

of setting more deadlines that we know the IBLA can't meet, we should be appropriately staffing our agencies and review boards across the Federal Government.

Additionally, I am concerned this bill will create a fast-tracked review procedure that advantages wealthier appellants. Taking the case to district court is time- and resource-intensive, so only the wealthiest appellants are likely to use the expedited review process.

By making the IBLA focus its limited resources on expedited appeals, anyone without the money to take their case to district court may have to wait even longer.

I hope my Republican colleagues will work with us on providing the IBLA with the resources that would address the underlying problem here while also having an expedited review process.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN), the lead sponsor of the bill.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of my bill, H.R. 677, the Expedited Appeals Review Act, or EARA. This bill addresses the backlog of appeals before the Interior Board of Land Appeals, or IBLA.

The IBLA is an appellant review board within the Department of the Interior, and it is tasked with resolving disputes involving public lands and natural resources under the Department's jurisdiction. This includes appeals involving the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Office of Natural Resources Revenue, and Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

It considers appeals dealing with grazing, mining, energy development, wildfire management, timber harvesting, trespass, and more.

The IBLA's stated mission is: "to provide an impartial forum within the Department of the Interior for the fair resolution of disputes involving public lands and natural resources under the Department's jurisdiction."

There are, however, longstanding inefficiencies in the appeals process. When combined with the high volume of cases, it has resulted in a backlog of over 650 pending appeals dating all the way back to 2014.

The IBLA receives on average 290 appeals per fiscal year. Of those cases that are not resolved on jurisdictional or procedural grounds, only 2 percent are decided in favor of the appellant and against the agency.

As instituted, the IBLA is not only falling short of its stated mission for impartiality, but creating further burdens through its extensive backlog.

The EARA creates an alternative path for expedited review, allowing stakeholders to request an accelerated decision of their appeals within 6 months of such a request. Failure to

meet this deadline then makes the decision immediately eligible for de novo judicial review outside of the Department.

This bill will alleviate the backlog in the IBLA, put the appealing entities on a level playing field with the Department and promote efficiency.

I am proud that this bill passed out of committee by unanimous consent, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

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Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will provide a more efficient and predictable form of recourse for those facing extended delays with their IBLA appeals.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) for her work on this important subject. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 677, 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. 677, 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.

#### STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S TURNING POINT ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1550) to redesignate Saratoga National Historical Park as Saratoga National Battlefield Park.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1550

*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 "Strengthening America's Turning Point Act".

#### SEC. 2. SARATOGA NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—Saratoga National Historical Park shall hereafter be known and designated as "Saratoga National Battlefield Park".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to Saratoga National Historical Park shall be deemed to be a reference to Saratoga National Battlefield Park.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) 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. 1550, 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 in support of Representative STEFANIK's bill, H.R. 1550, which will redesignate the Saratoga National Historical Park located in her district as the Saratoga National Battlefield Park.

Saratoga County, New York, is the fastest growing county in New York State and features a robust economy and world-class tourist destinations for families and history buffs alike. However, this prosperous community in upstate New York would not exist if not for a series of legendary events that took place nearly 250 years ago.

In September 1777, General Horatio Gates led Continental Army troops against the British empire in present-day Saratoga County. In the ensuing Battles of Saratoga, American colonists forged a turning point in the Revolutionary War by routing the British invasion force.

Today, this 3,400-acre site is considered a unit of the National Park System. There, visitors can explore trails and experience the historic battlefield, which includes landmarks, fortifications, and other important structures.

Representative STEFANIK's legislation would redesignate this hallowed site as the Saratoga National Battlefield Park, thereby recognizing its significance as a historic battlefield and highlighting the sacrifices made by the soldiers who fought there.

While this area was originally named Saratoga Battlefield Park by the State of New York, the battlefield nomenclature was dropped in 1938 when the area became part of the National Park System. With the battles' upcoming 250th anniversary, however, residents of Saratoga County and New York State have called for renaming the park to clarify its place in the heroic struggle for American independence.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative STEFANIK for her leadership on this issue. She is a longstanding advocate for honoring America's history and protecting hallowed battlefields. Her leadership was crucial in ensuring the passage of the bipartisan American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act, which was signed into law earlier this year.

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1550 redesignates Saratoga National Historical Park as the Saratoga National Battlefield Park.

The site in Stillwater, New York, marks the location of a critical pair of battles known as the turning point of the American Revolutionary War.

American forces defeated the British in the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777, which the National Park Service notes renewed the patriots' hope for independence and helped secure foreign recognition and support for the American Revolution.

This truly was a turning point that helped invigorate the fight for our independence.

As a testament to the importance of this monument, Congress has on permanent display in the Capitol rotunda, just steps away from here and to the left of the monument of three great suffragists, a famous oil painting by John Trumbull of the surrender of the British General Burgoyne at Saratoga.

The State of New York began efforts to preserve the battlefield in 1927, establishing a park known as the Saratoga Battlefield Park. However, the site's name changed to the Saratoga National Historical Park when Congress designated it as part of the National Park System in 1938.

Today's bill would restore the use of the term "battlefield" in the park's name to reflect the site's significance in the American Revolution. This is a fitting tribute as we prepare for next year's 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WESTERMAN for yielding me time.

I rise today in support of my legislation, the Strengthening America's Turning Point Act.

I am always proud to share with my colleagues in Congress and with the American people that upstate New York and the North Country are known as the cradle of the American Revolution, home to numerous battlefields and historic sites that were critical in shaping our Nation's founding and history.

As we approach the U.S. semiquincentennial and the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga, there is no better time to recognize the pivotal role this site played in our Nation's war for independence.

The Battles of Saratoga were the most significant turning points and one of the most decisive American battles of the Revolution. British General Burgoyne tried to seize control of the strategically important Hudson River Valley, but his campaign ended in defeat at the Battles of Saratoga, where he surrendered to General Horatio Gates.

The American victory against British forces at the Battles of Saratoga marked a changing of the tide in the Revolutionary War, hence, the turning point, securing foreign support from France and bolstering domestic support for the American patriots and their righteous cause.

This bipartisan legislation would rename Saratoga National Historical Park to Saratoga National Battlefield Park to more accurately reflect the historical significance of the site and emphasize the crucial military engagement that took place there.

The historic site was originally actually named Saratoga Battlefield Park, but when it became a national park in 1938, the word "battlefield" was left out of the name.

Unanimously supported by the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors, this significant fix will help increase public understanding of the deep significance the site holds in our military history and honor the site where so many gave their last full measure of devotion.

Mr. Speaker, I express my gratitude to my great friend and classmate, Chairman BRUCE WESTERMAN, for his partnership in ensuring our battlefields and historic sites in upstate New York and across America are preserved and protected for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan bill, the Strengthening America's Turning Point Act.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this bill by Representative STEFANIK acknowledges a significant site for its pivotal role in American history as we approach our Nation's 250th anniversary.

I urge the adoption of the 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. 1550.

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.

#### APACHE COUNTY AND NAVAJO COUNTY CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1829) to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands within the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1829

*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 "Apache County and Navajo County Conveyance Act of 2025".

##### SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LAND WITHIN THE APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FORESTS TO NAVAJO COUNTY, ARIZONA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COUNTY.—The term "County" means Navajo County, Arizona.

(2) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Pinedale Cemetery Expansion" and dated May 23, 2022.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(b) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—Subject to this section, if the County submits to the Secretary a written request for conveyance of the property described in subsection (c)(1) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey to the County all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in subsection (c)(1).

(c) PROPERTY DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The property referred to in subsection (b) is—

(A) the parcel of real property, including all land and improvements, generally depicted as "Exist. Cemetery" on the map, consisting of approximately 2.5 acres of National Forest System land located in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in Arizona; and

(B) the parcel of real property, including all land and improvements, generally depicted as "Proposed Expansion" on the map, consisting of approximately 2.5 acres of National Forest System land located in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in Arizona.

(2) MAP.—

(A) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct minor errors in the map.

(B) AVAILABILITY.—A copy of the map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

(3) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the National Forest System land to be conveyed under subsection (b) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

(d) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance under subsection (b) shall—

(1) be subject to valid existing rights;

(2) be made without consideration;

(3) be made by quitclaim deed;

(4) not be subject to section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)); and

(5) be subject to any other terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(e) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (b), the County shall pay all costs associated with the conveyance, including the cost of—

(1) a survey, if necessary, under subsection (c)(3); and

(2) any environmental analysis and resource surveys required by Federal law.

(f) REQUIRED USE AS CEMETERY.—The property conveyed to the County under subsection (b) shall be used by the County as a cemetery.

(g) REVERSION.—If the property conveyed under subsection (b) is used in a manner that is inconsistent with the requirement of subsection (f), all right, title, and interest in and to the property shall revert to the United States.

##### SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LAND WITHIN THE APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FORESTS TO APACHE COUNTY, ARIZONA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COUNTY.—The term "County" means Apache County, Arizona.

(2) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Exhibit, Alpine Cemetery Townsite" and dated October, 2019.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.