

and the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District for Transferring Title to the Federally Owned Maintenance Complex and District Office to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District (Agreement No. 14AG640141).

(2) **DISTRICT OFFICE.**—The term “District Office” means the headquarters building located at 2440 East Main, Davis, Oklahoma, and the approximately 0.83 acres described in the Agreement.

(3) **MAINTENANCE COMPLEX.**—The term “Maintenance Complex” means the caretakers residence, shop buildings, and any appurtenances located on the lands described in the Agreement, to include approximately 2.00 acres, more or less.

(c) **LIABILITY.**—Effective upon the date of conveyance of the Maintenance Complex and District Office under this section, the United States shall not be held liable by any court for damages of any kind arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to the Maintenance Complex and District Office, except for damages caused by acts of negligence committed by the United States or by its employees or agents prior to the date of conveyance. Nothing in this section increases the liability of the United States beyond that provided in chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (popularly known as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”) on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) **BENEFITS.**—After conveyance of the Maintenance Complex and District Office to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District—

(1) the Maintenance Complex and District Office shall not be considered to be a part of a Federal reclamation project; and

(2) such water district shall not be eligible to receive any benefits with respect to any facility comprising that Maintenance Complex and District Office, except benefits that would be available to a similarly situated person with respect to such a facility that is not part of a Federal reclamation project.

(e) **COMMUNICATION.**—If the Secretary of the Interior has not completed the conveyance required under subsection (a) within 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a letter with sufficient detail that explains the reasons the conveyance has not been completed and stating the date by which the conveyance will be completed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. 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 Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill, H.R. 1219, sponsored by the great Congressman from Oklahoma, allows a water district in Oklahoma to take ownership of two buildings and 2 acres of land that they have paid for, they have operated, and they have maintained for the last several decades. Unfortunately, they still remain in Federal ownership, and they need this legislation to actually transfer it

to relieve the district of burdensome paperwork and also relieve the Federal Government of some liability.

This bill has been done 27 other times over the last two decades, which simply means there needs to be some kind of reform in the process to remove the slow pace of the Bureau of Reclamation so we don't have to go through such a complicated effort for such a worthy cause.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1219 is a straightforward, reasonable piece of legislation worthy of passage. The bill would allow a title transfer of two Federal buildings to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District in south central Oklahoma.

□ 1345

These buildings are part of the Arbuckle Project, which is a water project, authorized by Congress in 1962, to provide flood control, recreational opportunities, and municipal water supply.

Nearly all of the facilities within the Arbuckle Project were already transferred to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District in 2012 after the district finished repaying what it owed the Federal Government for construction. However, due to some overly narrow language in the legislation authorizing the Arbuckle Project, two buildings within the project have yet to be transferred.

Transferring the two remaining buildings will save taxpayer money that would otherwise be needed to operate and maintain the buildings and will also relieve the Federal Government of any potential future liability associated with the buildings. This is straightforward legislation that should be quickly passed.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend for yielding, and I certainly want to thank him for moving this expeditiously through his committee and onto the floor. I want to associate myself with his remarks about the need for reform because this is a fairly routine matter.

I rise in support of H.R. 1219, the Arbuckle Project Maintenance Complex and District Office Conveyance Act. This bill is a straightforward land conveyance, which has both Federal and local support.

H.R. 1219 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain lands and buildings of the Arbuckle Project, in Murray County, Oklahoma, to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District.

In 1962, Congress authorized the payment of reimbursable costs for construction, operation, and maintenance

of the Bureau of Reclamation's Arbuckle Master Conservancy District in south-central Oklahoma. The district completed repayment of the capital costs of the project in September of 2012.

In accordance with the Bureau of Reclamation's policy framework for title transfer, in December 2014, the Bureau of Reclamation and the district executed an agreement to transfer, in fee title, certain facilities that could be more efficiently and effectively managed at the local level.

The title transfer involves approximately 2.83 acres of land. On this land is a small house, associated structures, and the conservancy district's headquarters office building. The House and property are used to accommodate a district employee who maintains and inspects the dam and the pumping facilities. The headquarters office building is the base of operation for the district.

This bill also divests the Federal Government of its responsibility and liability associated with the district's facilities. Reclamation and the district have worked cooperatively and successfully to address all of the elements necessary to bring this legislation forward and make this transfer proceed as smoothly as possible.

I am pleased that this bill is an agreement with which both the Federal and local interests are satisfied.

I want to urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation. Again, I want to thank the chairman for his help in this matter.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, again, like I said, this is straightforward legislation that should be quickly passed. We urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill, and I urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1219, 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. BISHOP of Utah. 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.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS ECONOMIC EXPANSION ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6401) to amend Public Law 94-241 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6401

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 “Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act”.

SEC. 2. COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS: TRANSITIONAL WORKERS.

Section 6 of Public Law 94-241 (48 U.S.C. 1806) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(6), by striking “\$150” and inserting “\$200”; and

(2) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) by striking the period at the end of the first sentence and inserting “, except a permit for construction occupations (as that term is defined by the Department of Labor as Standard Occupational Classification Group 47-0000 or any successor provision) shall only be issued to extend a permit first issued before October 1, 2015.”; and

(B) by striking the period at the end of the third sentence and inserting “, except that for fiscal year 2017 the number of permits issued shall not exceed 15,000.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. 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 Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support this excellent piece of legislation. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is experiencing an economic resurgence, and they have for the last several years. However, there is a challenge on maintaining a capable workforce to sustain that growth on the island, especially as they are phasing out the use of foreign workers.

To do that, the phasing out, which is occurring at a rate that actually is detrimental to sustaining economic growth, we need to provide some kind of flexibility to the Northern Mariana Islands to meet this challenge. This bill does it in three specific ways, each of which is a commonsense solution to a very, very complex issue. It is a great bill, and I urge its adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman BISHOP for allowing this bill to come to the floor. I appreciate it very much.

The economy of the Northern Mariana Islands grew at a rate of 3.5 percent last year, the fourth straight year of growth for my district. The Bureau of Economic Analysis announced the new data a week ago.

This strong economic expansion is good news for the people of the North-

ern Mariana Islands. We desperately want this growth to continue because our economy is still only three-quarters of what it was in 2000. But there is a problem with keeping that growth going—our limited population.

For that reason, I have introduced, with Congressman RADEWAGEN, bipartisan legislation, H.R. 6401, the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support for H.R. 6401 from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' Governor, Ralph DLG. Torres; the CNMI Strategic Economic Development Council; the Office of the Senate President, Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature; the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation; the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands; and from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, SAIPAN,

MP, DECEMBER 4, 2016.

Hon. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SABLÁN: I write to support H.R. 6401, critical legislation that will provide short-term relief from the labor shortage facing the Commonwealth that threatens our growing economy and public health.

The latest report from Bureau of Economic Analysis indicates the Commonwealth economy grew for the fourth consecutive year. A growing economy needs a qualified workforce. And while there are now more U.S. workers than foreign workers in the Northern Marianas for the first time in decades, there are still not enough to meet the labor demand. The temporary increase in the number of Commonwealth-Only Transitional (CW) workers provided in your bill will particularly help small businesses retain the workers needed to maintain operations.

Most importantly, the Commonwealth's only hospital, stand to lose critical staff including 34 staff nurses, two infection control nurses, a clinical laboratory scientist and specialists in mammography, ultrasonography without the relief provided in H.R. 6401.

Building a qualified U.S. workforce in the Northern Marianas is a priority for my administration. The CW worker fee increase in the legislation will provide additional funding for efforts to recruit, educate, and train these workers and establish a permanent pool of workers to fill local jobs.

H.R. 6401 is critical to continued economic growth in the Northern Marianas. The bill has my full support.

Sincerely,

RALPH DLG TORRES,
Governor.

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CNMI STRATEGIC ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL,
December 1, 2016.

Hon. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SABLÁN: The CNMI Strategic Economic Development Committee is in strong support of H.R. 6401, critical legislation that will provide short-term relief from the labor shortage threatening the growth of the Northern Marianas economy.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis indicates the Commonwealth economy grew for the fourth consecutive year, a recent high of 3.5 percent. This is attributable to increased private investment and tourism now threatened by the lack of available qualified workers on the island.

The modest one-year increase in Commonwealth-Only Transitional Workers (CW) proposed under H.R. 6401, will provide the business community with the necessary human resources to continue to operate and propel an expanding economy.

It is imperative that we do not stymie our plan for future economic growth, now beginning to come to fruition, with a labor shortage in critical areas.

The bill also provides additional funds for the job training/education programs proven effective at expanding the pool of qualified and skilled U.S. workers in the CNMI.

The CNMI Strategic Economic Development Council fully supports H.R. 6401 and appreciates all of your efforts in addressing the labor crisis in the Northern Marianas.

Very truly yours,

ALEXANDER A. SABLÁN,
Sub Committee Chair-
man, Labor & CW
Task Force, CNMI
Strategic Economic
Development Com-
mittee.

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OFFICE OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT,
NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE,

Saipan, MP, December 6, 2016.

Hon. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SABLÁN: As President of the Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, I am in strong support of H.R. 6401, critical legislation that increases the FY 2017 cap on Commonwealth-only Transitional Workers (CW) to ensure continued economic growth and protect public health.

After more than a decade of decline, our Commonwealth economy is in resurgence. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports our economy grew for the fourth straight year, at a rate of 3.5 percent in 2015. A qualified workforce is necessary to sustain our businesses and attract new investment. While our investment in job training and education has been successful with the number of U.S. workers now outnumbering foreign workers, there are still more jobs than U.S. workers. The temporary increase in CW workers provided in the bill will help meet the demand and ensure that our business community has access to needed labor.

The CW cap also affects our ability to deliver health care services as the Commonwealth's only hospital is facing the loss of many nurses and those in specialized health care positions.

We are also in support of the increase in the CW worker fee as it increase the resources available to educate and train U.S. workers.

H.R. 6401 is critical to the present and future of the Northern Marianas and has my full support.

Sincerely,

FRANCISCO M. BORJA,
President.

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE COR-
PORATION, COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS,

Saipan, December 2, 2016.

Hon. GREGORIO “KILILI” CAMACHO SABLÁN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SABLÁN: Common-
wealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is in
strong support of H.R. 6401.

This critical legislation would provide an increase in the FY 2017 limit on Common-
wealth-only Transitional Workers (CW) and

allow the CHCC to petition for renewal of 39 essential healthcare workers impacted when the CW cap was reached just two weeks into the Fiscal Year.

Our Commonwealth Health Center (CHC) is the only hospital in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, providing inpatient and outpatient acute, chronic, and emergency health care services to the people of the CNMI. We also maintain community health centers on the populated islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Our ability to continue to provide these essential on-island health care services, and maintain quality patient care and safety as well as maintain overall public health, depends on being able to maintain current staffing levels and specialized expertise.

Without an increase to the CW cap this year, CHC stands to lose the services and experience of 34 staff nurses, two infection control nurses, a clinical laboratory scientist and specialists in mammography and ultrasonography.

For the foregoing reasons, we are in full support H.R. 6401 and are grateful for your work in addressing this critical health care issue.

Sincerely,

ESTHER L. MUNA,
Chief Executive Officer.

HOTEL ASSOCIATION OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS,
December 2, 2016.

Hon. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SABLÁN: The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands is in strong support of H.R. 6401, critical legislation that will provide short-term relief from the labor shortage threatening the growing hospitality industry in the Northern Marianas.

Due in large part to increased private investment and tourism the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis recently announced that the Commonwealth economy grew for the fourth consecutive year.

However, our hotel and resort properties are in critical need of labor, particularly those with skills and experience in the hospitality industry, culinary arts and property maintenance. The inability of employers to renew or hire new Commonwealth-Only Transitional Workers (CW) threatens their continued operations and chills future investment in our islands.

The modest one-year increase in CWs, proposed under H.R. 6401, will allow the hospitality industry to continue to provide first-class service to our tourists.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands fully supports H.R. 6401 and appreciates all of your efforts in addressing the labor crisis in the Northern Marianas.

Very truly yours,

GLORIA CAVANAGH,
Chairman.

SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Saipan, December 2, 2016.

Hon. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SABLÁN: The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is in strong support of H.R. 6401, critical legislation that will provide short-term relief from the labor shortage threatening the growth of the Northern Marianas economy.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis indicates the Commonwealth economy grew for the fourth consecutive year, a recent

high of 3.5 percent. This is attributable to increased private investment and tourism now threatened by the lack of available qualified workers on the island.

The modest one-year increase in Commonwealth-Only Transitional Workers (CW) proposed under H.R. 6401, will provide the business community with the necessary human resources to continue to operate and propel an expanding economy. It will also provide additional critical funds for job training and education programs that are steadily expanding the pool of qualified and skilled U.S. workers on Saipan.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce fully supports H.R. 6401 and appreciates all of your efforts in addressing the labor crisis in the Northern Marianas.

Very truly yours,

VELMA M. PALACIOS,
President of the Board.

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank again Chairman ROB BISHOP of the Natural Resources Committee for his understanding and support. I also thank Chairman DON YOUNG, who held a hearing on this issue in September and agreed that action was needed.

I appreciate the support of Ranking Members RAÚL GRIJALVA and RAUL RUIZ. And, of course, Mr. Speaker, I am indebted to the minority whip, Mr. HOYER, and to our majority leader, Mr. MCCARTHY, who agreed to bring H.R. 6401 to the floor today.

I ask my colleagues for the support of H.R. 6401.

Mr. Speaker, The economy of the Northern Mariana Islands grew at a rate of 3 point 5 percent last year and the fourth straight year of growth for my district.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis announced the new data a week ago.

This strong economic expansion is good news for the people of the Mariana Islands. We desperately want this growth to continue. Because our economy is still only three-quarters of what it was in 2000.

But there is a problem with keeping that growth going: our limited population.

For that reason, I have introduced with Congresswoman RADEWAGEN bipartisan legislation, H.R. 6401, the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act.

The Marianas has a very small population—only about 54,000 people. And economic expansion demands not only entrepreneurial capital and investment, which we are suddenly receiving. Economic expansion demands workers, as well.

We have struggled to bring more workers into our labor force.

Isolated as we are—6,000 miles from the U.S. mainland—it is difficult to attract U.S. workers. Our employers to gone everywhere to recruit workers—Guam, the Freely Associated States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. mainland.

We have worked hard to raise the skills of our own local population. A special fee paid by employers of foreign workers has pumped \$6 million into training.

And we are succeeding. Since 2008, the number of U.S. workers has grown. There are 15 percent more U.S. workers in our labor force today than there were ten years ago.

U.S. workers are now the majority of our labor force—a huge turnaround for us.

But we still find ourselves short of the workers we need—especially at this moment, when there are hundreds of millions of dollars of new tourism development being invested in our islands.

H.R. 6401 does several things:

First, it will put more money into that training fund that is proving so successful at helping put our people to work.

The bill also allows us to bring in a limited, additional number of foreign workers under the Commonwealth-only Transitional Worker program that was set up under federal law to help us build our U.S. labor force.

The Transitional Worker program has reduced the number of foreign workers in the Marianas year after year.

But this year the sudden increase in investment in new hotels and other tourism businesses has left us short.

H.R. 6401 would give us an extra 2,000 workers—the same number as we were allowed in 2013—and only for the remainder of this fiscal year.

This is a short-term fix to address an unexpected—and very welcome—change in the economic fortunes of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bill will also help us avoid this worker shortage in the years to come.

Part of the problem this year has been that employers are not using other federal programs that can provide temporary labor for construction projects of the size and scale that are being built in the Marianas.

So, H.R. 6401 bars employers from using the Transitional program we have in the Marianas for new construction.

This shift will not slow the economic expansion we have right now.

But it will allow us to continue reducing the number of foreign workers permitted under the Transitional program.

It will continue the conversion to a predominantly U.S. labor force, which is our long-term goal.

In closing, I want to thank Chairman ROB BISHOP of the Natural Resources Committee for his understanding and support.

Thanks, also, to Chairman DON YOUNG, who held a hearing on these issues in September and agreed that action was needed.

I appreciate the support of Ranking Members RAUL GRIJALVA and RAUL RUIZ.

And, of course, I am indebted to the Minority Whip Mr. HOYER and to our Majority Leader Mr. MCCARTHY, who agreed to bring H.R. 6401 to the floor today.

And I ask my colleagues for their support for H.R. 6401.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent bill, and I urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6401.

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.

PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY TO THE RESERVATION OF THE SILETZ TRIBE IN THE STATE OF OREGON

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 817) to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon.

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

S. 817

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

SECTION 1. PURPOSE; CLARIFICATION.

(a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this Act is to facilitate fee-to-trust applications for the Siletz Tribe within the geographic area specified in the amendment made by this Act.

(b) **CLARIFICATION.**—Except as specifically provided otherwise by this Act or the amendment made by this Act, nothing in this Act or the amendment made by this Act, shall prioritize for any purpose the claims of any federally recognized Indian tribe over the claims of any other federally recognized Indian tribe.

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OF THE SILETZ TRIBE OF THE STATE OF OREGON.

Section 7 of the Siletz Tribe Indian Restoration Act (25 U.S.C. 711e) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) **TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

“(A) **TITLE.**—The Secretary may accept title to any additional number of acres of real property located within the boundaries of the original 1855 Siletz Coast Reservation established by Executive order dated November 9, 1855, comprised of land within the political boundaries of Benton, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln, Tillamook, and Yamhill Counties in the State of Oregon, if that real property is conveyed or otherwise transferred to the United States by or on behalf of the tribe.

“(B) **TRUST.**—Land to which title is accepted by the Secretary under this paragraph shall be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the tribe.

“(2) **TREATMENT AS PART OF RESERVATION.**—All real property that is taken into trust under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) be considered and evaluated as an on-reservation acquisition under part 151.10 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and

“(B) become part of the reservation of the tribe.

“(3) **PROHIBITION ON GAMING.**—Any real property taken into trust under paragraph (1) shall not be eligible, or used, for any gaming activity carried out under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers 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 Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill deals with the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon. It is a bill that the tribe could apply to have land placed in trust within the original 1855 boundaries of their reservation. The bill prohibits gaming on land acquired in trust under this bill and is identical to a version of H.R. 3211 that we dealt with in our committee.

I think it is a good bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 817 will grant the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon the ability to more easily restore their tribal lands.

The tribe's original lands were greatly diminished by the Federal Government during the disastrous allotment and assimilation period of the late 1800s. Thus, the Western Oregon Indian Termination Act of 1954 terminated their Federal status and eliminated their remaining land base altogether. The tribe was rightly restored in 1977 but has had trouble reacquiring parts of their original land base due to the nature of their restoration.

Passage of S. 817 will finally address this issue, so the tribe will no longer have to face delays in dealing with the Department of Interior when taking certain land into trust. This is the culmination of nearly 3 decades of effort by the Siletz tribe. I congratulate them on their tireless work and perseverance.

I also want to commend Senator WYDEN for promoting this legislation, and our colleague from Oregon, Mr. SCHRADER, for championing the House version of the bill.

I urge the adoption of S. 817.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I urge consideration of this bill favorably.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 817.

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.

AMENDING THE GRAND RONDE RESERVATION ACT TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 818) to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 818

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

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL LAND FOR GRAND RONDE RESERVATION.

Section 1 of Public Law 100-425 (commonly known as the “Grand Ronde Reservation Act”) (25 U.S.C. 713f note; 102 Stat. 1594; 104 Stat. 207; 108 Stat. 708; 108 Stat. 4566; 112 Stat. 1896), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by striking “Subject to valid existing rights, including (but not limited to) all” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to valid existing rights, including all”; and

(ii) by inserting “(referred to in this Act as the ‘Tribes’)” before the period at the end;

(B) in the second sentence, by striking “Such land” and inserting the following:

“(2) **TREATMENT.**—The land referred to in paragraph (1)”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **ADDITIONAL TRUST ACQUISITIONS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may accept title in and to any additional real property located within the boundaries of the original 1857 reservation of the Tribes (as established by the Executive order dated June 30, 1857, and comprised of land within the political boundaries of Polk and Yamhill Counties, Oregon), if that real property is conveyed or otherwise transferred to the United States by, or on behalf of, the Tribes.

“(B) **TREATMENT OF TRUST LAND.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—An application to take land into trust within the boundaries of the original 1857 reservation of the Tribes shall be treated by the Secretary as an on-reservation trust acquisition.

(ii) **GAMING.**—

(I) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subclause (II), real property taken into trust pursuant to this paragraph shall not be eligible, or used, for any class II gaming or class III gaming (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

(II) **EXCEPTION.**—Subclause (I) shall not apply to any real property located within 2 miles of the gaming facility in existence on the date of enactment of this paragraph located on State Highway 18 in the Grand Ronde community, Oregon.

(C) **RESERVATION.**—All real property taken into trust within the boundaries described in subparagraph (A) at any time after September 9, 1988, shall be considered to be a part of the reservation of the Tribes.”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding the table, by striking “in subsection (a) are approximately 10,311.60” and inserting “in subsection (a)(1) are the approximately 11,349.92”; and

(B) by striking the table and inserting the following: