

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 Agriculture represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and your response in the bill report and in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your response and cooperation. I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman,
Committee on Natural Resources.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, July 19, 2018.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN BISHOP: I write concerning H.R. 3186, the Every Kid Outdoors Act. This legislation includes matters that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In order to expedite Floor consideration of H.R. 3186, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will forgo action on this bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does 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. I appreciate you working with us on the base text of the bill and request you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest in the Congressional Record during House Floor consideration of the bill. I look forward to working with the Committee on Natural Resources as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,

Washington, DC, August 1, 2018.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On May 16, 2018, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered favorably reported H.R. 3186, the Every Kid Outdoors Act. This bill was additionally referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I thank you for allowing 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 your response in the bill report and in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your response and cooperation. I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3186, the Every Kid Outdoors Act, which I was proud to introduce with my colleague Representative TIPTON, and Representatives STEFANIK and DEGETTE.

The idea that there should be national public lands that belong to and are managed on behalf of the American people is a value that dates back to the founding of our country and is embedded in our Constitution. Our Nation's public lands protect, celebrate, and give access to the many places that have shaped and defined who we are as Americans.

Places like the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Ellis Island, and, in my own district, Minute Man National Historical Park, which commemorates the shot heard 'round the world, and Lowell National Historical Park, the first urban national park of its kind, which commemorates and protects the role that the city played in spawning our country's industrial revolution.

H.R. 3186 provides America's fourth graders and their families free entrance to all of our treasured national parks, historic sites, wildlife refuges, and other federally managed lands and waters, more than 2,000 sites in all. This will encourage a new and more diverse generation to learn about our country's national and historic treasures and fall in love with our public lands and great outdoors.

As documented by the Congressional Budget Office, the legislation codifies an existing program and will, therefore, result in no additional cost to the Federal Government.

In addition to providing free entrance to our public lands, the Every Kid Outdoors Act will also strengthen partnerships between our Federal land management agencies, schools, nonprofits, and private-sector businesses to support outdoor education programming and recreation opportunities for our country's young people.

I have seen the value of these partnerships firsthand and the impact they can have on our young people. In 2015, I had the opportunity, at Minute Man National Historical Park, to present fourth grade students from one of the larger cities in my district with their very own park pass. I will never forget their excitement at this opportunity. For many of them, it was the first time they had ever visited a national park, but I am confident it won't be their last.

I thank Mr. TIPTON for his work with me on this bipartisan legislation and Chairman BISHOP for his support in committee and bringing it to the floor. The Every Kid Outdoors Act will encourage a new and more diverse generation to learn about our country's natural and historic treasures and fall in love with our public lands and great outdoors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIANFORTE. 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 Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3186, 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. GIANFORTE. 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.

PERMISSION TO FILE CONFERENCE REPORTS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that managers on the part of the House have until midnight on Friday, September 14, 2018, to file conference reports.

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

There was no objection.

RECONSTRUCTION ERA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ACT

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5532) to redesignate the Reconstruction Era National Monument as the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5532

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 "Reconstruction Era National Historical Park Act".

SEC. 2. RECONSTRUCTION ERA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HISTORICAL PARK.—The term "historical park" means the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park.

(2) MAP.—The term "map" means the maps entitled "Reconstruction Era National Monument Old Beaufort Firehouse," numbered 550/135,755 and dated January 2017; "Reconstruction Era National Monument Darrah Hall and Brick Baptist Church," numbered 550/135,756 and dated January 2017; and "Reconstruction Era National Monument Camp Saxton," numbered 550/135,757 and dated January 2017, collectively.

(3) NETWORK.—The term "Network" means the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network established pursuant to this Act.

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

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) REDESIGNATION OF RECONSTRUCTION ERA NATIONAL MONUMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Reconstruction Era National Monument is redesignated as the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park, as generally depicted on the map.

(B) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Any funds available for the purposes of the Reconstruction Era National Monument shall be available for the purposes of the historical park.

(C) REFERENCES.—Any references in a law, regulation, document, record, map, or other paper of the United States to the Reconstruction Era National Monument shall be considered to be a reference to the historical park.

(2) BOUNDARY EXPANSION.—

(A) BEAUFORT NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DISTRICT.—Subject to subparagraph (D), the Secretary is authorized to acquire land or interests in land within the Beaufort National Historic Landmark District that has historic connection to the Reconstruction Era. Upon finalizing an agreement to acquire land, the Secretary shall expand the boundary of the historical park to encompass the property.

(B) ST. HELENA ISLAND.—Subject to subparagraph (D), the Secretary is authorized to acquire the following and shall expand the boundary of the historical park to include acquisitions under this authority:

(i) Land and interests in land adjacent to the existing boundary on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, as reflected on the map.

(ii) Land or interests in land on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, that has a historic connection to the Reconstruction Era.

(C) CAMP SAXTON.—Subject to subparagraph (D), the Secretary is authorized to accept administrative jurisdiction of Federal land or interests in Federal land adjacent to the existing boundary at Camp Saxton, as reflected on the map. Upon finalizing an agreement to accept administrative jurisdiction of Federal land or interests in Federal land, the Secretary shall expand the boundary of the historical park to encompass that Federal land or interests in Federal land.

(D) LAND ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may only acquire land under this Act by donation, exchange or purchase with donated funds.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the historical park in accordance with this Act and with the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System.

(2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—If the management plan for the Reconstruction Era National Monument—

(A) has not been completed on or before the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall incorporate all provisions of this Act into the planning process and complete a management plan for the historical park within 3 years; and

(B) has been completed on or before the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall update the plan incorporating the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 3. RECONSTRUCTION ERA NATIONAL HISTORIC NETWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(1) establish, within the National Park Service, a program to be known as the “Reconstruction Era National Historic Network”;

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, solicit proposals from sites interested in being a part of the Network; and

(3) administer the Network through the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park.

(b) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—In carrying out the Network, the Secretary shall—

(1) review studies and reports to complement and not duplicate studies of the historical importance of Reconstruction Era that may be underway or completed, such as the National Park Service Reconstruction Handbook and the National Park Service Theme Study on Reconstruction;

(2) produce and disseminate appropriate educational and promotional materials relating to the Reconstruction Era and the sites in the network, such as handbooks, maps, interpretive guides, or electronic information;

(3) enter into appropriate cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding to provide technical assistance;

(4)(A) create and adopt an official, uniform symbol or device for the Network; and

(B) issue regulations for the use of the symbol or device adopted under subparagraph (A); and

(C) conduct research relating to Reconstruction and the Reconstruction Era.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The Network shall encompass the following elements—

(1) all units and programs of the National Park Service that are determined by the Secretary to relate to the Reconstruction Era;

(2) other Federal, State, local, and privately owned properties that the Secretary determines—

(A) relate to the Reconstruction Era; and

(B) are included in, or determined by the Secretary to be eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places; and

(3) other governmental and nongovernmental sites, facilities, and programs of an educational, research, or interpretive nature that are directly related to the Reconstruction Era.

(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—To achieve the purposes of this Act and to ensure effective coordination of the Federal and non-Federal elements of the Network and units and programs of the National Park Service, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding with, and provide technical assistance to, the heads of other Federal agencies, States, units of local government, regional governmental bodies, and private entities.

(e) NETWORK DEFINED.—The term “Network” means the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network established pursuant to this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIANFORTE. 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 Montana?

There was no objection.

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

The Reconstruction era that followed the Civil War was a time of significant transformation for the United States. Reconstruction addressed how the 11 States that had left the Union would be reestablished in Congress, as well as how the civil rights and integration into a free society of 4 million formerly enslaved individuals could be secured.

The Reconstruction Era National Monument was established by Presidential declaration in January 2017 as a unit of the National Park Service. It is located in Beaufort County, South Carolina, an area that has been called the birthplace of Reconstruction.

In and around this area, some of the first African Americans enlisted as soldiers and founded the first African American schools and hospitals during Reconstruction.

This was also the home of Robert Smalls, a former slave who became a political leader, serving on two State constitutional conventions: in the

State legislature and, ultimately, the U.S. Congress.

H.R. 5532 redesignates Reconstruction Era National Monument as the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to expand the park boundary. The bill also establishes the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network, which will connect similar sites across the country to promote education and preservation efforts.

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), my esteemed colleague.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative TSONGAS for managing this bill, and I thank Mr. GIANFORTE for appearing here on the floor today.

I also thank Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA for their support of this legislation in the Natural Resources Committee.

I also thank Congressman MARK SANFORD, who is a cosponsor of this bill, but remains in Charleston this evening for obvious reasons. I pray God's blessing upon him, his constituents, mine, and all others who find themselves in the path of this horrific hurricane.

Mr. Speaker, throughout my tenure in this august body, I have worked to preserve and protect our Nation's most treasured historical sites and institutions.

Reconstruction, a period which lasted a little more than 13 years, is a crucial period in American history. Although it ended March 17, 1877, we tend to apply the label “Reconstruction era” to the latter four decades of the 19th century. It was during those years that African Americans across the South began their freedom from slavery, gained citizenship, and enjoyed equal protection of the laws and the right to vote under the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution.

Some of the oldest and best preserved sites from the Reconstruction era are located in Beaufort County, South Carolina. Brick Baptist Church and Penn Center on St. Helena Island were the site of the original Penn School, founded in 1862 by Quaker missionaries to educate newly freed slaves, the first such school established in the South.

Camp Saxton in Port Royal was a Union Army camp where, on January 1, 1863, Union General Rufus Saxton read President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation to thousands of slaves who had gathered to celebrate their new freedom. The camp was also the site where the First South Carolina Volunteers were assembled, the first official Black regiment of the United States Army.

With overwhelming support from their communities and local elected leadership, these sites and a visitors center in downtown Beaufort were designated Reconstruction Era National Monument by President Obama in January of 2017.

The bill under consideration today will do three things:

First, redesignate the national monument as the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park;

Second, provide for possible boundary expansions within the Beaufort National Historic Landmark District and on St. Helena Island; and

Third, establish the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network.

As a national park is the highest level of protection and prestige our government can bestow, I believe passing this legislation will send a powerful message regarding the significance of these Reconstruction sites.

Having served previously as the sponsor of the legislation redesignating the Congaree Swamp National Monument as the Congaree National Park, I can attest that the rebranding of the park resulted in an increase in annual visitors of almost 20 percent, a significant economic impact to rural South Carolina.

Congress has, in recent years, redesignated both the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument as national historical parks, two sites with similar historical significance but focus on much different aspects of American history.

Of course, the sites currently included in the national monument are not the only significant Reconstruction sites worthy of preservation. This legislation would allow for expansion of the boundary near the existing monument. Several very significant Reconstruction sites in the area were considered for inclusion. This bill would allow for expansion with appropriate agreement between all owners and stakeholders.

However, it is not feasible to incorporate all historic sites from Reconstruction into one national park. The Reconstruction Era National Historic Network would be a program operated by the National Park Service, but sites in the network will be managed by their current owners, whether Federal, State, local, or private.

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This concept has been utilized in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and the recently enacted African American Civil Rights Network.

When the national monument was under construction, I heard from many communities with sites they thought were worthy of inclusion. With the network in place, communities can make their case for Federal recognition and assistance for their significant Reconstruction era sites without the National Park Service having to take on the obligation of owning or managing the sites.

Sites like Mitchelville on Hilton Head Island, which was a self-governing African-American community established during the Civil War, are deserving of Federal recognition.

Mitchelville is perfect for the network concept, where the local municipal leadership is moving forward to manage the site on their own, but would welcome the increased recognition and visibility that inclusion in the network would provide.

I often invoke the adage that if we fail to learn the lessons of our history, we are bound to repeat it. Sadly, many of the gains made by African Americans during the Reconstruction era were lost in the Jim Crow era that followed. Reconstruction is a story of the triumph of freedom, but it is also a lesson that freedoms are not permanent and can be fleeting, if not protected.

Passage of this legislation, helping our Nation preserve, protect, document, and promote the history of Reconstruction, is critical to avoiding past mistakes and guiding our pursuit of a more perfect Union.

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, as we know, H.R. 5532 establishes the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park in and around Beaufort, South Carolina, to honor, protect, and preserve the historic structures and other resources from that chapter in American history. We know how effective that kind of protection can be.

Recognizing the importance of highlighting the resources in Beaufort, President Obama used the Antiquities Act to designate the site as a national monument.

This bill is an important follow-up to that original designation. It will ensure permanent protection and provide steady guidelines for future management.

I want to thank Mr. CLYBURN for his hard work throughout the initial designation process and the development of this bill. Without his leadership, this project would not have come this far, and he deserves our recognition.

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. 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 Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5532, 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.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 660) to require the Secretary of the Interior to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage its infrastructure assets.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 660

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 “Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the water resources infrastructure of the Bureau of Reclamation provides important benefits related to irrigated agriculture, municipal and industrial water, hydropower, flood control, fish and wildlife, and recreation in the 17 Reclamation States;

(2) as of 2013, the combined replacement value of the infrastructure assets of the Bureau of Reclamation was \$94,500,000,000;

(3) the majority of the water resources infrastructure facilities of the Bureau of Reclamation are at least 60 years old;

(4) the Bureau of Reclamation has previously undertaken efforts to better manage the assets of the Bureau of Reclamation, including an annual review of asset maintenance activities of the Bureau of Reclamation known as the “Asset Management Plan”; and

(5) actionable information on infrastructure conditions at the asset level, including information on maintenance needs at individual assets due to aging infrastructure, is needed for Congress to conduct oversight of Reclamation facilities and meet the needs of the public.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ASSET.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “asset” means any of the following assets that are used to achieve the mission of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the people of the United States:

(i) Capitalized facilities, buildings, structures, project features, power production equipment, recreation facilities, or quarters.

(ii) Capitalized and noncapitalized heavy equipment and other installed equipment.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “asset” includes assets described in subparagraph (A) that are considered to be mission critical.

(2) ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT.—The term “Asset Management Report” means—

(A) the annual plan prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation known as the “Asset Management Plan”; and

(B) any publicly available information relating to the plan described in subparagraph (A) that summarizes the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to evaluate and manage infrastructure assets of the Bureau of Reclamation.

(3) MAJOR REPAIR AND REHABILITATION NEED.—The term “major repair and rehabilitation need” means major nonrecurring maintenance at a Reclamation facility, including maintenance related to the safety of dams, extraordinary maintenance of dams, deferred major maintenance activities, and all other significant repairs and extraordinary maintenance.

(4) RECLAMATION FACILITY.—The term “Reclamation facility” means each of the infrastructure assets that are owned by the Bureau of Reclamation at a Reclamation project.

(5) RECLAMATION PROJECT.—The term “Reclamation project” means a project that is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation, including all reserved works and transferred works owned by the Bureau of Reclamation.