

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2876.

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.

SLOAN CANYON CONSERVATION AND LATERAL PIPELINE ACT

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 972) to amend the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Act to adjust the boundary of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 972

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 "Sloan Canyon Conservation and Lateral Pipeline Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONSERVATION AREA.—The term "Conservation Area" means the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area.

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

SEC. 3. SLOAN CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—

(1) MAP.—Section 603(4) of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Act (16 U.S.C. 460qqq-1(4)) is amended by striking "map entitled 'Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act' and dated October 1, 2002" and inserting "map entitled 'Proposed Sloan Canyon Expansion' and dated May 20, 2024".

(2) ACREAGE.—Section 604(b) of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Act (16 U.S.C. 460qqq-2(b)) is amended by striking "48,438" and inserting "57,728".

(b) RIGHT-OF-WAY.—Section 605 of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Act (16 U.S.C. 460qqq-3) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(h) HORIZON LATERAL PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 202 and 503 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1763) and subject to valid existing rights and paragraph (3), the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (referred to in this subsection as the 'Secretary'), shall, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, grant to the Southern Nevada Water Authority (referred to in this subsection as the 'Authority'), not subject to the payment of rents or other charges, the temporary and permanent water pipeline infrastructure, and outside the boundaries of the Conservation Area, powerline, facility, and access road rights-of-way depicted on the map for the purposes of—

"(A) performing geotechnical investigations within the rights-of-way; and

"(B) constructing and operating water transmission and related facilities.

"(2) EXCAVATION AND DISPOSAL.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Authority may, without consideration, excavate and use or dispose of sand, gravel, minerals, or other materials from the tunneling of the water pipeline necessary to fulfill the purpose of the rights-of-way granted under paragraph (1).

"(B) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the rights-of-way are granted under paragraph (1), the Secretary and the Authority shall enter into a memorandum of understanding identifying Federal land on which the Authority may dispose of materials under subparagraph (A) to further the interests of the Bureau of Land Management.

"(3) REQUIREMENTS.—A right-of-way issued under this subsection shall be subject to the following requirements:

"(A) The Secretary may include reasonable terms and conditions, consistent with section 505 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1765), as are necessary to protect Conservation Area resources.

"(B) Construction of the water pipeline shall not permanently adversely affect conservation area surface resources.

"(C) The right-of-way shall not be located through or under any area designated as wilderness."

(c) PRESERVATION OF TRANSMISSION AND UTILITY CORRIDORS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—The expansion of the Conservation Area boundary under the amendment made by subsection (a)—

(1) shall be subject to valid existing rights, including land within a designated utility transmission corridor or a transmission line right-of-way grant approved by the Secretary in a record of decision issued before the date of the enactment of this Act;

(2) shall not preclude—

(A) any activity authorized in accordance with a designated corridor or right-of-way referred to in paragraph (1), including the operation, maintenance, repair, or replacement of any authorized utility facility within the corridor or right-of-way; or

(B) the Secretary from authorizing the establishment of a new utility facility right-of-way within an existing designated transportation and utility corridor referred to in paragraph (1)—

(i) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and other applicable laws; and

(ii) subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(d) MANAGEMENT OF THE CONSERVATION AREA.—Except as provided in the amendment made by subsection (b), nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall modify the management of the Conservation Area pursuant to section 605 of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Act (16 U.S.C. 460qqq-3).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. HERNÁNDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STAUBER. 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. 972, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 972, the Sloan Canyon Conservation and Lateral Pipeline Act, introduced by Representative TITUS.

Southern Nevada is one of the fastest growing regions in the country, and with growth comes increased demand for critical resources like drinking water.

Right now, nearly 40 percent of the Las Vegas Valley's water is carried through a single pipeline that was built in the 1990s. That is a huge vulnerability. If that line goes down, whether for repairs or due to an outage, the entire region could face a water supply crisis.

The Southern Nevada Water Authority has done its homework. After years of study and work with local stakeholders, it has proposed the Horizon Lateral pipeline to ensure a resilient and reliable water supply for families and businesses across the Las Vegas Valley. The preferred southern route of this pipeline passes under the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area. Compared to other alternatives, this alignment minimizes impacts on neighborhoods and is estimated to save taxpayers nearly \$200 million.

H.R. 972 authorizes the preferred route for this pipeline through the national conservation area. This bill also expands the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area by more than 9,000 acres. The Bureau of Land Management already manages these lands, so the expansion would not add to the Federal estate.

The bill also allows materials excavated from the tunneling to be reused for infrastructure and public improvements.

This legislation is about balance. It provides the infrastructure southern Nevada needs to keep pace with growth and ensure reliable water deliveries without compromising conservation. That is the kind of practical, forward-looking management we need more of.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 972, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 972, the Sloan Canyon Conservation and Lateral Pipeline Act, introduced by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS). This bill would expand the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area and authorize the Horizon Lateral water pipeline.

The Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area contains over 48,000 acres of the Mojave Desert, including petroglyphs, wilderness areas, and a variety of key wildlife species. The national conservation area forms the mountainous southern edge of Las Vegas and Henderson, Nevada.

Representative TITUS' bill balances conservation with the needs of the growing Las Vegas community. Under

this proposal, the footprint of the national conservation area would grow by nearly 20 percent, while a portion of the Southern Nevada Water Authority's Horizon Lateral water pipeline would be granted a right-of-way to tunnel underneath the conservation area.

After years of study and engagement with local stakeholders, the water authority determined this would be the safest, most effective, and least disruptive route for a key source of water in the Las Vegas Valley.

This legislation will create new opportunities for outdoor recreation and protect unique desert habitats, all while increasing water reliability for over a million southern Nevadans.

Having access to clean water is vital for communities to thrive. Those of us here in Congress know all too well how challenging it can be to ensure that happens in the face of changing populations and a changing climate.

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

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

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS), the sponsor of the bill.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their kind words of support. I, too, am rising today in support of this bill, H.R. 972, that I brought before you. It is the Sloan Canyon Conservation and Lateral Pipeline Act.

As we barrel toward record low water projections at Lake Mead and the increasing risk of prolonged drought due to climate change, there is no time to waste in securing water reliability for southern Nevadans.

My bill would allow a portion of the Southern Nevada Water Authority's Horizon Lateral water pipeline project to tunnel beneath Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area. This pipeline will increase water reliability for over a million southern Nevadans. It will fortify the region's water infrastructure against potential outages, and it will minimize disruptions and impacts to the surrounding communities.

The proposed underground route beneath the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area is estimated to save southern Nevadans at least \$200 million, while minimizing disturbances to both residents and the local environment.

This route for the Horizon Lateral water pipeline also ensures the water delivery system's redundancy in emergency situations, and it offers flexibility to accommodate the needs of a growing community.

Finally, this legislation expands the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area by 9,290 acres to enhance the preservation of the desert landscapes and habitat unique to southern Nevada.

I call that a win-win-win. It is no wonder that my legislation received bi-

partisan support in the House Natural Resources Committee, and I thank my colleagues for that. It is also supported by businesses, conservationists, and the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your attention to this, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" today on this critical legislation for southern Nevada's water future.

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

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 972 will ensure that the people of southern Nevada have a more reliable water supply with fewer risks of disruption. This legislation shows we can meet the needs of growing communities while being good stewards of America's public lands.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 972.

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Ferrari, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 165. An Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all Actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes.

H.R. 504. An Act to amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out Activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1491. An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the postponement of certain deadlines by reason of disasters applicable to the limitation on credit or refund, and to take postponements into account for purposes of sending collection notices.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 240. An act to amend the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 390. An act to require Federal law enforcement agencies to report on cases of missing or murdered Indians, and for other purposes.

S. 546. An act to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make a

technical correction to the water rights settlement for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, and for other purposes.

S. 610. An act to expand the VetSuccess on Campus program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 620. An act to provide public health veterinary services to Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations for rabies prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 621. An act to accept the request to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota at the request of that Community, and for other purposes.

S. 622. An act to amend the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act to provide for the transfer of additional Federal land to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and for other purposes.

S. 640. An act to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make a technical correction to the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund, to amend the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 to make technical corrections to the Taos Pueblo Water Development Fund and Aamodt Settlement Pueblos' Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 642. An act to provide compensation to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for the taking without just compensation of land by the United States inside the exterior boundaries of the L'Anse Indian Reservation that were guaranteed to the Community under a treaty signed in 1854, and for other purposes.

S. 719. An act to amend the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 to improve that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 723. An act to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land by certain deadlines, and for other purposes.

S. 766. An act to require an annual report of taxpayer-funded projects that are over budget and behind schedule.

S. 1591. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to reorganize the acquisition structure of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to establish the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation in the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 1744. An act to amend the Arms Export Control Act to include Taiwan among the list of recipient countries with respect to which shorter certification and reporting periods apply and to expedite licensing for allies transferring military equipment to Taiwan, and for other purposes.

UTAH WILDFIRE RESEARCH INSTITUTE ACT OF 2025

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1045) to amend the Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2004 to require the establishment of an additional Institute under that Act.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1045

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 "Utah Wildfire Research Institute Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL INSTITUTE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5(b)(2) of the Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6704(b)(2)) is amended—