

our jurisdiction. The Committee on Agriculture also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and ask that you support any such request.

We would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 5040, and request that a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

COLIN C. PETERSON,

Chair.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5040, the AIR Safety Act, authored by Congressman JOHN CURTIS from Utah. This is a simple bill that will improve our ability to fight the wildfires that have continued to wreak havoc in our Western States.

Although laws exist prohibiting interference with wildfire fighting, many people still fly their private drones near fires to take pictures and videos.

Unauthorized drones flying in these areas can cause all aerial firefighting tools, including helicopters dropping flame retardant, to be grounded, which wastes valuable time and money that could otherwise be used to suppress the fire and save lives and property.

The AIR Safety Act directs our land management agencies to study drone incursions over the past 5 years and mandates that the agencies develop better strategies to prevent drones from interfering in firefighting activities in the first place.

In the wake of yet another devastating wildfire season, it is critical that we do everything we can to empower our brave wildland firefighters with the tools they need to safely and quickly respond to fires. This bipartisan bill is a small but important step toward achieving that goal.

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

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), who introduced the bill and has sponsored it, along with the bipartisan sponsorship of Mr. HUFFMAN.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GRIJALVA and Ranking Member BISHOP for helping us move this bill along. Special thanks to my cosponsor, who shares a not-so-unique problem in our districts of wildfires and fighting those.

Mr. Speaker, I obviously rise in support of the AIR Safety Act, which will examine risks and effects of drone incursions on wildland firefighting.

In the last few years, Utah and the rest of the West have been battling extreme wildfires. Our Federal land managers and State and local partners need every tool available to them to put these fires out.

When a wildfire breaks out, the FAA sets up a temporary flight restriction, or TFR, around the perimeter to allow

aerial firefighters full access to the fire.

Unfortunately, when people ignore these TFRs and fly their drones around the fire, fire management must ground their own drones and helicopters until the area is clear. This wastes valuable time and money, putting structures and, most importantly, lives at risk.

The AIR Safety Act will direct the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, FAA, and State forestry partners to examine these risks and come up with ways to stop future problems.

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

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I request an "aye" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. 5040, 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. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY MODIFICATION ACT

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5458) to modify the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5458

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 "Rocky Mountain National Park Boundary Modification Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Rocky Mountain National Park Proposed Boundary Revision", numbered 121/154.327, and dated June 2019.

(2) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term "non-Federal land" means the approximately 40 acres of non-Federal land depicted as "TR 05-133" on the map.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.

(a) LAND ACQUISITION.—The Secretary may acquire, by donation, the non-Federal land for inclusion in the Rocky Mountain National Park.

(b) BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.—On acquisition of the non-Federal land under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) modify the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park to include the acquisition; and

(2) administer the acquired land as part of the Rocky Mountain National Park, in accordance with applicable laws.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. 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 California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5458, the Rocky Mountain National Park Boundary Modification Act, the first of two bills introduced by my Colorado colleague, Representative JOE NEGUSE.

This bill would modify the boundary of Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park to include approximately 40 acres of non-Federal land that former U.S. astronaut Vance Brand hopes to donate to the park.

This 40-acre tract will provide enhanced protections for the park's high-elevation ecosystems and would increase recreational access and connectivity by providing a natural buffer between private lands and three popular trails.

Rocky Mountain National Park is home to many of our Nation's most treasured landscapes, and I commend Representative NEGUSE for his efforts to expand and enhance protections for this park.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5458 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire, by donation only, approximately 40 acres of non-Federal land for inclusion in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado.

As many of you may know, Rocky Mountain National Park is one of the crown jewels of our National Park System.

The land to be donated is directly adjacent to the current park boundary and was recently donated to the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. The land being donated is entirely undeveloped, so it won't increase the deferred maintenance of the National Park Service in any way.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE).

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Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman HUFFMAN for his leadership.

I am proud to speak in support of two of my bills being considered today, H.R. 5458 and H.R. 5459. As you have heard, these bipartisan bills would extend Rocky Mountain National Park and ultimately create more opportunities for Coloradans and visitors to our State to enjoy outdoor activities.

H.R. 5458, the bill before the House right now, the Rocky Mountain National Park Boundary Modification Act, as has been articulated previously, would formally codify a generous donation into the park boundary made by former astronaut and Longmont, Colorado, native, Vance Brand.

Mr. Brand bravely served our country in the Armed Forces and then served as an astronaut, and he has now so generously agreed to donate roughly 40 acres to Rocky Mountain National Park. This expansion would add additional protections for the park's high elevation ecosystem and provide recreational access to literally hundreds of miles of trails.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have introduced both of these legislative proposals, which came at the request of local communities that I have the honor of representing back in Colorado and that ultimately seek to protect the public lands that they love. The bills enjoy the support from the town of Estes Park, Larimer County, and the Rocky Mountain Conservancy.

As one of the Nation's most historic parks, Rocky Mountain National Park remains one of the top-visited public lands in our country, attracting over 4.6 million people, annually, in recent years. Given the park's breathtaking scenery and iconic significance, these numbers are only anticipated to rise.

I know my good friend from the Fifth Congressional District of Colorado, Representative LAMBORN, knows Rocky Mountain National Park well. I am sure, like me, he and his family have had countless opportunities to enjoy the park and its breathtaking scenery.

It is an honor to be able to represent Rocky Mountain National Park here in the United States Congress.

People from all over the world are drawn to the park, each for their own reasons, to experience nature, seek solitude, watch wildlife, and partake in outstanding recreational activities. I, myself, hold a number of treasured memories growing up in Colorado and enjoying Rocky Mountain National Park: hikes with my father and now being able to take my daughter on those same trails. It is something that holds deep meaning for many Americans, and especially for Coloradans.

As we collectively seek healing during and after the COVID-19 pandemic,

our public lands offer both a mental and physical refuge as well as an economic stimulus for the local communities that rely on them.

Additionally—and this bears mentioning—this year, devastating wildfires have occurred across Colorado, forcing evacuations, threatening air and water quality, and destroying homes and businesses. Three of the State's five largest fires in the history of Colorado occurred in 2020.

While the bulk of these fires were on lands surrounding Rocky Mountain National Park, nearly 30,000 acres burned within the park's boundary. When the East Troublesome fire grew over 100,000 acres in 1 day and swept through a portion of the park, a number of park structures were lost.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank the superintendent of the Rocky Mountain National Park and her wonderful rangers and all of the personnel at Rocky Mountain National Park who work tirelessly to protect the park and the communities that surround it.

Given the devastating nature of these wildfires, in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, fulfilling the requests of local Colorado communities that have been impacted by, not one, but two, historic disasters is an even greater imperative.

Mr. Speaker, for that reason, I respectfully urge my colleagues to support both H.R. 5458 and H.R. 5459, bipartisan bills that will protect our treasured public lands.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I request an "aye" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. 5458.

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.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK OWNERSHIP CORRECTION ACT

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5459) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to correct a land ownership error within the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5459

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 "Rocky Mountain National Park Ownership Correction Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term "Federal land" means the approximately 0.18 acres of land depicted as "TR04-168-1" on the map.

(2) **MAP.**—The term "map" means the map entitled "Rocky Mountain National Park Proposed Forsyth Family Land Exchange", numbered 121/154,326, and dated June 2019.

(3) **NON-FEDERAL LAND.**—The term "non-Federal land" means the approximately 0.18 acres of land depicted as "TR04-169" on the map.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK LAND EXCHANGE.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF EXCHANGE.**—To correct a longstanding land ownership error, if the owner of the non-Federal land offers to convey to the Secretary all right, title, and interest of the owner in and to the non-Federal land, the Secretary shall convey to the owner of the non-Federal land, subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land.

(b) **VALUATION.**—The value of the Federal land and the non-Federal land to be exchanged under this Act shall be considered to be of equal value.

(c) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The non-Federal land acquired by the Secretary under this section shall be administered by the Secretary as part of Rocky Mountain National Park.

(d) **AVAILABILITY OF MAP.**—The map shall be on file and available for inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5459, the Rocky Mountain National Park Ownership Correction Act, introduced again by my colleague, JOE NEGUSE.

In the 1970s, a tiny 0.18-acre plot of land containing the Forsyth family cabin was erroneously transferred to Rocky Mountain National Park when the Park Service purchased land surrounding a private inholding.

Since the error was discovered, the Park Service has been working with the Forsyth family to correct the legal ownership and exchange parcels, and the family is currently using its cabin through a special use permit. This bill would permanently resolve this ownership issue and ensure the intent of the original purchase is met by authorizing an equal value land exchange between the Forsyth family and the Secretary of the Interior.