

years, and they deserve recognition from the Federal Government. Traditional communities face a growing number of challenges, such as the climate crisis, which impacts the local watersheds and forested areas. Without improved consultation and cooperation between the Federal Government and traditional communities, these communities may not have access to the resources they need to survive.

This legislation offers land grants the opportunity to be more involved in the issues that impact their community by requiring that future Federal land management planning consider historical and traditional uses.

It directs the Federal Government to issue guidance on permit requirements for qualified traditional use communities and helps New Mexicans who have stewarded these lands for generations maintain precious infrastructure like acequias.

This legislation recognizes the importance of protecting culturally important sites and communities and ensures that the impact of Federal actions on historical-traditional uses is evaluated and considered during the land management planning processes.

To ensure that acequia associations have a strong voice in advocating for their right to maintain their infrastructure, this legislation requires the Forest Service to work directly with acequia associations to develop a proposed rule on special use permits.

Addressing these challenges faced by land grant and acequia communities, including their interactions with the Federal Government, has been a priority of mine since I was elected to Congress.

I am proud and honored to have worked with the New Mexico Land Grant Council and the New Mexico Acequia Association to move this legislation forward.

I am grateful to Chairman GRIJALVA, Ranking Member BISHOP, Subcommittee Chair HAALAND, and Ranking Member YOUNG, and Representative CASE for their support in bringing this important legislation to the House floor.

Today, with the support of New Mexico's traditional communities, I urge the House to pass my legislation and ensure a victory for our land grants and acequias.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE). Without objection, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) will control the balance of the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the ranking member, I would just like to say that we support this legislation. We certainly appreciate our friend, Mr. LUJÁN, for bringing it forward.

Just a few comments I would like to make, rising in support of H.R. 3682. This bill seeks to ensure better consultation and collaboration between our Federal land management agencies

and local stakeholders over management of New Mexico's land grants and acequias.

H.R. 3682 requires coordination between the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior, and land grant-mercedes. These are the governing bodies of certain community land grants made by Spain or Mexico in the 17th to the mid-19th centuries to individuals, groups, and communities to promote the settlement of the southwestern United States.

Specifically, this bill directs Federal land management agencies to make these bodies aware of changes to management plans and other Federal actions affecting their land grants. H.R. 3682 also requires the Federal Government to issue guidance on permitting and permissible uses.

Finally, this bill creates a process for New Mexico's land grant-mercedes to establish their historical boundaries and provides a pathway for acquiring Federal land that falls within those boundaries when the Federal Government disposes of it.

We should always strive to make sure that the Federal Government is a good neighbor to the communities most impacted by its land management decisions, and this good bill does exactly that. It empowers rural communities in New Mexico with a greater say over land management decisions impacting their historically important common lands which will, in turn, ensure continued community care and use for generations to come.

So I support this legislation. I thank the gentleman very much for bringing it forward, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I am very happy to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND), chair of the subcommittee of jurisdiction, National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, my friend and colleague.

Ms. HAALAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3682, the Land Grant-Mercedes Traditional Use Recognition and Consultation Act.

I would like to begin by congratulating the author of the bill, my good friend and colleague, Representative BEN RAY LUJÁN, and thank him for having me as an original cosponsor.

His hard work and dedication to moving this bill forward are what got it to the House floor today. And the testimony from Representative LUJÁN from beside an acequia during our virtual hearing on the bill helped our colleagues to understand how important this legislation is to our constituents.

We will absolutely miss Representative LUJÁN when he begins service on the other side of the Capitol in the Senate, but we look forward to continuing to work with him on these and other issues that are important for New Mexico and our country.

In our home State of New Mexico, land grants and acequias have long played a critical role in our traditional

way of life, practicing traditional methods of stewardship over our land and water.

But for more than a century, these communities have fought for recognition, consultation, and access to their historic communal lands, which are necessary to sustain their land-based heritage and agricultural economies.

At the hearing I chaired on this bill, we heard from Arturo Archuleta of the New Mexico Land Grant Council about the unique connection between traditional communities and the lands they manage, and the challenges they face because some of the lands that formerly belonged to them are now Federal lands.

He noted that as the climate change continues to impact watersheds and forested uplands, the protection of traditional uses must be included in the conversations about the management of public lands for land grant communities to survive.

These are the same messages I have heard when I have visited land grant communities in my district.

The bill we consider today will provide enhanced access and consultation between Federal land management agencies and land grants and acequias, which is an essential part for maintaining their way of life, and I am proud to support it.

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I certainly endorse and agree with my colleague's comments on Mr. LUJÁN's service in the House. The House's loss is the Senate's gain.

And I would also note that I personally enjoyed Mr. LUJÁN's personal testimony from an acequia before the committee. That is the way to do it, where you have a real sense of what the actions are that you are taking.

I urge passage of 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, H.R. 3682, 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 provide for greater consultation between the Federal Government and the governing bodies and community users of land grant-mercedes in New Mexico, to provide for a process for recognition of the historic-traditional uses of land grant-mercedes, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR URBAN NATIVE VETERANS ACT

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4153) to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize urban Indian organizations to enter into arrangements for the sharing of

medical services and facilities, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4153

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 “Health Care Access for Urban Native Veterans Act”.

SEC. 2. SHARING ARRANGEMENTS WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES.

Section 405 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1645) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “urban Indian organizations,” before “and tribal organizations”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by inserting “urban Indian organization,” before “or tribal organization”; and

(B) by inserting “an urban Indian organization,” before “or a tribal organization”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 4153, the Health Care Access for Urban Native Veterans Act, will ensure that Native American veterans have equal access to healthcare, regardless of their location of residence, by expanding Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, funding to include urban Indian health centers.

The Indian Health Service acts as the primary Federal agency responsible for providing healthcare to federally recognized Indian and Alaska Native communities. Currently, there are three types of facilities that make up the IHS system: Federally-operated facilities, tribally-operated facilities, and urban Indian organization-operated, UIO, facilities.

As opposed to the federally-operated and tribally-operated facilities, which are often located in remote areas, UIO facilities have been established in larger cities in order to accommodate the large populations of tribal members located in urban areas.

By law, a Native veteran is eligible to receive services under both the VA and IHS and can choose which one to use at any given time. Section 405 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, or IHCA, authorizes the VA to reimburse federally-operated and tribally-operated IHS facilities for any services that they provide to eligible Native veterans.

To that end, the VA has entered into one national reimbursement agreement

that encompasses 74 federally-operated IHS facilities, as well as 114 individual reimbursement agreements with tribally-operated IHS sites.

However, because Section 405 does not explicitly reference UIOs, these facilities are excluded from receiving any reimbursements from the VA. This has severely hampered the ability of urban Indian health organizations to properly care for the Native veterans living in urban centers and has forced these veterans to travel great distances to reach an IHS facility or, sadly, to abstain from treatment altogether.

We can all agree that Native veterans should have equal access to healthcare, regardless of where they choose to reside. As such, H.R. 4153 will bring parity to the IHS system by allowing UIOs to enter into reimbursement agreements with the VA.

I want to thank the sponsor of the bill, Representative RO KHANNA from California, for advocating on behalf of Native veterans everywhere, and I urge quick adoption of this bipartisan legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

This is a good bill, and we obviously have no problems with this particular bill.

When I started, I talked about kleinigkeiten on the small stuff. As good as this is, it is still small stuff and, actually, it is taken out—it is a portion of S. 886, which deals with Indian water rights settlements and extensions. That entire bill, if you really want to help out Native American populations, if you really want to solve some of these problems for them, especially during this time, with the pandemic going on and hitting those areas even harder than some of the others, that entire Senate bill should be taken up and passed.

Now, the fact that you have taken a small portion of that out and put it here as a separate bill still makes this a decent bill and I am supportive of it. But if we really cared, and we were really important with what we did, take the entire Udall bill, bring it over here and pass the damn thing so that we can get it signed and get it enacted into law. That is really what would help people and that wouldn't be kleinigkeiten. That is a big deal.

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

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I urge 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. 4153.

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.

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HAWAII NATIONAL FOREST STUDY

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7045) to require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on lands that could be included in a National Forest in Hawai'i, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7045

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

SECTION 1. HAWAII NATIONAL FOREST STUDY.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to identify lands within the study area that would—

(1) support the conservation of biodiversity not found elsewhere in the National Forest System;

(2) support or expand the research mission of the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry;

(3) promote shared stewardship with local communities, including indigenous populations, the State of Hawai'i, and non-profit groups; and

(4) support or expand the international programs of the Forest Service related to conservation of forest ecosystems, sustainable forestry, protection of threatened, endangered, and migratory species, controlling the spread of invasive species, international reforestation, and other forest restoration efforts.

(b) STUDY REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a study to identify available land within the study area that could be included in a National Forest in Hawai'i.

(2) COORDINATION REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall conduct the study under paragraph (1) in coordination with the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources.

(3) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary—

(A) shall consult with—

(i) the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources; and

(ii) the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture; and

(B) may consult with such other governmental or nonprofit entities as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives that identifies—

(A) available land within the study area that could be included in a National Forest in Hawai'i;

(B) the ownership of the land within the study area;

(C) any undeveloped land in the study area that may be at risk of development; and

(D) any actions that could be carried out to preserve the open and undeveloped character of the land within the study area.

(c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section authorizes the Secretary to take any action that would affect the use of any land not owned by the United States.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AVAILABLE LAND.—The term “available land” means any land within the study areas that is—