

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLON of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), dean of the House.

(Mr. YOUNG asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good chairwoman for yielding the time and my good friend on the other side from Hawaii, one of my brother States, for this piece of legislation; Congresswoman BONAMICI for a very bipartisan bill with Senator ROGER WICKER, DAN SULLIVAN, involved in this legislation. It has been hard work, dedication to our coasts, our oceans, and the Great Lakes.

Mr. Speaker, we sometimes forget, we hear a lot about climate change, et cetera, but one of the biggest challenges we have is the condition of our oceans and how we can clean it up, but only keep that in your mind so maybe we can go forth in the future to really solve some of these problems, especially with the plastics.

This bill, which includes technical changes implemented by the Senate, would reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act through the fiscal year of 2024.

The 11 regional association networks of the Integrated Ocean Observing System work with regional partners to develop, operate, and maintain more than 300 observing assets that collect oceanographic and coastal data, including information about rising sea levels, coastal flooding, and harmful algal blooms.

This program is a simple system with multiple uses.

I will say that a cost-effective approach of fulfilling this Nation's need for coastal data is very important.

The data from these systems enables the Coast Guard to reduce the size of their search areas by two-thirds. The data is also used for tracking oil spills, providing mariners with sea state conditions, and for ship detection.

During the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, IOOS regions responded by deploying high-frequency radars and underwater gliders to the region to assist with monitoring the spill. IOOS data standards enabled the Federal command center to use non-Federal sources of data for the first time. NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration now routinely uses this data in their oil spill response.

It also provides core observations for water level, waves, winds, et cetera, and it helps to protect against flooding and surges of the sea.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good, bipartisan piece of legislation. I hope it will save lives.

We just had an instance in Haines, Alaska, where huge waves and rain destroyed a lot of our coastal areas. That just happened yesterday. This will help us try to make sure that we would have known that ahead of time.

It will save us money.

I would really like to congratulate everybody here on a bipartisan piece of legislation. It is long overdue. We will get the problems solved with oceans.

This is a good piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLON of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this invaluable legislation for our oceans and all of us, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the House Oceans Caucus, I rise in support of S. 914, a bill to reauthorize and increase funding for the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System.

The ocean covers more than 70 percent of the planet, but despite our intrinsic connection to our ocean we know very little about what is beneath its surface. The eleven Integrated Ocean Observing System regional networks use satellites, buoys, underwater gliders, and tide gauges to deliver accurate and continuous data on our ocean and coasts. I was pleased to work with my House Oceans Caucus Co-Chair, Congressman DON YOUNG, on the House companion to reauthorize these important ocean observation efforts.

Coastal communities, like those I represent in Northwest Oregon, rely on accurate ocean data and monitoring for information about ocean acidification, harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, sea level rise, flooding, navigation, and port security. In the Pacific Northwest, we are fortunate to have the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems leading the way. Tribes, commercial fisheries, emergency responders, and public health officials rely on the free and open access data collected by NANOOS to learn about threats to the health of our ocean. I am excited about the partnership between NANOOS and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission that focuses on the Center for Coastal Margin Observation and Prediction and will help to further our understanding of ocean-estuary interactions. I appreciate the continued innovation from NANOOS to meet the needs of our communities along the Pacific Coast and the Columbia River.

I am also pleased that this bill directs NOAA to conduct a vulnerability assessment to identify communities that are dependent on coastal and ocean resources and that may be affected by ocean acidification. I am grateful for the bipartisan support for strengthening our understanding of the socioeconomic effects of ocean acidification on a range of geographically diverse coastal communities, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on this issue.

To protect and preserve one of our planet's greatest natural resources, we must rapidly accelerate the collection, management, and dissemination of ocean data collection and monitoring. I recently joined my colleagues on the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis in releasing a bold, science-based comprehensive Climate Action Plan to set our nation on a path to net-zero emissions no later than midcentury and net-negative thereafter. I'm thrilled that our plan for solving the climate crisis recognizes the power of our ocean as part of the solution. Our Climate Action Plan

specifically includes the Coordinated Ocean Observations and Research Act to strengthen ocean observations.

Thank you to NANOOS for their efforts to accurately predict, model, and manage ocean observation data that support the needs of our region. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

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, S. 914, 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.

□ 1800

GREAT LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX ACT OF 2020

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1342) to require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to update periodically the environmental sensitivity index products of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for each coastal area of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1342

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 "Great Lakes Environmental Sensitivity Index Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. UPDATE TO ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX PRODUCTS OF NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION FOR GREAT LAKES.

(a) UPDATE REQUIRED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX PRODUCTS FOR GREAT LAKES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere shall commence updating the environmental sensitivity index products of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for each coastal area of the Great Lakes.

(b) PERIODIC UPDATES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX PRODUCTS GENERALLY.—Subject to the availability of appropriations and the priorities set forth in subsection (c), the Under Secretary shall—

(1) periodically update the environmental sensitivity index products of the Administration; and

(2) endeavor to do so not less frequently than once every 7 years.

(c) PRIORITIES.—When prioritizing geographic areas to update environmental sensitivity index products, the Under Secretary shall consider—

(1) the age of existing environmental sensitivity index products for the areas;

(2) the occurrence of extreme events, be it natural or man-made, which have significantly altered the shoreline or ecosystem since the last update;

(3) the natural variability of shoreline and coastal environment; and

(4) the volume of vessel traffic and general vulnerability to spilled pollutants.

(d) ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX PRODUCT DEFINED.—In this section, the term

“environmental sensitivity index product” means a map or similar tool that is utilized to identify sensitive shoreline, coastal or offshore, resources prior to an oil spill event in order to set baseline priorities for protection and plan cleanup strategies, typically including information relating to shoreline type, biological resources, and human use resources.

(e) FUNDING.—Funds to carry out the activities under this section shall be derived from amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Under Secretary that are enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE) and the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) 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, I am very happy today to rise in support of S. 1342, the Great Lakes Environmental Sensitivity Index Act. I commend my colleagues, Senators Peters and Young and Representatives Kildee and Joyce, for their bipartisan, bicameral efforts on this legislation.

The Great Lakes are the largest freshwater system by area in the world and are home to highly productive commercial and recreational fisheries, thriving coastal communities, and unique aquatic and terrestrial species.

This legislation ensures that the Great Lakes are not left behind in environmental planning. The bill requires that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, update at least once every 7 years its environmental sensitivity index products for each coastal area of the Great Lakes.

These environmental sensitivity indexes, or ESI maps, are crucial tools used in identifying sensitive coastal shorelines, biological resources, and human-use resources prior to a disaster like an oil spill. In emergencies, coastal managers and responders can then use these ESI maps to properly assess the situation, allocate and prioritize resources, and plan cleanups.

The last time the Great Lakes environmental sensitivity indexes were updated was in the 1980s. As we all know, between the climate crisis and human development, our environment has changed dramatically across our country and world in that time.

In the Great Lakes, for example, we are seeing record-setting water levels and harmful algal blooms. How these environmental factors would interact

with a disaster like an oil spill is, unfortunately, largely guesswork with our outdated information.

It is so important that we pass this much-needed, commonsense legislation so that the Great Lakes region is prepared in the event of an unthinkable oil spill or other natural disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Great Lakes Environmental Sensitivity Index Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, in the midst of a divided Washington, D.C., it is important that Congress comes together to prioritize the protection of the Great Lakes.

As co-chair of the bipartisan Great Lakes Task Force, building bipartisan consensus that preserves the Great Lakes, strengthens their economy, and protects them for future generations has been one of my top priorities.

While the environmental sensitivity index maps may not be the headline-grabbing legislation that we are sometimes used to, these maps are critical to the communities across the Great Lakes.

We must have accurate assessments of coastal resources that are at risk of severe damage from an emergency or a natural disaster. These environmental assessments include information on endangered and threatened species, vulnerable shorelines, and widely used community resources, such as beaches, parks, and boat ramps.

The maps are vital to disaster planning, as well as recovery, research, and restoration efforts. It is essential that we have an accurate representation of vulnerable locations and areas in the Great Lakes that are in need of protection in the event of an emergency.

While maps for the East Coast, the West Coast, and the Gulf Coast have all been updated recently, maps for the Great Lakes have not been updated in over 20 years.

To be clear, while the Great Lakes holds over 20 percent of the world's fresh water, providing drinking water to more than 48 million people, it supports over 1.3 million jobs, and generates billions upon billions of dollars in economic activity. Yet, as I stated before, our region hasn't had a proper environmental map update in more than two decades.

This legislation, of which I am a proud cosponsor, would solve this problem by modernizing and updating our maps of the Great Lakes.

Along Lake Michigan and throughout the Great Lakes shoreline, the current state of erosion and high water damage is at a crisis point.

In my district, along the shores of Lake Michigan, the high water levels are threatening not only people's homes and public infrastructure but the overall ecology and the economy of the Great Lakes.

Communities throughout the region have declared states of emergency as roads, bridges, harbors, and wastewater treatment facilities, just to name a few, are in danger due to these high water levels.

As we continue to see disasters and emergencies in the Great Lakes region, government, at all levels, must be prepared and have up-to-date information to act upon. This bipartisan bill would accomplish that, while demonstrating another way my Michigan colleagues and I, and really all of us from the Great Lakes region, are making sure the Federal Government prioritizes and protects and preserves the Great Lakes.

Whether it is responding to rapidly evolving events, such as a natural disaster, or planning long-term projects, such as habitat restoration, we need to have reliable and accurate information available to all the players.

When it comes to protecting our lakes, habitats, and shorelines, these updated maps will allow us to better prepare to face natural disasters or emergencies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, having this updated information will help us analyze and assess the threats facing the Great Lakes and allow us to be more proactive instead of 100 percent reactive.

The Great Lakes are a way of life for many of us in west Michigan and throughout the Great Lakes system, and these pristine resources help define who we are as a community and a people. I will continue to work, support, and advocate for commonsense reforms like today's legislation that will protect these incredible natural resources for generations to come.

I do want to thank my fellow colleagues who have been working on this, Mr. KILDEE from Michigan, Mr. JOYCE from Ohio, and the rest of the Great Lakes Task Force. This has been a great, true bipartisan success story, as we have looked at increasing funding for protecting the Great Lakes through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the GLRI, as well as initiatives like this.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), the co-introducer of this important legislation.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise also in support of S. 1342, the Great Lakes Environmental Sensitivity Index Act of 2020.

I was proud to introduce this legislation here in the House with my Michigan colleagues and also with Senator GARY PETERS, a Great Lakes champion on the other side of the building. During his time in the House and the Senate, GARY PETERS has been a staunch advocate for the Great Lakes, and I appreciate his efforts over there.

Mr. Chairman, I represent 118 miles of beautiful Lake Huron shoreline. In Congress, I am proud to lead the bipartisan effort on this legislation to protect the Great Lakes.

This legislation, as has been stated, would update and prioritize environmental sensitivity index maps for the Great Lakes. These environmental sensitivity maps are detailed guides that highlight vulnerable locations, structures, and natural resources along our lakeshore.

First responders use these maps to respond in case of emergency and to protect habitat, species, and structures that are most likely to be impacted by an oil spill or some other disaster.

If one of those disasters occurs in the Great Lakes, our emergency responders must have the most up-to-date maps and information in order to respond quickly and effectively.

These maps are maintained by NOAA. Some maps in the Great Lakes, however, have not been updated in decades. That is why this legislation is necessary, so that our first responders have the most up-to-date information to do their jobs effectively. We can't have one hand tied behind our back when protecting the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes are important to all of us. They support many jobs, generate billions of dollars in economic activity, and provide drinking water to 40 million people. We have to do everything we can to protect them.

It also defines literally who we are. If you are from Michigan, you can hold up your hand, and the contour of the lakes really defines the shape of our State.

I would like to thank Chairman GRIMALVA and Chairman HUFFMAN for their help in getting this to the floor today. I want to thank my own staff, Jordan Dickinson. I want to thank Rachel Gentile from the Natural Resources Committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, finally, I want to thank my colleagues, the cosponsors on this legislation, Representative HUIZENGA, who we have heard from; Representative DINGELL; Representative JOYCE; and Representative STEVENS.

This is, as Mr. HUIZENGA said, one of those issues that allows us to cut across the normal divides. We work well together in a bipartisan fashion to protect the Great Lakes. This legislation is another example of that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Great Lakes Environmental Sensitivity Index Act of 2020.

I was proud to join Representative KILDEE in introducing this bill to di-

rect the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to update the environmental sensitivity index maps for the Great Lakes for the first time in many years.

ESI maps document the potential impacts from coastal resiliency threats such as oil spills, coastal flooding, and storm damage from high lake levels, which have recently plagued many communities in my district.

Having grown up and lived my entire life along the shores of Lake Erie, I know that the Great Lakes are a national treasure, an economic powerhouse, and one of the United States' greatest natural resources.

As the largest system of surface fresh water on Earth, the Great Lakes provide drinking water for an estimated 48 million people, support more than 1.5 million jobs, and generate \$60 billion in wages annually. That is why it is important that we work together to protect and preserve the lakes and the communities they sustain. This legislation will help us do that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill today.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, the Senate passed this bill twice, without even holding a hearing. The House has not taken any action on its version of the bill, H.R. 2551, even though it has been referred to the Natural Resources Committee since last May.

The Senate Committee report on S. 1342 justified its need by stating that the environmental sensitivity index maps for the Great Lakes haven't been updated since the 1980s. It also states the maps haven't been updated since between 1985 and 2004. It just depends on which paragraph of the report you read.

Clearly, no one knows or could be bothered to find out when these maps were updated. Apparently, it doesn't matter for some people.

CBO scores this bill as costing taxpayers \$2 million, but we have no idea where the administration is on this issue. No money was appropriated for these indexes in 2019, and, clearly, we don't have an answer to those questions still in this report.

Mr. Speaker, 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.

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, S. 1342, 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.

KETTLE CREEK BATTLEFIELD SURVEY ACT

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 306) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the site of the Kettle Creek Battlefield in Wilkes County, Georgia, and adjacent property, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 306

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

SECTION 1. KETTLE CREEK BATTLEFIELD SURVEY.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This section may be cited as the "Kettle Creek Battlefield Survey Act".

(b) *RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY.*—

(1) *SURVEY.*—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") shall conduct a reconnaissance survey of the site of the Kettle Creek Battlefield in Wilkes County, Georgia, and adjacent property (referred to in this section as the "site").

(2) *REQUIREMENTS FOR SURVEY.*—In conducting the survey under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall evaluate the likelihood that resources within the site boundary would meet the four criteria for new parklands—

(A) national significance;

(B) suitability;

(C) feasibility; and

(D) need for National Park Service management.

(3) *REPORT.*—Not later than 1 year after the date on which funds are made available to carry out the survey under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(A) the results of the survey; and

(B) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE) and the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii.

□ 1815

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 materials 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, I rise in support of H.R. 306, the Kettle Creek Battlefield Survey Act, introduced by our colleague, Representative JODY HICE.

This bill would require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a reconnaissance survey of the Kettle Creek Battlefield in Wilkes County, Georgia.

On February 14, 1779, at the Battle of Kettle Creek, approximately 350 patriots defeated more than 800 British loyalists in a surprise attack. The battle