

also anchoring our future in the rich history and culture of this sacred place so that they may endure long after we are gone.

With the help of this Congress, we can honor Lahaina's past, while laying the foundation for a resilient and enduring future.

I humbly ask my colleagues to support H.R. 8219, the Lahaina National Heritage Area Study Act.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is a straightforward bill that will help a hard-hit community and provide it with options for how it can best bounce back.

I thank Representative TOKUDA for advancing this important legislation on behalf of her constituents. I strongly support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8219, 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. WESTERMAN. 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.

#### ATCHAFALAYA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA EXPANSION

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6843), to expand the boundaries of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area to include Lafourche Parish, Louisiana.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6843

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

#### SECTION 1. ATCHAFALAYA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA EXPANSION.

Section 213 of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Act (subtitle B of title II of Public Law 109-338) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “and Ascension Parish” and inserting “Ascension, and Lafourche Parish”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “14” and inserting “15”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6843, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support Leader Scalise's bill, H.R. 6843, which will modestly expand an existing national heritage area located in his district.

Currently encompassing 14 parishes in southern Louisiana's Atchafalaya Basin, this national heritage area promotes the region's unique traditions, language, culture, and landscape.

The Atchafalaya is the Nation's largest river swamp, boasting abundant natural resources such as ancient live oaks, towering cypress, sugarcane, and cotton. The region is also home to residents of European, African, Caribbean, and Native-American descent who all contribute to the area's famous Cajun culture.

By promoting heritage development and tourism, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area protects the region's very cultural and physical resources, while contributing to the local economy.

H.R. 6843 will build on that success by expanding the boundaries of the national heritage area to include nearby Lafourche Parish. This humble expansion will help create jobs and safeguard the region's natural and cultural resources.

I want to commend Leader Scalise for leading this effort to help promote local natural and cultural resources without Federal management or ownership and empower local approaches and do not hinder economic development.

Mr. Speaker, I support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6843, a bill introduced by our colleague and my friend from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area was established by Congress in 2006. It is known for its rich cultures and ecologically varied regions. It stretches across 14 parishes in southern Louisiana, where it helps preserve and promote Cajun culture and the area's diverse abundance of wildlife and natural history.

This bill would expand the current boundaries of the national heritage area to encompass the Lafourche Parish in southern Louisiana. The National Park Service studied and approved the expansion, making this an easy bill to support.

National heritage areas preserve landscapes of significant importance to communities through natural, cultural, and historical resources. These areas also serve communities by providing recreational and economic opportunities.

Expanding the boundary's areas will promote grassroots conservation efforts and expand economic opportunities in those regions. This is a win-win.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the lead sponsor of this bill and the majority leader.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman WESTERMAN, as well as the House Committee on Natural Resources for moving this bill forward. I thank my good friend, Mrs. DINGELL, for her strong support as well, as she just expressed.

I am honored to speak on behalf of my bill to update the boundaries of the existing Atchafalaya National Heritage Area to include Lafourche Parish which is in my district. Stretching across 14 parishes in Louisiana, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area protects our region's storied culture and resources.

From Cajun music, to zydeco, to our bayous and abundant natural resources, Louisiana has unparalleled culture and heritage and is home to some of the most unique and special landscapes in the world.

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area brings awareness to this region and tells the rich story of Louisiana's treasured culture and history.

I am proud to lead the effort with my delegation colleagues to ensure that Lafourche Parish, the only parish in the historic boundary area that is left out of the original designation, is finally included in this national heritage area. This bill corrects a long-overdue oversight that will complete the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

I would especially like to thank my fellow Louisiana delegation members, as well as the executive director of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, Justin Lemoine, the Lafourche Parish President, Archie Chaisson, the parishes originally included in the designation, and the other stakeholders for their support in this effort.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in voting “yes” for this bill and in celebrating the great, unique heritage that we enjoy in south Louisiana.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this straightforward bill will help strengthen the economic development, resource protection, and cultural heritage of a unique part of the country, while keeping Federal involvement to a minimum.

I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) for leading this important effort and for his tireless work on behalf his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption 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 Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6843.

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.

**MAURICE D. HINCHEY HUDSON RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ENHANCEMENT ACT**

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 390) to amend the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-333; 54 U.S.C. 320101 note) to include all of Saratoga and Washington Counties in the boundaries of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 390

*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 "Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Enhancement Act".*

**SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

*In this Act:*

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

(2) **STATE.**—The term "State" means the State of New York.

(3) **STUDY AREA.**—The term "study area" means Saratoga and Washington Counties in the State.

**SEC. 3. HUDSON RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY.**

*The Secretary, in consultation with State and local historic preservation officers, State and local historical societies, State and local tourism offices, and other appropriate organizations and governmental agencies, shall carry out, in accordance with section 120103(a) of title 54, United States Code, a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as part of the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area established under the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-333; 54 U.S.C. 320101 note).*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 390, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1715

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Representative STEFANIK's bill, the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Enhancement Act. Established in 1996, the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area was among the earliest national heritage areas designated by Congress.

It follows the Hudson River for roughly 150 miles through New York State covering 10 counties, 250 communities, and 107 distinct heritage sites.

These sites reflect the Hudson River Valley's natural, historic, and cultural contributions to the Nation. Many of these sites, for example, have important ties to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, and the Underground Railroad.

Recognizing this region's importance to American history, this legislation will direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study assessing the suitability and feasibility of expanding the boundaries of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area to include all of Saratoga and Washington Counties.

This change would bring the Federal boundaries of the national heritage area in line with the State's boundaries. Such an expansion could increase opportunities for Saratoga and Washington Counties to attract more tourism and support local economic development without adding to the Federal estate.

I praise Representative STEFANIK for her leadership on this issue and for her work this Congress advocating on behalf of her constituents. The Committee on Natural Resources has passed three pieces of her legislation this year by unanimous consent, no small feat, and each of these bills directly benefit her constituents.

We will all certainly miss Representative STEFANIK next year, but in the meantime, I look forward to working with her to advance this bill in Congress. I support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Enhancement Act introduced by Representative STEFANIK of New York.

This bill would add the remaining portion of Saratoga County and Washington County in New York to the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.

First designated in 1996, this heritage area preserves and celebrates the nationally significant, cultural, and natural resources of the Hudson River Valley, including the significance of the location during the American Revolutionary War.

As a Member of this House, Representative Hinchey fiercely advocated for the success and growth of the heritage area throughout his career. His leadership and dedication made such an incredible mark that Congress chose to designate the area in his honor after he tragically passed away in 2017.

This bill is a fitting way to continue the success of the heritage area and honor his legacy. I urge support for this bill. I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a simple, bipartisan bill that will assess promising opportunities to empower local voices, bolster economic development, and protect cultural resources in a very important region.

Once again, Representative STEFANIK has worked hard to deliver sound policies for her constituents. I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 390, 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. WESTERMAN. 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.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 3, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 3, 2024, at 1:28 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 3746.

That the Senate passed S. 4305.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7438.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
Acting Clerk.

**RECESS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OBERNOLTE). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

**AFTER RECESS**

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro