

to thank our colleagues in the Senate who are also supportive of this particular idea, even if they drafted somewhat of an inartful piece of legislation so we have to come at it one more time.

But there is agreement that this is the proper thing to do so this Commonwealth can actually maintain a steady workforce and maintain an economy that will continue to grow in the future. All the significant players on the island in the territory are in support of what we are attempting to do.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, Chairman BISHOP has just provided an accurate statement of the economic rationale for the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, H.R. 5956.

The Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act will allow the Marianas economy to continue growing so there is ample opportunity for new business investments and for jobs. I want to use my time simply to emphasize that this bill is about jobs—jobs for U.S. workers in my district.

The bill contains new requirements to ensure that no U.S. worker is ever passed over for a job and that wages and working conditions for U.S. workers are always maintained and protected.

It ensures the fees employers pay are put to effective use, providing better training and apprenticeship opportunities for U.S. workers. The bill encourages the continuing conversion of the Marianas economy to one in which, numerically, U.S. workers are predominant. That is why the legislation is titled the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act. That is a statement of our purpose and our goal.

I say “our purpose” because this legislation is the product of a bipartisan and bicameral working group. It included Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA, their committee leader counterparts in the other body, the Judiciary Committee representatives, and myself.

We began in late 2016 working first on the legislation that became Public Law 115-53. It was not easy finding common ground among such a diversity of views. But by listening to each other and because we share a common concern to better the lives of Americans—even Americans in the faraway Marianas—we succeeded in agreeing on this second bill, the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, a very good bill with very good policy.

As a Delegate, Mr. Speaker, I cannot vote for this bill. I can, however, give my vote of thanks to Chairman BISHOP because even a good bill with good policy has to navigate the twists and turns of the legislative process. And without the chairman's leadership, we might not be here on the floor today considering the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act.

I thank the gentleman and leadership on both sides of the aisle, whose attention and cooperation helped me bring this bill to the floor, and thank all of the working group members who helped the people of the Northern Marianas by working with me to draft this legislation.

Lastly, I thank my constituents. Over the last 10 years, they have shared their own experiences with me and given me their ideas on what Federal policy would best fit our islands. I listened to them and spoke for them, and we have incorporated their experiences and their ideas into the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act. I believe my constituents' needs are well represented because this legislation has the full support of the Marianas Governor, the legislature, the business community, and the men and women who meet and talked with me in everyday life.

In closing, I ask my colleagues for their support of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act.

Seeing no other speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands for helping me with this particular bill. I am very grateful also to Governor Torres of the Commonwealth and to the business community there. I think we have found a practical solution to a real problem that could create harm for this Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of that area. I visited it once, and I hope to go back there again and notice the economic growth that continues there in the Northern Marianas.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this bill, and 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. 5956.

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.

NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL ROUTE ADJUSTMENT ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1026) to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1026

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 “North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act”.

SEC. 2. ROUTE ADJUSTMENT.

Section 5(a)(8) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)(8)) is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking “thirty-two hundred miles, extending from eastern New York State” and inserting “4,600 miles, extending from the Appalachian Trail in Vermont”; and

(2) by striking “Proposed North Country Trail” and all that follows through “June 1975.” and inserting “‘North Country National Scenic Trail, Authorized Route’, dated February 2014, and numbered 649/116870.”.

SEC. 3. LAND ACQUISITION.

Neither the Secretary of Agriculture nor the Secretary of the Interior may acquire for the North Country National Scenic Trail land in Minnesota or Vermont that was obtained through condemnation by a State or local government.

SEC. 4. ENERGY.

Nothing in the amendments made by this Act that change the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in Minnesota or Vermont shall prohibit the development, production, conveyance, or transmission of energy in those States, with reasonable efforts made to preserve the nature and purpose of the North Country National Scenic Trail, and to mitigate any damage to that trail and its associated resources caused by such activities.

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.

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

The North Country National Scenic Trail is about 4,000 miles and links scenic, national, historic, and cultural areas across seven States. It goes from basically North Dakota through New York and will eventually end up in Vermont.

The issue at hand here is a section in Minnesota which is about 93 miles that has not been built because it is a swamp. You can't build it there.

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So what this would do—and it is strange we have to pass legislation to do it—is simply authorize to build a trail and go around the swamp which may add some additional miles to it, maybe around 400. It also authorizes at the other end about, maybe 66 miles of potential road from Vermont so that they can all connect to the Appalachian Trail which will create one of the most significant trails, the longest trail that we have to be able to use in this country.

I should say the National Park Service has studied this, they have approved it; and nonetheless, it is still a good idea. I urge its adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN).

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BISHOP for his thoughtful

consideration of this legislation and his very apt, clear, and concise explanation of what it does. I also want to thank our ranking member, Mr. GRIJALVA, and thank the bipartisan sponsorship for this legislation adjusting, expanding, and finishing off this great North Country National Scenic Trail.

As Chairman BISHOP explained, it starts up here at Sakakawea State Park and then travels all the way through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Superior National Forest through Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, New York, and Pennsylvania, all the way up to beautiful Lake Champlain and will connect with the great Appalachian Trail, which my family and I have enjoyed hiking on as well in years past.

So I want to now note with gratitude the fact that virtually all—I am not sure everyone—but most all of the Members, Democrats and Republicans, whose district this trail goes through are cosponsors on the legislation. It enjoys wonderfully good bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, there are millions of people in this country who really enjoy hiking and the camaraderie, the exercise, and all the good things that go along with that. So with this in mind, Chairman BISHOP has already explained the fact that it gets us through this 100 miles of bog. Hats off to the State and local officials and the private landowners. All have agreed to do this without any cost to the public and without any exercise of eminent domain.

Also hats off to the volunteers who enjoy so much of this hiking. I have actually worked on some of the trails myself. Of course, coming out of the sawmill and the pallet construction business, why, I feel pretty good with an ax, a hatchet, and a chain saw, so I have been out myself and volunteered my services to expand these trails.

So with that in mind, I want to thank my good friend from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) for his work, help, and support in bringing this trail all the way up to that beautiful Lake Champlain and then connecting it with the great Appalachian Trail as well.

I think it is important to note that this legislation is not just about trails. It is about good jobs, and it is about good economic development. The fact is that there are millions of Americans who are out here hiking on these trails all the time. They get hungry and they get thirsty. They want to stop somewhere, have a refreshment, have a bite to eat, and support all the local restaurants.

Secondly, hiking causes some exertion, which is why it is good exercise. So they get a little tired along the way, and they want to stop and spend a night or two in local hotels along the way. Of course, they also need some additional equipment or repairs or a new pair of shoes.

The American Hiking Society has determined that, applying the multiplier

effect here, this reaches and results in about \$196 billion a year and supports about 768,000 jobs. I explained here how that happens.

So along with the good-paying jobs, there is this enormous health factor. Experts are telling us now that our youth have a nature deficit in their thinking. In fancy terms it means the kids just don't get out enough anymore. One study indicated that each day the average kid spends 7 minutes outdoors and 7 hours in front of a computer or a TV screen. So we need to get our kids outdoors so they can learn the values and appreciation of the great outdoors. They are probably not going to get a chance to spend any time at Walden Pond, but we can get them out and exercising.

So it is a good bill for economic health; it is a good bill for business and economic development. I want to again thank the chairman for his support in his committee for this legislation.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Minnesota for introducing this bill. As he said, the North Country Trail is really a gem that goes across seven States.

But I take particular interest in it because the 173 miles that we are adding today are so close to the State of Wisconsin. I know there are many outdoor enthusiasts in my district for whom it is very important to do what they can to complete the North Country Trail.

As was mentioned right now, to go through the trail you would wind up in an area that would be very difficult to get through. So I am sure there is an economic benefit to this to Minnesota, but to me far more than the economic benefit is the huge benefit so many of our American citizens take and experience in the outdoors, particularly in the area that is relatively undeveloped.

I encourage passage of the bill. Add the new 173 miles. I am sure there are plenty of constituents in Wisconsin's Sixth Congressional District who look forward to walking across each one of those miles.

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands has 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield the distinguished gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) such time as he may consume.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands and my cosponsor, the lead sponsor, Mr. NOLAN. I also want to thank Chairman BISHOP.

Chairman BISHOP, I want to thank you as well. You did something for us in Vermont with the Missisquoi River, and everything is working out. You had your same skepticism of certain

agencies, but Vermonters are very grateful. You helped us then, and you are helping us now.

I will take issue with a little thing you said. You presented the fact that this is going to go into Vermont. I heard it as an afterthought. I may be a little sensitive, but the whole point of walking 4,600 miles is to get to Vermont. That is what it is about.

This is covering all these States, starting up in the Plains and coming around that bog hopefully, and it is going to connect up to the Appalachian Trail that not only runs through Vermont, Mr. NOLAN, but runs by my house. I am going to wave to you next year when you have the time of being a retired Member of Congress and you are marching across that trail, when you get to Vermont, we are going to say hello and invite you in.

The points you made are true. The economic benefit of this is really substantial. It gets people out and around and into the communities. The spin-off economic benefit is very substantial. In Vermont, our whole trail system, which we are very proud of, as I note you are in Minnesota, we estimate that about one in seven Vermont jobs depends on outdoor recreation, about 51,000 jobs and about \$5.5 billion in consumer spending. And that is a big deal.

The other point you alluded to is something I really think is important. It is good for the bottom line, but it is good for the soul: the camaraderie, the family participation, the connection that people have to where they live and the beauty of where it is they live.

It is interesting you have got sponsors from all of the States through which this trail goes, and it didn't matter if it was Republican or Democrat because all of us have so much engagement with our citizens and ourselves where they have a sense of place in that location where the trail goes through their land, and they get out there, like you say, with the chain saws, and the amount of volunteer work that goes into making these trails passable in winter and summer is extraordinary.

So this whole effort on this trail and in all of our trails is something that I think Congress should be doing as much of as it possibly can. It is good for the economy, it is good for the heart, and it is good for the soul.

This is very, very important to us in Vermont. The Appalachian Trail goes through part of Vermont. The Green Mountain Corridor goes through all of Vermont, and we have a number of other trails that sometimes link up with snowmobile byways, some of which go across the land my wife and I own. And your legislation I think is building on a very, very ambitious and wonderful trail, the North Country National Scenic Trail.

When you think about it, a person—you showed it on the map—can walk all that way. Do you know what? There are people who are going to do it. They are doing the Appalachian Trail, they

are doing the Pacific Coast Trail, and it becomes a lifetime effort for them. They plan it, and they arrange with friends to meet and do it. Whether you can do all of it, like Mr. BISHOP probably could, and you could, or some of it, which I could do, it is an opportunity out there that awaits us, our kids, our grandkids, and future generations.

So, Mr. NOLAN, I have got to say that it has been an enormous pleasure to serve with you in Congress. You are one of the most direct and forthright people whom I have seen here. I think as a piece of legislation to pass upon the soon departure of your second round here in Congress, this is really something that generations of Americans, generations of Minnesotans, and generations of Vermonters are going to have very, very fond feelings, look back and thank you, RICK NOLAN, for taking up the leadership on this tribute to our land and to our people.

I want to thank you for letting me be part of this effort.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will gently remind Members that they need to direct their remarks to the Chair.

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

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I ask for support of this legislation. I just want to say if it is really 4,600 miles, then that is the equivalent of a round trip between San Francisco and Honolulu, a distance which I frequently fly and don't actually enjoy sitting down.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I have no further speakers. I ask for support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to have been able to work on a bill that makes the assumption that someone actually does want to walk to Vermont. If indeed you can find that individual, we will provide an opportunity for it to take place.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have five 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 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. 1026, 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.

SUSQUEHANNA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2991) to establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2991

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 "Susquehanna National Heritage Area Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **HERITAGE AREA.**—The term "Heritage Area" means the Susquehanna National Heritage Area established by section 3(a).

(2) **LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—The term "local coordinating entity" means the local coordinating entity for the Heritage Area designated by section 4(a).

(3) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—The term "management plan" means the plan developed by the local coordinating entity under section 5(a).

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) **STATE.**—The term "State" means the State of Pennsylvania.

SEC. 3. SUSQUEHANNA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the State.

(b) **BOUNDARIES.**—The Heritage Area shall include Lancaster and York Counties, Pennsylvania.

SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.

(a) **LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—The Susquehanna Heritage Corporation, a nonprofit organization established under the laws of the State, shall be the local coordinating entity for the Heritage Area.

(b) **AUTHORITIES OF LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—The local coordinating entity may, for purposes of preparing and implementing the management plan—

(1) prepare reports, studies, interpretive exhibits and programs, historic preservation projects, and other activities recommended in the management plan for the Heritage Area;

(2) make grants to the State, political subdivisions of the State, nonprofit organizations, and other persons;

(3) enter into cooperative agreements with the State, political subdivisions of the State, nonprofit organizations, and other organizations;

(4) hire and compensate staff;

(5) obtain funds or services from any source, including funds and services provided under any Federal program or law, in which case the Federal share of the cost of any activity assisted using Federal funds provided for National Heritage Areas shall not be more than 50 percent; and

(6) contract for goods and services.

(c) **DUTIES OF LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—To further the purposes of the Heritage Area, the local coordinating entity shall—

(1) prepare a management plan for the Heritage Area in accordance with section 5;

(2) give priority to the implementation of actions, goals, and strategies set forth in the management plan, including assisting units of government and other persons in—

(A) carrying out programs and projects that recognize and protect important resource values in the Heritage Area;

(B) encouraging economic viability in the Heritage Area in accordance with the goals of the management plan;

(C) establishing and maintaining interpretive exhibits in the Heritage Area;

(D) developing heritage-based recreational and educational opportunities for residents and visitors in the Heritage Area;

(E) increasing public awareness of and appreciation for the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the Heritage Area;

(F) restoring historic buildings that are—

(i) located in the Heritage Area; and

(ii) related to the themes of the Heritage Area; and

(G) installing throughout the Heritage Area clear, consistent, and appropriate signs identifying public access points and sites of interest;

(3) consider the interests of diverse units of government, businesses, tourism officials, private property owners, and nonprofit groups within the Heritage Area in developing and implementing the management plan;

(4) conduct public meetings at least semi-annually regarding the development and implementation of the management plan; and

(5) for any fiscal year for which Federal funds provided for National Heritage Areas are expended for the Heritage Area—

(A) submit to the Secretary an annual report that describes—

(i) the accomplishments of the local coordinating entity;

(ii) the expenses and income of the local coordinating entity; and

(iii) the entities to which the local coordinating entity made any grants;

(B) make available for audit all records relating to the expenditure of the Federal funds and any matching funds; and

(C) require, with respect to all agreements authorizing the expenditure of Federal funds by other organizations, that the receiving organizations make available for audit all records relating to the expenditure of the Federal funds.

(d) **PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The local coordinating entity shall not use Federal funds provided for National Heritage Areas to acquire real property or any interest in real property.

(2) **OTHER SOURCES.**—Nothing in this Act precludes the local coordinating entity from using funds from other sources for authorized purposes, including the acquisition of real property or any interest in real property.

SEC. 5. MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out this Act, the local coordinating entity shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a management plan for the Heritage Area.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The management plan for the Heritage Area shall—

(1) include comprehensive policies, strategies, and recommendations for the conservation, funding, management, and development of the Heritage Area;

(2) include a description of actions and commitments that governments, private organizations, and citizens will take to protect, enhance, and interpret the natural, historic, scenic, and cultural resources of the Heritage Area;

(3) describe a program of implementation for the management plan that includes—

(A) performance goals and ongoing performance evaluation;

(B) plans for resource protection, enhancement and interpretation; and