

## BOLTS DITCH ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1729) to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to allow for additional entities to be eligible to complete the maintenance work on Bolts Ditch and the Bolts Ditch Headgate within the Holy Cross Wilderness, Colorado.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1729

*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 “Bolts Ditch Act”.

## SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL ENTITIES ALLOWED TO MAINTAIN BOLTS DITCH AND THE BOLTS DITCH HEADGATE.

Section 1101(a) of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116-9) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, the Eagle River Water and Sanitation District, a Colorado Special District, or the Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority, an authority organized under the laws of the State of Colorado”.

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 in the RECORD on H.R. 1729, 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 H.R. 1729, the Bolts Ditch Act, sponsored by Representative NEGUSE.

This straightforward legislation allows additional entities to conduct routine maintenance activities on Bolts Ditch and the Bolts Ditch Headgate in Colorado.

Bolts Ditch and the Bolts Ditch Headgate are water facilities located near the town of Minturn, Colorado, that divert water into Bolts Lake. In 1980, Congress established the Holy Cross Wilderness in the White River and San Isabel National Forests but inadvertently failed to include Bolts Ditch among a list of existing water facilities excluded from the designation.

This has prevented the structure from being rebuilt or repaired for more than three decades. The inability to rehabilitate and rebuild the Bolts Ditch Headgate prevented new development in the area, which would have required the expansion of Bolts Lake to provide a water supply for surrounding homes.

Congress corrected this error in 2019 by allowing the town of Minturn to access Bolts Ditch for maintenance and repairs. H.R. 1729 builds on this legislation by allowing additional local entities, including the Eagle River Water and Sanitation District and the Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority, to maintain this vital infrastructure near Bolts Lake.

This is commonsense legislation that will help local Coloradans and improve the operational efficiency of this important water infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, 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 H.R. 1729, the Bolts Ditch Act, introduced by my colleague and good friend from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE).

Mr. Speaker, the Bolts Ditch Headgate and ditch segment are located within the Holy Cross Wilderness in Colorado's White River National Forest. This infrastructure is essential for delivering water to the Bolts Lake Reservoir, supporting water supply needs and economic development in Eagle County.

Mr. Speaker, to balance the protection of the wilderness area with the continued operation of Bolts Ditch, Congress previously authorized the town of Minturn access to use, maintain, and repair the headgate and ditch under the John Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act.

The Bolts Ditch Act would expand this authority to the Eagle River Water and Sanitation District and the Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority as eligible entities.

Under this new authority, they would be eligible to receive a permit from the Secretary of Agriculture for non-motorized access to use, maintain, and repair Bolts Ditch Headgate and 450 feet of Bolts Ditch.

Representative NEGUSE's legislation would ensure continued access to critical water infrastructure, and promote efficient regional water supply management while protecting the wilderness area.

It would also support higher in-stream flows for Cross Creek, reduce energy consumption, and foster long-term economic benefits for Eagle County. This is a priority for this community, and I thank Representative NEGUSE for his hard work and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the 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 Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, I thank the gentlewoman

from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE), my colleague and the ranking member. I also thank Chairman WESTERMAN for his support and his team and his staff for giving us the opportunity here to consider a number of bills that are bipartisan, common sense, and certainly mean a lot to the folks who I represent out West.

Mr. Speaker, as you may know, I represent Colorado's Second Congressional District. It is an incredibly large geographical district. It is a district that spans across more than 8,000 square miles. It is larger than eight States on the eastern seaboard and spans 12 counties and over 55 towns.

I have the privilege of representing this incredible district each and every day back home in Colorado. When you represent a district of that size and scale, you learn early on how important it is to be present in your communities to be able to listen directly to constituents, local leaders, the folks on the ground, about problems that you can ultimately help to solve.

This bill is a perfect example. It is a bill that has been described well by the chairman and the ranking member that, in effect, would ensure that a number of different water authorities—specifically, the Eagle River Water and Sanitation District and the Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority—would have access, as the town of Minturn already does, to the Bolts Ditch structure.

□ 1640

It builds on legislation that we successfully got across the finish line several years ago. It is common sense. It is bipartisan, and it means a great deal to the folks that I represent in western Colorado.

I hope that my colleagues can support this measure. I look forward to doing everything that needs to be done to get it to the President's desk.

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

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, again, Mr. NEGUSE's bill is a straightforward bill that will improve the maintenance of Bolts Ditch and the Bolts Ditch Headgate near Minturn, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1729, 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. 1729.

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.

# AMENDMENT TO KAWEAH PROJECT PROVISION

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1044) to amend Public Law 99-338 with respect to Kaweah Project permits.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1044

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

## SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO KAWEAH PROJECT PROVISION.

The first section of Public Law 99-338, as amended by Public Law 108-447, is amended—

(1) by striking “3 renewals” and inserting “7 renewals”; and

(2) by striking “of Southern California Edison Company”.

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 to add extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 1044, 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 VALADAO's bill, H.R. 1044.

This bill is a commonsense measure to ensure the continued operation of existing hydroelectric facilities, which have provided reliable and affordable power to Californians over a century.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to issue four 10-year renewals for a special use permit for the Kaweah Hydroelectric Project, thereby extending the project's life for up to 40 additional years.

These hydroelectric dams, located on the Kaweah and East Fork Kaweah Rivers, fall within the boundaries of Sequoia National Park, but they predate the park's expansion and have long been recognized by Congress as a valuable energy asset.

With the current statutory authorization for the permits set to expire in 2026, this bill provides much-needed certainty for the continued operation of a critical source of reliable energy. Without an extension, Southern California Edison will be forced to remove this infrastructure at enormous expense to their ratepayers.

I thank Representative VALADAO for his leadership on this issue. By championing this bill, he is ensuring that more than 15 million people in California have access to affordable, reliable, and clean energy for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, 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 H.R. 1044 introduced by my colleague Representative VALADAO of California.

This bill would allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue additional permit renewals for the Kaweah Project, a hydroelectric facility that operates within the boundaries of Sequoia National Park. The Kaweah Project has been generating clean, renewable energy since 1907. Although it was originally granted a 50-year permit, the boundaries of the Sequoia National Park were later expanded in 1943, bringing portions of the project, such as flow lines and diversions, within park lands. Since the project predated the park, it was allowed to continue operating.

In 2004, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Interior to issue up to three permit renewals with reasonable safeguards to ensure the project's continued operation wouldn't harm the park.

These include prohibiting any expansion of the project within the park, requiring safety assessment, and appropriate compensation for the use of public resources.

H.R. 1044 would build on that responsible approach. By allowing the Secretary to continue renewing permits for the Kaweah Project under the same protective conditions, this bill allows continued hydropower generation while upholding our responsibility to protect the park for future generations.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO), the lead sponsor of the bill.

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge support for my bill, H.R. 1044, which authorizes seven permit renewals for the Kaweah Hydroelectric Project in Tulare County, California.

Southern California Edison has operated the Kaweah Hydroelectric Project since 1899, marking well over a century of reliable, clean power.

For decades, Congress has allowed for the continued use of the Federal lands for this purpose, but unless we act now, the authorization will expire in 2026.

Without authorization, Southern California Edison would be forced to dismantle critical infrastructure, costing ratepayers in the region tens of millions of dollars and eliminating a clean, reliable, and affordable source of energy.

This bill ensures that Kaweah can keep operating without disruption or unnecessary costs for families across California.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WESTERMAN and his staff at the Committee on Natural Resources for their work on this issue. I urge my col-

leagues to support this bill and protect the Central Valley's clean energy future.

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

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 is a straightforward, commonsense bill. In the world we live in today, where we have more and more electrical energy demand, it makes no sense to be closing down any kind of electrical generation, especially one where the infrastructure is already built, working, and producing reliable and affordable base-load power.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McDOWELL). 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. 1044.

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.

## JOCELYN NUNGARAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1596) to rename the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge located in the State of Texas as the “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1596

*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 “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge Act”.

### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On June 17, 2024, 12-year-old Jocelyn Nungaray was brutally murdered in Houston, Texas.

(2) Two illegal aliens who were allegedly members of the Tren de Aragua gang have been charged with her murder.

(3) On March 4, 2025, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order 14229 (90 Fed. Reg. 11585; relating to honoring Jocelyn Nungaray) renaming the area known as the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge to “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge”.

(4) Ms. Nungaray loved animals and, given the close proximity of her hometown of Houston, it is fitting that the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge be renamed in her honor.

### SEC. 3. RENAMING OF ANAHUAC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

(a) RENAMING.—The Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge located in the State of Texas shall be known as the “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge”.