

As with the prior bills, the Office of Law Revision Counsel has drafted this. The chairman has certainly explained what it does. It makes no change to the law, but it does do this. It highlights the value of voting rights laws by creating a title 52. I think that is going to make it easier for the public to understand what the rules are. It is an important measure, even though it doesn't change the existing law, by making the law more accessible.

I am going to diverge a little bit from the substance of this because when my plane landed from California this afternoon, I was saddened to find on my email the news that Alan A. Parker, who was general counsel for the Judiciary Committee and general counsel for the Civil Rights Subcommittee when my predecessor, Don Edwards, had chaired the Civil Rights Subcommittee, had passed away last Friday after a very long illness.

Alan Parker served in World War II in the South Pacific. He went to Santa Clara University School of Law. He loved the Congress and he loved the Judiciary Committee. He had a distinguished career teaching law. He would be, I think, actually pleased to be remembered on the occasion of reorganizing these civil rights measures that he cared so much about and that he worked for when he was here in the House.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill today and to join me in mourning the passage of Alan A. Parker, the former general counsel of the Committee on the Judiciary.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would first like to thank the gentleman for her support of this important legislation, but also to thank her for remembering Mr. Parker and his contribution not only to the Judiciary Committee, but to this entire Congress and our country. Her words are well taken, and I thank her for them.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2832, 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.

COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF MINERAL RIGHTS ACT OF 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3881) to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to repeal provisions relating only to the Allegheny National Forest, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3881

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 "Cooperative Management of Mineral Rights Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF PROVISIONS REGARDING THE ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST.

(a) REPEAL.—Subsection (o) of section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226) and 2508 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486; 106 Stat. 3108) are repealed.

(b) NOTICE REQUIREMENT NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed or interpreted to (1) limit, modify, or otherwise affect the existing requirement to provide in writing 60-day advance notice of specific activities in accordance with the order dated December 16, 1980 in the case *United States of America v. Minard Run Oil Company*, 1980 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 9570 (W.D. Pa., Dec. 16, 1980); or (2) limit existing authority of the Forest Service under 16 U.S.C. 551.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. 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 Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the opportunity to bring my legislation, the Cooperative Management of Mineral Rights Act of 2016, to the floor today.

The Speaker's Task Force on Reducing Regulatory Burdens cited many examples from across the country of how our Nation's regulatory system is constricting both job growth and economic development. This legislation solves one such example in my district, where gross regulatory overreach by the U.S. Forest Service, in partnership with environmental groups, sought to halt American energy production in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

This energy production has occurred for generations in the region through conventional methods and remains a staple industry throughout many communities in the region. More recently, responsible energy development in the Marcellus shale has occurred in my district, which has pushed the United States to lead the world in energy production.

Just a few years ago, American families were forced to pay absurd energy prices and to look to foreign countries to meet our energy needs. Today, Pennsylvanian energy is reducing

prices and meeting our Nation's demands, while also employing thousands of American workers.

For years, the Forest Service had worked cooperatively on a balanced approach to ensure responsible energy development could occur in the Allegheny National Forest. This balanced approach was tossed aside when the Forest Service sought to put crippling new regulations into place on privately held mineral rights in my district. After years of litigation, the courts decisively ruled against the Forest Service's authority to implement such regulation.

This legislation simply codifies what the courts have already ruled, restoring a balanced management approach to the Allegheny National Forest. Part of this balanced approach includes companies providing advance notice before commencing operations, which they have done for decades. While nothing in my bill circumvents this requirement, I was pleased to work with my colleague across the aisle, Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee Ranking Member ALAN LOWENTHAL, to accept his amendment to make this point crystal clear.

Today the House ends just one example of Federal overreach that has put the well-being of many families in my district in jeopardy. It is my hope that the House can continue to roll back the red tape to generate greater American prosperity.

I urge adoption of the measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

H.R. 3881 is a bill that would repeal some unnecessary, redundant parts of the U.S. Code related to private oil and gas rights of the Allegheny National Forest.

The intent, as the sponsor indicated, is to ensure that the owners of those mineral rights are allowed to exercise them and drill within the boundaries as legal. While those rights are certainly valid and should be respected, the U.S. Forest Service also has certain rights that have also been confirmed by the courts, for instance, the right to receive 60 days' advance notice before any drilling begins.

The introduced draft of this legislation initially raised the possibility that it could have inadvertently overturned the court cases and precedences guaranteeing that advance notice and other rights of the U.S. Forest Service.

Thankfully, in markup, the sponsor of the legislation and the majority on the Natural Resources Committee agreed to accept an amendment offered by my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL), which made it completely clear that this bill does not affect the right of the Forest Service to get this advance notice or any other valid right of the Forest Service, nor does it negatively impact any other rights the Forest Service has to oversee activities in national forests and to protect forest resources pursuant to the law.

This bill, as amended, simply repeals language that some have interpreted as potentially infringing on private property rights. Passing this bill would not have an impact on how oil and gas operations are conducted in the Allegheny National Forest or in any national forest nationwide.

I thank the sponsor of this bill for working with the Democrats on the committee to craft a workable response that hopefully will pass by unanimous consent. I ask my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his support of this piece of legislation, and I urge passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3881, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1700

BOLTS DITCH ACCESS AND USE ACT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4510) to insure adequate use and access to the existing Bolts Ditch headgate and ditch segment within the Holy Cross Wilderness in Eagle County, Colorado, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4510

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 “Bolts Ditch Access and Use Act”.

SEC. 2. BOLTS DITCH ACCESS.

(a) ACCESS GRANTED.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall permit by special use authorization nonmotorized access and use, in accordance with section 293.6 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, of the Bolts Ditch headgate and the Bolts Ditch within the Holy Cross Wilderness, Colorado, as designated by Public Law 96-560, for the purposes of the diversion of water and use, maintenance, and repair of such ditch and headgate by the Town of Minturn, Colorado, a Colorado Home Rule Municipality.

(b) LOCATION OF FACILITIES.—The Bolts Ditch headgate and ditch segment referenced in subsection (a) are as generally depicted on the map entitled “Bolts Ditch headgate and Ditch Segment”, dated November 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 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 Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Since 1882, the town of Minturn, Colorado, has used Bolts Ditch to fill Bolts Lake, a place of recreation for the town and an important source of water for the surrounding community. When Congress passed the Colorado Wilderness Act in 1980, 450 feet of Bolts Ditch was inadvertently included in the Holy Cross Wilderness area, which led to questions about the town's ability to access this important infrastructure. After a discussion amongst stakeholders, the town agreed to seek a legislative solution to address this access issue.

This bipartisan bill simply allows the Forest Service to issue a special use permit to the town of Minturn to allow nonmotorized access to maintain a headgate and water ditch in the Holy Cross Wilderness. This bill ensures the town will have access to Bolts Ditch for basic maintenance needs. H.R. 4510 was developed in consultation with the community and the Forest Service, and it enjoys support from a wide range of groups in the region.

I urge the adoption of the bill.

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

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

I thank Chairman BISHOP for bringing H.R. 4510, the Bolts Ditch Access and Use Act, to the floor today.

I introduced this simple but very important piece of legislation at the request of the local community of Minturn, in Eagle County, because it improves public land, water, and communities in my district.

This bill has bipartisan support from the Colorado delegation. I thank Mr. TIPTON and Mr. LAMBORN for partnering with me on this bill here in the House. In the Senate, Senator GARDNER and Senator BENNET have partnered to pass this bill as well. I am also thankful to the town of Minturn, to the conservation community, and to water utilities for working together for a commonsense solution that we can all support. This is an example of how we can solve a problem when everybody comes together.

The need for this legislation is to solve a vital local problem for the peo-

ple of Minturn, Colorado, a town of about 1,000 people in Eagle County, which is in our Rocky Mountains in Colorado. The problem it fixes results from a mistake in the 1980 Wilderness Act, which inadvertently left Bolts Ditch off of the list of existing water facilities which it should have been included on. This legislation would authorize a special use of the Bolts Ditch headgate and the segment of the Bolts Ditch within the Holy Cross Wilderness area, allowing Minturn to use its existing water right to fill Bolts Lake.

The residents of Minturn who brought this bill to me, as well as Coloradans across the central mountains, have long relied on water infrastructure like Bolts Ditch to access clean and affordable drinking water. This bill will ensure that the town of Minturn is able to utilize a crucial resource and to do so without compromising the sanctity of the surrounding wilderness areas.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers on this piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority and minority staffs of the committee for working with us on this bill. It is very important to the people of Minturn and to our central mountain region in Colorado, so I urge its passage.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this is important infrastructure for this community in Colorado.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4510, 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.

FORT FREDERICA NATIONAL MONUMENT BOUNDARY EXPANSION ACT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3480) to expand the boundary of Fort Frederica National Monument in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3480

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 “Fort Frederica National Monument Boundary Expansion Act”.