

to update and coordinate the collection of enhanced high-resolution elevation data across the country. This is crucial for numerous reasons:

To help communities plan for and respond to natural hazards;

To update the Nation's topographical maps; and

To inform a myriad of uses, including public safety, national security, planning, infrastructure, administration, agriculture, and natural resource management.

Currently, much of the country still relies on data collected more than 30 years ago using older technologies that do not provide the same resolution and benefits. It is time that landslide hazards are addressed properly and in a collaborative fashion. This legislation will allow significant progress to be made in landslide science and will allow communities to be better prepared for when landslides do occur.

We will never forget those who were lost in the slide and the incredible community that worked so hard to rebuild.

Five years ago at the Oso firehouse, President Obama said that the Nation was with the community every step of the way in the rebuilding process. Part of that process is making sure we do everything in our power to make sure that all communities have the necessary information to be better prepared for dangerous landslides.

Mr. Speaker, given the importance of this issue to communities across the country, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1261, the National Landslide Preparedness Act. This straightforward piece of legislation will help prepare and protect us from landslides.

Landslides are a dangerous and expensive national hazard. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, landslides cause as much as \$2 billion in damages each year and around 25 fatalities.

Wildfires, earthquakes, and severe weather all make landslides more likely. As cities and towns across our country continue to develop, the chances of being affected by these events, likewise, increases.

Since the 1970s, one of the core missions of the U.S. Geological Survey has been to use scientific data to minimize the loss of life and property damage from hazards like landslides. H.R. 1261 supports that goal by establishing the National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program, which will help identify and understand landslide risk; and when those hazards eventually occur, this bill will help prepare us by improving communication and emergency preparedness.

H.R. 1261 also establishes a national 3D Elevation Program to create and maintain standardized, publicly available 3D elevation data for the United

States. Not only will this program assess landslide hazards, but could also help identify energy, mineral, and water resources, geological hazards such as active faults, and other potential dangers, including swelling soils, floodplains, and abandoned mine lands.

In Oklahoma, we have had lots of floods, so if there are other things we can do that will help get us some understanding of what is going on, people will be better for it. I am confident that this bill will help prepare for and prevent against damage from landslides and, most importantly, save American lives.

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

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1261, the "National Landslide Preparedness Act."

H.R. 1261 establishes a national program to identify and reduce losses from landslide hazards and a national 3D Elevation Program.

The bill also authorizes a study of ground subsidence.

Climate change charges us with the responsibility to study significant landslide threats to mitigate damages and protect our citizens.

The 3D Elevation Program (3DEP), authorized under H.R. 1261, systematically collects 3D elevation data in the form of light detection and ranging (lidar) data for the conterminous United States, Hawaii, and the U.S. territories, with data acquired over an 8-year period.

Mr. Speaker, due to global warming, high river levels provoke floods and landslides, which block roads and hinder people from escaping life-threatening situations.

More than 30,000 people worldwide were killed by landslides between 2004 and 2010, according to the Geological Society of America.

And in the U.S. between 25 and 50 people are killed by landslides every year, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Slides can occur in all 50 states, but regions like the Appalachian Mountains, the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Coastal Ranges have "severe landslide problems," according to the USGS.

Mother Nature is unpredictable and can endanger our constituents' lives and homes if advanced warning procedures are not established.

Continued wet weather has also resulted in rivers reaching increasingly dangerous levels.

As of 25 February, National Weather Service data showed over 250 rivers in the Midwest, South and East to be above flood stage.

In February 2019, one person died in flash flooding in Tennessee after a storm system was caused by a landslide brought on by record-breaking rain to the Nashville area.

The Cincinnati metropolitan area is another region that faces constant threats of landslides.

It sits in part on what's called the Kope shale formation, which breaks down easily and is highly prone to landslides.

In 2010, the Cincinnati metro area faced landslides that wrecked properties and caused damages that were difficult to assess.

Losses from landslides in the United States were estimated in 1980 to exceed \$1 billion per year.

The U.S. Geological Survey estimated annual losses to be between \$2 billion and \$4 billion per year.

However, landslide costs across the country are not currently tracked or measured in a uniform way by any one agency.

Passage of H.R. 1261 will result in the: publication of a national strategy for landslide hazards, risk reduction, and response in the United States (including territories);

Development and maintenance of a publicly accessible national landslide hazard and risk inventory database;

an expanded early warning system for debris flow; and

the establishment of emergency response procedures for the rapid deployment of federal scientists, equipment, and services to areas impacted by a significant landslide event.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1261 incentivizes geologic investigations, good engineering practices, and effective enforcement of land-use management regulations to reduce landslide hazards.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1261 to establish and strengthen the nation's emergency preparedness procedures to assess and evaluate landslide damages and threats.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1261, 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.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS LONG-TERM LEGAL RESIDENTS RELIEF ACT

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 559) to amend section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled "A Joint Resolution to approve the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 559

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act".

SEC. 2. LONG-TERM LEGAL RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Section 6(e) of the Joint Resolution entitled "A Joint Resolution to approve the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes", approved March 24, 1976 (48 U.S.C. 1806), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) SPECIAL PROVISION REGARDING LONG-TERM RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.—

“(A) CNMI RESIDENT STATUS.—An alien described in subparagraph (B) may, upon the application of the alien, be admitted in CNMI Resident status to the Commonwealth subject to the following rules:

“(i) The alien shall be treated as an alien lawfully admitted to the Commonwealth only, including permitting entry to and exit from the Commonwealth, until the earlier of the date on which—

“(I) the alien ceases to reside in the Commonwealth; or

“(II) the alien's status is adjusted under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in accordance with all applicable eligibility requirements.

“(ii) The Secretary of Homeland Security—

“(I) shall establish a process for such alien to apply for CNMI Resident status during the 180-day period beginning on a date determined by the Secretary but not later than the first day of the sixth month after the date of the enactment of this paragraph; and

“(II) may, in the Secretary's discretion, authorize deferred action or parole, as appropriate, with work authorization, for such alien beginning on the date of the enactment of this paragraph and continuing through the end of such 180-day period or the date of adjudication of the alien's application for CNMI Resident status, whichever is later.

“(iii) Nothing in this subparagraph may be construed to provide any alien granted status under this subparagraph with public assistance to which the alien is not otherwise entitled.

“(iv) An alien granted status under this paragraph—

“(I) is subject to all grounds of deportability under section 237 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1227);

“(II) is subject to all grounds of inadmissibility under section 212 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182) if seeking admission to the United States at a port of entry in the Commonwealth;

“(III) is inadmissible to the United States at any port of entry outside the Commonwealth, except that the Secretary of Homeland Security may in the Secretary's discretion authorize admission of such alien at a port of entry in Guam for the purpose of direct transit to the Commonwealth, which admission shall be considered an admission to the Commonwealth;

“(IV) automatically shall lose such status if the alien travels from the Commonwealth to any other place in the United States, except that the Secretary of Homeland Security may in the Secretary's discretion establish procedures for the advance approval on a case-by-case basis of such travel for a temporary and legitimate purpose, and the Secretary may in the Secretary's discretion authorize the direct transit of aliens with CNMI Resident status through Guam to a foreign place;

“(V) shall be authorized to work in the Commonwealth incident to status; and

“(VI) shall be issued appropriate travel documentation and evidence of work authorization by the Secretary.

“(B) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—An alien is described in this subparagraph if the alien—

“(i) was lawfully present on the date of the enactment of this paragraph or on December 31, 2018, in the Commonwealth under the immigration laws of the United States, including pursuant to a grant of parole under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) or deferred action;

“(ii) is admissible as an immigrant to the United States under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), except that no immigrant visa is required;

“(iii) resided continuously and lawfully in the Commonwealth from November 28, 2009, through the date of the enactment of this paragraph;

“(iv) is not a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau; and

“(v) in addition—

“(I) was born in the Northern Mariana Islands between January 1, 1974, and January 9, 1978;

“(II) was, on November 27, 2009, a permanent resident of the Commonwealth (as defined in section 4303 of title 3 of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Code, in effect on May 8, 2008);

“(III) is the spouse or child (as defined in section 101(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1))) of an alien described in subclause (I) or (II);

“(IV) was, on November 27, 2011, a spouse, child, or parent of a United States citizen, notwithstanding the age of the United States citizen, and continues to have such family relationship with the citizen on the date of the application described in subparagraph (A); or

“(V) had a grant of parole under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) on December 31, 2018, under the former parole program for certain in-home caregivers administered by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

“(C) AUTHORITY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Beginning on the first day of the 180-day period established by the Secretary of Homeland Security under subparagraph (A)(ii)(I), the Attorney General may accept and adjudicate an application for CNMI Resident status under this paragraph by an alien who is in removal proceedings before the Attorney General if the alien—

“(i) makes an initial application to the Attorney General within such 180-day period; or

“(ii) applied to the Secretary of Homeland Security during such 180-period and before being placed in removal proceedings, and the Secretary denied the application.

“(D) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Notwithstanding any other law, no court shall have jurisdiction to review any decision of the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General on an application under this paragraph or any other action or determination of the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General to implement, administer, or enforce this paragraph.

“(E) PROCEDURE.—The requirements of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Administrative Procedure Act), or any other law relating to rulemaking, information collection or publication in the Federal Register shall not apply to any action to implement, administer or enforce this paragraph.”

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. KEVIN HERN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 559 would provide relief to a small group of long-term Northern Mariana Islands legal residents who will otherwise be forced to leave the Commonwealth by June 29 of this year if this legislation is not passed.

This legislation is similar to legislation introduced back in 2011, which was ultimately included in bipartisan, comprehensive immigration legislation which passed the Senate in 2012 and to legislation which has extended their status previously.

Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAM), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. SABLAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, 12 years ago, Congress enacted legislation extending U.S. immigration law to my district, the Northern Mariana Islands; and for my 11 years here in Congress, I have worked to make the resulting transition as least difficult as possible.

Because there were unforeseen consequences, there were people who fell through the cracks. Today we have the chance to help some of those people. Their circumstances were not taken into account when Federal immigration was extended to our islands.

□ 1600

During the Obama administration, they were granted humanitarian parole that allowed them to stay. But President Trump decided that was an improper use of parole.

The President's executive order of January 25, 2017, directed that parole be granted only on a case-by-case basis not to categories of people, as had been done in the Marianas.

As a result, 1,039 long-term residents of my island lost their parole status last December. They were given until June 29 to adjust status or leave.

I have no argument with the President's thinking. In fact, I have worked to provide permanent status in law for these long-term residents. But immigration legislation is difficult. I have not been successful.

I hope today that will change because even though the Trump administration ended parole, at the same time, the administration also recognized that these long-term residents should be allowed to stay in the Marianas. The administration drafted legislation giving these

people permanent status in the Marianas, and just in the Marianas, so they could continue to live and work as they have for years as part of our community.

I introduced that legislation, H.R. 559, and the administration submitted a statement for the hearing record to the Natural Resources Committee supporting passage, which I include in the RECORD.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, February 21, 2019.
Hon. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE GRIJALVA: This letter sets forth Department of Homeland Security (DHS) views with regard to H.R. 559, the “Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act.”

Thank you for seeking the Department’s input on this new legislation. We appreciate the opportunity to review H.R. 559 as the Committee begins the legislative process in the 1st session of the 116th Congress.

As you are aware, H.R. 559 would provide for the admission of certain aliens who are currently present in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and who had been parolees as CNMI residents. In doing so, the bill would establish an alternative regime to the now-terminated categorical parole program for the CNMI. DHS believes that the bill would address the discrete needs of this alien group in an equitable and lawful manner—more so than any other bill that is now pending Congressional consideration.

In light of the aforementioned, DHS supports H.R. 559. DHS would respectfully urge the Committee to consider the bill favorably. Further, it is the Department’s hope that the full House of Representatives will take up and pass the measure expeditiously.

The Department is pleased to inform you that the Office of Management and Budget has no objection to the presentation of this letter to Congress. Nonetheless, I appreciate your interest in the Administration’s concerns on this matter. Fortunately, there are none.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to review and share the Department’s position on H.R. 559. An identical letter has been sent to Representatives Sablan and Bishop.

Respectfully,
CHRISTINE M. CICCONE,
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs.

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, let me read from the administration’s letter. “H.R. 559 would provide for the admission of certain aliens who are currently present in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, CNMI, and who had been parolees. . . . In doing so, the bill would establish an alternative regime to the now-terminated categorical parole program for the CNMI. DHS believes that the bill would address the discrete needs of this alien group in an equitable and lawful manner. . . . It is the Department’s hope that the full House of Representatives will take up and pass the measure expeditiously.” Signed: Christine M. Ciccone, Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security.

To be completely transparent, the bill before us has been altered slightly from the original. The bill now includes an administrative appeal proce-

dure if an applicant believes an error was made in processing their petition for permanent status. But that new language was also drafted, at my request, by the administration. So the bill remains 100 percent as drafted by the administration.

Again, the bill provides permanent status in the Marianas only, with no right of entry to any other part of the United States and no right to any public assistance, to a small group of people who have lived and worked in the Marianas, always lawfully present, since before U.S. immigration law was ever extended to our islands.

The Trump administration agrees. These individuals should be allowed to stay, but not by administrative fiat. They should be allowed to stay under the rule of law.

Today, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass that law. Do as the administration advises. Vote “yes” on H.R. 559.

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as has been documented, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands’ workforce has historically been comprised of U.S. citizens as well as a nonimmigrant, temporary foreign population.

Until 2009, the CNMI controlled its own immigration policy for the foreign workforce. Today, the Department of Homeland Security manages the applications and eventual permits for any foreign people entering the Commonwealth for work. Since 2009, the transitional worker program was forward-looking, which left a certain portion of the existing foreign workforce that has resided and worked in the Commonwealth for many years in a gray area.

H.R. 559 is an approach to resolve any uncertainty for these long-term foreign workers. I thank the Governor of the Commonwealth, Ralph Torres, for his help and Mr. SABLÁN.

While the policy contained in this measure is fair for long-term foreign workers in the Mariana Islands, I am deeply disappointed that the majority did not consider this bill through regular order. Neither the Natural Resources Committee nor the Judiciary Committee, which received an additional referral of this bill, have acted on this measure—no hearings, no markups. It is my hope that the majority truly believes in following their rules that are supposed to provide for an open and transparent process because this bill did not meet that test.

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

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I commend my colleague from the Northern Mariana Islands for so ably representing his people. As the Representative proudly representing Hawaii, I recognize him and his constituents as members of our Pacific Islands ohana, and I commend him also for working very closely with the adminis-

tration to get this bill right from both sides’ perspectives. It is a truly bipartisan bill.

It is a necessary bill, and I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

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 Hawaii (Mr. CASE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 559, 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o’clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. TITUS) at 6 o’clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON H.R. 3055, COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2020

Mr. SERRANO, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-101) on the bill (H.R. 3055) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2157;

Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2940; and

Agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.