

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HARDY) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 2733, the Nevada Native Nations Land Act.

I commend my colleague from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI), the sponsor of this bill, for his tireless work on this important piece of legislation. Because he will speak further on the details that affect his district, I will provide a brief summary of the bill.

H.R. 2733, as amended, would require the Secretary of the Interior to place, approximately, 71,000 acres of Federal land into trust for six tribes in the State of Nevada. Gaming would be prohibited on these lands.

Located in my district, the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe would have, approximately, 31,000 acres of land placed into trust by the Secretary of the Interior. The tribe intends to utilize these lands for economic development and community growth. Specifically, the additional lands will allow the tribe to expand agricultural operations, additional housing and facilities development, and to protect cultural sites and wildlife.

Over 85 percent of the land that is located in Nevada is federally controlled, and tribes continue to have a small land base. This bill is an important step in promoting economic activity that will generate jobs in the tribal communities, benefitting both reservation economies.

I thank Mr. AMODEI for his efforts in getting this legislation to the floor.

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

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

The six Nevada tribes that are affected by this legislation want to expand their reservations for a variety of purposes, including for recreational use, residential construction, and energy and mineral development. H.R. 2733 will allow the tribes to pursue these goals. By passing this bill, they will be able to preserve their cultural heritage and traditions, expand housing for their members, and realize new economic development opportunities.

The final legislation is the result of years of negotiations between the tribes, the Federal Government, the State of Nevada, and local stakeholders.

I commend my colleague from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI) for his work on behalf of the Nevada tribes and on this legislation. I urge its quick adoption.

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

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI).

Mr. AMODEI. I thank my colleague from the Silver State and my colleague

from the Show Me State. I appreciate the background.

Mr. Speaker, this is the return of a bill that was passed in the 114th Congress by a voice vote in the House of Representatives. It went to the Senate. I can't tell you what happened there, but the good news is that the 114th Congress, the Senate, has moved on a companion bill; so we might actually get some resolution of this.

I note that my colleague from the Show Me State mentioned patience and hard work. I want to point out that, for the folks of the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe, the 19,000-acre transfer that is proposed in this piece of legislation was first before the United States Congress in a bill that was introduced in 1972 by then-Nevada Senators Alan Bible and Howard Cannon. Certainly, that tribe gets the "patience" award in terms of waiting to fill in what is largely checkerboard-type holdings to consolidate their holdings in the whole thing.

As a whole, about 31,000 acres are in my colleague's CD4 district, and 40,000 acres are in the rest of CD2. There is a variety of things to provide housing to attract healthcare facility givers and cultural resource preservation buffer zones. It has been through the planning process in those counties in which it is. Many off-road vehicle organizations support this. It can hardly be said to have been sprung on anybody.

I urge my colleagues' support.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HARDY. 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 Nevada (Mr. HARDY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2733, 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.

#### EEZ TRANSIT ZONE CLARIFICATION AND ACCESS ACT

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3070) to clarify that for purposes of all Federal laws governing marine fisheries management, the landward boundary of the exclusive economic zone between areas south of Montauk, New York, and Point Judith, Rhode Island, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3070

*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 "EEZ Transit Zone Clarification and Access Act".*

#### SEC. 2. RECREATIONAL FISHING IN BLOCK ISLAND SOUND TRANSIT ZONE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, may issue regulations to permit and regulate recreational Atlantic striped bass fishing in the Block Island Sound Transit Zone.

(b) BLOCK ISLAND SOUND TRANSIT ZONE DEFINED.—In this section the term "Block Island Sound transit zone" means the area of the exclusive economic zone north of a line connecting Montauk Light, Montauk Point, New York, and Block Island Southeast Light, Block Island, Rhode Island; and west of a line connecting Point Judith Light, Point Judith, Rhode Island, and Block Island Southeast Light, Block Island, Rhode Island.

(c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section or the regulations issued under this section shall affect—

(1) any permit that—

(A) is issued under any other provision of law by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including a permit issued before the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) authorizes fishing in the Block Island Sound Transit Zone; or

(2) any activity authorized by such a permit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HARDY) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 3070, which was introduced by my colleague, Congressman LEE ZELDIN of New York, aims to eliminate Federal regulatory confusion around the Block Island Sound. His bill authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to permit striped bass fishing in the Block Island Transit Zone between Montauk, New York, and Point Judith, Rhode Island.

The bill before us today is the result of extensive input from area stakeholders and congressional deliberation. Following a Natural Resources Committee's oversight field hearing and a subsequent legislative hearing, the bill has been amended to resolve any concerns about the unintended impacts of other federally permitted activities. As such, the Natural Resources Committee passed this bill earlier this year by unanimous consent.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I commend Mr. ZELDIN for his leadership on this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

As introduced, H.R. 3070 would have had sweeping negative impacts. It would have redrawn the boundary of the exclusive economic zone in an area between Montauk Point, New York,

and Block Island, Rhode Island, allowing for the State management of fishery resources that are currently managed by the Federal Government. It would have barred Connecticut fishermen from using the area at all, and it would have eliminated a key sanctuary for striped bass at the very time the species needs stronger conservation measures.

Fortunately, the Natural Resources Committee was able to address those flaws at markup and is able to bring forward a bill today that does not have any unintended consequences. The current version of H.R. 3070 simply clarifies that the Secretary of Commerce has the authority to issue regulations that govern recreational fishing for striped bass in the Block Island Transit Zone. This area is currently closed to striped bass fishing, and I join the vast majority of recreational anglers in the region in urging fisheries' managers to keep it that way.

That said, we do support the bill before us today.

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

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN).

Mr. ZELDIN. I thank Mr. HARDY and Mr. CLAY for their comments and for their support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 3070, the EEZ Transit Zone Clarification and Access Act, which would clarify the Federal laws that govern the management of the striped bass fishery in the exclusive economic zone, or the EEZ, between Montauk, New York, and Block Island, Rhode Island.

One of the most pressing issues that is faced by Long Island fishermen is the urgent need to clarify the Federal regulations regarding striped bass fishing in the small area of federally controlled waters between Montauk Point and Block Island.

Between New York State waters, which end 3 miles off of Montauk Point, and the Rhode Island boundary, which begins 3 miles off of Block Island, there is a small area of federally controlled water that is considered part of the EEZ. The EEZ, which extends up to 200 miles from the coast, are waters that are patrolled by the Coast Guard, where the United States has exclusive jurisdiction over fisheries and other natural resources. Since 1990, striped bass fishing has been banned in the EEZ even though fishermen can currently fish for striped bass in adjacent State waters.

□ 1745

Fishing is an industry in and around my district. It is getting more and more difficult to survive in this industry if you are a businessowner. Fishermen are desperately pleading for commonsense relief, and this is one way Congress can help.

To my colleagues in this Chamber, I ask you to vote in favor of this bill,

passing this legislation on behalf of the amazing fishermen on the east end of Long Island.

Long Island striped bass fishermen have lost 60 percent of their traditional fishing grounds due to Federal restrictions that my bill intends to reform. Additionally, the geography of our region means that making the 15-mile journey by boat from Montauk Point to Block Island requires passing through a small strip of waters considered to be part of the EEZ. The shift in jurisdiction can mean the difference between a nice day on the water and committing a Federal offense.

My bill, H.R. 3070, clarifies the Federal laws currently governing the management of the striped bass fishery between Montauk and Block Island, permitting striped bass fishing in these waters and allowing for local regulations to manage this important fishery.

This legislation is a commonsense reform that offers a simple solution to a unique local issue, providing regulatory relief and more certainty to our region's fishermen, while restoring local control to a critical fishery that must be properly managed and preserved for future generations.

Last year, on December 7, 2015, I cohosted a House Natural Resources Committee field hearing within my district in Riverhead, New York, with Chairman ROB BISHOP of Utah. The hearing was held to discuss important local fishing issues, including this legislation. Chairman BISHOP and members of the committee were able to hear firsthand the concerns of those on Long Island who rely upon fishing as an occupation and way of life. A few months later, on March 17, 2016, working closely with the committee, my bill passed this committee with unanimous bipartisan support.

I thank House Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY for having the bill placed on today's agenda on the House floor. A big thank you to House Natural Resources Committee Chairman ROB BISHOP; Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans Chairman JOHN FLEMING; and Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans Vice Chairman PAUL Gosar for recognizing the urgency in passing this bill. I also thank Congressman JOE COURTNEY, my colleague across Long Island Sound, who worked with us to make this a bipartisan bill.

I also commend the steadfast commitment and activism of Long Island's fishing community, which championed this issue for nearly two decades and is standing up for Long Island's coastal way of life. The dedicated men and women who fish in these local waters and the tens of thousands of Long Islanders who depend upon the coastal economy of the east end deserve no less than this commonsense reform promoted by this proposal.

I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in support of this critical bill.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I urge the body to adopt H.R. 3070.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. HARDY. 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 Nevada (Mr. HARDY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3070, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to permit striped bass fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone transit zone between Montauk, New York, and Point Judith, Rhode Island, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MOUNT HOOD COOPER SPUR LAND EXCHANGE CLARIFICATION ACT

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3826) to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3826

*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 "Mount Hood Cooper Spur Land Exchange Clarification Act".*

#### SEC. 2. COOPER SPUR LAND EXCHANGE CLARIFICATION AMENDMENTS.

*Section 1206(a) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11; 123 Stat. 1018) is amended—*

*(1) in paragraph (1)—*

*(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking "120 acres" and inserting "107 acres"; and*

*(B) in subparagraph (E)(ii), by inserting "improvements," after "buildings,"; and*

*(2) in paragraph (2)—*

*(A) in subparagraph (D)—*

*(i) in clause (i), by striking "As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and Mt. Hood Meadows shall select" and inserting "Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Mount Hood Cooper Spur Land Exchange Clarification Act, the Secretary and Mt. Hood Meadows shall jointly select";*

*(ii) in clause (ii), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking "An appraisal under clause (i) shall" and inserting "Except as provided under clause (iii), an appraisal under clause (i) shall assign a separate value to each tax lot to allow for the equalization of values and"; and*

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

*"(iii) FINAL APPRAISED VALUE.—*

*"(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), after the final appraised value of the Federal land and the non-Federal land are determined and approved by the Secretary, the Secretary shall not be required to reappraise or update the final appraised value for a period of up to 3 years, beginning on the date of the approval by the Secretary of the final appraised value.*

*"(II) EXCEPTION.—Subclause (I) shall not apply if the condition of either the Federal land*