

This national competitive grant program supports the training and education of the Nation's next generation of commercial fishermen. Commercial fishing is at the heart of Massachusetts's identity and economy, but this legacy will not endure if we don't help the next generation get started.

These grants help the industry expand and evolve. I am proud that this money will give new opportunities to young people who are interested in working at sea and supplying our communities with fresh seafood, so we don't buy it all from unregulated fisheries overseas.

This bill has been renamed the Captain Accursio "Gus" Sanfilippo Young Fishermen's Development Act in honor of the captain of the fishing vessel *Lily Jean*.

Under this program, young fishermen across New England have received critical vocational training to enter the industry, develop into competitive deckhands, and transition to the wheelhouse as captains like Gus.

I thank Congressman NICHOLAS BEGICH from Alaska for partnering on this effort and making this a strong bipartisan bill. I am proud to lead the effort with him to keep this vital program funded every year. I also thank Representatives TOKUDA, RADEWAGEN, and GOLDEN for their partnership.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words about Gus. On January 30, 2026, the 72-foot fishing vessel *Lily Jean* sank roughly 25 miles off Gloucester, Massachusetts. Tragically, all seven crewmembers, including Captain Sanfilippo, were lost.

Gus hailed from a family of fishermen and first learned the ropes of the industry from his father, Antonino, a Sicilian immigrant who owned the *St. George II*. Under his father's guidance, he developed the values of hard work and perseverance and a deep respect for the sea.

The lessons Antonino taught Gus remained with him throughout his life. He later purchased his own fishing vessel, the *Lily Jean*, named after his daughter, and carried forth his family's legacy as the next generation of Sanfilippos to fish commercially.

With his beloved wife, Lorie, Gus had two children, Lily Jean and Anthony. An adoring husband and father, he was also a father figure at sea. Captain Sanfilippo mentored countless young men and women who joined his crew. He enjoyed teaching them essential skills such as net mending, electronics, navigation, and vessel maintenance. Most importantly, he stressed the value of teamwork and looking out for one another on the open ocean.

Captain Sanfilippo took young workers under his wing, showing them not only how to succeed in the industry but how to carry themselves with responsibility and courage. He ran a tight ship, valuing rules, structure, and safety. He took great pride in his role as captain and was, above all else, courageous and selfless.

Captain Sanfilippo is currently being considered posthumously for a Mariner's Medal in recognition of his historic rescues of multiple fishing vessels in distress.

As a father, he led by example with kindness, patience, steady guidance, integrity, and a generous heart. As a captain, he shared the same values with the young members of his crew.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to rename the Young Fishermen's Development Act on behalf of Captain Accursio "Gus" Sanfilippo.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3692 will reauthorize the Young Fishermen's Development Act through fiscal year 2031, ensuring the next generation of commercial fishermen has the support they need to enter and sustain careers in this vital industry.

The Young Fishermen's Development Grant Program addresses challenges by providing competitive grants of up to \$200,000 to support training, education, and technical assistance programs.

Since its implementation, the program has delivered nearly \$2 million in direct support to workforce training programs nationwide, successfully lowering the barriers to entry and enabling practical apprenticeship programs.

This bipartisan legislation maintains the \$2 million annual authorization and is supported by Democrats and Republicans in both Chambers of Congress.

I have the honor to represent two-thirds of the Oregon coast. Commercial fishing is a very important part of our community and our traditions.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 3692 and investing in the future of America's commercial fishing industry.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, again, this bill promotes continued investment in both the next generation of American fishermen and the American seafood industry as a whole. I commend my friend, Mr. MOULTON, for bringing this forward, and I support this bill, H.R. 3692.

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 Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3692, 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.

□ 1630

TRIBAL TRUST LAND HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT OF 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 723) 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.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 723

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 "Tribal Trust Land Homeownership Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPLICABLE BUREAU OFFICE.—The term "applicable Bureau office" means—

- (A) a Regional office of the Bureau;
- (B) an Agency office of the Bureau; or
- (C) a Land Titles and Records Office of the Bureau.

(2) BUREAU.—The term "Bureau" means the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the Bureau.

(4) FIRST CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORT.—The term "first certified title status report" means the title status report needed to verify title status on Indian land.

(5) INDIAN LAND.—The term "Indian land" has the meaning given the term in section 162.003 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(6) LAND MORTGAGE.—The term "land mortgage" means a mortgage obtained by an individual Indian who owns a tract of trust land for the purpose of—

- (A) home acquisition;
- (B) home construction;
- (C) home improvements; or
- (D) economic development.

(7) LEASEHOLD MORTGAGE.—The term "leasehold mortgage" means a mortgage, deed of trust, or other instrument that pledges the leasehold interest of a lessee as security for a debt or other obligation owed by the lessee to a lender or other mortgagee.

(8) MORTGAGE PACKAGE.—The term "mortgage package" means a proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document submitted to an applicable Bureau office under section 3(a)(1).

(9) RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term "relevant Federal agency" means any of the following Federal agencies that guarantee or make direct mortgage loans on Indian land:

- (A) The Department of Agriculture.
- (B) The Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- (C) The Department of Veterans Affairs.

(10) RIGHT-OF-WAY DOCUMENT.—The term "right-of-way document" has the meaning given the term in section 169.2 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(11) SUBSEQUENT CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORT.—The term "subsequent certified title status report" means the title status report needed to identify any liens against a residential, business, or land lease on Indian land.

SEC. 3. MORTGAGE REVIEW AND PROCESSING.

(a) REVIEW AND PROCESSING DEADLINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after receiving a proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage,

land mortgage, or right-of-way document, the applicable Bureau office shall notify the lender that the proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, or right-of-way document has been received.

(2) PRELIMINARY REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 calendar days after receipt of a proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document, the applicable Bureau office shall conduct and complete a preliminary review of the residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document to verify that all required documents are included.

(B) INCOMPLETE DOCUMENTS.—As soon as practicable, but not more than 2 calendar days, after finding that any required documents are missing under subparagraph (A), the applicable Bureau office shall notify the lender of the missing documents.

(3) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—

(A) LEASEHOLD MORTGAGES.—Not later than 20 calendar days after receipt of a complete executed residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage, proof of required consents, and other required documentation, the applicable Bureau office shall approve or disapprove the residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage.

(B) RIGHT-OF-WAY DOCUMENTS.—Not later than 30 calendar days after receipt of a complete executed right-of-way document, proof of required consents, and other required documentation, the applicable Bureau office shall approve or disapprove the right-of-way document.

(C) LAND MORTGAGES.—Not later than 30 calendar days after receipt of a complete executed land mortgage, proof of required consents, and other required documentation, the applicable Bureau office shall approve or disapprove the land mortgage.

(D) REQUIREMENTS.—The determination of whether to approve or disapprove a residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage under subparagraph (A), a right-of-way document under subparagraph (B), or a land mortgage under subparagraph (C)—

(i) shall be in writing; and

(ii) in the case of a determination to disapprove a residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, right-of-way document, or land mortgage shall, state the basis for the determination.

(E) APPLICATION.—This paragraph shall not apply to a residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage with respect to Indian land in cases in which the applicant for the residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage is an Indian tribe (as defined in subsection (d) of the first section of the Act of 1955 (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 126 Stat. 1150; 25 U.S.C. 415(d))) that has been approved for leasing under subsection (h) of that section (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 126 Stat. 1151; 25 U.S.C. 415(h)).

(4) CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORTS.—

(A) COMPLETION OF REPORTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 calendar days after the applicable Bureau office approves a residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document under paragraph (3), the applicable Bureau office shall complete the processing of, as applicable—

(I) a first certified title status report, if a first certified title status report was not completed prior to the approval of the residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document; and

(II) a subsequent certified title status report.

(ii) REQUESTS FOR FIRST CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORTS.—Notwithstanding clause

(i), not later than 14 calendar days after the applicable Bureau office receives a request for a first certified title status report from an applicant for a residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document under paragraph (1), the applicable Bureau office shall complete the processing of the first certified title status report.

(B) NOTICE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after completion of the processing of, as applicable, a first certified title status report or a subsequent certified title status report under subparagraph (A), but by not later than the applicable deadline described in that subparagraph, the applicable Bureau office shall give notice of the completion to the lender.

(ii) FORM OF NOTICE.—The applicable Bureau office shall give notice under clause (i)—

(I) electronically through secure, encryption software; and

(II) through the United States mail.

(iii) OPTION TO OPT OUT.—The lender may opt out of receiving notice electronically under clause (ii)(I).

(b) NOTICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the applicable Bureau office does not complete the review and processing of mortgage packages under subsection (a) (including any corresponding first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report under paragraph (4) of that subsection) by the applicable deadline described in that subsection, immediately after missing the deadline, the applicable Bureau office shall provide notice of the delay in review and processing to—

(A) the party that submitted the mortgage package or requested the first certified title status report; and

(B) the lender for which the mortgage package (including any corresponding first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report) is being requested.

(2) REQUESTS FOR UPDATES.—In addition to providing the notices required under paragraph (1), not later than 2 calendar days after receiving a relevant inquiry with respect to a submitted mortgage package from the party that submitted the mortgage package or the lender for which the mortgage package (including any corresponding first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report) is being requested or an inquiry with respect to a requested first certified title status report from the party that requested the first certified title status report, the applicable Bureau office shall respond to the inquiry.

(c) DELIVERY OF FIRST AND SUBSEQUENT CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any first certified title status report and any subsequent certified title status report, as applicable, shall be delivered directly to—

(1) the lender;

(2) any local or regional agency office of the Bureau that requests the first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report;

(3) in the case of a proposed residential leasehold mortgage or land mortgage, the relevant Federal agency that insures or guarantees the loan; and

(4) if requested, any individual or entity described in section 150.303 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(d) ACCESS TO TRUST ASSET AND ACCOUNTING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (TAAMS).—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the relevant Federal agencies and Indian Tribes shall have read-only access to portals containing the relevant land documents from

the Trust Asset and Accounting Management System (commonly known as “TAAMS”) maintained by the Bureau.

(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1 of each calendar year, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing—

(A) for the most recent calendar year, the number of requests received to complete residential leasehold mortgage packages, business leasehold mortgage packages, land mortgage packages, and right-of-way document packages (including any requests for corresponding first certified title status reports and subsequent certified title status reports), including a detailed description of—

(i) requests that were and were not successfully completed by the applicable deadline described in subsection (a) by each applicable Bureau office; and

(ii) the reasons for each applicable Bureau office not meeting any applicable deadlines; and

(B) the length of time needed by each applicable Bureau office during the most recent calendar year to provide the notices required under subsection (b)(1).

(2) REQUIREMENT.—In submitting the report required under paragraph (1), the Director shall maintain the confidentiality of personally identifiable information of the parties involved in requesting the completion of residential leasehold mortgage packages, business leasehold mortgage packages, land mortgage packages, and right-of-way document packages (including any corresponding first certified title status reports and subsequent certified title status reports).

(f) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) an evaluation of the need for residential leasehold mortgage packages, business leasehold mortgage packages, land mortgage packages, and right-of-way document packages of each Indian Tribe to be digitized for the purpose of streamlining and expediting the completion of mortgage packages for residential mortgages on Indian land (including the corresponding first certified title status reports and subsequent certified title status reports); and

(2) an estimate of the time and total cost necessary for Indian Tribes to digitize the records described in paragraph (1), in conjunction with assistance in that digitization from the Bureau.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF REALTY OMBUDSMAN POSITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish within the Division of Real Estate Services of the Bureau the position of Realty Ombudsman, who shall report directly to the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The Realty Ombudsman shall—

(1) ensure that the applicable Bureau offices are meeting the mortgage review and processing deadlines established by section 3(a);

(2) ensure that the applicable Bureau offices comply with the notices required under subsections (a) and (b) of section 3;

(3) serve as a liaison to other Federal agencies, including by—

(A) ensuring the Bureau is responsive to all of the inquiries from the relevant Federal agencies; and

(B) helping to facilitate communications between the relevant Federal agencies and

the Bureau on matters relating to mortgages on Indian land;

(4) receive inquiries, questions, and complaints directly from Indian Tribes, members of Indian Tribes, and lenders in regard to executed residential leasehold mortgages, business leasehold mortgages, land mortgages, or right-of-way documents; and

(5) serve as the intermediary between the Indian Tribes, members of Indian Tribes, and lenders and the Bureau in responding to inquiries and questions and resolving complaints.

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 on S. 723, 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, S. 723, the Tribal Trust Land Homeownership Act of 2025, sponsored by Senate Majority Leader THUNE, would establish firm timelines for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to review and approve residential and business mortgage applications on Tribal trust land. This bill also increases transparency and accountability in the mortgage review process and modernizes outdated systems that have contributed to delays.

Since trust land is held by the United States on behalf of Tribes and Tribal members, mortgages on that land require approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs before they can close. While current law provides review timelines for certain leaseholds and rights-of-way mortgages, there is no statutory deadline for trust land mortgages.

As a result, applicants and lenders have faced prolonged uncertainty. Reports have highlighted cases in which borrowers waited more than 1 year for their required title status reports, creating significant barriers to homeownership and business development in Indian Country. These delays can discourage lenders and limit access to capital in communities that already face housing shortages and economic challenges.

S. 723 addresses these concerns by setting enforceable timelines for BIA review, requiring notice to lenders and a report to Congress, supporting the digitization of records, improving access to information, and creating a realty ombudsman to help resolve issues. By reducing delay and uncertainty, this bill makes it easier for Tribes and Tribal members to secure financing for homes and businesses.

I commend Senator THUNE and Representative DUSTY JOHNSON for their leadership on this issue and for working to improve housing and economic opportunity in Indian Country.

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Tribal Trust Land Homeownership Act would codify existing Bureau of Indian Affairs procedures for reviewing and processing mortgage packages on Indian lands. The bill seeks to improve access to homeownership in Tribal communities.

Homeownership rates in Tribal communities continue to lag behind the national average due, in part, to administrative delays in the Federal review process.

In Oregon, State lawmakers have worked to address this challenge by creating a flexible grant program that Tribes can use to address their own local housing needs, but it is still the responsibility of the Federal Government to provide sufficient resources.

Years of underfunding and understaffing at the BIA have reduced agency capacity and slowed down the review and approval of mortgage and leasing packages. Given the urgent housing needs in Indian Country, it is essential that the BIA conduct these reviews in an efficient and timely manner.

S. 723 would help expedite the mortgage review and processing procedures and, ultimately, help to promote Tribal ownership.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the lead sponsor of the House companion to this bill.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, this bill, S. 723, is identical to a bill that I had introduced here in the House, H.R. 2130. It made its way through the Natural Resources Committee and had a hearing, for which I am very thankful to the chair and ranking member of that committee. It passed out of that committee unanimously. This is a strong piece of commonsense legislation.

Mr. Speaker, what does it do? First off, we know that our country is facing a housing affordability crisis. In Indian Country, it is even worse.

This legislation addresses specific and solvable problems that contribute to this problem on Tribal land. Frankly, it is hard to understand what a big problem this is in Indian Country. People can't get their hands on the proper mortgage documents because, today, mortgages on Tribal trust land, whether they are residential or commercial, must be reviewed and approved by BIA before they can be finalized.

Mr. Speaker, the BIA has established timelines for that process, but those

timelines are rarely met, and that contributes to serious delay.

As a result, Native Americans living on Tribal trust land face a reduced opportunity, a reduced access to homeownership, a piece of the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, off reservation, accessing documents like title records can be done in minutes, and insurance policies can often be issued in just a few weeks.

However, on Tribal trust land, that same process is not completed in a few weeks. It often takes a few months. In some instances, it has taken as long as 1 year. In 1 year, that sale can fall apart.

A family ready to buy a home should not have to wait months because of bureaucratic inefficiencies. When the BIA fails to do its work in a timely manner, it is families and lenders and the marketplace that pay the price.

The South Dakota Native Homeownership Coalition told me of a scenario where they went to the BIA offices to try to find out how they could expedite these processes. As a part of that meeting, they discovered that 25 mortgage-related documents were stalled on the desk of the BIA agency superintendent.

Mr. Speaker, that is 25 families, businesses, and individuals whose futures were unnecessarily delayed because of bureaucratic inefficiency. What a profound and unnecessary harm.

This legislation does as the chairman said. It improves transparency and accountability. It establishes clear timelines. Importantly, it does not undermine Tribal sovereignty or in any way weaken the Federal trust responsibility. It simply makes sure that this process functions as intended.

Mr. Speaker, I have been proud to partner with Senator JOHN THUNE, who has expertly guided this through the Senate, and I am particularly grateful to the South Dakota Native Homeownership Coalition. They have done incredible work advocating for this solution.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support the Tribal Trust Land Homeownership Act.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 723 promotes certainty, accountability, and transparency in the trust land mortgage process.

By establishing clear timelines and modernizing mortgage administration, the bill removes unnecessary barriers to homeownership and business development for Tribal communities.

I thank my colleague from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) for leading the House companion to this legislation and the entire South Dakota delegation for their coordinated effort on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 723, 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, S. 723.

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. WESTERMAN. 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.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL MOTORCYCLE FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4386) to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to clarify entrance privileges for vehicles with respect to the America the Beautiful interagency pass, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4386

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 "America the Beautiful Motorcycle Fairness Act".

SEC. 2. ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES.

Section 805(a)(7) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6804(a)(7)) is amended—

(1) by striking "The Secretaries shall issue guidelines" and inserting the following:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall issue guidelines"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) VEHICLES.—For purposes of this paragraph, where a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass is used for access to Federal recreational lands and waters on a per-vehicle fee basis, such Pass shall cover the entrance fee and standard amenity recreation fee—

"(i) for the passholder and any passengers accompanying the passholder in a single private, noncommercial vehicle; or

"(ii) if the passholder is entering by motorcycle—

"(I) the passholder and any passengers on the motorcycle; and

"(II) one additional motorcycle, including passengers, accompanying the passholder."

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 on H.R. 4386, 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.

□ 1640

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Chairman WALBERG's America the Beautiful Motorcycle Fairness Act, a commonsense bill that restores fairness and clarity for the millions of Americans who travel to our national parks and public lands every year by motorcycle.

For years, annual entrance passes to our national parks allowed entry for one vehicle and its passengers or, for motorcycles, two bikes traveling together. This arrangement was practical, predictable, and reflected how riders actually experience our Federal lands.

Yet in 2024, the Biden administration unilaterally reversed that longstanding policy and restricted coverage to just one motorcycle per pass. This placed unnecessary financial burdens on riders, discouraging motorcyclists from recreating on public lands, while offering no benefit to park operations. This change also hurt gateway communities, as motorcycle tourism is a key driver of many small, rural economies.

Last year, President Trump and Secretary Burgum overturned this decision, restoring access to two motorcycles per entrance pass ahead of our Nation's 250th anniversary celebrations this year. This bill simply codifies that decision and restores what worked.

By permanently codifying the traditional two-motorcycles-per-pass standard, the legislation ensures parity for motorcyclists and restores long-term affordable access to our Nation's most iconic landscapes. In doing so, this bill directly supports the goals of President Trump's executive orders on celebrating America's 250th birthday and making America beautiful again by improving our national parks.

Keeping our parks welcoming and accessible while improving the visitor experience should be a goal that we all strive for.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Chairman WALBERG for his hard work on this America the Beautiful Motorcycle Fairness Act. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, December 5, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 4386, "To amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to clarify entrance privileges for vehicles with respect to the America the Beautiful interagency pass." 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. 4386 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, December 5, 2025.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: I write regarding H.R. 4386, "To amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to clarify entrance privileges for vehicles with respect to the America the Beautiful interagency pass," which was ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on November 20, 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. 4386 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. 4386. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the America the Beautiful pass is an annual interagency pass that covers entry fees to over 2,000 recreational sites across the country.

In 2024, an update to the pass program had the unintentional effect of reducing the number of motorcycle riders covered under a single pass from two motorcycles to one.

H.R. 4386 reverses that unintended consequence and reestablishes a fair policy for motorcyclists, allowing one America the Beautiful pass to cover the entry for a second motorcycle and its guest. This bill corrects a bureaucratic error and improves public access to Federal recreation sites.

I do have concerns that this administration is unnecessarily politicizing the America the Beautiful pass by putting an image of the President directly on the pass. Federal law requires a competition open to the public to determine the image used on the pass, which has traditionally showcased America's landscape or wildlife. These popular and nonpartisan passes should celebrate our shared natural and cultural heritage, not prop up political leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Michigan and co-chair of the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus, Representative WALBERG, for his work on this legislation.