

fairly. When a dispute arises, the IRS often has the advantage. It has more resources, more lawyers, and a much better understanding of the system than the average American. As I pointed out, frequently the IRS agents themselves don't know the law.

This is why due process matters. Every American deserves the right to challenge the IRS without worrying that the government will change the rules.

Unfortunately, current law allows that to happen. The IRS can effectively sidestep Tax Court review by applying refunds or disputed tax liabilities or withdrawing collection actions before the court can fully rule on the merits of the case. That is not how due process should work in this country.

This legislation protects taxpayers by preserving refund rights during disputes, preventing the IRS from taking refunds without consent, and ensuring that taxpayers receive a full review before the Tax Court. These are straightforward reforms rooted in fairness and accountability. The IRS should not be allowed to use procedural loopholes to pressure taxpayers or avoid review.

This bill is especially important for small businesses, working families, and individuals, who don't have a team of lawyers or accountants at their disposal. Americans should be able to challenge the IRS on equal footing and trust that the system will treat them fairly.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Representatives MORAN and SEWELL for advancing this bipartisan legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purposes of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my amazing, good friend, chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, JASON SMITH, for his leadership, and Ranking Member NEAL, who has always shown his support for the American people. It is an honor to sit on a committee that can come together with bipartisan legislation like this.

H.R. 6506 is a commonsense bill that will help taxpayers and the courts. The bill passed 41-0 in the Ways and Means Committee, showing bipartisan support for protecting the due process rights of taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill and pass this bill into law, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, every taxpayer deserves the right to dispute IRS actions taken against them. We have a judicial system in place that exists to protect that right.

Unfortunately, as the system stands today, the IRS can circumvent taxpayer rights, abandon judicial review, and impose penalties on individuals who will have no real way to challenge what the government claims.

Due process must be protected for all Americans, particularly for those who

are facing down a powerful government agency like the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage 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 Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6506, 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.

NORTH DAKOTA TRUST LANDS COMPLETION ACT OF 2026

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2252) to authorize the relinquishment and in lieu selection of land and minerals in the State of North Dakota, to restore land and minerals to Indian Tribes within the State of North Dakota, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2252

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 "North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **NORTH DAKOTA ENABLING ACT.**—*The term "North Dakota Enabling Act" means the Act of February 22, 1889 (25 Stat. 676, chapter 180).*

(2) **RESERVATION.**—*The term "reservation" means any Indian reservation located wholly or partially within the State of North Dakota and recognized under United States treaty, Executive order, or Act of Congress.*

(3) **SECRETARY.**—*The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.*

(4) **STATE.**—*The term "State" means the State of North Dakota, acting through the North Dakota Board of University and School Lands and its agent, the Department of Trust Lands.*

(5) **STATE LAND GRANT PARCEL.**—*The term "State land grant parcel" means—*

(A) *a parcel of land granted to the State of North Dakota by Congress—*

(i) *on statehood; or*

(ii) *through a grant pursuant to the North Dakota Enabling Act;*

(B) *a section of land numbered 16 or 36 granted to the State of North Dakota by Congress for school purposes;*

(C) *a parcel of land selected by the State of North Dakota as indemnity for any section of land numbered 16 or 36; and*

(D) *a parcel of land other than a parcel of land described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) obtained by the State after statehood.*

(6) **UNAPPROPRIATED FEDERAL LAND.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—*The term "unappropriated Federal land" means public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management located within the State of North Dakota, including public land that is mineral in character.*

(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—*The term "unappropriated Federal land" does not include—*

(i) *land (including an interest in land) acquired by the Bureau of Land Management;*

(ii) *any area of critical environmental concern established pursuant to section 202(c)(3) of the*

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712(c)(3)); or

(iii) *land that is—*

(I) *withdrawn from—*

(aa) *entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;*

(bb) *location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; or*

(cc) *disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials;*

(II) *located within a component of the National Landscape Conservation System;*

(III) *designated as a Research Natural Area;*

(IV) *located within any reservation;*

(V) *located within—*

(aa) *T. 147 N., R. 95 W.;*

(bb) *T. 148 N., R. 95 W.;*

(cc) *T. 148 N., R. 96 W.;* or

(dd) *T. 149 N., R. 95 W.;*

(VI) *located within a United States military reservation; or*

(VII) *designated by Congress or the President for conservation purposes.*

SEC. 3. RELINQUISHMENT AND SELECTION; CONVEYANCE.

(a) **RELINQUISHMENT AND SELECTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—*Subject to valid existing rights, if the State elects to relinquish all right, title, and interest of the State in and to a State land grant parcel located wholly or partially within the boundaries of any reservation, the Secretary shall authorize the State to select in accordance with this Act 1 or more parcels of unappropriated Federal land of substantially equivalent value.*

(2) **SELECTION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—*Subject to a mutual agreement between the State and the Secretary, the land exchange authorized under paragraph (1) may be carried out in a single phase or multiple phases.*

(B) **LIST.**—*For each phase of the land exchange, the State shall provide to the Secretary a selection list in accordance with this Act, including all selected parcels of unappropriated Federal land of substantially equivalent value.*

(C) **ADJUSTMENTS.**—*Adjustments to parcels included in the selection list for each phase may be made as necessary, not later than 120 days of delivery of the list to the Secretary, to equalize the value of State land grant parcels and the overall value of the parcels of unappropriated Federal land selected.*

(3) **APPROVAL.**—*Not later than 180 days after the date on which the State makes a selection for each phase under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall approve or reject, in whole or in part, the selection for that phase.*

(4) **REVIEW.**—*Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from conducting an environmental review of any parcel proposed for relinquishment under paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines that an environmental review is appropriate.*

(b) **CONVEYANCE.**—

(1) **CONVEYANCE BY SECRETARY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—*Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary approves a State selection of unappropriated Federal land under subsection (a)(3), the Secretary shall initiate the actions necessary to convey to the State the unappropriated Federal land.*

(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—*Conveyance of unappropriated Federal land by the Secretary under this Act—*

(i) *shall be by patent or deed in a form acceptable to the State and the Secretary; and*

(ii) *shall not be considered a sale, exchange, or conveyance for purposes of section 203, 205, 206, or 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1713, 1715, 1716, 1719).*

(2) **RELINQUISHMENT AND CONVEYANCE BY STATE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—*As consideration for the conveyance of unappropriated Federal land under paragraph (1), on the date on which the*

unappropriated Federal land is conveyed to the State, the State shall concurrently relinquish and convey to the Secretary all right, title, and interest of the State in and to the State land grant parcel identified for relinquishment under subsection (a)(1).

(B) TITLE.—The State shall convey to the Secretary title, free of any financial claims, liabilities, or other financial encumbrances, to all parcels relinquished under subparagraph (A).

(C) LIMITATION.—Relinquishment and conveyance by the State of a State land grant parcel under this Act shall not be considered an exchange or acquisition for purposes of section 205 or 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1715, 1716).

(c) SUCCESSION TO RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS.—Each party to which land is conveyed under this Act shall, to the fullest extent allowable under Federal and State law, succeed to the rights and obligations of the conveying party with respect to any lease, right-of-way, permit, or other valid existing right to which the land is subject.

(d) MANAGEMENT AFTER RELINQUISHMENT.—

(1) RESERVATION.—If a State land grant parcel relinquished by the State and conveyed to the Secretary under this Act is located wholly or partially within the boundaries of any reservation, on request of the applicable Indian Tribe, the portion of the State land grant parcel located within the boundaries of the reservation shall be—

(A) taken into trust by the Secretary on behalf of, and for the benefit of, the Indian Tribe on the date of the conveyance; and

(B) considered to be a part of the reservation of the Indian Tribe.

(2) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—Prior to the conveyance of a State land grant parcel located wholly or partially within the boundaries of any reservation, the State and the Secretary shall consult with affected Indian Tribes, including the Indian Tribe the land of which is subject to conveyance in accordance with Executive Order 13175 (25 U.S.C. 5301 note; relating to consultation and coordination with Indian tribal governments) and other applicable laws.

(e) WITHDRAWAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, all unappropriated Federal land selected by the State for conveyance under this Act, effective beginning on the date on which the State makes the selection for such Federal land and ending on the date described in paragraph (2), is withdrawn from all forms of—

(A) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(B) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(C) disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

(2) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date referred to in paragraph (1) is the date on which, as applicable—

(A) the unappropriated Federal land is conveyed by the Secretary to the State;

(B) the Secretary rejects the selection under subsection (a)(3); or

(C) the State withdraws the selection.

SEC. 4. VALUATION.

(a) EQUAL VALUE.—With respect to a State land grant parcel conveyed under this Act in consideration for a parcel of unappropriated Federal land selected in accordance with this Act—

(1) the overall value of the State land grant parcel and the overall value of the parcel of unappropriated Federal land shall be substantially equal; or

(2) subject to subsection (c), if the overall value of the parcels is not equal, the party conveying the parcel of lesser value shall—

(A) equalize the value by the payment of funds to the other party; or

(B) enter the imbalance in value on a ledger account in accordance with subsection (e).

(b) APPRAISAL REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (d), the value of the unappropriated Federal land selected in accordance with this Act and the value of a State land grant parcel conveyed under this Act shall be determined by appraisals conducted by 1 or more independent appraisers selected jointly by the Secretary and the State.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—An appraisal under paragraph (1) shall be completed in accordance with—

(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; or

(B) subject to subsection (d)(1), the Uniform Standards for Professional Appraisal Practice.

(c) EQUALIZATION.—With respect to a conveyance to the Secretary of a State land grant parcel of lesser value than the parcel of unappropriated Federal land to be conveyed to the State under this Act, the total value of the equalization payment described in subsection (a)(2)(A) or the ledger entry described in subsection (e), as applicable, may not exceed 25 percent of the total value of the parcel of unappropriated Federal land.

(d) LOW VALUE PARCELS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, with the consent of the State, may use mass appraisals, a summary appraisal, or a statement of value made by a qualified appraiser carried out in accordance with the Uniform Standards for Professional Appraisal Practice to determine the value of a State land grant parcel or a parcel of unappropriated Federal land to be conveyed under this Act instead of an appraisal that complies with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions if the State and the Secretary agree that market value of the State land grant parcel or parcel of unappropriated Federal land, as applicable, is—

(A) less than \$500,000; and

(B) less than \$500 per acre.

(2) DIVISION.—A State land grant parcel or a parcel of unappropriated Federal land may not be artificially divided in order to qualify for a summary appraisal, mass appraisal, or statement of value under paragraph (1).

(e) LEDGER ACCOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a State land grant parcel conveyed under this Act in consideration for a parcel of unappropriated Federal land, if the overall value of the parcels is not equal, the Secretary and the State may agree to use a ledger account to make equal the value.

(2) IMBALANCES.—A ledger account described in paragraph (1) shall reflect imbalances in value to be reconciled in a subsequent transaction.

(3) ACCOUNT BALANCING.—Each ledger account described in paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) balanced not later than 3 years after the date on which the ledger account is established; and

(B) closed not later than 5 years after the date of the last conveyance of land under this Act.

(4) COSTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary or the State may assume costs or other responsibilities or requirements for conveying land under this Act that ordinarily are borne by the other party.

(B) ADJUSTMENT.—If the Secretary or the State assume costs or other responsibilities under subparagraph (A), the Secretary or the State shall make adjustments to the value of the unappropriated Federal land conveyed to the State to compensate the Secretary or the State, as applicable, for assuming the costs or other responsibilities.

(5) MINERAL LAND.—If value is attributed to any parcel of unappropriated Federal land that has been selected by the State because of the presence of minerals under a lease entered into under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) that is in a producing or producible status, and the lease is to be conveyed under this Act,

the value of the parcel shall be reduced by the amount that represents the likely Federal revenue sharing obligation under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) with the State, but the adjustment shall not be considered as reflecting a property right of the State.

(6) PUBLIC INSPECTION AND NOTICE.—

(A) PUBLIC INSPECTION.—Not later than 30 days before the date of any exchange of Federal land and non-Federal land under this act, all final appraisals and appraisal reviews for the land to be exchanged shall be available for public review at the office of the State Director of the Bureau of Land Management in the Montana-Dakotas State Office.

(B) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall make available on the public website of the Secretary, and the Secretary or the State, as applicable, shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation in North Dakota, a notice that the appraisals conducted under subsection (b) are available for public inspection.

SEC. 5. MISCELLANEOUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Land or minerals conveyed under this Act shall be subject to all applicable Federal, State, and Tribal law.

(b) PROTECTION OF INDIAN RIGHTS.—

(1) TREATY RIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act modifies, limits, expands, or otherwise affects any treaty-reserved right or other right of any Indian Tribe recognized by any other means, including treaties or agreements with the United States, Executive orders, statutes, regulations, or case law.

(2) LAND OR MINERALS HELD IN TRUST.—Nothing in this Act affects—

(A) land or minerals held in trust by the United States as of the date of enactment of this Act on behalf of, and for the benefit of, any Indian Tribe; or

(B) any individual Indian allotment.

(c) HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the State shall make available for review and inspection any record relating to hazardous materials on land to be conveyed under this Act.

(2) CERTIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Prior to completing a conveyance of unappropriated Federal land under this Act, the Secretary shall complete an inspection and a hazardous materials certification of the land to be conveyed.

(B) STATE LAND GRANT PARCELS.—Prior to completing a conveyance of a State land grant parcel under this Act, the State shall complete an inspection and a hazardous materials certification of the land to be conveyed.

(d) GRAZING PERMITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If land conveyed under this Act is subject to a lease, permit, or contract for the grazing of domestic livestock in effect on the date of the conveyance, the Secretary or the State, as applicable, shall allow the grazing to continue for the remainder of the term of the lease, permit, or contract, subject to the related terms and conditions of the user agreements, including permitted stocking rates, grazing fee levels, access, and ownership and use of range improvements.

(2) CANCELLATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act prevents the Secretary or the State from canceling or modifying a grazing permit, lease, or contract if the land subject to the permit, lease, or contract is sold, conveyed, transferred, or leased for non-grazing purposes.

(B) BASE PROPERTIES.—If land conveyed by the State under this Act is used by a grazing permittee or lessee to meet the base property requirements for a Federal grazing permit or lease, the land shall continue to qualify as a base property for the remaining term of the lease or permit and the term of any renewal or extension of the lease or permit.

(C) RANGE IMPROVEMENTS.—Nothing in this Act prohibits a holder of a grazing lease, permit, or contract from being compensated for range

improvements pursuant to the terms of the lease, permit, or contract under existing Federal or State laws.

SEC. 6. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

Nothing in this Act applies to or affects litigation or disputes pending on the date of enactment of this Act regarding the ownership of any land or mineral resources located within the State of North Dakota.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. ELFRETH) 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. 2252, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1540

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2252, the North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act of 2026, introduced by the gentlewoman from North Dakota (Mrs. Fedorchak).

This bill addresses a land management issue that dates back to North Dakota's admission to the Union. At statehood, Congress granted lands to North Dakota to help support public institutions, including schools and universities, through responsible land and resource management. For more than a century, the State has used those lands to generate revenue for education and for other public purposes.

Today, North Dakota continues to manage hundreds of thousands of acres of surface estate and millions of acres of mineral estate known as State trust lands. However, approximately 31,000 of these surface acres and roughly 130,000 acres of the State trust minerals are located within the boundaries of Tribal reservations. This has created overlapping jurisdictional challenges and fragmented, checkerboard ownership patterns that are burdensome to all parties. Furthermore, these stranded State trust lands are unable to generate revenue for the benefit of North Dakota's citizens and public school children.

H.R. 2252 provides a better path forward that is a win-win for everyone involved. The bill allows North Dakota to relinquish certain trust lands located within reservation boundaries and select equal-value Bureau of Land Management lands elsewhere in the State that they can utilize to generate millions of dollars in new revenue.

In return, the relinquished lands from the State within reservation boundaries will be taken into trust for the benefit of North Dakota's Tribes.

Importantly, this legislation protects taxpayers by requiring independent appraisals, equal-value exchanges, and protection for valid existing rights.

This logical fix helps North Dakotans better manage their trust land, provides long-term funding for education, supports Tribes, and consolidates fragmented land ownership to reduce the burden on Federal land management agencies. This is truly a win-win across the board.

I commend the leadership of Representative FEDORCHAK in advancing this bill. I also commend Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum, who has supported this legislation since his time as North Dakota's Governor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2252, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2252 would allow the State of North Dakota to relinquish parcels of State land within the boundaries of a Tribal reservation in exchange for one or more parcels of unappropriated Bureau of Land Management land of substantially equivalent value.

All relinquished State lands will be held in trust by the Secretary of the Interior on behalf of the Tribe whose reservation includes those lands.

The process established by this legislation will help make reservations whole and fulfill obligations made to the State of North Dakota when it was entered into the Union in 1889.

The chair mentioned a win-win, and I want to reemphasize that here. This bill will help fulfill our Tribal treaty responsibilities and will benefit North Dakota schools, with the land acquired managed as school trust lands.

I commend and thank my friend, Representative FEDORCHAK, for her work on this bill, which includes updates to ensure that the land exchanges are transparent and fair.

The bill also includes important safeguards for land with wilderness characteristics and other important conservation designations. Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, this bill is supported by the impacted Tribes, including the Spirit Lake Tribe and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from North Dakota (Mrs. Fedorchak), the lead sponsor of the bill.

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act. I thank the gentlewoman from Maryland and our chairman for his leadership, especially for getting it through the House Natural Resources Committee with unanimous support. I can't thank him enough for that.

As both have stated, this bill provides some important new changes for

my State and addresses a unique land management challenge that dates back to North Dakota's statehood. They have both expressed it well, but let me reinforce what has already been said.

When North Dakota became a State, the Federal Government granted 2.6 million acres of Federal land to support schools and other public needs. Specifically, the State received sections 16 and 36 of every township. As a result, North Dakota holds more than 31,000 surface acres and 130,000 acres of mineral rights inside Tribal reservation boundaries.

This created a checkerboard pattern of ownership that makes land management and development difficult for everyone. The chart beside me shows the patchwork of State trust land on the Standing Rock Reservation. All the green land, green checks, squares, in this are land owned within the Tribal reservation by the State of North Dakota. This is just one of five reservations in our State.

The Tribes struggle to efficiently develop land within their own reservation boundaries because of this fragmented ownership, and there is currently no pathway for the State and Federal government to exchange these lands.

My legislation solves this problem. H.R. 2252 authorizes equal-value land exchanges between the State of North Dakota and the Department of the Interior. This allows the State to exchange scattered trust lands within reservation boundaries like this for Federal lands of equivalent values elsewhere in the State.

Importantly, this bill does not automatically exchange a single acre of land. It simply creates a process that can be used if all parties choose to move forward.

The legislation includes multiple safeguards and transparency requirements; specifically, consultation with affected Tribal Governments prior to any conveyance, environmental review authority for the Secretary of the Interior, independent appraisals using Federal appraisal standards to ensure substantially equal value, public inspection of final appraisals at least 30 days before any exchange, and public notice online and in North Dakota newspapers before exchanges occur.

Upon exchange, State land located within reservation boundaries is immediately transferred to the BIA to be held in trust for the benefit of the Tribe. The State will manage the exchanged Federal acres for North Dakotans and public schools. The result is less fragmentation, clear ownership boundaries, and a greater ability for both Tribal and State governments to manage the land for the benefit of their people.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to be clear about what this bill does not do. This bill does not reduce public access. It does not close hunting land. It does not impact recreation. Existing grazing permits and leases are protected throughout the exchange process, and

every exchange must meet rigorous Federal appraisal standards to ensure equal value.

The bill also includes significant protections for wildlife habitat, conservation lands, public access, and existing land uses. Federal lands specifically excluded include: areas of critical environmental concern, National Landscape Conservation System lands, research natural areas, military reservations, and lands designated for conservation purposes by Congress or the President.

Protected conservation areas and specially managed wildlife landscapes are not eligible for exchange under this legislation.

To be absolutely clear, the bill explicitly preserves all Indian treaty rights. In fact, this bill was shaped in consultation with Tribal leaders. It has strong support from Tribal nations in North Dakota.

Steve Sitting Bear is chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. He has plans to grow beef and bison production for Standing Rock, and what a great opportunity that is. They reside on the rolling prairies along the Missouri River in southwestern North Dakota, perfect for grazing cattle and bison.

This legislation would help correct this scattered ownership pattern that challenges Chairman Sitting Bear's vision. In his words, the current situation has made effective land management difficult for all parties.

Mark Fox, who is chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes, says his nation was glad to help shape the legislation and supports restoring reservation land while preserving treaty rights.

Due to this collaboration and broad support, this legislation passed the United States Senate unanimously in the last Congress. It passed unanimously out of the House Committee on Natural Resources earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, this is a practical, commonsense solution that benefits Tribes, benefits North Dakota, and improves land management for future generations. I urge my colleagues to support the North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act.

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

I again commend the gentlewoman for this legislation and thank my colleagues in the minority for helping us work on something that we could bring to the floor that is a commonsense bill that benefits all those involved. I think this is a good example of Congress doing what we should do, bringing forth commonsense legislation.

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

Ms. ELFRETH. 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, H.R. 2252 is a practical and balanced approach to resolving a longstanding land management challenge in North Dakota. This legislation helps the State better manage trust lands that support schools and public institutions while also creating a pathway for greater Tribal land consolidation within reservation boundaries.

I thank Representative FEDORCHAK for her leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, 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, H.R. 2252, 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.

□ 1550

STAR-SPANGLED SUMMIT ACT OF 2026

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4684) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to issue a special use permit with respect to the maintaining of a flagpole bearing the flag of the United States at Kyhv Peak Lookout Point, Utah, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4684

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 "Star-Spangled Summit Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR INSTALLATION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND REMOVAL OF COVERED FLAGPOLE AT KYHV PEAK LOOKOUT POINT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—*In this section:*

(1) COVERED FLAGPOLE.—*The term "covered flagpole" means a flagpole bearing the flag of the United States.*

(2) KYHV PEAK LOOKOUT POINT.—*The term "Kyhv Peak Lookout Point" means the peak within the Uinta National Forest overlooking Utah Valley and located approximately at latitude 40°16'18.14" N, longitude 111°36'58.57" W.*

(3) QUALIFIED PERSON.—*The term "qualified person" means an individual that resides in, or a nonprofit entity or volunteer organization that carries out operations of the entity or organization in, Utah County, Utah, that has—*

(A) *experience placing, maintaining, or otherwise caring for a covered flagpole; and*

(B) *any other experience determined relevant by the Secretary.*

(4) SECRETARY.—*The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.*

(b) SPECIAL USE PERMIT.—*Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall issue a special use permit for a period of 10 years for the installation, operation, maintenance, and removal, if necessary, of a covered flagpole at Kyhv Peak Lookout Point to—*

(1) *an individual who has submitted a special use permit application to display the flag of the United States seasonally on Kyhv Peak prior to March 5, 2026;*

(2) *an individual who has placed or displayed the flag of the United States at Kyhv Peak Lookout Point as part of a longstanding seasonal practice prior to the date of enactment of this Act; or*

(3) *if an individual described in paragraphs (1) and (2) declines such permit, to a qualified person in accordance with this section.*

(c) SELECTION AND ISSUANCE.—

(1) APPLICATION.—*Except as provided in subsection (b), to be eligible to be selected for a special use permit under this section, a qualified person shall submit to the Secretary a proposal and application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.*

(2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—*The Secretary may impose such terms and conditions on a holder of a special use permit under this section as the Secretary determines necessary to ensure the proper care and maintenance of a covered flagpole.*

(3) LAND USE FEE EXEMPTION.—*The Secretary shall not assess any land use fees with respect to a special use permit issued under this section.*

(4) NOTICE OF APPLICATION.—*The Secretary shall publish notice of the availability of any special use permit under this section on the website of the Forest Service and in a local Utah County, Utah, newspaper of record.*

(d) SUBSEQUENT SPECIAL USE PERMITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—*The Secretary shall renew or issue a new 10-year special use permit not later than 180 days after the date that is the earliest of the following:*

(A) *The date that is 10 years after the date on which the Secretary issued the preceding permit.*

(B) *The date on which the holder of the current special use permit requests revocation of such permit.*

(C) *The date on which a special use permit is subject to early termination under paragraph (2).*

(2) REVOCATION.—*If the Secretary determines that the holder of a special use permit under this section is not in compliance with the terms and conditions relating to such permit under subsection (c)(3), the Secretary may revoke the special use permit.*

(e) EXEMPTION FROM COST RECOVERY FEES.—*A holder of a special use permit under this section shall be exempt from any cost recovery fee under section 251.58 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations.*

(f) APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.—*The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall not apply to the issuance, renewal, or administration of a special use permit under this section, including any activities associated with the placing, maintenance, or removal of a covered flagpole at Kyhv Peak Lookout Point.*

(g) ACCESS.—*The Secretary may authorize reasonable access to Kyhv Peak Lookout Point for the purpose of exercising rights under a special use permit issued under this section, subject to conditions necessary to protect public safety and natural resources.*

(h) LIMITATION.—*The Secretary shall ensure the activities and access authorized by this section are limited to the smallest practicable area.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. ELFRETH) 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. 4684, the bill now under consideration.