

travel across research center property to access their facilities.

The three Federal agencies have discussed concerns over crossing property lines, the need to have uninterrupted access to the properties, and the need to improve security near perimeter fencing of the research center. The agencies have identified properties suitable for exchange on their boundaries which will provide public access to the farm while providing the means to improve security outside the fencing of the research center and the Central Intelligence Agency. Though the immediate security concerns have previously been addressed through a temporary agreement, legislation is needed to codify the land exchange.

I include in the RECORD an exchange of letters to Chairman BILL SHUSTER of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the responses. We thank them for agreeing to help expedite consideration of this bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, July 5, 2017.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On June 27, 2017, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered favorably reported without amendment H.R. 1397, to authorize, direct, facilitate, and expedite the transfer of administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal land. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, with an additional referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I ask that you allow the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure 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 Transportation and Infrastructure 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 for the extraordinary cooperation shown by you and your staff over matters of shared jurisdiction. I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, July 5, 2017.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN BISHOP: Thank you for your letter concerning H.R. 1397, to authorize, direct, facilitate, and expedite the transfer of administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal land. As noted, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure received an additional referral on this legislation.

In order to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 1397, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure agrees to forgo action on this bill. However, as you noted, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill would not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. Should a conference on the bill be necessary, I appreciate your agreement to support my request to have the Committee represented on the conference committee.

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter and for agreeing to place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the bill report and the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1397 authorizes the National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration to comply with a longstanding agreement regarding two parcels of land near Claude Moore Colonial Farm in McLean, Virginia.

Specifically, the bill transfers a small parcel within the boundary of the George Washington Memorial Parkway from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Transportation. The bill also transfers a half acre within the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center from the Department of Transportation to the Department of the Interior.

Simply put, this bill permits a one-time land transfer that was agreed to 15 years ago. Ultimately, this will improve management efficiency and save taxpayer money.

The bill is noncontroversial and has been a longstanding legislative priority of the National Park Service. I commend the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. COMSTOCK) for her bipartisanship, and I urge my colleagues to support its adoption.

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. COMSTOCK).

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 1397, which would authorize this Federal land exchange between the National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration.

As has been discussed, at issue is the jurisdiction of an access road adjacent to the Claude Moore Colonial Farm, a privately funded living history museum which is part of the National Park Service and in my district in McLean, Virginia.

Claude Moore Farm is a wonderful way to experience what life was like on a small family farm for the average family in the late 1700s, not the plantations that we often see preserved, but a very small, average family farm.

Claude Moore Farm is tucked in right next to the CIA, as has been mentioned, and the jurisdiction of this particular access road off of George Washington Memorial Parkway has not been clear and has resulted in confusion and unnecessary security concerns.

Over the years, general use of this access road has set off security alarms at Langley. And this confusion has not only been difficult for security personnel; it has also cost taxpayer resources.

On September 11, 2002, the National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration entered into an agreement under which the transfer of administrative jurisdiction, management, and maintenance of the lands in question were agreed upon. Since then, the two parties have been abiding by these rules.

What this agreement does now is make this permanent in a legislative fix. It is a commonsense, bipartisan bill. We worked on this with Senator WARNER also. Last year he was able to get it attached to the energy package, but that did not pass, so we now need this to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this straightforward, non-controversial bill.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAHOOD. 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 Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1397.

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. LAHOOD. 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.

PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE LAND CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1404) to provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Tucson Unified School District and to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1404

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 "Pascua Yaqui Tribe Land Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) DISTRICT.—The term “District” means the Tucson Unified School District No. 1, a school district recognized as such under the laws of the State of Arizona.

(2) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map titled “‘Pascua Yaqui Tribe Land Conveyance Act”, dated March 14, 2016, and on file and available for public inspection in the local office of the Bureau of Land Management.

(3) RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSES ACT.—The term “Recreation and Public Purposes Act” means the Act of June 14, 1926 (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, a federally recognized Indian tribe.

SEC. 3. LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST.

(a) PARCEL A.—Subject to subsection (b) and to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the approximately 39.65 acres of Federal lands generally depicted on the map as “Parcel A” are declared to be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall take effect on the day after the date on which the District relinquishes all right, title, and interest of the District in and to the approximately 39.65 acres of land described in subsection (a).

SEC. 4. LANDS TO BE CONVEYED TO THE DISTRICT.

(a) PARCEL B.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights and payment to the United States of the fair market value, the United States shall convey to the District all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the approximately 13.24 acres of Federal lands generally depicted on the map as “Parcel B”.

(2) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The fair market value of the property to be conveyed under paragraph (1) shall be determined by the Secretary in accordance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions and the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(3) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—As a condition of the conveyance under this subsection, all costs associated with the conveyance shall be paid by the District.

(b) PARCEL C.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If, not later than 1 year after the completion of the appraisal required by paragraph (3), the District submits to the Secretary an offer to acquire the Federal reversionary interest in all of the approximately 27.5 acres of land conveyed to the District under Recreation and Public Purposes Act and generally depicted on the map as “Parcel C”, the Secretary shall convey to the District such reversionary interest in the lands covered by the offer. The Secretary shall complete the conveyance not later than 30 days after the date of the offer.

(2) SURVEY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete a survey of the lands described in this subsection to determine the precise boundaries and acreage of the lands subject to the Federal reversionary interest.

(3) APPRAISAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete an appraisal of the Federal reversionary interest in the lands identified by the survey required by paragraph (2). The appraisal shall be completed in accordance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions and the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(4) CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the conveyance of the Federal reversionary interest under this subsection, the District shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the appraised value of the Federal interest, as determined under paragraph (3). The consideration shall be paid not later than 30 days after the date of the conveyance.

(5) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—As a condition of the conveyance under this subsection, all costs associated with the conveyance, including the cost of the survey required by paragraph (2) and the appraisal required by paragraph (3), shall be paid by the District.

SEC. 5. GAMING PROHIBITION.

The Tribe may not conduct gaming activities on lands taken into trust pursuant to this Act, either as a matter of claimed inherent authority, under the authority of any Federal law, including the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), or under regulations promulgated by the Secretary or the National Indian Gaming Commission.

SEC. 6. WATER RIGHTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be no Federal reserved right to surface water or groundwater for any land taken into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe under this Act.

(b) STATE WATER RIGHTS.—The Tribe retains any right or claim to water under State law for any land taken into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe under this Act.

(c) FORFEITURE OR ABANDONMENT.—Any water rights that are appurtenant to land taken into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe under this Act may not be forfeited or abandoned.

(d) ADMINISTRATION.—Nothing in this Act affects or modifies any right of the Tribe or any obligation of the United States under Public Law 95-375.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) and the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1404, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Land Conveyance Act, sponsored by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), the ranking member on the National Resources Committee.

H.R. 1404 would authorize a land exchange involving the Tribe, the Tucson Unified School District, and the Department of the Interior.

Under the bill, a 39.65-acre parcel of land currently held by the district shall be placed in trust for the benefit of the Tribe if the district relinquishes all right, title, and interest to it.

A 13.24-acre parcel of land shall be sold by the U.S. to the district at fair market value, and a Federal interest of

27.5 acres of land held by the district shall be cleared in exchange for the district paying the appraised value of the Federal interest. The Federal interest is a reversionary interest imposed on certain land patented to the district under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926.

All transfers under the bill are subject to valid existing rights. Gaming pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act would be prohibited on lands taken into trust under the bill.

This bill is substantively similar to the bill the House passed during the 114th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsor. I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this legislation represents the final part of a collaborative land agreement between the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, located in southern Arizona, and the Tucson Unified School District, TUSD.

H.R. 1404 will transfer a 40-acre parcel currently managed by TUSD under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act into a trust for the Tribe. Two additional parcels of land will be transferred to the TUSD, provided that the TUSD pays fair market value so that it may better plan for the future needs of the school district in the areas near the Tribe’s reservation.

I want to commend the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), the ranking member and sponsor of the bill, not only for his leadership on the Natural Resources Committee, but for bringing this legislation forward.

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

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1404, as was stated by my two colleagues, is a culmination of a longstanding land agreement between Tucson Unified School District and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. In the 113th Congress, we finalized part of that agreement with the passage and signing of H.R. 507, which conveyed the two 10-acre parcels.

Both of my colleagues have stated the purpose of the legislation, the need for the legislation. The passage of this bill will complete the second part of that agreement, and both parties involved, as well as the surrounding communities, all see mutual benefit in this.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the bill is acted upon positively, that it passes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman BISHOP for his cooperation in working with our staff to bring this to the floor today, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, briefly, the bill is identical to H.R. 2009, which passed in the 114th Congress by voice vote. That is why, as well as what we have heard today, I urge quick adoption of this legislation once again.

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1404.

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.

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO ACQUIRE CERTAIN PROPERTY RELATED TO THE FORT SCOTT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1541) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain property related to the Fort Scott National Historic Site in Fort Scott, Kansas, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1541

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION TO ACQUIRE LUNETTE BLAIR.

The Act entitled “An Act to authorize establishment of the Fort Scott National Historic Site, Kansas, and for other purposes.”, approved October 19, 1978 (Public Law 95-484) is amended—

(1) in the first section—

(A) by inserting “only” after “donation”; and

(B) by striking “: *Provided*, that the buildings so acquired shall not include the structure known as ‘Lunette Blair’”; and

(2) in section 2—

(A) by striking “When the site of” and inserting “(a) When the site of”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) The boundary of the Fort Scott National Historic Site established under subsection (a) is modified as generally depicted on the map referred to as ‘Fort Scott National Historic Site Proposed Boundary Modification’, numbered 47180,057C, and dated February 2017.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) and the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 1541, sponsored by the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), removes the statutory prohibition preventing the Secretary of the Interior from acquiring a structure known as the Lunette Blair blockhouse and including the structure in the boundary of the Fort Scott National Historic Site.

Congress initially deemed the Lunette Blair blockhouse anachronistic and excluded the structure from the boundaries of the Fort Scott National Historic Site. The National Park Service now wants to add the blockhouse to expand the interpretation of the site and to demonstrate its different roles throughout American history. The private citizens that currently maintain the blockhouse would like to donate the structure to the National Park Service.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support preservation of this unique piece of Kansas’ heritage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1541 authorizes the National Park Service to expand the boundary of the Fort Scott National Historic Site in Fort Scott, Kansas.

□ 1700

Fort Scott was designated as a National Historic Landmark back in 1964. Eight years later, in 1972, Congress established the site as a unit of the National Park Service “to commemorate the significant role played by Fort Scott in the opening of the West, as well as the Civil War and strife in the State of Kansas that preceded it.”

The site is currently a modest 16 acres. The additions authorized by this bill will add approximately 3.8 acres to the park. The properties to be added include the only intact Civil War era building, Civil War entrenchments and fortifications, and home sites of the first African-American families who settled in the area after the war.

Preserving the story of freedom on the frontier is an important goal, and I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill.

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I note that the sponsor, Ms. JENKINS, was unable to be here to speak in support of her bill. She was unavoidably detained in her district due to a flight cancellation today. However, I have her statement in strong support of the measure. On her behalf, I urge adoption of the measure.

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

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1541, legislation that would strike a prohibition in the Fort Scott National Historic Site’s enabling law that prohibited the

incorporation of the structure known as the Lunette Blair blockhouse into the site’s formation.

Fortunately, the blockhouse still sits right across the street from the historic site, where, under the future care of the National Park Service, it can remain on display in perpetuity without disrupting the grounds’ antebellum view shed, successfully linking the site’s frontier fort structures with the community’s Civil War legacy.

Located in the historic town of Fort Scott, Kansas, the Fort Scott National Historic Site preserves the important story of the original frontier fort’s role in nineteenth-century America. It serves as a physical snapshot of the pioneer days of westward migration of a young republic, from its initial construction 175 years ago, and portrays a figurative stepping-stone upon the prairie toward a transcontinental nation.

However, the story of the community of Fort Scott continues from that point on as the town grew around the shuttered fort of the same name. The community’s history itself invokes the violent struggles of the era we all know as Bleeding Kansas and the conflicts of the Civil War.

After the U.S. Army demobilized Fort Scott in 1853 following the collapse of a permanent Indian frontier, private residents purchased the last of its property; the buildings of the old fort became the new town. Soon after, Americans of opposing sentiments, abolitionists, free-staters, and Border Ruffians alike, settled the area throughout the rest of the decade in turmoil. While the territory of Kansas ultimately became the free state of Kansas on January 29, 1861, violent conflict soon engulfed the entire nation.

During the Civil War, the Union Army militarized the town of Fort Scott to store Union supplies and to deter Confederate invasions into Southeast Kansas. The Union Army constructed many fortifications in the surrounding area, including four garrisoned blockhouses, or “lunettes,” fortified structures with designated names, such as Fort Lincoln, Fort Insley, Fort Henning, and Fort Blair, in order to house soldiers and armaments while protecting the town’s approach.

While these structures successfully deterred such attacks, the U.S. War Department considered these four blockhouses as surplus property after the Civil War and sold them at auction to private individuals. The structure called Fort Blair, known locally today as Lunette Blair is the sole remaining Civil War blockhouse standing today.

Mr. Speaker, it is only through the diligent stewardship of the citizens of Fort Scott, Kansas, and their dedication to preserve the community’s heritage, that the Lunette Blair blockhouse still stands after all these years.

Members of the Fort Scott community support the donation of the blockhouse to the National Park Service and this proposal is in line with the sites’ overall mission: to tell the encompassing story of Fort Scott’s role in westward migration and to demonstrate the community’s contribution in preserving our Union during the Civil War.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1541.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the