Report on information relating to academic programs, scholarships, fellowships, and internships sponsored, administered, or used by the intelligence community.

Sec. 604. Report on cybersecurity threats to seaports of the United States and maritime shipping.

Sec. 605. Report on counter-messaging activities.

Sec. 606. Report on reprisals against contractors of the intelligence community.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.**—The term “congressional intelligence committees” means—

(A) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) **INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.**—The term “intelligence community” has the meaning given that term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2017 for the conduct of the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the following elements of the United States Government:

(1) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

(2) The Central Intelligence Agency.

(3) The Department of Defense.

(4) The Defense Intelligence Agency.

(5) The National Security Agency.

(6) The Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force.

(7) The Coast Guard.

(8) The Department of State.

(9) The Department of the Treasury.

(10) The Department of Energy.

(11) The Department of Justice.

(12) The Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(13) The Drug Enforcement Administration.

(14) The National Reconnaissance Office.

(15) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

(16) The Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 102. CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) **SPECIFICATIONS OF AMOUNTS AND PERSONNEL LEVELS.**—The amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 101 and, subject to section 103, the authorized personnel ceilings as of September 30, 2017, for the conduct of the intelligence activities of the elements listed in paragraphs (1) through (16) of section 101, are those specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations prepared to accompany this Act.

(b) **AVAILABILITY OF CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.**—

(1) **AVAILABILITY.**—The classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in subsection (a) shall be made available to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and to the President.

(2) **DISTRIBUTION BY THE PRESIDENT.**—Subject to paragraph (3), the President shall provide for suitable distribution of the classified