

I thank Chairman WESTERMAN, Ranking Member JARED HUFFMAN as well as Representative HOYLE and the rest of the Natural Resources Committee for allowing this measure to pass through committee and to come to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members support this legislation on economic development, expediting the permitting process, and ensuring that the lands in our community are decided by the residents who use them.

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 would support economic growth, create jobs, and attract new businesses to North Las Vegas by streamlining permitting and cutting Federal red tape. I commend Representative HORSFORD on this bill, and I urge its adoption.

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. 618, 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.

REVERSIONARY INTEREST CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 952) to convey the reversionary interest of the United States in certain land in Sacramento, California.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 952

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 "Reversionary Interest Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF UNITED STATES INTEREST IN CERTAIN LAND.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED LAND.—The term "covered land" means the approximately 8.43 acres of land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management in Sacramento, California, as generally depicted as "Proposed Easements to be Released" on the map titled "Lands Proposed for Release from Any and All Reversionary Interests of the United States, including interests under the Act of July 1, 1862 (12 Stat. 489)", dated November 7, 2022.

(2) BUYER.—(A) The term "buyer" means the owner of record of any of the parcels included in the covered land at the time of the requested conveyance.

(B) Buyer may only request and purchase the covered land's reversionary interest for the parcels of which the owner is the owner of record at the time of request.

(3) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—The term "reversionary interest" means all rever-

sionary interests of the United States in the covered land.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) CONVEYANCE.—Not later than two years after the Secretary receives a request from the buyer, the Secretary shall offer to the buyer the applicable reversionary interest subject to the requirements in subsection (c), and shall convey the lands to buyer upon payment of the appraised value.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—Any conveyance under this section—

(1) shall be subject to valid existing rights; and

(2) shall be for not less than fair market value.

(d) PAYMENT OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The Secretary shall determine the fair market value of the applicable reversionary interest—

(1) in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(2) based on an appraisal that is conducted in accordance with—

(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(e) COSTS.—In addition to the fair market value determined under subsection (d), the buyer shall pay all costs related to the applicable conveyance of the reversionary interest, including all surveys, appraisals, and other administrative costs.

(f) PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF LAND.—The proceeds from the sale of the applicable reversionary interest shall be—

(1) deposited in the Federal Land Disposal Account established by section 206(a) of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C. 2305(a)); and

(2) used in accordance with that Act.

SEC. 3. STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall—

(1) diminish the right-of-way associated with the covered land in section 2 to a width of less than 50 feet on each side of the center of the main track or tracks established and maintained by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company on the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) validate or confirm any right or title to, or interest in the land referred to in section 2 arising out of adverse possession, prescription, or abandonment, and not confirmed by conveyance made by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company before the date of the enactment of this Act.

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 Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 952, 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 today in support of Representative MATSUI's bill, the

Reversionary Interest Conveyance Act. This legislation previously passed the House by voice vote last December.

This bill resolves the stubborn property law issue afflicting a small parcel of land in California. The current owners of an eight-acre property in Sacramento recently discovered a reversionary interest on their land, which a railroad company originally conveyed. The reversionary interest, which dates back to the days of the transcontinental railroad in the 19th century, requires the land to revert to ownership by the United States since it is no longer used for railroad purposes. Because of this outdated encumbrance, the owners of this property are limited in their ability to develop or sell the land.

The Bureau of Land Management, which would inherit the property through the reversion, does not want to manage the land in question. Since the agency can't extinguish the reversionary interests unilaterally, the BLM has encouraged Congress to address the issue through legislation.

H.R. 952 would resolve this conflict by requiring the Bureau of Land Management to convey the reversionary interest to the private landowners for fair market value. This bill will free up the land for economic development and prevent further Federal interference. It is a good governance bill that supports the local community, encourages economic development, and reduces the burden on the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MATSUI for this effort on behalf of her constituents. I support this bill and reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Reversionary Interest Conveyance Act, introduced by my colleague from California, Representative MATSUI.

This legislation would authorize the conveyance of certain reversionary interests in approximately 8.43 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Sacramento.

Development at this site is currently hindered by reversionary interest that dates back to the 19th century. The original conveyance of this land from the Federal Government stipulated that it must be used for specific stated purposes or ownership would revert back to the United States.

Lands with reversionary interests like these have what is called a clouded title, which limits allowable uses and development. In this case, the reversionary interests originate from the initial conveyance that provided public land for railroad purposes in the 19th century.

Making matters worse, the land changed hands over the years eventually without the knowledge of this requirement.

This bill would finally clear up the landownership by resolving the Federal Government's ownership claims in

these parcels. Under the sale authorized by this bill, the current landowners would be given an opportunity to purchase the reversionary interests from the Federal Government so the landowners may pursue development or future conveyances of the land.

The bill will allow the city of Sacramento and Sacramento State University to move forward with the development of an innovative and dynamic research park.

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This bill includes standard conveyance language, including the requirement to sell the reversionary interests at fair market value. The conveyance is supported by the Department of the Interior.

This transparent and targeted land conveyance would be a win-win for the Federal Government and the community in Sacramento.

I thank Representative MATSUI for her leadership. She has been working on this bill for several years. I know her constituents appreciate the hard work and perseverance.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

This is straightforward legislation that will help private property owners develop their land without interference from the Federal Government. I support this bill and note that it unanimously passed the House last Congress.

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. 952.

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.

FIRE SAFE ELECTRICAL CORRIDORS ACT OF 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2492) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to permit removal of trees around electrical lines on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management lands, respectively, without conducting a timber sale, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2492

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 "Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS WITH ELECTRICAL UTILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In any special use permit or easement on covered Federal lands pro-

vided to an electrical utility, the Secretary concerned may provide permission to cut and remove trees or other vegetation from within the vicinity of distribution lines or transmission lines without requiring a separate timber sale, if that cutting and removal is consistent with—

(1) any applicable land and resource management plan; and

(2) other applicable environmental laws (including regulations).

(b) USE OF PROCEEDS.—A special use permit or easement that includes permission for cutting and removal described in subsection (a) shall include a requirement that, if the applicable electrical utility sells any portion of the material removed under the permit or easement, the electrical utility shall provide to the Secretary concerned any proceeds received from the sale, less any transportation costs incurred in the sale.

(c) EFFECT.—Nothing in subsection (b) shall require the sale of any material removed under a permit or easement that includes permission for cutting and removal described in subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED FEDERAL LANDS.—The term "covered Federal lands" means—

(A) National Forest System lands; and
(B) lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term "Secretary concerned" means—

(A) with respect to National Forest System lands, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and
(B) with respect to lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

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 Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2492, 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 strong support of H.R. 2492, the Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2025, led by Representatives CARBAJAL and VALADAO.

This legislation would allow the U.S. Forest Service to permit utility companies to fully remove hazard trees and other vegetation near power lines without requiring a separate timber sale. The legislation also includes provisions ensuring a fair return to the Federal Government when the timber is sold.

Currently, utility companies are allowed to fell hazard trees in their rights-of-way but are not permitted to remove them without going through the timber sale process. This unnecessary bureaucratic step leaves timber piled up in the rights-of-way for long

periods, creating a significant wildfire risk, especially near communities in the wildland-urban interface.

Hazard trees near power lines have proven to be a serious fire threat. In fact, the largest single wildfire in California history, the Dixie fire, ignited when a tree fell onto electrical lines. As we enter into what is predicted to be another devastating fire year, it is more imperative than ever that we take every step to manage our forests and reduce wildfire risk.

In January, the world watched as communities in southern California were virtually leveled by catastrophic wildfires. In the wake of that tragedy, the House came together to pass the Fix Our Forests Act on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis. The legislation we are considering today was included as part of the Fix Our Forests Act. Today is another opportunity for Congress to meet the moment and pass commonsense forest management policy.

I commend Representatives CARBAJAL and VALADAO for their bipartisan collaboration on this legislation and on the Fix Our Forests Act. I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,

Washington, DC, April 28, 2025.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 2492, the "Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2025." Thank you for collaborating with the Committee on Agriculture on the matters within our jurisdiction.

The Committee on Agriculture will forego any further consideration of this bill. However, by foregoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over any subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. The Committee on Agriculture also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees should it become necessary and ask that you support such a request.

We would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 2492 and request a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,

Washington, DC, April 28, 2025.

Hon. GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write regarding our mutual understanding of H.R. 2492, the "Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2025."

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture and appreciate your willingness to forgo further consideration of the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Agriculture will not formally consider H.R. 2492 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.