

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Chiricahua National Park Act.

Ms. ELFRETH. Madam Speaker, I thank the sponsor of the bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this exciting legislation to create America's next national park.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, H.R. 6380 recognizes the national significance of the Chiricahua in southeastern Arizona while helping unlock more tourism and investment for surrounding communities.

Elevating this site to national park status will raise its profile, attract more visitors, and support local jobs without expanding its boundaries or changing its management.

I thank Representative CISCOMANI once again for his strong leadership, his dedication, and his passion for this effort.

Madam 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 Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6380, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to redesignate the Chiricahua National Monument in the State of Arizona as Chiricahua National Park, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**LOWER COLORADO RIVER MULTI-SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM AMENDMENT ACT OF 2025**

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 831) to establish an interest-bearing account for the non-Federal contributions to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 831

*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 "Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2025".

**SEC. 2. INTEREST-BEARING FUND.**

Section 9402 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11; 123 Stat. 1328) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(c) INTEREST-BEARING ACCOUNT FOR NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) AGREEMENT.—The term 'Agreement' means the agreement entitled the 'Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation

Program Funding and Management Agreement' and dated April 4, 2005.

"(B) FUND.—The term 'Fund' means the Non-Federal Funding Account for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program established by paragraph (2).

"(C) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION.—The term 'non-Federal contribution' means an amount contributed by a State Party for the non-Federal cost share described in section 8 of the Agreement.

"(D) STATE PARTY.—The term 'State Party' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Agreement.

"(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the 'Non-Federal Funding Account for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program', consisting of—

"(A) any amounts deposited in the Fund under paragraph (3); and

"(B) any interest earned on investment of amounts in the Fund under paragraph (4).

"(3) DEPOSITS TO FUND.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to section 8.4 of the Agreement, the Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit in the Fund—

"(i) any unexpended non-Federal contributions provided before the date of enactment of this subsection; and

"(ii) any non-Federal contributions provided on or after the date of enactment of this subsection.

"(B) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—

"(i) EXPENDITURE.—Amounts deposited in the Fund under subparagraph (A) shall be made available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, for expenditure—

"(I) as provided in the Program Documents; and

"(II) in accordance with this section.

"(ii) INTEREST.—Amounts derived from interest earned on amounts in the Fund under subparagraph (A) shall be made available, subject to appropriation of amounts derived from such interest, to the Secretary for expenditure—

"(I) as provided in the Program Documents; and

"(II) in accordance with this section.

"(4) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury may invest any portion of the Fund that is not, as determined by the Secretary, required to meet the current needs of the Fund.

"(B) REQUIREMENT.—Investments under subparagraph (A) may be made only in interest-bearing obligations of the United States.

"(5) TRANSFERS OF AMOUNTS.—

"(A) TRANSFER OF PREVIOUSLY CONTRIBUTED FUNDS.—The amounts required to be deposited in the Fund under paragraph (3)(A)(i) shall be transferred from the general fund of the Treasury to the Fund not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection.

"(B) TRANSFER OF FUTURE CONTRIBUTED FUNDS.—As soon as practicable after the date on which amounts described in paragraph (3)(A)(ii) are contributed, those amounts shall be transferred to the Fund.

"(C) RESPONSIBILITY OF STATE PARTIES.—In accordance with the Agreement, on deposit of amounts in the Fund under paragraph (3), the State Parties shall not be responsible for any losses due to investment of those amounts the Fund."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) and the gentleman from Maryland (Ms. ELFRETH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 831, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 831, the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2025, sponsored by Representative CALVERT from California.

The Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program aims to conserve native fish populations, increase habitat for migratory birds in the Lower Colorado River Basin, and allow for continued water and power deliveries.

The Federal Government contributes 50 percent of its funding, and three Lower Basin States provide the remainder. In recent years, however, the pace of funding has outpaced the pace of work, leaving available funds idle.

This legislation would authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to place the program's non-Federal funds in an interest-bearing account, providing approximately \$2 million annually that would otherwise be borne by the Lower Basin States.

I commend Representative CALVERT for his continued leadership, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 831.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ELFRETH. Madam Speaker, if I could, this is the last of a marathon of bills. I think the breadth of the bills we saw today are a testament to this committee, from protecting sequoias in California to addressing invasive blue catfish in the Chesapeake to supporting national parks in Mississippi, Missouri, and Arizona to the bill before us now. I am just in awe of this committee's work product.

I thank the chair, the ranking member, and the committee staff. This is what Americans sent us to do, and I am grateful to be a part of it. I thank my colleague from Virginia for his professionalism, as well.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 831, offered by my colleague Representative CALVERT of California.

As we stand here today, the seven basin States are continuing negotiations on an agreement that will shape the future of the Colorado River, which has ramifications across the region.

The post-2026 operations are critical to managing the already overallocated river in a changing climate which has led to unprecedented drought conditions and declining water levels at key reservoirs.

I appreciate the work the States have already done to move toward a solution

and urge them and the Department of the Interior to continue working together to reach an agreement.

The Department of the Interior must also ensure that the 30 Tribal nations in the basin are part of a long-term solution, as part of the long history of collaboration in the basin, to accomplish the shared goal of continued delivery of water and power while protecting ecosystems.

Lower water levels have accelerated the spread of invasive, nonnative species and the reduction of critical habitat for native fish and wildlife.

H.R. 831 authorizes an interest-bearing account for non-Federal contributions to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, allowing these funds to accrue interest that can be reinvested back into the program.

This program brings together Federal, State, and local partners to protect endangered species while also ensuring the continued water operations and maintenance activities of the Lower Basin. It is funded through a 50/50 cost-sharing agreement between the Federal Government and the three Lower Basin States.

Currently no non-Federal contributions to the program are held in a non-interest-bearing account. By authorizing an interest-bearing account, H.R. 831 will help provide additional funding to further support the stability of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program and help balance water operations and ecosystem health in the Lower Basin. I urge support of H.R. 831.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON).

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Act, a bipartisan bill that is absolutely critical to the future of my home State of Arizona and the American West.

The Colorado River is the lifeblood of our region. More than 40 million people across the seven basin States depend on it for drinking water, agriculture, and economic vitality. In Arizona alone, it supports our cities, our farmers, our Tribal communities, and our economy, including our critical semiconductor industry.

But this river is under enormous pressure from a drought now entering its 25th year, from overuse, and from a changing climate that is reshaping the West as we know it. At the same time, dozens of native fish, migratory birds, and plant species that depend on this river are fighting for survival.

The Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program is an incredibly successful collaboration between the Federal Government, the States, and key stakeholders. It has been doing the hard work on the ground for over two decades to manage habitats and protect native species.

This program has successfully established thousands of acres of native ri-

parian and aquatic habitat, stocked the river with native fish, and increased the numbers of breeding migratory birds over more than 5,000 acres.

The program also provides a measure of reliability and certainty for future river operations. States like Arizona have a responsibility under the Endangered Species Act to protect these vulnerable habitats while balancing the need to deliver Colorado River water to users across the State and region.

This fund gives the Lower Basin an essential tool to protect the health of the river, and it is one less thing to fight over at a time when tensions over the river's future are exceptionally high.

The Lower Basin States of Arizona, California, and Nevada are continuing to put our money where our mouth is, contributing millions to the conservation of this critical resource.

This bill simply ensures that the money we contribute to the program can accrue interest as it sits in the Treasury's coffers. Dollars that our States put in will go a lot further at no additional cost to the taxpayers of this country.

I thank my colleagues for their partnership in getting this bill to the House floor, especially Congressman KEN CALVERT of California and Congresswoman SUSIE LEE of Nevada.

Madam Speaker, I urge colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.

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Ms. ELFRETH. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critical piece of legislation. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for helping out today and using the word "riparian" on the House floor. That is always one of my favorite things.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I also want to reflect on Representative ELFRETH's words, and that is the incredible work by the Natural Resources Committee, the leadership there with Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member HUFFMAN, and an incredible staff. They do a lot to bring these bills to the floor to make sure, too, that they work through to make sure they can receive bipartisan support. Truly, what Congress needs to do is get bills through that have impacts on these districts.

Madam Speaker, you heard from Members today about the incredible impact these bills have on people's lives and on their districts. That is what makes legislating important. We should never forget that. People send us here to get things done, to get bills like this done. While they may be somewhat parochial in how they affect certain regions, it is critical to the Nation that we understand that all of us benefit when these great national treasures and natural resources are enhanced and conserved. That is really what makes it great.

I appreciate Representative ELFRETH's work and her cooperation on H.R. 4294 in making sure we find a way to productively use a resource that is now in overabundance and making sure that we do everything we can within that realm.

It is key to us as members of the Natural Resources Committee to make sure we get these things done. We are entrusted not only as legislators, but we are entrusted by the people who elect us to be the stewards of what they own: the great lands, treasures, and natural resources of this Nation. That is what makes us great.

There is no other place on the planet that has this great abundance of resources that have such great impact on communities. We are all honored to be here today as advocates for that, along with our fellow Members, to make sure these pieces of legislation see their way to being signed into law.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I thank the incredible staff on the Natural Resources Committee for what has culminated today in a number of fantastic pieces of legislation that will make a difference in people's lives. We will continue to preserve what we hold great in this Nation, and that is our true national treasure, our natural resources.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to approve my bipartisan legislation, H.R. 831, the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2025. My bill is simple and straightforward: it would establish an interest-bearing account for the nonfederal contributions for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, a cooperative effort between federal and nonfederal entities in Arizona, California, and Nevada to recover endangered species.

At a time when Congress and the Administration are looking to streamline government processes and make the taxpayer dollar go further, this bill is a perfect example of this effort. Funds deposited in the account can be accessed as needed and provide expanded opportunities for longterm investments in critical habitat restoration projects. This is especially important because over time, the pace of funding has exceeded the work expenditures, and Reclamation has accumulated over \$60 million in contributed funds for future costs.

There are multiple examples of funds established by congressional action in the U.S. Treasury that are directed to be invested or to earn interest, such as the Social Security Trust Fund. It's simply common sense that we provide this same mechanism to an oversubscribed program that can deliver more benefits, more quickly.

I want to thank the Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, my friend BRUCE WESTERMAN, for steering this bill through his Committee.

I urge all of my colleagues to approve this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) that the House suspend the

rules and pass the bill, H.R. 831, 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.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-3009. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Freedom of Information Act Implementing Regulations [NRC-2024-0044] (RIN: 3150-AL14) received March 6, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-3010. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — West Virginia Regulatory Program [SATS No. WV-120-FOR; Docket ID: OSM-2014-0006; S1D1S SS08011000 SX064A000 256S180110; S2D2S SS08011000 SX064A000 25XS501520] received March 4, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-3011. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removing an Obsolete, One-Time Reporting Requirement From the Regulations Governing the Use of Supplies in Emergency Relief Work (RIN: 0625-AB31) received February 9, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Concurrent Resolution 73. Resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition (Rept. 119-544). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 6480. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services to submit a report to Congress on the state of the real estate portfolio of the Public Building Service, and for other purposes

(Rept. 119-545). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 6267. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the impediments to digital documentation and verification in the aviation supply chain, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-546). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 5663. A bill to modify the termination of the aviation consumer protection advisory committee, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-547). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 6618. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct a study on drone incursions on wildfire suppression, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-548). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 6460. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify exceptions for limited recreational operations of unmanned aircraft, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-549). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3410. A bill to allow for the operation of civil supersonic flight in the national airspace system under certain conditions, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-550). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 2247. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize the use of physical or digital copies of certain certificates for certain Federal Aviation Administration inspections, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-551). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 6427. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to permit the use of State highway standards for airfield pavement construction and improvement under certain circumstances, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-552). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 6481. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services and the Director of the Federal Protective Service to establish guidance relating to emergency communication protocols for public buildings, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-553). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1115. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 556) to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from prohibiting the use of lead ammunition or tackle on certain Federal land or water under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1958) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify that aliens who have been convicted of defrauding the United States Government or the unlawful receipt of public benefits are inadmissible and deportable; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4638) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that an alien who has been convicted of harming ani-

mals used in law enforcement is inadmissible and deportable, and for other purposes; and relating to consideration of motions to suspend the rules (Rept. 119-554). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PALMER (for himself and Mr. MFUME):

H.R. 7934. A bill to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of settlement agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MCGUIRE:

H.R. 7935. A bill to provide for a cause of action enabling recovery of any person harmed by the limitation on ability to carry a firearm in a different jurisdiction; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BAIRD (for himself, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mrs. BICE, and Mr. KHANNA):

H.R. 7936. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to support the development, demonstration, and commercial application of biotechnology products to increase energy resiliency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. RANDALL, and Mr. DELUZZIO):

H.R. 7937. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain modifications in relation to the taxation of income required to fund basic living expenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BUDZINSKI:

H.R. 7938. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grocery, farm, and food worker stabilization grant program; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas:

H.R. 7939. A bill to ensure rights under the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution are protected during immigration enforcement actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. WIED):

H.R. 7940. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to require the consideration of invasive species when prescribing fishways, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself, Mr. LAWLER, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS):

H.R. 7941. A bill to ensure the passenger security fee paid by airline passengers is used exclusively for aviation security, establish a Transportation Security Trust Fund to support the operations and personnel of the Transportation Security Administration, and ensure continuity of aviation security operations during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 7942. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to prohibit the listing of contracts relating to war, death, and similar activities; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 7943. A bill to establish within the Federal Communications Commission the