

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

# **TULARE YOUTH RECREATION AND WOMEN'S HISTORY ENHANCEMENT ACT**

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 805) to authorize the conveyance of and remove the reversionary interest of the United States in certain lands in the City of Tulare, California.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 805

*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 "Tulare Youth Recreation and Women's History Enhancement Act".

## **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The City of Tulare requires clear title to two Parcels of land within the City's business corridor.

(2) The Parcels are part of a right-of-way granted to the Railroad by the Federal Government by the Act dated July 27, 1866.

(3) The Parcels, which are currently under lease to the City, are currently occupied by an outdoor recreation facility for youth and a historic women's club.

(4) The City desires to improve and restore these facilities but cannot absent clear title to the Parcels.

(5) The United States retained a reversionary interest in the Parcels conveyed to the Railroad in 1866 and has not exercised this authority.

(6) The Union Pacific Railroad desires to sell the Parcels to the City.

(7) Public Law 105-195 conveyed the reversionary interest to all surrounding Parcels in 1998, which were conveyed by the Union Pacific Railroad to the City.

## **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF CONVEYANCE AND REMOVAL OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CITY.—The term "City" means the City of Tulare, California.

(2) MAP.—The term "Map" means the map entitled "Tulare Railroad Parcels Proposed to be Acquired", dated April 30, 2015.

(3) PARCELS.—The term "Parcels" means the land identified as "Tulare Railroad Proposed Parcels" on the Map.

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

(5) RAILROAD.—The term "Railroad" means the Union Pacific Railroad.

(b) REVERSIONARY INTEREST EXTINGUISHED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To promote recreational opportunities for youth and commemorate women's history in the City, the United States authorizes the conveyance of and relinquishes its reversionary interest in the Parcels retained under the Act of July 27, 1866 (14 Stat. 292, chapter 278).

(2) REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.—The relinquishment of the reversionary interest under paragraph (1) shall be executed by the Secretary in an instrument that—

(A) is suitable for recording in the records of Tulare County, California; and

(B) references this Act and any prior instruments relating to the United States interest in the Parcels.

(3) COSTS.—Any costs associated with the required documentation under paragraph (2) shall be paid by the City.

(4) CONDITION.—The relinquishment of the reversionary interest under paragraph (1) shall be effective on the date that the Railroad conveys the Parcels to the City.

(c) MAP ON FILE.—The Map shall be kept on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(d) PRESERVATION OF EXISTING RIGHTS OF ACCESS.—Nothing in this Act shall impair any existing rights of access in favor of the public or any owner of adjacent lands over, under or across the Parcels.

(e) SURFACE ENTRY.—The Parcels shall be subject to the same conditions as those parcels affected by Public Law 105-195 regarding rights of surface entry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN) 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 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 such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for allowing this bill to come up today.

I rise in support of H.R. 805, the Tulare Youth Recreation and Women's History Enhancement Act.

This bill simply removes a Federal reversionary interest in two parcels of land in my hometown of Tulare, California, and offers their conveyance to the city.

This would allow the city to purchase this land from the Union Pacific Railroad, which received the land from the Federal Government by right-of-way in the 19th century. One parcel has long been home to a historic Women's Club House which has served as an important community center for more than 100 years.

The Women's Club House is in need of critical repairs, but the city of Tulare has been reluctant to make repairs without clear title to the land. If this bill were enacted, the city would be making needed repairs to this historical landmark, preserving it for generations to come.

The second parcel of land is home to the Rotary Skate Park, which is a recreational park used by young and old residents alike. Both of these community locations are extremely important to the people of the San Joaquin Valley, and this bill will ensure their continued use for many years to come.

I want to thank, again, the chair and ranking member for their support, and urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 805, releases the reversionary interests on two parcels of land in Tulare County in California. These parcels are currently leased from the Union Pacific Railroad and contain a skate park and historic women's club, owned and operated by the city.

City officials want to make improvements to both facilities, but are unable to secure financing without clean and free titles to the property.

In the 19th century, Congress granted the land to Southern Pacific Railroad, the predecessor of Union Pacific, for use as a railroad right-of-way. Congress subsequently authorized the railroad to lease the land to Tulare for other public purposes. However, the land remains encumbered with a reversionary interest.

Congress passed a law in 1998 that released the reversionary interest on 12 parcels in Tulare. H.R. 805 deals with two additional parcels, allowing Union Pacific to sell the land to Tulare and clear the way for planned improvements.

The 1998 law was the first time Congress authorized the release of a reversionary interest for redevelopment purposes. At the time, the railroad had already sold the land at Tulare, even though it belonged to taxpayers, and Congress had to intervene to remedy the situation. Unlike the situation in 1998, the two parcels affected by this bill have not been sold and under normal circumstances, the Federal Government—not Union Pacific—should receive payment for the parcels if they are no longer used as originally intended by Congress.

However, the history of congressional involvement in Tulare justifies an exception to this standard. Due to the circumstances, I am happy to support this bill and I urge my colleagues to support its adoption.

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

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

This is not a significant bill. We are talking about a couple of acres of property that used to be owned by the Federal Government that had no purpose and use for it. So they gave it up. But instead, Congress decided to include a reversionary clause with this stuff so that if they ever wanted to do something different with these 2 acres of property, they would have to come crawling back to us to ask for our permission to do it, which is silly.

It is ridiculous that we have to go through this process time, after time, after time. The Federal Government didn't need this land originally. They still don't need it, but they still have that particular clause attached to it.

This land needs to be given over to the city who uses it so they can make improvements on facilities that have been used since the 1800s. And that we

have to go through an actual law to do this, is a silly practice that we maintain here in Congress. It should not be done. This is a perfect example of why the reversionary clause is no longer needed.

If you really care about people, put a clause in there that says that if they want to change the practice, it has to be for the public interest and the public good. That would be logical. But what we have to do now is illogical in doing this particular bill. It needs to be done. It has to be done for the people who live there and for these properties, but it is silly that we have to go through this process.

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

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I agree. I think no Member of Congress enjoys an unnecessary crawl back, but I think the majority of the Members of Congress recognize our duty to protect the public interest.

We resoundingly support what is a very, very good bill. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to adopt 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. 805.

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.

## CALIFORNIA OFF-ROAD RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 857) to provide for conservation and enhanced recreation activities in the California Desert Conservation Area, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 857

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “California Off-Road Recreation and Conservation Act”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. California Off-Road Recreation and Conservation.
- Sec. 3. Visitor center.
- Sec. 4. California State school land.
- Sec. 5. Designation of wild and scenic rivers.
- Sec. 6. Conforming amendments.

### SEC. 2. CALIFORNIA OFF-ROAD RECREATION AND CONSERVATION.

Public Law 103-433 (16 U.S.C. 410aaa et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “TITLE XIII—WILDERNESS

#### “SEC. 1301. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.

“(a) **DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND**

**MANAGEMENT.**—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and sections 601 and 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1781, 1782), the following land in the State is designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

“(1) **AVAWATZ MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS.**—Certain land in the Conservation Area administered by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 91,800 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Avawatz Mountains Proposed Wilderness’ and dated June 30, 2015, to be known as the ‘Avawatz Mountains Wilderness’.

“(2) **GOLDEN VALLEY WILDERNESS.**—Certain land in the Conservation Area administered by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 1,250 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Golden Valley Proposed Wilderness Additions’ and dated June 22, 2015, which shall be considered to be part of the ‘Golden Valley Wilderness’.

“(3) **GREAT FALLS BASIN WILDERNESS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Certain land in the Conservation Area administered by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 7,870 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Great Falls Basin Proposed Wilderness’ and dated April 29, 2015, to be known as the ‘Great Falls Basin Wilderness’.

“(B) **LIMITATIONS.**—Designation of the wilderness under subparagraph (A) shall not establish a Class I Airshed under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.).

“(4) **KINGSTON RANGE WILDERNESS.**—Certain land in the Conservation Area administered by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 53,320 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Kingston Range Proposed Wilderness Additions’ and dated February 18, 2015, which shall be considered to be a part of the ‘Kingston Range Wilderness’.

“(5) **SODA MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS.**—Certain land in the Conservation Area, administered by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 79,990 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Soda Mountains Proposed Wilderness’ and dated February 18, 2015, to be known as the ‘Soda Mountains Wilderness’.

“(b) **DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.**—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and sections 601 and 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1781, 1782), the following land in the State is designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

“(1) **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS ADDITIONS-NORTH EUREKA VALLEY.**—Certain land in the Conservation Area administered by the Director of the National Park Service, comprising approximately 11,496 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Death Valley National Park Proposed Wilderness Area-North Eureka Valley’, numbered 143/100,082C, and dated October 7, 2014, which shall be considered to be a part of the Death Valley National Park Wilderness.

“(2) **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS ADDITIONS-IBEX.**—Certain land in the Conservation Area administered by the Director of the National Park Service, comprising approximately 23,650 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Death Valley National Park Proposed Wilderness Area-Ibex’, numbered 143/100,081C, and dated October 7, 2014, which shall be considered to be a part of the Death Valley National Park Wilderness.

“(3) **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS ADDITIONS-PANAMINT VALLEY.**—Certain land in the Conservation Area administered by the Director of the National Park Service, comprising approximately 4,807 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Death Valley National Park Proposed Wilderness Area-Panamint

Valley’, numbered 143/100,083C, and dated October 7, 2014, which shall be considered to be a part of the Death Valley National Park Wilderness.

“(4) **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS ADDITIONS-WARM SPRINGS.**—Certain land in the Conservation Area administered by the Director of the National Park Service, comprising approximately 10,485 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Death Valley National Park Proposed Wilderness Area-Warm Spring Canyon/Galena Canyon’, numbered 143/100,084C, and dated October 7, 2014, which shall be considered to be a part of the Death Valley National Park Wilderness.

“(5) **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS ADDITIONS-AXE HEAD.**—Certain land in the Conservation Area administered by the Director of the National Park Service, comprising approximately 8,638 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Death Valley National Park Proposed Wilderness Area-Axe Head’, numbered 143/100,085C, and dated October 7, 2014, which shall be considered to be a part of the Death Valley National Park Wilderness.

“(6) **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS ADDITIONS-BOWLING ALLEY.**—Certain land in the Conservation Area administered by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 28,923 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Death Valley National Park Proposed Wilderness Area-Bowling Alley’, numbered 143/128,606, and dated May 14, 2015, which shall be considered to be a part of the Death Valley National Park Wilderness.

“(c) **DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREA TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE FOREST SERVICE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the land in the State described in paragraph (2) is designated as a wilderness area and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

“(2) **DESCRIPTION OF LAND.**—The land referred to in paragraph (1) is certain land in the San Bernardino National Forest, comprising approximately 7,141 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘San Geronio Proposed Wilderness Expansion,’ and dated November 2, 2016, which shall be considered to be a part of the San Geronio Wilderness.

“(3) **FIRE MANAGEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may carry out such activities in the wilderness area designated by paragraph (1) as are necessary for the control of fire, insects, and disease, in accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)) and House Report 98-40 of the 98th Congress.

“(B) **FUNDING PRIORITIES.**—Nothing in this subsection limits the provision of any funding for fire or fuel management in the wilderness area designated by paragraph (1).

“(C) **REVISION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANS.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this title, the Secretary shall amend the local fire management plans that apply to the wilderness area designated by paragraph (1).

“(D) **ADMINISTRATION.**—In accordance with subparagraph (A) and other applicable Federal law, to ensure a timely and efficient response to fire emergencies in the wilderness area designated by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

“(i) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this title, establish agency approval procedures (including appropriate delegations of authority to the Forest Supervisor, District Manager, or other agency officials) for responding to fire emergencies in the wilderness area designated by paragraph (1); and

“(ii) enter into agreements with appropriate State or local firefighting agencies relating to that wilderness area.

#### “SEC. 1302. MANAGEMENT.

“(a) **ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.**—