

I am pleased to support your request to name members of the Committee on Agriculture to any conference committee to consider such provisions. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2492, the Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2025, introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL).

This bill would authorize the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to permit electrical utilities to remove trees and vegetation near power lines on National Forest System and Bureau of Land Management lands without the need for a timber sale.

This bill addresses a critical public safety issue, preventing wildfires caused by overgrown vegetation near electrical infrastructure, particularly in high-risk areas of the West.

Current requirements for timber sales can delay essential maintenance and fire prevention efforts. This legislation would streamline that process while maintaining environmental safeguards under existing land management plans and Federal law.

Importantly, the bill would ensure taxpayer fairness. If utilities sell any of the removed material, they must return the net proceeds to the Federal Government. Altogether, this bill provides a commonsense, bipartisan solution to reduce wildfire risk, improve grid safety, and enhance coordination between Federal land managers and utility providers.

The bill respects environmental protections, avoids unnecessary bureaucracy, and promotes responsible land stewardship. I thank Representative CARBAJAL for his hard work on this bill. It will support community safety in his district and throughout the country.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close and reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I extend my thanks to Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member HUFFMAN for their support in advancing my bipartisan legislation, Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act, which I introduced with Representatives VALADAO, COSTA, and FITZPATRICK.

My Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act is a commonsense solution to help us reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. It simply allows the United

States Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management to approve the removal of hazardous trees or vegetation near power lines on Federal land without the need for a timber sale.

Unfortunately, catastrophic wildfires continue to ravage the Western United States, and we need commonsense solutions that balance sustainable forest management practices with reducing wildfire risks. My legislation strives to find that solution and that balance.

Currently, the United States Forest Service allows utility companies to cut down trees and branches in existing utility corridors. However, the dead vegetation cannot be removed from Federal land without a timber sale. This has created unnecessary red tape and led to the buildup of dry fuels around utility lines.

We cannot continue with the status quo. Inaction can be deadly. I know because we have seen it. The 2017 Thomas fire, which created the conditions for the deadly Montecito debris flow that killed 23 people in my district. The 2018 Camp fire and the 2021 Dixie fire were all started by electrical equipment. These fires were some of the largest and most destructive fires in California's history.

If we can take action to help save lives and protect property, we should. While there is more work ahead of us to continue to reduce the risk of wildfires, this is an important step. I am glad to be able to work with my colleagues across the aisle to get this done.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, passing H.R. 2492 would be an essential step toward reducing the urgent threat that wildfire poses to communities nationwide. Once again, I thank Representatives CARBAJAL and VALADAO for their leadership on this vital issue.

Mr. Speaker, 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. 2492.

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.

SALEM MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK REDESIGNATION AND BOUNDARY STUDY ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 2215) to redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site as the "Salem Maritime National Historical Park", and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2215

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 shall hereafter be known and designated as the "Salem Maritime National Historical Park".

(b) REFERENCES IN LAW.—Any reference to the Salem Maritime National Historic Site in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be deemed to be a reference to the Salem Maritime National Historical Park.

SEC. 3. BOUNDARY STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—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)), sites and resources in the study area associated with the study area's—

- (1) maritime history;
- (2) coastal defenses; and
- (3) military history, including National Guard and militia activity.

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

- (1) the results of the study; and
- (2) any findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Secretary.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term "study area" means Salem, Massachusetts, and its vicinity, and includes the Salem Armory Visitor Center building and adjacent Salem Armory 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 Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2215, 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 MOULTON's bill, the Salem

Maritime National Historical Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act. This legislation would redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Salem, Massachusetts, as the Salem Maritime National Historical Park.

Known for its rich history dating back to the colonial era, this area was the first historic site to be included in the National Park System in 1938. Today, the historical park includes 12 historic structures, a downtown visitors center, and a replica of a famous sailing ship, the Friendship of Salem. The site attracts over 800,000 visitors annually and showcases over 600 years of New England's maritime history.

Since most historical sites focus on a singular historical feature, designating Salem Maritime as a national historic park would align with the naming conventions of other National Park System units around the country. Community leaders in the area also hope the redesignation will lead to more visitors by highlighting the various attractions.

In addition to the redesignation, this legislation also requires the National Park Service to conduct a boundary study of related sites to assess their feasibility for future inclusion in the historical park.

I support this bill, and I 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 Salem Maritime National Historical Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act introduced by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON).

This bill would redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Salem, Massachusetts, as the Salem Maritime National Historical Park, and it would require a study into including additional sites and resources.

The Salem Maritime National Historic Site preserves more than 600 years of our history, documenting the development of international maritime trade and the journey to American economic independence following the Revolutionary War.

Due to the importance of preserving the maritime history of New England, Congress chose to designate a piece of the Salem waterfront as the country's first national historic site in 1938. The site has since grown to nine acres of land, 12 historic structures, and a visitors center hosting an average of over 300,000 visitors per year.

The bill before us today would redesignate the site to more accurately reflect the scope, scale, and significance of the resources managed there by the National Park Service.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important update to an important historical resource, and I thank Representative MOULTON for his leadership on this bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for supporting this legislation, especially my good friend and workout buddy from Arkansas.

I urge support for my bill, H.R. 2215, the Salem Maritime National Historical Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act. Salem Maritime was established in 1938 as the Nation's first national historic site. It has spent the ensuing 87 years preserving and interpreting over 600 years of American history. This redesignation is overdue.

National historic sites tend to contain a single historical feature and focus on one theme or period of time, but the Salem Maritime National Historic Site contains a dozen historical structures across nine acres. These sites preserve and share diverse histories, ranging from early American maritime trade to slavery and emancipation to the creation of the National Guard.

In many ways, Salem's history is our Nation's history. Take, for example, the Salem Gunpowder Raid of 1775, which was the first armed resistance to the Royal authority, laying the groundwork for the Battles of Lexington and Concord and, later, the American Revolution.

□ 1745

Mr. Speaker, this is history that our children and our communities should learn. The Salem Maritime National Historic Park does that critical work.

This redesignation will also help to bring more visitors to Salem, including to the city's many small businesses, promoting year-round stability in a city that receives a third of its tourism revenue in 1 month.

As America's 250th anniversary approaches, we should expand Salem Maritime's capacity to share our region's rich history with visitors from across Massachusetts and the country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 2215.

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

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this bill will more appropriately reflect the varied and unique history of the timeless landmarks in Salem, Massachusetts.

I thank my friend and acknowledge Representative MOULTON for his work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and acknowledge Representative MOULTON for his work on this bill, and I urge its adoption. 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. 2215.

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.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO UNITED STATES-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, 22 U.S.C. 7002, as amended, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following individual on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2026:

Mr. Christopher Slevin, Washington, D.C.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 46 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 tempore (Mr. HILL of Arkansas) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Con. Res. 30; and
H.R. 249.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to