

Research into the Great Lakes fishery provides us with the data and information necessary to manage fish populations, conduct habitat maintenance, roll out educational programs, and more.

For the last 5 years, this program has provided funds for the U.S. Geological Survey and, more specifically, the Great Lakes Science Center to conduct scientific research and invest in new technology.

With the help of this funding, the Great Lakes Science Center has field operations in five of the eight Great Lakes States, where it owns and operates a fleet of large research vessels to monitor the lakes and the fishery. This information is used to ensure that these crucial ecosystems stay healthy and productive.

Other researchers across the region rely on data collected over decades to analyze trends in the Great Lakes and help keep them healthy. Reauthorizing this program now will allow the Great Lakes Science Center to continue its research and provide datasets that are stable and reliable into the future.

The Senate has already passed this reauthorization. I encourage my colleagues to help get this bill over the finish line.

Lastly, I thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and in the Senate, including Senator PETERS who introduced the version of the bill we will vote on today, and Senator HUSTED representing the great State of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them for their consideration, and I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

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

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 2878.

The Great Lakes aren't just a part of Michigan and the heartland's landscape. They are part of our economy, our identity, and our heritage. They are more than 20 percent of the world's freshwater and must be protected.

They provide drinking water to millions. They are home to a thriving ecosystem for a wide breadth of species. They support countless jobs. Our Great Lakes' fishing economy alone is worth more than \$5 billion.

Unfortunately, there are many threats jeopardizing the future of the Great Lakes and the region's way of life, including, as my colleagues just heard described, the highly invasive sea lamprey, one of the most disgusting things I have ever witnessed in my life.

□ 1630

The USGS Great Lakes Science Center is located in my district. It meets the Nation's need for scientific information used to restore, enhance, manage, and protect the freshwater fisheries and habitats of the Great Lakes. The GLSC helps to protect the fresh-

water fisheries and habitats that are invaluable economic and ecological assets for the entire Great Lakes region.

We know the devastating effects that invasive species, pollution, and extreme weather have had on the Great Lakes, and the research conducted at this lab is essential to mitigating these threats and addressing these issues.

The work of the GLSC and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission has reduced the invasive sea lamprey populations in the Great Lakes by more than 90 percent. Thanks to this program, populations of native fish, including lake trout, whitefish, and walleye, have started to recover and, with them, the economy of the region.

In November 2024, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission announced that lake trout, a popular fish nearly exterminated by sea lampreys and overfishing in the mid-1900s, has fully rebounded in Lake Superior. We must continue to support the GLSC's work with the Fishery Commission because the fight against invasive species is an ongoing battle.

The Great Lakes Fishery Research Reauthorization Act would reauthorize funding for the Great Lakes Science Center for another 5 years, helping to ensure that they are able to continue conducting the critical research that ensures future generations can enjoy the same beauty, biodiversity, and economic opportunities for our Great Lakes for many years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this legislation.

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, this bill supports effective fishery management, which starts with accurate data. I thank Representatives QUIGLEY and HUIZENGA for their work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, 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, S. 2878.

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.

CAPE FOX LAND ENTITLEMENT FINALIZATION ACT OF 2025

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2815) to provide equitable treatment for the people of the Village Corporation established for the Native Village of Saxman, Alaska, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2815

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 “Cape Fox Land Entitlement Finalization Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **CAPE FOX.**—The term “Cape Fox” means the Cape Fox Village Corporation, a Village Corporation for the Native Village of Saxman, Alaska, organized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

(2) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term “Federal land” means the approximately 180 acres of surface land within the Tongass National Forest in the State of Alaska, as generally depicted on the Map.

(3) **MAP.**—The term “Map” means the map entitled “Cape Fox Village Corporation Final Selection” and dated December 18, 2023.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. WAIVER OF CORE TOWNSHIP REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN LAND.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding section 16(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1615(b)), Cape Fox shall not be required to select or receive conveyance of the approximately 185 acres of unconveyed land described in subsection (b) located within the township in which the Native Village of Saxman, Alaska, is located.

(b) **LAND DESCRIBED.**—The land referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

(1) Approximately 40 acres in T. 74 S., R. 90 E., sec. 10, SWNE, Copper River Meridian.

(2) Approximately 144.57 acres in T. 75 S., R. 91 E., sec. 1, lots 1, 3, and 4, Copper River Meridian.

SEC. 4. SELECTION OUTSIDE EXTERIOR SELECTION BOUNDARY.

(a) **SELECTION AND CONVEYANCE OF SURFACE ESTATE.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, if Cape Fox submits to the Secretary a written notice of selection of the Federal land, the Secretary shall, on receiving that written notice, convey the Federal land to Cape Fox.

(b) **CONVEYANCE OF SUBSURFACE ESTATE.**—On conveyance to Cape Fox of the surface estate to the Federal land under subsection (a), the Secretary shall convey to Sealaska Corporation the subsurface estate to that Federal land.

(c) **TIMING.**—It is the intent of Congress that the Secretary complete the conveyances to Cape Fox and Sealaska Corporation under subsections (a) and (b), respectively, as soon as practicable after the date on which the Secretary receives a written notice of the selection of Cape Fox under subsection (a), but not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary receives that written notice.

(d) **ENTITLEMENT FULFILLED.**—The conveyance of Federal land to Cape Fox and the subsurface interest in the Federal land to Sealaska Corporation under subsections (a) and (b), respectively, shall be considered to fulfill the entitlement of—

(1) Cape Fox under section 16 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1615); and

(2) Sealaska Corporation to any subsurface interest in the Federal land under section 14(f) of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(f)).

SEC. 5. PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENT.

The conveyance of the Federal land under section 4 shall be subject to the reservation of a public easement under section 17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1616(b)) to allow for access to National Forest System land further inland on Revillagigedo Island from the George Inlet.

SEC. 6. VALID EXISTING RIGHTS.

Unless otherwise agreed to by the Secretary, the Secretary of Agriculture, and Cape Fox, the

conveyances under this legislation shall be subject to any valid existing rights, reservations, rights-of-way, and other encumbrances of third parties in, to, or on the Federal land as of the date of enactment of this Act.

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. 2815, 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, H.R. 2815, the Cape Fox Land Entitlement Finalization Act of 2025, introduced by Representative BEGICH of Alaska, would finalize the Cape Fox Corporation's remaining Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, or ANCSA, land entitlement. In addition, this legislation will resolve land management issues tied to the Mahoney Lake power project.

ANCSA was enacted by Congress to settle the aboriginal land claims of Alaska Natives. Under ANCSA, Alaska Native Corporations were established to receive land under the settlement and disburse money to Alaska Natives. The Cape Fox Corporation, or CFC, has yet to receive their full conveyance, with 180 acres remaining.

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for conveying the remaining acres to CFC and has proposed specific acreage to complete the entitlement. However, CFC has rejected the BLM's proposal, as the proposed lands were outside of their core township, noncontiguous with their existing land holdings, and of limited economic value.

CFC has identified 180 acres of land between their existing parcels, which would connect the land and complete the settlement. The acres in this legislation would also enable the development of Mahoney Lake power projects. CFC holds a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license and an easement for a power line and road corridor nearby. They also own the land adjacent to the substation.

Power demand for the area exceeds available supply. In fact, in 2024, all available power was online, and it still was not enough. This legislation takes steps to increase the availability of affordable power for the area.

This legislation would not only finalize CFC's remaining ANCSA land conveyance, but it also resolves land management issues related to the power project.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. BEGICH for his work on behalf of his constitu-

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, or ANCSA, was enacted to recognize and settle the land claims of Alaska Natives. As part of this act, the Cape Fox Village Corporation received a land entitlement but was unable to select usable land due to a technicality that restricted Cape Fox from selecting lands within six miles of Ketchikan. This left Cape Fox with mostly remote, mountainous lands with no productive or economic value. As a result, ANCSA settlement for Cape Fox remains unresolved.

H.R. 2815 would waive the technical requirement and allow the Secretary of the Interior to convey approximately 180 acres of surface estate within the Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska to the Cape Fox Corporation, along with subsurface interests to the Sealaska Corporation. This legislation would resolve the longstanding land claim issue for Cape Fox.

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. Speaker, Alaska's future is tied to land. It is how we build infrastructure, develop our resources, and create opportunities for our communities, but for far too long, Alaska Native Corporations have faced unnecessary delays and constraints in securing the lands they were promised under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

After more than 50 years, Cape Fox Corporation, representing the village of Saxman, is among the last southeast villages still waiting for a full land entitlement.

H.R. 2815 fixes that. The bill authorizes a simple strategic land exchange, about 180 acres, to finally connect two Cape Fox parcels and honor a promise made decades ago.

This bill also paves the way for a renewable energy corridor and year-round access to vital subsistence and tourism areas. It enables local development, supports energy independence, and strengthens southeast Alaska's economy, all while respecting Tribal sovereignty and the original intent of ANCSA.

There is strong local support for this bill from utilities, businesses, and local governments. It is a commonsense, consensus-driven solution. Let's finish what Congress started and deliver resolution to the people of Saxman.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2815 and help move the people of Saxman forward.

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. 2815 finalizes CFC's outstanding ANCSA land conveyance while working to alleviate future land concerns with the Mahoney Lake power project. This legislation has the support of various Alaska organizations, government representatives, and impacted groups.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BEGICH for his hard work on this bill. I urge passage of H.R. 2815, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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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. 2815, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION LAND TRANSFER ACT OF 2025

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3620) to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Southcentral Foundation located in Anchorage, Alaska, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3620

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 "Southcentral Foundation Land Transfer Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SCF.—The term "SCF" means the Southcentral Foundation located in Anchorage, Alaska.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY TO SCF.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable, but not later than 2 years, after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey to SCF all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in subsection (b) for use in connection with health and social services programs.

(b) PROPERTY DESCRIBED.—The property, including all land, improvements, and appurtenances, referred to in this section is the approximately 3.372 acres located in Lot 1A, Block 36 East Addition, Anchorage Townsite Subdivision in Anchorage, Alaska, according to the official plat thereof, filed under Plat No. 2025-11, records of the Anchorage Recording District, Third Judicial District, State of Alaska.

SEC. 4. CONDITIONS OF CONVEYANCE.

(a) CONDITIONS.—The conveyance under subsection (a) of section 3—

(1) shall be made by warranty deed; and

(2) shall not—

(A) require any consideration from SCF for the property described in subsection (b) of that section;