

Junior League, the American Cancer Society, and the Midland Symphony Guild. She helped grow her family's land in Liberty County, Texas, into a successful cattle ranching business and was a very respected leader in agriculture.

Her greatest joy was her family, especially her four grandchildren. Tina brought warmth, strength, and grace to everything that she did. Roxanne and I are honored to have called her our friend.

Madam Speaker, her legacy will live on in the countless lives that she touched. May God bless her family and her loved ones.

#### RECOGNIZING COY JAMES AND DAVIE COUNTY'S BASEBALL LEGACY

(Mr. McDOWELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDOWELL. Madam Speaker, today, I recognize one of North Carolina's brightest young athletes, Coy James of Davie County, who now joins the ranks of great ballplayers from the Tar Heel State.

Coy was selected by the Washington Nationals in the fifth round of the 2025 MLB Draft. Known across North Carolina for his power at the plate and his elite play at shortstop, Coy is a force.

He follows in the footsteps of other Davie County stars, including Carson Whisenhunt, drafted a few years ago out of East Carolina by the San Francisco Giants and three-time MLB All-Star Whit Merrifield, who just retired after nine seasons in the majors.

These men are a testament to the deep love Davie County has for the game of baseball. We are proud to have them representing our community on diamonds across the country, and we wish them all the best as they take on their next chapter.

#### HONORING COLONEL CRAIG FOURNIER

(Mr. HARIDOPOLOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Madam Speaker, today, I honor Colonel Craig Fournier for his 34 years of distinguished service in the United States Army and the Florida National Guard. He is this month's Brevard County Veteran of the Month.

Throughout his career, Colonel Fournier held several crucial roles, including Executive Officer of the 2nd Battalion and project manager for the Missile Defense Agency. He earned numerous awards, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star, and Combat Action Badge for his role in the global war on terror.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank Colonel Fournier for his outstanding service to the citizens of the

United States and for his dedication to our country, its values, and our State of Florida.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCGUIRE) at 4 p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

#### WABENO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3937) to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3937

*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 "Wabeno Economic Development Act".*

##### SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND IN THE CHEQUAMEGON-NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST TO TONY'S WABENO REDI-MIX, LLC.

(a) *CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.*—If, during the 180-day period beginning on the date of Federal approval of the appraisal under subsection (d), Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix, LLC submits to the Secretary an offer to acquire the property described in subsection (b) for market value, as determined by such appraisal, the Secretary shall, not later than 180 days after receiving such offer, convey to Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix, LLC all right, title, and interest of the United States, including mineral rights, in and to the property described in subsection (b).

(b) *DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The property referred to in subsection (a) is the parcel of real property, including all land and improvements, generally depicted as "Federal Parcel to be Conveyed" on the Map, consisting of approximately 14 acres of National Forest System land located in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin.

(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 office of the Forest Service.

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

(c) *TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONVEYANCE.*—

(1) *REQUIREMENTS.*—The conveyance under subsection (a) shall be—

(A) subject to valid existing rights;

(B) made by quitclaim deed; and

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

(2) *COSTS.*—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (a), Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix, LLC shall pay to the Secretary—

(A) an amount equal to the market value of the land to be conveyed under subsection (a), as determined by the appraisal under subsection (d); and

(B) all costs associated with the conveyance, including the cost of—

(i) a survey, if necessary, under subsection (b)(3);

(ii) conducting the appraisal under subsection (d); and

(iii) any environmental analysis or resource survey required under Federal law.

(d) *APPRAISAL.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 300 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete an appraisal to determine the market value of the land to be conveyed under subsection (a).

(2) *STANDARDS.*—The appraisal under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with—

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

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(e) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

(1) *MAP.*—The term "Map" means the map entitled "Conveyance of Federal Parcel Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest" and dated September 27, 2023.

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

##### SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF FEDERAL PERMITTING PROCESSES FOR STONE, SAND, AND GRAVEL DEVELOPMENT ON FEDERAL LANDS.

(a) *REVIEW.*—The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, industry stakeholders, and State permitting authorities, shall conduct a comprehensive review of the Federal permitting processes for the development of stone, sand, and gravel on Federal lands.

(b) *REPORT.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the entities referred to in subsection (a), shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and make publicly available on the website of the Department of the Interior a report that includes—

(1) a detailed description of the current Federal permitting process for stone, sand, and gravel development, including average timelines from initial application to final approval;

(2) an analysis identifying potential inefficiencies and duplicative steps in such permitting process and the impact of such inefficiencies and duplicative steps on project timelines;

(3) the Secretary's recommendations for legislative or administrative actions to streamline such permitting process; and

(4) a summary of the economic impacts associated with current permitting timelines under such permitting process, specifically focusing on the stone, sand, and gravel sectors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TIFFANY. 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. 3937, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Wabeno Economic Development Act. This bill will expedite the conveyance of 14 acres from the Forest Service to Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix, LLC, for fair market value.

Tony's is a small ready-mix company that has supplied the surrounding community with concrete for more than 25 years. The company's concrete has been used to build homes, fire and rescue buildings, shops, offices, and even barns for local farmers.

Tony's first began working with the Forest Service on a land exchange proposal more than 8 years ago. However, the agency made it clear the project was not a priority and lacked the resources to complete it.

Wabeno is located in Forest County, where roughly 50 percent of the land is federally owned and only about 10 percent of the land is fully taxable, so there is limited private land available for small business expansion.

We often talk up here about how important infrastructure is. Here is a small business that helps infrastructure projects throughout northern Wisconsin. This is a prime example of a business that helps build America. Without this parcel, Tony's Redi-Mix will run out of the necessary aggregates it needs to produce concrete in about the next 2 years.

This bill will keep this important business in operation and, with it, the 17 hardworking people it currently employs.

Wabeno is a small town with a population of just over 1,100 people. Mr. Speaker, 17 jobs may not seem like a big deal to people from the big cities, but I can assure my colleagues the jobs and economic benefits provided by this small business are critically important to this rural community.

This important conveyance will provide much-needed economic growth and jobs for people in Wabeno and Forest County. It has strong local support, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" to make sure Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix stays in business for years to come.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, July 17, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 3937, the "Wabeno Economic Development Act." 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. 3937 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, July 17, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write regarding our mutual understanding of H.R. 3937, the Wabeno Economic Development Act, which was ordered report by the Committee on Natural Resources.

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. 3937 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

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.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3937, legislation introduced by my colleague from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY).

This bill would authorize the conveyance of 14 acres of National Forest System land to Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix, LLC, a concrete company based in northern Wisconsin.

The land is located in a national forest, and the Forest Service determined that the land is suitable for conveyance to private ownership. The costs associated with the conveyance will be covered by the company, and the property will be conveyed at market value as determined by Federal appraisal.

In addition to the conveyance, the bill would require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct and publish a com-

prehensive review of the Federal permitting process for the development of stone, sand, and gravel on Federal lands.

This review will include descriptions of the Federal permitting process for stone, sand, and gravel development. It will also include an analysis of potential inefficiencies and recommendations for administrative or legislative action, as well as a summary of economic impacts associated with the current permitting process.

Although the Committee on Natural Resources has not held a hearing on this bill in the 119th Congress, a hearing was held last year, providing the Forest Service with an opportunity to comment on and evaluate the proposal.

This is a critical component of the legislative process that ensures decisions about the administration of our national forests and public lands are made out in the open. These shared resources belong to all Americans, and regular order ensures transparency, something which all of our constituents deserve.

I know that as chair of the Federal Lands Subcommittee, Representative TIFFANY understands and embraces this sentiment. I thank and congratulate him on continuing to move this bill forward in an open and objective manner.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) for her support in regard to this for the last two sessions of the Natural Resources Committee and getting this to the floor and for her help in accomplishing this.

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

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

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a straightforward bill that supports rural jobs, strengthens local economies, and improves how we manage our Federal lands.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3937 today. Again, I hope the Senate moves quickly to advance this important piece of legislation.

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 Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3937, as amended.

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. TIFFANY. 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.

#### GREAT LAKES MASS MARKING PROGRAM ACT OF 2025

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1917) to establish the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1917

*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 “Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act of 2025”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Great Lakes have experienced rapid changes in recent years due to—

(A) the introduction of multiple aquatic invasive species;

(B) alterations in the food web; and

(C) decreases in the abundance of prey species;

(2) due to rapid biological change in the Great Lakes, the Great Lakes need a collaborative, science-based program to assist in making management actions regarding fish stocking rates, the rehabilitation of important fish species, and habitat restoration;

(3) the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Wisconsin and Indian Tribes in those States, working through the Council of Lake Committees of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, have identified that mass marking is—

(A) a precise tool to keep hatchery-produced fish in balance with wild fish; and

(B) essential to achieving fishery management and research objectives through producing a better understanding of—

(i) the quantity of hatchery produced fish compared to wild fish in the Great Lakes;

(ii) the effectiveness of hatchery operations; and

(iii) the effectiveness of fishery management actions;

(4) the mass marking program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the Great Lakes—

(A) was initiated in 2010 on a limited scale;

(B) annually tags approximately 9,000,000 to 11,000,000 of the hatchery-produced fish stocked in the Great Lakes;

(C) is a basinwide cooperative effort among the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Indian Tribes, and State management agencies; and

(D) produces data used by State and Tribal fish management agencies to make management decisions regarding Great Lakes fisheries;

(5) annually, Federal, State, and Tribal agencies stock approximately 21,000,000 hatchery-produced fish in the Great Lakes to support—

(A) native species recovery; and

(B) recreational and commercial fishing;

(6) mass marking of hatchery-produced fish, using automated technology, is an efficient method of implementing a collaborative, science-based fishery program; and

(7) the Great Lakes are an important and valued resource that—

(A) supports a robust regional economy valued at more than \$7,000,000,000; and

(B) provides stability to the economy of the United States.

#### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) *DIRECTOR.*—The term “Director” means the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(2) *PROGRAM.*—The term “Program” means the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program established by section 4(a).

#### SEC. 4. GREAT LAKES MASS MARKING PROGRAM.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—To assist in determining the effectiveness of hatchery operations and fisheries management actions and to support Great Lakes fisheries, there is established within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service a program for the mass marking of hatchery-produced fish in the Great Lakes basin, to be known as the “Great Lakes Mass Marking Program”.

(b) *AUTHORIZED ACTIONS.*—In carrying out the Program, the Director may—

(1) purchase capital and expendable equipment, fish tags, and other items necessary to support and carry out tagging and tag recovery operations, including data processing and data dissemination relating to those operations; and

(2) hire additional personnel, as necessary.

(c) *REQUIRED COLLABORATION.*—In carrying out the Program, the Director shall collaborate with applicable Federal, State, and Tribal fish management agencies, the Council of Lake Committees of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and signatories to the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries.

(d) *AVAILABILITY OF DATA.*—The Director shall make the data collected under the Program available to applicable Federal, State, and Tribal fish management agencies—

(1) to increase the understanding of the outcomes of management action;

(2) to assist in meeting the restoration objectives of the Great Lakes, including the fish community objectives and fish management plans described in the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries;

(3) to assist in balancing predators and prey;

(4) to support and improve the economic status of Tribal, recreational, and commercial fisheries; and

(5) to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of habitat restoration efforts in the Great Lakes.

#### SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Program \$2,700,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TIFFANY. 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. 1917, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1917, the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act of 2025, sponsored by my colleague from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

According to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the Tribal, commercial, and recreational fisheries in the five Great Lakes are home to 177 species of fish, including 139 native species.

□ 1610

These Tribal, commercial, and recreational fisheries have an annual economic value exceeding \$7 billion and support over 75,000 jobs.

One of the greatest challenges facing the Great Lakes is the threat of invasive species, such as the sea lamprey and Asian carp. To counter these invasive species, Tribal, Federal, and State agencies introduce hatchery-raised fish to encourage the recovery of native species. For example, in 2024, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 10 hatcheries that support the Great Lakes region introduced more than 4.7 million hatchery fish into the five Great Lakes.

To gather data on the success of hatchery fish, wildlife managers tag large numbers of these fish through a practice known as mass marking. This practice enables them to easily distinguish between hatchery fish and wild fish populations.

In addition to tagging hatchery fish, this program also plays a vital role in aiding cooperative fisheries management decisions with States and Tribes by producing data on the health of the fishery.

The Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act was administratively established in 2010 and continues to receive appropriations despite never being authorized by Congress. H.R. 1917 would provide formal congressional authorization for this existing program, thereby increasing the opportunity for congressional oversight over the program. Importantly, by providing a statutory authorization, it would better enable the Committee on Natural Resources to make substantive changes to how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the program, should changes be necessary.

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

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for considering my important legislation, the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act, today.

I thank my friends, Representatives HUIZENGA and WALBERG, for their bipartisan support and partnership on this bill. I also thank Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member HUFFMAN for their support.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes States and Tribes, along with the Fish and Wildlife Service, annually stock millions of salmon and trout to restore native fish populations, diversify sport fisheries, and control invasive forage fishes within the Great Lakes. However, little is known about how well these fish survive, contribute to the fisheries, and reproduce in the wild. This is where mass marking comes into play.

Mass marking is the practice of tagging large numbers of hatchery-raised fish so we can easily distinguish them from the wild fish population.