cited in his closing arguments, but how about the over 150 who are on record in support of this bill? We should listen to them.

We should listen to the many States and territories and other nations, including, recently, Canada, our neighbor to the north.

We should listen to the many corporate leaders around the world, all of whom have reached the inevitable conclusion that, if you are serious about ending this wasteful and inhumane and horrific practice of shark finning, then you have to tackle the shark fin trade; you have to ban the possession and sale of shark fins, because, if you don't, we know here in the United States we have banned the practice of shark finning for years, and yet we have continued to be part of and contributed to the global shark fin trade because we don't ban the possession and trade and sale of the fin itself.

That is what this bill does.

And in terms of U.S. fishermen who are, as my friend says, following the laws and doing everything right, well, the good news is they are going to be just fine under this law. We know that because, in States like California, Oregon, Texas, and other places, folks who want to continue fishing for shark meat have been able to do so, even though those States have passed bans just like this on the possession, trade, and sale of shark fins.

This is a good bill. It is an overwhelmingly bipartisan bill. It is a bill that includes support from 19 members of the Florida delegation, including 6 Republicans from that delegation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 737, 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. MCCLINTOCK. 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.

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION EXTENSION ACT

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 925) to extend the authorization of appropriations for allocation to carry out approved wetlands conservation projects under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2024.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 295

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 American Wetlands Conservation Extension Act''.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 7(c) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4406(c)) is amended by striking ''not to exceed—'' and all that follows through paragraph (5) and inserting ''not to exceed $60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. 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 the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill would reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, a partnership-based program that leverages non-Federal funds to protect and restore wetland and associated habitat.

NAWCA has enjoyed bipartisan support in the past, and this bill is no exception.

The bill authorizes NAWCA for 5 years at $60 million per year.

NAWCA is considered one of the most cost-effective conservation programs. Each Federal dollar invested in NAWCA is typically matched by more than $3 from non-Federal partners at the local and State level, including corporations, private landowners, and nonprofits.

Thanks to NAWCA, almost 29.8 million acres of habitat have been protected.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 925 reauthorizes conservation projects under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, NAWCA, through fiscal year 2024.

I readily concede this is a popular program. Even without an authorization, the appropriators put $42 million into this last year. The sponsors of the bill, obviously, want more, authorizing $60 million a year. That is higher than any appropriation to date. I am concerned that, in a time where we are running record and perilous deficits, we ought to consider the level which some of these programs should be funded.

Much of the money under NAWCA is used to obtain conservation easements and wetlands outright to benefit migratory birds and fish. According to the Fish and Wildlife Service, the program has benefited almost 30 million acres of wetland habitat in North America since its inception 30 years ago. It is a very good thing.

Here is the problem, though: The Federal Government is already landlord to 640 million acres of the country and is doing a poor job of maintaining what we already have. For example, the National Park Service is facing a nearly $12 billion deferred maintenance backlog. The question I would raise today is whether we really need to authorize increased funding to buy even more land.

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It would be one thing if Congress had taken strong action to address this backlog by moving H.R. 1225 by Congressman ROB BISHOP, the former chairman and currently ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee.

That was a favorably reported bill. It has overwhelming support with 329 bipartisan cosponsors. That bill would take excess funds from new energy development and target these deteriorating lands so that people as well as migratory birds and fish can enjoy them.

I recognize that H.R. 925 simply authorizes an existing program, but it is imperative to take into account the realities that our current Federal lands are facing. Acquiring more land when we can't take care of the land we already control is not a wise use of our resources.

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), who is the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and I rise in strong support of my bill, H.R. 925, the North American Wetlands Conservation Extension Act.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Congressman WITTMAN from Virginia, for coauthoring this measure with me and for his leadership on this issue; not just on this bill, but on this issue. He is a stalwart supporter and he works extremely hard on making sure our wetlands and environment are protected.

As members of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Congressman WITTMAN and I have the privilege of evaluating and approving NAWCA-funded projects in the United States, in Canada, and in Mexico.

On that commission, we share a responsibility to ensure that everyone in America can use and can enjoy the natural resources that belong to all of us.

Since 1989, North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants have funded close to 3,000 projects, carried out by more than 6,000 partners. Every year, restoration and conservation projects funded by NAWCA support 7,500 jobs across our country, from fisheries biologists and engineers, to construction teams and supply retailers.

Federal NAWCA grants require a 10-to-1 nonFederal match, and over the past 30 years, $1.6 billion in Federal funding has been matched more than 3 to 1 with $4.7 billion contributed by nonFederal partners.

The result so far has been 29.8 million acres, an area the size of the State of Pennsylvania, of rehabilitated and restored wetlands. These wetlands support ecological health and biodiversity while providing outstanding opportunities for Americans to hunt, to fish, to hike, to bird watch, to farm, and to ranch. The resulting economic activity exceeds $5 billion every year.

Even those who don't use these lands directly benefit. Wetlands provide natural processes that allow us to have clean, plentiful water supplies. Wetlands protect the lands around them by absorbing flood water and storm surges.

H.R. 925 reauthorizes NAWCA so we can continue the critical work on North America's wetlands that offer tremendous ecological and economic benefits to each and every one of us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask Members to support NAWCA today to make sure that we continue to conserve our public land. Let's work together today on behalf of all Americans, now and for future generations.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise also in strong support of H.R. 925, the North American Wetlands Conservation Extension Act. And I would also like to thank Mr. THOMPSON for his extraordinary leadership on this legislation and for his service on the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

As he spoke about, he has a passion to make sure that we are preserving that habitat we all value and the wildlife that lives there—not just the migratory birds, but all of the other life that it supports. It is critically important that we continue this program. It is one of the truly successful stories in conservation in our Nation, and, again, I want to thank Mr. THOMPSON for his leadership.

This bill works to reduce wetlands disappearance and to conserve migratory bird habitat. The good part about it is that we, in setting aside this land now, predominantly use conservation easements as a mechanism to do that.

I understand the chairman's concern about more acres of land in the Federal inventory and the dollars that it takes to maintain that land. We absolutely have to address that. But the good news here is that many of these acres are in conservation easements, which means they stay in private ownership. They just have an easement from the Federal Government to maintain that critical habitat.

That really is the best of both worlds as well as leveraging private dollars with this. What a great example of how to leverage public dollars with private dollars.

Several years ago, the duck hunters, en masse, came and said: Listen, we want to increase the duck stamp fee so that we can make sure we have the necessary dollars to match the Federal dollars that go into this program. It was extraordinarily successful.

People who enjoy the resources, from bird watchers to hunters and others, have said: We want to put more of our dollars into it. And, again, we are using their tax dollars to leverage those private dollars for this critical habitat.

Our wetlands across the United States are Mother Nature's filter for the water that comes off the land and also Mother Nature's nurseries for all that critical wildlife that lives there, both fish, and birds, and other critters that are critical to these environments. They are disappearing at an alarming rate. This bill helps us stem the loss of those wetlands.

As I have said, the leveraging of private resources is critical. I think Congress should be doing more to identify these types of Federal programs like NAWCA that have proven to be successful. NAWCA matches funding that then contributes to conservation success in our communities. Let's do more of that.

Protecting and restoring and managing wetland habitats is critically important. I would argue, of all of the habitats out there, this habitat, on the scale of value, has the most value across, not just the United States, but across the planet. We have to do more to make sure we are preserving that.

It is critical that we invest efficiently to conserve these areas. Investing efficiently means leveraging that one public dollar to three private dollars, and we want to make sure that we are preserving these areas for use for future generations.

Unfortunately, wetlands continue to disappear at an alarming rate. This helps stem the disappearance of those wetlands.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Representative THOMPSON and Representative WITTMAN for their work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and would inquire whether my colleague has any remaining speakers on his side. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is, undoubtedly, a popular program. It does well serve public recreation and use, the very purpose of our public lands, and I certainly don't oppose it.

But I do want to close with this warning: We are continuing to acquire more and more land while we are failing to take care of the enormous estates that we already hold.

LOUIE GOHMERT, my colleague on the Natural Resources Committee, has compared our Federal lands policy to the old miser in town whose mansion is dilapidated, whose yard is overgrown with weeds, and whose paint is peeling because he spends all of his time and money plotting how he is going to acquire his neighbor's property.

I would like to hope that the bipartisan support for this bill will be accompanied soon with bipartisan support for Mr. BISHOP's bill, H.R. 1225, which would actually take the resources that we are generating from the public lands to assure that we are taking proper care of our public lands.

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAYNE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 925.

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.

FIRST INFANTRY RECOGNITION OF SACRIFICE IN THEATER ACT

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1088) to authorize the Society of the First Infantry Division to make modifications to the First Division Monument located on Federal land in Presidential Park in District of Columbia, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1088

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 ''First Infantry Recognition of Sacrifice in Theater Act'' or the ''FIRST Act''.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION TO FIRST DIVISION MONUMENT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Society of the First Infantry Division (an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that code), may make modifications (including construction of additional plaques and stone plinths on which to put the plaques) to the First Division Monument located on Federal land in President's Park in the District of Columbia that was set aside for memorial purposes of the First Infantry Division, in order to honor the members of the First Infantry Division who paid the ultimate sacrifice during United States operations, including Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn, and Operation Enduring Freedom. The First Infantry Division at the Department of the Army shall collaborate with the Department of Defense to provide to the Society of the First Infantry Division the list of names to be added.

(b) NON-APPLICATION OF COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—Subsection (b) of section 8903 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Commemorative Works Act''), shall not apply to actions taken under subsection (a) of this section.