

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—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) the State of Utah.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5(e)(1) of the Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6704(e)(1)) is amended by striking “and Colorado” and inserting “Colorado, and Utah”.

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 to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1045, 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 support of H.R. 1045, the Utah Wildfire Research Institute Act of 2025, offered by Representative KENNEDY of Utah.

Across the West, and particularly in Utah, wildfire risk is increasing. In 2024, more than 90,000 acres burned in the State. Along the Wasatch Front, the number of fire weather days has grown by 15 since 1973, meaning fires now have a longer window to ignite and spread. This is exacerbated by the accumulation of hazardous fuels, caused by a century of fire suppression and a lack of active management.

In 2004, Congress created the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes, or SWERI, in Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico to advance wildfire research and promote science-based forest management. These institutes have been invaluable partners to Federal and State land managers, producing peer-reviewed research, improving forest health, and helping reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires across the West.

Despite facing the same wildfire threats as its Four Corners neighbors, Utah is the only State in the region without a SWERI center. Representative KENNEDY’s legislation corrects this oversight by authorizing an additional institute in Utah, allowing the State to expand research, strengthen watershed restoration, and develop innovative fuel-reduction strategies.

We know that forest management is the single most crucial factor in determining wildfire severity. This bill builds on a proven model and will bolster Utah’s ability to confront wildfire risks head-on.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Representative KENNEDY and the chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator LEE, for their

leadership on this issue. Their legislation has broad support in the State of Utah, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it today.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, September 3, 2025.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: I write regarding H.R. 1045, the “Utah Wildfire Research Institute Act of 2025,” which was ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on July 23, 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. 1045 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 and will include such letters in the committee report on H.R. 1045. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, September 3, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 1045, the “Utah Wildfire Research Institute 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. 1045 and request a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

GLENN “GT” THOMPSON,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Representative KENNEDY’s bill, the Utah Wildfire Research Institute Act of 2025.

This bill would expand wildfire research capacity by including Utah in the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes network, also known as SWERI. The SWERI program has proven to be a valuable model for scientific collaboration and forest health innovation, assisting in wildfire restoration and preparedness across the Southwest.

This legislation proposes Utah State University as the host university, which would partner with local, State, and Federal agencies to enhance forest and rangeland management and implement strategies for long-term ecological restoration. Adding a fourth institute in Utah has the potential to increase and accelerate the reach and impact of SWERI.

While I support adding another SWERI to the existing network, I must also note that I remain very concerned about the administration’s proposed deep cuts to our land management agencies, which partner with SWERI and fund their key research efforts. The administration’s attacks on these agencies threaten the very existence of current SWERI and the viability of the new Utah site.

We need sustained investment for research to protect our communities and landscapes, and the administration’s proposed level of investment would certainly not be sufficient to support the existing program, let alone the expansion proposed by this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this legislation, but I also call upon my colleagues to join us in standing up to this administration’s reckless cuts.

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. KENNEDY), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 1045, the Utah Wildfire Research Institute Act of 2025.

Utah is in a wildfire crisis. Our unique environment makes wildfires a constant danger. It is common to drive down I-15, a major thoroughfare in Utah, in the warm months and see fire on the side of our beautiful mountains.

In 2004, Congress created three regional centers in Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico dedicated to strengthening forest health and reducing wildfire risk. These centers, now collectively known as the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes, or SWERI, serve as hubs for research, data sharing, and on-the-ground collaboration. They bring together the expertise of our universities with the experience of State, local, and Federal land managers.

Since 2004, Utah has had over 23,000 wildfires and over 3 million acres burned. These aren’t mere statistics but represent impacted livelihoods, damaged watersheds, strained emergency responders, and long-term burdens on our economy, infrastructure, and public safety.

These fires have scarred our lands and endangered our growing population. For us in Utah, the next major wildfire is not a question of if but when and how devastating it will be.

That is why the Utah Wildfire Research Institute Act is essential. By passing this bill, Congress has the opportunity to strengthen how we understand, prevent, and respond to wildfire in the Mountain West.

As the only Four Corners State to not have a SWERI facility, it is only right for Utah to have a dedicated hub focused on the wildfire challenges facing Utah and the surrounding States.

It will allow our universities, firefighters, land managers, and Federal partners to work together. It will help us understand fire behavior in high-elevation deserts. It will support innovations in fuel management, post-fire watershed recovery, and community resilience. More importantly, the Utah wildfire institute will ensure that we are not simply reacting to each crisis as it comes but planning ahead.

This bill reflects what Utahns already know, that collaboration, science-based planning, and proactive management are the most effective tools we have to protect our land and our people. It is a vote for safer communities, healthier forests and rangelands, and responsible stewardship of the places that we call home.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Utah Wildfire Research Institute Act as this investment will protect Utah for generations to come.

□ 1620

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is straightforward. It builds on the proven success of the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes in Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico by finally extending this important program to Utah.

Establishing a SWERI in Utah will expand wildlife research, strengthen collaboration with land managers, and provide new tools to improve forest health and reduce catastrophic wildfires. I urge my colleagues to support Representative KENNEDY's bill.

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 Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1045.

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.

GREAT LAKES FISHERY RESEARCH REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2878) to reauthorize funding to monitor, assess, and research the Great Lakes Basin, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2878

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 Fishery Research Reauthorization Act".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING TO MONITOR, ASSESS, AND RESEARCH GREAT LAKES BASIN.

Section 201(d) of title II of division P of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (16 U.S.C. 941h(d)), is amended by striking "2025" and inserting "2030".

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 to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2878, 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 support of S. 2878, the Great Lakes Fishery Research Reauthorization Act.

The Great Lakes Fishery Research Program is administered by the U.S. Geological Survey, which works in concert with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to conduct research and collect data to support the binational fisheries within the Great Lakes Basin.

This bill would continue the many tools that help manage and protect these fisheries, which are integral to the region's economic and ecological health. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 2878 will reauthorize the U.S. Geological Survey Great Lakes Fishery Research Program to continue essential research that informs fishery management decisions across the Great Lakes Basin.

Effective fishery management starts and ends with accurate data, which is why the information provided by this program is the foundation for the decisions taken by State and Tribal fishery managers.

The Great Lakes region supports nearly a \$5 billion sport and commercial fishing industry that relies on sound scientific research to protect and manage its aquatic ecosystems.

This program supports research to identify and combat invasive species like the sea lamprey and the Asian carp, conduct surveys for sport fish management, and monitor impacts of harmful algal blooms on fisheries. The Great Lakes Science Center also brings in more than 300,000 visitors annually and supports thousands of jobs.

Healthy fish populations benefit both the environment and the businesses

that depend on them. The bill would provide \$15 million annually through fiscal year 2030 to continue research that protects native species, monitors invasive species, and assesses the impacts of habitat degradation and climate change on the Great Lakes.

I commend Representative QUIGLEY, Senator PETERS, and the bipartisan Great Lakes delegation for their work on this important legislation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY), the sponsor of this bill in the House.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for considering this bill, the Great Lakes Fishery Research Reauthorization Act.

This bill would reauthorize critical Great Lakes research programs at \$15 million per year for 5 years. I thank my colleague, Representative HUIZENGA, for his partnership on this bill in the House.

Protecting and restoring our Great Lakes has long been a bipartisan priority. I am proud of our work together on this topic. Lake Michigan is the pride and joy of Chicago, but the native ecosystems are at risk.

My colleagues might have noticed the poster behind me. This is a sea lamprey. They are not native to the Great Lakes, but they have found their way in. When left unchecked, they wreak havoc on our ecosystems. If this graphic doesn't convince my colleagues that we don't want these suckers in the Great Lakes, I am not sure what will.

Kind of like a giant leech, their suction-cup mouth clamps onto native fish species to feed on them. One sea lamprey can kill up to 40 pounds of Great Lakes fish over a 12- to 18-month feeding period, and that is just one of the threats we are currently up against.

Alongside the sea lamprey, there are over 60 invasive species in the Great Lakes. Those include zebra mussels, rusty crayfish, and round goby. They compete for the same resources and prey on native species. Many don't have natural predators in the Great Lakes. Without intervention, these invasive species will be "eely" bad for our native fish and plant populations.

Mr. Speaker, 61 native fish species are currently threatened or endangered. In the 1950s, the United States and Canada established the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to shore up our shared fisheries. Decades of overfishing, invasive species, and human impact on lakes threatened the native fish species and led to 20 species going extinct.

For all those in the region who depend on fisheries for food, livelihood, and sport, it is critical we continue to monitor the Great Lakes and our native fish species. The total value of commercial, recreational, and Tribal fishing in the Great Lakes is at least \$5 billion. The industry supports an estimated 75,000 jobs across the region.