

of cellular service in any developed area within the National Park that would increase—

(i) the access of the public to emergency services and traveler information technologies; or

(ii) the communications capabilities of National Park Service employees.

(3) REPORT.—On completion of the assessment under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, and make available on the website of the Department of the Interior, a report describing the results of the assessment.

(c) PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a plan, based on the results of the assessment completed under subsection (b) and subject to paragraph (4)—

(A) to install broadband internet access service infrastructure in certain locations in National Parks; and

(B) to install cellular service equipment and infrastructure in certain areas of National Parks.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with—

(A) affected Indian Tribes; and

(B) local stakeholders that the superintendent of the applicable National Park determines to be appropriate.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The plan developed under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) provide for avoiding or minimizing impacts to—

(i) National Park viewsheds;

(ii) cultural and natural resources;

(iii) the visitor experience;

(iv) other resources or values of the National Park; and

(v) historic properties and the viewsheds of historic properties;

(B) provide for infrastructure providing broadband internet access service or cellular service to be located in—

(i) previously disturbed or developed areas; or

(ii) areas zoned for uses that would support the infrastructure;

(C) provide for the use of public-private partnerships—

(i) to install broadband internet access service or cellular service equipment; and

(ii) to provide broadband internet access service or cellular service;

(D) be technology neutral; and

(E) in the case of broadband internet access service, provide for broadband internet access service of at least—

(i) a 100-Mbps downstream transmission capacity; and

(ii) a 20-Mbps upstream transmission capacity.

(4) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a plan developed under that paragraph shall not be required to address broadband internet access service or cellular service in any National Park with respect to which the superintendent of the National Park determines that there is adequate access to broadband internet access service or cellular service, as applicable.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2018), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ACCELERATING APPRAISALS AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS ACT

The bill (H.R. 5443) to establish a policy regarding appraisal and valuation services for real property for a transaction over which the Secretary of the Interior has jurisdiction, and for other

purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SALEM MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK REDESIGNATION AND BOUNDARY STUDY ACT

The bill (S. 961) to redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Salem, Massachusetts, as the “Salem Maritime National Historical Park”, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 961

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 “Salem Maritime National Historical Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act”.

SEC. 2. SALEM MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Salem, Massachusetts, shall be known and designated as the “Salem Maritime National Historical Park”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the national historic site referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Salem Maritime National Historical Park”.

SEC. 3. BOUNDARY STUDY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STUDY AREA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “study area” means the city of Salem, Massachusetts, and the vicinity of that city.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “study area” includes—

(i) the Salem Armory Visitor Center building; and

(ii) the park located adjacent to that building, known as “Salem Armory Park”.

(b) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a boundary study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of including in the National Park System, as part of the Salem Maritime National Historical Park (as redesignated by section 2(a)), any sites and resources located in the study area that are associated with—

(1) the maritime history of the study area;

(2) coastal defenses of the study area; or

(3) military history of the study area, including National Guard and militia activity.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are initially made available to conduct the study under subsection (b), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Secretary.

KATAHDIN WOODS AND WATERS NATIONAL MONUMENT ACCESS ACT

The bill (S. 4209) to provide greater regional access to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in the

State of Maine, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4209

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 “Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Access Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AUTHORIZED ACQUISITION AREA.—The term “authorized acquisition area” means the designated area outside the boundary of the National Monument depicted as “Authorized Acquisition Area” on the map entitled “Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Proposed Boundary Adjustment”, numbered 686/193.181 and dated March 2024.

(2) NATIONAL MONUMENT.—The term “National Monument” means the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in the State of Maine established by the Proclamation.

(3) PROCLAMATION.—The term “Proclamation” means Presidential Proclamation Number 9476, dated August 24, 2016 (54 U.S.C. 320301 note).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LAND FOR NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) BOUNDARY.—The boundaries of the National Monument shall be the boundaries established by the Proclamation.

(b) ACQUISITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may acquire, by purchase from a willing seller, donation, or exchange, land or interests in land within the authorized acquisition area.

(2) PROHIBITION ON USE OF EMINENT DOMAIN.—Nothing in this Act authorizes the use of eminent domain to acquire land or an interest in land.

(c) TREATMENT OF ACQUIRED LAND; BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—On acquisition by the Secretary of any land pursuant to subsection (b)—

(1) the land shall be included in the National Monument; and

(2) the boundaries of the National Monument shall be adjusted accordingly.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall administer the National Monument (including the land added to the National Monument under this Act) in accordance with—

(1) this Act;

(2) the Proclamation; and

(3) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System.

(b) HUNTING, FISHING, AND OUTDOOR RECREATION ON ACQUIRED LAND.—The Secretary shall allow hunting, fishing, or any other outdoor recreation activity on land acquired pursuant to section 3(b)—

(1) if that activity was in existence on the day before the date of acquisition of the land; and

(2) consistent with the management of that activity under the Proclamation.

(c) COLLECTION OF FIDDLEHEAD FERNS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall allow the gathering by hand of fiddlehead ferns (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) in the National Monument for noncommercial personal use and consumption by the general public.

(2) LIMITATION.—If the Secretary determines that the gathering of fiddlehead ferns

(*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) under paragraph (1) may adversely affect resources of the National Monument, the Secretary may limit the gathering of fiddlehead ferns (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) under that paragraph in accordance with applicable regulations.

(d) PUBLIC EDUCATION.—In accordance with the mission of the National Park Service, the Secretary shall collaborate with local communities and Tribal governments to educate the public regarding the natural environment and history of land management in the National Monument, including the shaping of that landscape by Native communities and practices, successive generations of timber management, and other activities.

(e) FORESTRY.—In accordance with the management plan for the National Monument, the Secretary may conduct such non-commercial timber harvests as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(f) PROTECTION OF EXISTING ACCESS.—Nothing in this Act affects valid existing rights, including existing rights of access through the National Monument for the removal of timber outside the boundaries of the National Monument.

(g) PUBLIC SAFETY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to the public appropriate safety education and notification materials to ensure safe interactions between visitors and logging trucks, equipment, and operations on roads in or adjacent to the National Monument.

(2) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall collaborate with affected stakeholders to establish procedures to meet the needs of visitors to the National Monument, logging and trucking operations, and other users of roads in or adjacent to the National Monument to ensure safe interactions between active logging operations and visitors.

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATIVE SITES AND VISITOR FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To facilitate the administration of the National Monument, the Secretary may acquire, by purchase from a willing seller, donation, or exchange, not more than 10 acres of land or interests in land, including improvements, for the administration of the National Monument and visitor services outside the boundaries, but within the vicinity, of the National Monument.

(b) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into agreements with State of Maine, units of Tribal or local government, or private entities—

(1) to carry out this section; and

(2) to develop a cooperative information center for the National Monument.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 3415

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today to pass important legislation in the State of Wyoming. This bill has only to do with Wyoming and no other State. It is H.R. 3415, the Pilot Butte Power Plant Conveyance Act.

It allows the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to transfer the ownership of the facility to stakeholders in my home State of Wyoming. The Pilot Butte power plant is owned by the Federal Government, but it has not been in service since 2008. It closed when it became too costly to operate. So it has been sitting idle there in Wyoming in a small area of 2½ acres for the past 15 years. It is owned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and they are planning to demolish it.

To be clear, we are talking about a mothballed hydroelectric structure. We are talking about 2 acres of Bureau of

Reclamation land. This is essentially 1½ football fields in size. That is how small of a footprint this is.

Well, the Midvale Irrigation District in Pavillion, WY, reached out to the Wyoming congressional delegation—all three members of the delegation—saying that they were willing to take ownership of this power plant that has been sitting idle for 15 years and ready to be demolished. Midvale Irrigation proposed this transfer as a solution to provide energy to local users. The local people right there came to us. They said that they will make the needed repairs to bring this power station back into operation.

If enacted, the bill will enable the facility to be revived after years and years of neglect and sitting idle. Communities in my home State of Wyoming will once again be able to get electricity from this local source of hydropower. This transfer is the only option to save the facility for future use. Without this bill, the Bureau of Reclamation plans to demolish the facility. As a result, it is going to cost the American taxpayers over \$7 million to destroy this property.

This bill that I have introduced, sponsored by the entire Wyoming delegation, is a win-win. The American people will no longer own a mothballed facility that is going to cost \$7 million to demolish, and the people of Wyoming will be able to put the hydro-power plant back into use.

Now, there has been a lot of conversation about the consultations and discussions that I have had with community members and stakeholders. I have met directly with both the Eastern Shoshone and the Northern Arapahoe Tribes regarding this specific bill and the hydropower plant. Since February—February of this year—my office has been actively engaged in discussions with all parties involved. This summer, my staff visited the facility and met with all of the stakeholders.

Everyone wants to see the facility operating again, and I am confident that the people of Wyoming will properly manage this facility in a way that benefits everyone in the local community.

The House of Representatives passed this legislation unanimously back in February. It has the support of the entire Wyoming delegation.

So, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3415, which was received from the House; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The junior Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. SMITH. Madam President, reversing the right to object, I want to say that I understand that Senator HEINRICH from New Mexico has concerns about the Pilot Butte Power Plant Conveyance Act, and I share his concerns.

The Eastern Shoshone and the Northern Arapahoe Tribes are rightfully concerned about the lack of official Federal Government to Tribal consultation on this proposal which would directly impact their reservation. I know that one of our most fundamental responsibilities as a body is to honor our trust and treaty obligations to Tribal nations and to uphold that government-to-government relationship.

I want to say that I appreciate Senator BARRASSO's work with my colleagues on these land bills, and I am not objecting to any others of them. However, I urge that we have the Tribal consultation that should be appropriately conducted on this bill; therefore, I object to the passage of H.R. 3415.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, this 2½ acre piece of land is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation—not owned by the Tribe, not owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation. It is a title transfer to create an energy source for local stakeholders. This is all about my home State of Wyoming. We are talking 2½ acres.

I understand the Senator from Minnesota is making this objection on her behalf as well as the behalf of the Senator from New Mexico. Let me assure the Senators from Minnesota and New Mexico that I will be vigilant and watching out for bills that impact at least 2½ acres in their home States. For example, the Senator from New Mexico, right now, has a bill, Cerro de la Olla, and it was reported favorably out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Madam President, that bill established 12,000 acres—not 2½ acres—12,000 acres of wilderness in New Mexico. This bill in my home State—not New Mexico, not Minnesota—Bureau of Reclamation land is 2½ acres.

As I said, I will be vigilant and watching out for bills that impact at least 2½ acres in their home States. And I consider their bills now dead until the Pilot Butte issue is resolved.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, could I clarify for the Chair, Calendar No. 304 was misread as 301. It is 304, which is S. 961.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Duly noted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I rise today to thank Senator BARRASSO and my colleagues on Energy and Natural Resources.

Today, we were able to pass H.R. 5443, which is the Accelerating Appraisals and Conservation Efforts Act. I am so appreciative of my colleagues for that support today. This is going to make a real difference for working families in this country.

We know that every parcel of land the Federal Government transfers or sells has to be appraised. Right now, we have a backlog of transfers waiting on approval because of a shortage of appraisals. That is delaying affordable housing construction, conservation efforts, and critical infrastructure projects that we really need in Nevada.

I thank my colleagues in joining me in cutting through this government redtape.

This act was authored by me here in the Senate but also my colleague Congresswoman SUSIE LEE in the House. It will speed up land transfers at no additional cost to the American taxpayer by giving private appraisers the same flexibility as the government to be part of this process. In my home State of Nevada, where over 80 percent of the land is owned by the Federal Government, that is a big deal.

This is a commonsense bipartisan solution. I am so grateful we were able to pass it today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc: Calendar No. 588, S. 2620, Chesapeake National Recreation Area Act, and Calendar No. 636, S. 4994, Vicksburg National Military Park Boundary Modification.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment, where applicable, be agreed to; that the bills, as amended, where applicable, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bills passed en bloc as follows:

CHESAPEAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA ACT

A bill (S. 2620), to establish the Chesapeake National Recreation Area as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Chesapeake National Recreation Area Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADVISORY COMMISSION.**—The term “Advisory Commission” means the Chesapeake National Recreation Area Advisory Commission established under section 9(a).

(2) **BAY.**—The term “Bay” means the Chesapeake Bay, including its tidal tributaries, in Maryland and Virginia.

(3) **BAY PROGRAM.**—The term “Bay Program” means the Chesapeake Bay Program authorized under section 117 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1267).

(4) **CHESAPEAKE GATEWAYS.**—The term “Chesapeake Gateways” means the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network authorized under section 502 of the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 (54 U.S.C. 320101 note; Public Law 105–312).

(5) **MAP.**—The term “Map” means the map entitled “Chesapeake National Recreation Area Proposed Boundary”, numbered P99/189631, and dated June 2023 (5 pages).

(6) **NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.**—The term “National Recreation Area” means the Chesapeake National Recreation Area established by section 3(a).

(7) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(8) **YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE.**—The term “youth representative” means a member of the Advisory Commission who—

(A) has not attained the age of 22 as of the date on which the member is appointed or reappointed; and

(B) is tasked with representing the interests of children and young adults in the State from which the member is appointed.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT AND BOUNDARIES OF CHESAPEAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), there is established the Chesapeake National Recreation Area in the States of Maryland and Virginia as a unit of the National Park System to preserve, protect, interpret, and provide for the public enjoyment of, and access to, the natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources relating to the Bay and surrounding areas.

(2) **DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.**—The National Recreation Area shall not be established until the date on which the Secretary determines that a sufficient quantity of land or interests in land has been acquired to constitute a manageable park unit.

(3) **NOTICE.**—Not later than 30 days after the Secretary makes a determination under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register notice of the establishment of the National Recreation Area.

(b) **BOUNDARY.**—The boundary of the National Recreation Area shall include any area acquired by the Secretary from sites depicted on the Map.

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

(d) **REVISION OF FORT MONROE NATIONAL MONUMENT BOUNDARY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—At such time as the Secretary determines that the land identified on the Map within the boundary of Fort Monroe National Monument established by Proclamation 8750, dated November 1, 2011 (54 U.S.C. 320301 note; 76 Fed. Reg. 68625), has been remediated and is appropriate for inclusion in the National Recreation Area—

(A) administrative jurisdiction over the land shall be transferred from the Secretary of the Army to the Secretary for inclusion in the National Recreation Area; and

(B) the boundary of the Fort Monroe National Monument shall be revised to exclude all land and interests in land within the North Beach area of the Monument (as in existence on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), as generally depicted on the Map.

(2) **REFERENCES TO NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.**—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, record, map, or other paper of the United States to the land described in paragraph (1) shall be considered to be a reference to the National Recreation Area.

(3) **INTERIM ADMINISTRATION.**—Until the date on which administrative jurisdiction over the

land is transferred to the Secretary under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Army shall continue to administer the land described in that paragraph that was under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Army as of the day before the date of enactment of this Act in accordance with the memorandum of agreement between the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary entitled “Memorandum of Agreement Between the Department of the Army and the Department of the Interior for Fort Monroe National Monument” and dated December 9, 2016.

(4) **BOUNDARY REVISION.**—On transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the land to the Secretary under paragraph (1), the boundary of the National Recreation Area shall be revised to include the land transferred under that paragraph, which shall be administered in accordance with the laws applicable to the National Recreation Area.

SEC. 4. ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR THE CHESAPEAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsection (c), the Secretary may acquire land or interests in land within the boundary of the National Recreation Area by—

(1) donation;

(2) purchase from a willing seller with donated or appropriated funds;

(3) exchange; or

(4) transfer from another Federal agency.

(b) **ADDITIONAL SITES.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Commission, may—

(1) identify additional sites near or adjacent to the Bay for potential addition to the National Recreation Area; and

(2) subject to the availability of appropriations, assess whether sites identified under paragraph (1)—

(A) are appropriate for addition to the National Recreation Area; and

(B) meet National Park Service criteria applicable to additions to units of the National Park System.

(c) **LIMITATION.**—Any land or interest in land owned by a State or a political subdivision of a State that is within the boundary of the National Recreation Area may be acquired only by donation.

(d) **CONDEMNATION.**—No land or interest in land may be acquired for the National Recreation Area by condemnation.

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer the National Recreation Area in accordance with—

(1) this section; and

(2) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(A) sections 100101(a), 100751(a), 100752, 100753, and 102101 of title 54, United States Code; and

(B) chapters 1003 and 3201 of title 54, United States Code.

(b) **HEADQUARTERS.**—To facilitate coordination of the National Recreation Area with the Chesapeake Gateways program and the Bay Program, the Secretary may locate the headquarters of the National Recreation Area at the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Park Service.

(c) **ADMINISTRATIVE, INTERPRETIVE, AND VISITOR SERVICE SITES.**—The Secretary may acquire, in accordance with section 4(a), not more than 10 acres outside the boundary of the National Recreation Area for administrative, interpretive, and visitor service purposes.

(d) **COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FISHING.**—Nothing in this Act affects statutory or regulatory authority with respect to navigation or regulation of commercial or recreational fishing activities or shellfish aquaculture in the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries.

(e) **STATE JURISDICTION.**—Nothing in this Act enlarges or diminishes the jurisdiction of a