

of legislation and for bringing this to our attention and bringing this process to the floor. I urge its support.

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. 4202, 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.

—————

EXEMPTING IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION OF SEA URCHINS AND SEA CUCUMBERS FROM ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4245) to exempt importation and exportation of sea urchins and sea cucumbers from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4245

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

SECTION 1. EXEMPTION OF EXPORTATION OF CERTAIN ECHINODERMS AND MOLLUSKS FROM PERMISSION AND LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) *EXEMPTION.*—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall amend section 14.92 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, to clarify that—

(1) fish or wildlife described in subsection (b) are fishery products exempt from the export permission requirements of section 9(d)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1538(d)(1)); and

(2) any person may engage in business as an exporter of such fish or wildlife without procuring permission under such section of that Act or an export license under subpart I of part 14 of such title.

(b) *COVERED FISH OR WILDLIFE.*—The fish or wildlife referred to in subsection (a) are members of the phylum Echinodermata that are commonly known as sea urchins and sea cucumbers, and members of the phylum Mollusca that are commonly known as squid, octopus, and cuttlefish, including products thereof, that—

(1) do not require a permit under part 16, 17, or 23 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations;

(2) are harvested in waters under the jurisdiction of the United States or are processed in the United States; and

(3) are—

(A) exported for purposes of human or animal consumption; or

(B) taken in waters under the jurisdiction of the United States or on the high seas for recreational purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) 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 have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material 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, H.R. 4245, introduced by our Maine colleagues, CHELLIE PINGREE and BRUCE POLQUIN, makes a common-sense adjustment to the Federal law to eliminate regulatory duplication.

This bipartisan bill, as reported, protects fishermen, small businesses, and their fresh, domestically harvested seafood destined for export by exempting them from the duplicative U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service inspections and permits.

During the legislative hearing on H.R. 4245, both sides of the aisle expressed concerns over these inspections, especially on sea urchin. In fact, one of our minority colleagues said it best when he called the inspections dramatic overkill. In addition, one witness discussed how Federal inspection delays have spoiled shipments that cost businesses thousands of dollars. This bill removes that Federal delay.

I commend our Maine colleagues for working on a bipartisan basis to address this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an exchange of letters with the chairmen of the House Ways and Means and the Foreign Affairs Committees regarding this bill. We thank them for agreeing to help expedite consideration on this bill today.

I urge the adoption of this common-sense measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, July 7, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On December 10, 2015, the Committee on Natural Resources favorably reported as amended H.R. 4245, to exempt exportation of certain echinoderms and mollusks from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. This bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means and Foreign Affairs. My staff has forwarded the reported text to your committee for review.

Based on this text, I ask that you allow the Committee on Ways and Means to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Ways and Means represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources to memorialize our understanding, as well as in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request, and I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman,
Committee on Natural Resources.

—————

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, July 7, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BISHOP: Thank you for your letter concerning H.R. 4245, to exempt the importation and exportation of sea urchins and sea cucumbers from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act. As you note, the Committee on Ways and Means was granted an additional referral.

I appreciate your willingness to work with my Committee on this legislation. In order to allow H.R. 4245 to move expeditiously to the House floor, I agree to waive formal consideration of this bill. The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration on H.R. 4245 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman.

—————

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, August 30, 2016.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On December 10, 2015, the Committee on Natural Resources favorably reported as amended H.R. 4245, to exempt exportation of certain echinoderms and mollusks from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. This bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Ways and Means. My staff has forwarded the reported text to your committee for review.

Based on this text, I ask that you allow the Committee on Foreign Affairs to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Foreign Affairs represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources to memorialize our understanding, as well as in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request, and I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman,
Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, August 31, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on your committee-reported text of H.R. 4245, a bill to exempt exportation of certain echinoderms and mollusks from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

I agree that the Foreign Affairs Committee may be discharged from further action on this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the Floor, subject to the understanding that this waiver does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Foreign Affairs Committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. The Committee also reserves the right to seek an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this bill, and would appreciate your support for any such request.

I ask that you place our exchange of letters into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE), the sponsor of this bill.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) for yielding the time, and I also thank my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for speaking in support of this as well.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4245, a bill that will end the practice of export inspections for sea urchin, sea cucumbers, squid, and cuttlefish that are being shipped overseas as part of our Nation's fisheries and fish processing industry.

At the outset, I want to thank Chairman BISHOP, subcommittee Chairman FLEMING, Ranking Member GRIJALVA, and my good friend from California, Ranking Member HUFFMAN, for their support and help in getting this bill through the committee and to the House floor today. I want to recognize my friend and colleague from Maine (Mr. POLIQUIN) who has been an original cosponsor of this bill and a tireless supporter of this effort.

To better understand this bill, I would like to tell you a little bit about the sea urchin industry in Maine, which is a critical part of our marine economy. Second only to California, the sea urchin industry in Maine brings over \$5.4 million to our State every year and supports 600 jobs, which includes harvesters up and down our beautiful coast.

Companies in Maine also process urchins that are harvested here, as well as those from Canada and Chile, before being exported overseas. In Japan and other parts of Asia, urchins are a valuable delicacy, known in sushi restaurants as uni. They are also a delicacy here in the United States and are very highly regarded.

Urchins imported to Maine from other countries are inspected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service upon entering the country. Relatively recently, the Fish and Wildlife Service has begun inspecting the products once again before leaving the country. The policy change ended a longtime exemption that urchins had received, an exemption that lobster and other shellfish continue to receive.

Over 18 months ago, I started hearing from urchin processors in Maine who reported problems with this recent change. Sometimes the urchins sat in a hot warehouse in New York—usually at the JFK Airport—for days waiting for an inspection, possibly resulting in the loss of a very valuable and highly perishable product.

Since these are such a perishable product, despite the harvesters' and processors' speedy work to get the urchins ready for shipment, once they reached the inspection point in New York, they often came to a halt.

I immediately started working with the Fish and Wildlife Service to try and find a solution. Even though we haven't always seen eye to eye with the Fish and Wildlife Service, they have been very willing to hear our concerns, work with us on particular problems, and try to make things easier on our harvesters and processors.

We had a very recent example. Last Friday afternoon, my office received a call from an urchin processor who had \$50,000 worth of product soon to be sitting at the JFK Airport. The Fish and Wildlife Service had closed this Friday, meaning that the urchins would be left over a 3-day weekend. We were able to get it cleared, but it was a very close call. Stories like this make it clear that the only real solution is to get rid of this duplicative inspection, and this is what this bill would do.

After working with the Fish and Wildlife Service, talking to urchin harvesters, and visiting a processing plant in my district, I firmly believe that these extra inspections are unnecessary. There is no reason why sea urchins should be treated differently than shellfish.

These burdensome inspections create a great deal of risk for valuable exports and too much uncertainty for a job-creating industry. As communities on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts deal with challenges to commercial fishing and working waterfronts, it is critical that Congress do everything it can to support successful industries like sea urchins in Maine or squid and cuttlefish in California, Rhode Island, and other States.

I am very proud to have introduced this bipartisan legislation, and I en-

courage my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this piece of legislation.

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. 4245, 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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to exempt exportation of certain echinoderms and mollusks from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973."

ESTABLISHMENT OF A VISITOR SERVICES FACILITY ON THE ARLINGTON RIDGE TRACT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4789) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a structure for visitor services on the Arlington Ridge tract, in the area of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4789

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term "Arlington Ridge tract" means the parcel of Federal land located in Arlington County, Virginia, known as the Nevius Tract and transferred to the Department of the Interior in 1953, that is bounded generally by—

- (1) Arlington Boulevard (United States Route 50) to the north;
- (2) Jefferson Davis Highway (Virginia Route 110) to the east;
- (3) Marshall Drive to the south; and
- (4) North Meade Street to the west.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A VISITOR SERVICES FACILITY ON THE ARLINGTON RIDGE TRACT.

Notwithstanding section 2863(g) of Public Law 107-107, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to construct a structure for visitor services to include a public restroom facility on the Arlington Ridge tract in the area of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) 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.