

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

marked the only significant victory in Georgia by forces opposed to British rule and impacted the course of the American Revolutionary War.

In 1975, the battlefield was added to the National Register of Historic Places to protect the site's historic and archeological resources.

This bill tasks the National Park Service with determining the best management options for these historic resources, and I would like to thank Representative HICE for his efforts on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support its adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE), who is the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker and am grateful for the bipartisan support for this bill.

I want to say a special thank you to the ranking member, Mr. BISHOP. It has been an honor to serve under him, both as the ranking member and the chairman of this committee. His leadership will be greatly missed. It has been an honor to serve with him and under his leadership, and I wish him the best in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I think most Americans are very familiar with great military moments in our Nation's past and our history, and all of us could name different places where some of those memorable battles occurred. But many of the Nation's finest moments took place right here in our own backyard, and many people are not even aware of some of those battles.

One of those took place in the other Washington, Washington, Georgia, in Wilkes County. As briefly was described, on February 14, 1779, there was a sizable force of British loyalists who collided with a small but ferocious band of American patriots. They were led by Colonel Andrew Pickens in the Kettle Creek area. They were outnumbered 2 to 1, and Colonel Pickens and his men suddenly attacked the Tory militia, catching them by surprise. It was a bloody battle, a severe battle, a brutal fight, but it ended up being one of the greatest victories in the southern campaign during the revolutionary time. This battle involved only a few hundred men, but the impact is enormous on the entire Revolutionary War.

In fact, Colonel Pickens himself said of the Battle of Kettle Creek: "I believe it was the severest check and chastisement the Tories ever received in South Carolina or Georgia."

This engagement demonstrated conclusively that while the British could hold areas and cities like Savannah or Charleston, they could never grasp hold of the southern backcountry.

The courage shown by the outnumbered patriots is nothing shy of absolutely legendary, and they are still honored in Georgia today. One of those stories that I would like to share today

is of an individual named Austin Dabney.

Despite being a slave, Mr. Dabney served with honor and distinction in the patriot military until he was shot in the thigh in the Battle of Kettle Creek. Though crippled and returned to servitude, Mr. Dabney's actions were never forgotten. In fact, after the war, in 1786, an official act of the Georgia legislature emancipated Mr. Dabney, and they granted him both land and a lifetime pension. This only scratches the surface of Mr. Dabney's story. Yet, it is something that we need never to forget.

Kettle Creek was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, and the 2007 report to Congress by the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service noted the Battle of Kettle Creek having demonstrable influence on the course, conduct, and results of the Revolutionary War.

Congress has made significant strides in preserving many of the battlefields of the Civil War, but I think, unfortunately, many of the battlefields of the Revolutionary War have been forgotten. We need to remember those.

This legislation is critical to not only preserving Kettle Creek, which has, by the way, tremendous support in the community and the State, but I strongly believe that the stories of both Colonel Pickens and the incredible stories of people like Austin Dabney are worth saving. They are worth saving for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to Kettle Creek being studied for inclusion in the National Park System. I appreciate my colleagues' support for this and urge the rest of our colleagues to support this piece of history and this legislation.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I certainly do appreciate my colleague's very emotional description of the rich history of Battle Creek and his commitment to its preservation. I join him in that.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, is there any time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah has 15 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HICE for everything that he is doing on this particular bill. He left already. He is the one who has the accent. But I have to admit, back where I live, this would be called Kettle Crick, not Kettle Creek, so if you can make that change.

But the problem is, obviously, battlefields are disappearing. What Mr. HICE has done is try to go about this the proper way, by doing the study that sets the parameters of what we need, and with a great deal of concern and consideration for the other people who are living in that area, for private

property in that area, for the other concerns that take place in there.

So, I am proud of this because Mr. HICE is doing it the right way. This is the way all of our studies should take place. This is the way all of our concerns should take place, and it is appropriate.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the adoption of this measure, 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, H.R. 306, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a reconnaissance survey of the site of the Kettle Creek Battlefield in Wilkes County, Georgia, and adjacent property, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2020

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2981) to reauthorize and amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2020, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2981

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments Act of 2020".

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. References to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002.

TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Sec. 101. Strength and distribution in grade.
- Sec. 102. Recalled officers.
- Sec. 103. Obligated service requirement.
- Sec. 104. Training and physical fitness.
- Sec. 105. Aviation accession training programs.
- Sec. 106. Recruiting materials.
- Sec. 107. Technical correction.

TITLE II—PARITY AND RECRUITMENT

- Sec. 201. Education loans.
- Sec. 202. Interest payments.
- Sec. 203. Student pre-commissioning program.