

STANSBURY) 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 have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5682, the bill 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.

I rise to support H.R. 5682, introduced by Congressman ISSA, which would place approximately 860 acres of Bureau of Land Management land into trust for the Pechanga Band of Indians.

Located in Temecula, California, the Pechanga Band has a deep desire to protect its ancestral and cultural land. This includes the Pu'eska Mountain, which is central to the Pechanga's creation stories and spiritual life. The Pechanga Band was able to purchase Pu'eska Mountain in 2012 and placed it into trust in 2015.

The 860 acres of BLM-managed land conveyed in this legislation are interspersed within the Pechanga Band's existing holdings, including the Pu'eska Mountain. This unwieldy checkerboard pattern of land ownership has complicated the Pechanga Band's access to and stewardship of its sacred land.

With this transfer, however, the Tribe will consolidate its ownership and will reasonably maintain the land. The legislation requires that the land remain as open space and be used only for cultural and conservation purposes. The bill also includes an explicit prohibition on gaming, pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

I want to thank my friend Mr. ISSA for working diligently with the Pechanga Band to develop H.R. 5682, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 5682, which will return ancestral homelands in southern California to the Pechanga Band of Indians. The lands that would be returned under this bill are located within the Pu'eska Mountain, a sacred site with cultural, historic, and religious significance to the Tribe.

In the mid-2000s, the Tribe fought tirelessly to protect these lands from destructive mining that would have destroyed the mountain. They ultimately purchased and took into trust much of these lands.

In addition to the Tribe, the Bureau of Land Management holds several parcels on the mountain, including approximately 1,261 acres adjacent to the Tribe's trust land.

H.R. 5682 will take these lands into trust for the benefit of the Tribe, consolidating most of the mountain into

Tribal trust land and allowing the Tribe to steward their ancestral lands.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Mr. ISSA. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first or the second time the Pechanga have reached out to expand these historic and ancestral lands and to preserve them. We have a long track history now of the Pechanga Indians taking into trust and improving the lands that they have purchased or that are transferred.

Previously, the Bureau of Land Management came to us and said: We have land we cannot afford to maintain. It has no value. It is a mountainside. Is there any interest in it by the Native American Tribes in the area? We were pleasantly surprised to discover that, yes, there was. And, in fact, they had for years been clandestinely trying to do what they could to preserve the land.

As many people know, California's Native Americans were landless for many years, displaced by the Spaniards, taken away, and not until Ulysses S. Grant did they begin returning to their ancestral homes.

As a result, there are massive amounts of their historic lands that either lie in private hands or public hands.

Pechanga has bought at its own expense private lands, in this case public lands which are not able to be maintained properly and which would have a cost to the Federal Government. These lands will be taken over and maintained by the Pechanga Band of Native American Indians. That means that the Federal Government saves money through this transfer.

More importantly, their stewardship has, in fact, been good for the surrounding area. As many people know, fires rage in southern California on a regular basis. Land that is not properly maintained, especially with low-lying, highly flammable shrubbery, burns quickly and spreads to surrounding areas. Under the Pechanga stewardship, that will be partially abated and, in fact, managed.

Lastly, Pechanga at its own expense has built a large fire department, one that maintains these lands as well or better than the surrounding communities. That means for Temecula, Riverside County, and other areas, again, this is a savings at the expense of the Tribe. They do this because of the importance of the land to their people.

For that reason, I ask that this be moved forward positively on behalf of the Federal Government's benefit and the benefit of our Native Americans.

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

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, again, the Pechanga Band of Indians have worked to consolidate their ancestral and cultural land for years. The conveyance authorized by this legislation will unwind much of the checkerboard pattern that has prevented the Pechanga Band from readily accessing its lands, including its most sacred site, the Pu'eska Mountain.

I thank Mr. ISSA for his work on this straightforward but important legislation. I support H.R. 5682, 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. 5682, 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.

□ 1440

UNRECOGNIZED SOUTHEAST ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES RECOGNITION AND COMPENSATION ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 41) to provide for the recognition of certain Alaska Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 41

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 "Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition and Compensation Act".

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to redress the omission of the southeastern Alaska communities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell from eligibility under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) by authorizing the Alaska Natives enrolled in the communities—

(1) to form Urban Corporations for the communities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.); and

(2) to receive certain settlement land pursuant to that Act.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL NATIVE CORPORATIONS.

Section 16 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1615) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) NATIVE VILLAGES OF HAINES, KETCHIKAN, PETERSBURG, TENAKEE, AND WRANGELL, ALASKA.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Native residents of each of the Native Villages of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell, Alaska, may organize as Urban Corporations.

“(2) EFFECT ON ENTITLEMENT TO LAND.—Nothing in this subsection affects any entitlement to land of any Native Corporation established before the date of enactment of this subsection pursuant to this Act or any other provision of law.”.

SEC. 4. SHAREHOLDER ELIGIBILITY.

Section 8 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1607) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) NATIVE VILLAGES OF HAINES, KETCHIKAN, PETERSBURG, TENAKEE, AND WRANGELL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enroll to each of the Urban Corporations for Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, or Wrangell those individual Natives who enrolled under this Act to the Native Villages of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, or Wrangell, respectively.

“(2) NUMBER OF SHARES.—Each Native who is enrolled to an Urban Corporation for Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, or Wrangell pursuant to paragraph (1) and who was enrolled as a shareholder of the Regional Corporation for Southeast Alaska shall receive 100 shares of Settlement Common Stock in the respective Urban Corporation.

“(3) NATIVES RECEIVING SHARES THROUGH INHERITANCE.—If a Native received shares of stock in the Regional Corporation for Southeast Alaska through inheritance from a decedent Native who originally enrolled to the Native Village of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, or Wrangell and the decedent Native was not a shareholder in a Village Corporation or Urban Corporation, the Native shall receive the identical number of shares of Settlement Common Stock in the Urban Corporation for Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, or Wrangell as the number of shares inherited by that Native from the decedent Native who would have been eligible to be enrolled to the respective Urban Corporation.

“(4) EFFECT ON ENTITLEMENT TO LAND.—Nothing in this subsection affects any previous or future allocation of acreage to any Regional Corporation pursuant to section 12(b) or 14(h)(8).”.

SEC. 5. DISTRIBUTION RIGHTS.

Section 7 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1606) is amended—

(1) in subsection (j)—

(A) in the third sentence, by striking “In the case” and inserting the following:

“(3) THIRTEENTH REGIONAL CORPORATION.—In the case”;

(B) in the second sentence, by striking “Not less” and inserting the following:

“(2) MINIMUM ALLOCATION.—Not less”;

(C) by striking “(j) During” and inserting the following:

“(j) DISTRIBUTION OF CORPORATE FUNDS AND OTHER NET INCOME.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—During”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) NATIVE VILLAGES OF HAINES, KETCHIKAN, PETERSBURG, TENAKEE, AND WRANGELL.—Native members of the Native Villages of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell who become shareholders in an Urban Corporation for such a Native Village shall continue to be eligible to receive distributions under this subsection as at-large shareholders of the Regional Corporation for Southeast Alaska.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(s) EFFECT OF AMENDATORY ACT.—The Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition and Compensation Act and the amendments made by that Act shall not affect—

“(1) the ratio for determination of revenue distribution among Native Corporations under this section; or

“(2) the settlement agreement among Regional Corporations or Village Corporations or other provisions of subsection (i) or (j).”.

SEC. 6. COMPENSATION.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 43. URBAN CORPORATIONS FOR HAINES, KETCHIKAN, PETERSBURG, TENAKEE, AND WRANGELL.

“(a) DEFINITION OF URBAN CORPORATION.—In this section, the term ‘Urban Corporation’ means each of the Urban Corporations for Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell.

“(b) CONVEYANCES OF LAND.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—

“(A) CONVEYANCES TO URBAN CORPORATIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights and paragraphs (3), (4), (5), and (6), the Secretary shall convey—

“(I) to the Urban Corporation for Haines, in accordance with clause (ii), the surface estate in 13 parcels of Federal land comprising approximately 23,040 acres, as generally depicted on the maps entitled ‘Haines Selections’, numbered 1 through 3, and dated June 27, 2025;

“(II) to the Urban Corporation for Ketchikan, the surface estate in 8 parcels of Federal land comprising approximately 23,040 acres, as generally depicted on the maps entitled ‘Ketchikan Selections’, numbered 1 through 4, and dated June 27, 2025 (except the mining claim AA-91521 in Sec. 4, T. 78 S., R. 88 E., Copper River Meridian, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Kitkun Cove’, numbered 1 of 4);

“(III) to the Urban Corporation for Petersburg, the surface estate in 12 parcels of Federal land comprising approximately 23,040 acres, as generally depicted on the maps entitled ‘Petersburg Selections’, numbered 1 through 3, and dated June 27, 2025 (except the Lighthouse withdrawals USS Nos. 1710 and 1711, in Sec. 15, 16, and 22, T. 56 S., R. 76 E., Copper River Meridian, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Portage Bay East’, numbered 1 of 3);

“(IV) to the Urban Corporation for Tenakee, the surface estate in 15 parcels of Federal land comprising approximately 23,040 acres, as generally depicted on the maps entitled ‘Tenakee Selections’, numbered 1 through 3, and dated June 27, 2025; and

“(V) to the Urban Corporation for Wrangell, the surface estate in 13 parcels of Federal land comprising approximately 23,040 acres, as generally depicted on the maps entitled ‘Wrangell Selections’, numbered 1 through 5, and dated June 27, 2025.

“(ii) HAINES PHASES; CONDITIONS.—

“(I) CONVEYANCE PHASES.—The conveyance to the Urban Corporation for Haines under clause (i)(I) in the selection area at Slate Creek, Berners Bay, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Haines Selections’, map 2 of 3, and dated June 27, 2025 (referred to in this subclause as the ‘Map’), shall be completed in the following 2 phases:

“(aa) PHASE 1.—The Secretary shall convey to the Urban Corporation for Haines the parcel of Federal land comprising approximately 81 acres, as generally depicted on the Map as ‘Slate Ck. West Shore’.

“(bb) PHASE 2.—Subject to the conditions described in subclause (II), and on an application for conveyance by the Urban Corporation for Haines, the Secretary shall convey to the Urban Corporation for Haines—

“(AA) the parcel of Federal land comprising approximately 37 acres, as generally depicted on the Map as ‘Slate Ck. West Shore North’; and

“(BB) the parcel of Federal land comprising approximately 55 acres, as generally depicted on the Map as ‘Slate Ck. East Shore’.

“(II) PHASE 2 CONDITIONS.—The phase 2 conveyance described in subclause (I)(bb) shall occur on the earliest of the date on which—

“(aa) the Federal mining claims underlying the Federal land described in that subclause are relinquished;

“(bb) the Federal mining claims underlying the Federal land described in that subclause are abandoned, on a determination by the Secretary that the Federal mining claims are void and forfeited; and

“(cc) Coeur Alaska Inc. (or a successor in interest) consents that the Federal land described in that subclause can be conveyed prior to any relinquishment or abandonment of the Federal mining claims underlying that land.

“(B) CONVEYANCES TO REGIONAL CORPORATION FOR SOUTHEAST ALASKA.—Subject to valid existing rights, on the applicable date on which the surface estate in land is conveyed to an Urban Corporation under subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary shall convey to the Regional Corporation for Southeast Alaska the subsurface estate for that land.

“(C) CONGRESSIONAL INTENT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), it is the intent of Congress that the Secretary complete the interim conveyance of the surface estate in land to an Urban Corporation under subparagraph (A)(i) not later than the date that is 2 years after the applicable date of incorporation of the Urban Corporation under section 16(e)(1).

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—As the Secretary determines to be necessary, the Secretary may extend the 2-year deadline established by clause (i) by not more than 1 year for any individual parcel of land to allow for the conclusion of any pending appeal of a public easement decision for the applicable parcel pursuant to section 17(b), subject to the requirement that the final conveyance of the surface estate with respect to the applicable parcel shall be completed as soon as practicable after the date on which the appeal is concluded.

“(D) FINALIZATION OF ENTITLEMENT.—The conveyances under subparagraph (A)(i) of approximately 23,040 acres of land to each Urban Corporation shall be considered to be the full and final satisfaction of the entitlement of the southeastern Alaska communities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell under this Act, notwithstanding whether the surveyed acreage of the parcels of land described in subclauses (I) through (V) of that subparagraph is less than or more than 23,040 acres in the case of each Urban Corporation.

“(2) WITHDRAWAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal land described in paragraph (1) is withdrawn from all forms of—

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

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

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

“(B) TERMINATION.—The withdrawal under subparagraph (A) shall remain in effect until the date on which the Federal land is conveyed under paragraph (1).

“(3) TREATMENT OF LAND CONVEYED.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, any land conveyed to an Urban Corporation under paragraph (1)(A)(i)—

“(A)(i) shall be considered to be land conveyed by the Secretary under paragraph (3) of section 14(h); but

“(ii) shall not be subject to the requirements under that section that the land be vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved; and

“(B) shall be subject to all laws (including regulations) applicable to entitlements under section 14(h)(3), including section 907(d) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (43 U.S.C. 1636(d)).

“(4) PUBLIC EASEMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the conveyance and patents for the land under paragraph (1)(A)(i) shall be subject to the reservation before the conveyance of public easements under section 17(b).

“(B) TERMINATION.—No public easement reserved on land conveyed under paragraph (1)(A)(i) shall be terminated by the Secretary without publication of notice of the proposed termination in the Federal Register.

“(C) RESERVATION OF EASEMENTS.—In the conveyance and patent for any parcel of land

under paragraph (1)(A)(i) for which the easement reservation process has not been completed by the date that is 2 years after the applicable date of incorporation of the Urban Corporation under section 16(e)(1), or, in the case of an appeal of a public easement under section 17(b), by the date that is 3 years after the applicable date of incorporation, the Secretary shall—

“(i) convey the parcel of land; and

“(ii) as part of the conveyance and patent for the parcel of land under clause (i), reserve the right of the Secretary to amend the conveyance and patent to include reservations of public easements under section 17(b) until the date of completion of the easement reservation process.

“(D) STATE OF ALASKA EASEMENTS.—Nothing in this Act modifies, changes, or terminates the rights-of-way granted to the State under—

“(i) section 4407 of the SAFETEA-LU (Public Law 109–59; 119 Stat. 1777); or

“(ii) the 2006 memorandum of understanding between the State and the Forest Service to implement that section.

“(5) HUNTING, FISHING, RECREATION, AND ACCESS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any land conveyed under paragraph (1)(A)(i), including access to the land through roadways, trails, and forest roads, shall remain open and available to subsistence uses, noncommercial recreational hunting and fishing, and other noncommercial recreational uses by the public under applicable law—

“(i) without liability on the part of the Urban Corporation, except for willful acts of the Urban Corporation, to any user as a result of the use; and

“(ii) subject to—

“(I) any reasonable restrictions that may be imposed by the Urban Corporation on the public use—

“(aa) to ensure public safety;

“(bb) to minimize conflicts between recreational and commercial uses;

“(cc) to protect cultural resources;

“(dd) to conduct scientific research; or

“(ee) to provide environmental protection; and

“(II) the condition that the Urban Corporation post on any applicable property, in accordance with State law, notices of the restrictions on use.

“(B) EFFECT.—Access provided to any individual or entity under subparagraph (A) shall not—

“(i) create an interest in any third party in the land conveyed under paragraph (1)(A)(i); or

“(ii) provide standing to any third party in any review of, or challenge to, any determination by the Urban Corporation with respect to the management or development of the land conveyed under paragraph (1)(A)(i), except as against the Urban Corporation for the management of public access under subparagraph (A).

“(6) MISCELLANEOUS.—

“(A) SPECIAL USE AUTHORIZATIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—On the conveyance of land to an Urban Corporation under paragraph (1)(A)(i)—

“(I) any guiding or outfitting special use authorization issued by the Forest Service for the use of the conveyed land shall terminate; and

“(II) as a condition of the conveyance and consistent with section 14(g), the Urban Corporation shall issue the holder of the special use authorization terminated under subclause (I) an authorization to continue the authorized use, subject to the terms and conditions that were in the special use authorization issued by the Forest Service, for—

“(aa) the remainder of the term of the authorization; and

“(bb) 1 additional consecutive 10-year renewal period.

“(ii) NOTICE OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES.—The Urban Corporation, and any holder of a guiding or outfitting authorization under this subparagraph, shall have a mutual obligation, subject to the guiding or outfitting authorization, to inform the other party of any commercial activi-

ties prior to engaging in the activities on the land conveyed to the Urban Corporation under paragraph (1)(A)(i).

“(iii) NEGOTIATION OF NEW TERMS.—Nothing in this paragraph precludes the Urban Corporation and the holder of a guiding or outfitting authorization from negotiating a new mutually agreeable guiding or outfitting authorization.

“(iv) LIABILITY.—Neither the Urban Corporation nor the United States shall bear any liability, except for willful acts of the Urban Corporation or the United States, regarding the use and occupancy of any land conveyed to the Urban Corporation under paragraph (1)(A)(i), as provided in any outfitting or guiding authorization under this paragraph.

“(B) MUTUAL USE AGREEMENT FOR ROADS AND FACILITIES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall seek to enter into a binding mutual use agreement for—

“(I) the use of National Forest System roads and related transportation facilities (including marine access facilities, log transfer facilities, sort yards, and associated log rafting and storage areas) in the Tongass National Forest by the Urban Corporation and designees of the Urban Corporation; and

“(II) the use of the roads and related transportation facilities (including marine access facilities, log transfer facilities, sort yards, and associated log rafting and storage areas) of the Urban Corporation by the Forest Service and designees of the Forest Service.

“(ii) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The binding mutual use agreement under clause (i)—

“(I) shall provide that the use of road and transportation facilities infrastructure by a third party shall not begin until the date on which the third party signs a mutual use agreement entered into with the Urban Corporation;

“(II) shall provide that the State (including entities and designees of the State) shall be authorized to use the roads and related transportation facilities of the Urban Corporation on substantially similar terms as are provided by the Urban Corporation to the Forest Service;

“(III) shall include restrictions on, and fees for, the use of the National Forest System roads and related transportation facilities in existence as of the date of enactment of this section, as necessary, that are reasonable and comparable to the restrictions and fees imposed by the Forest Service for the use of the roads and related transportation facilities;

“(IV) shall not restrict or limit any access to the roads and related transportation facilities of the Urban Corporation or the Forest Service that may be otherwise provided by valid existing rights and agreements in existence as of the date of enactment of this section; and

“(V) shall provide for periodic updates to the mutual use agreement if the terms and conditions of the updated mutual use agreement are consistent with the terms and conditions described in subclauses (I) through (IV).

“(iii) INTENT OF CONGRESS.—It is the intent of Congress that the mutual use agreement under clause (i) shall be entered into as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this section and in any case by not later than 1 year after the date of incorporation of the Urban Corporation.

“(iv) CONTINUED ACCESS.—Beginning on the date on which the land is conveyed to the Urban Corporation under paragraph (1)(A)(i) and ending on the effective date of a binding mutual use agreement entered into under clause (i), the Urban Corporation shall provide and allow administrative access to roads and related transportation facilities on the land under substantially similar terms as are provided by the Forest Service as of the date of enactment of this section.

“(C) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section delays the duty of the Secretary to convey land to—

“(I) the State under Public Law 85–508 (commonly known as the ‘Alaska Statehood Act’) (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21); or

“(II) a Native Corporation under—

“(aa) this Act; or

“(bb) the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act (43 U.S.C. 1611 note; Public Law 108–452).

“(ii) STATEHOOD ENTITLEMENT.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Statehood selections under Public Law 85–508 (commonly known as the ‘Alaska Statehood Act’) (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21) are not displaced by the parcels of land described in subclauses (I) through (V) of paragraph (1)(A)(i).

“(II) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS.—In the event of a dispute between an area selected as a Statehood selection and a parcel of land referred to in subclause (I), the Secretary shall work with the Urban Corporation and the State in good faith to adjust the boundary of the parcel to exclude any area selected as a Statehood selection.

“(iii) CONVEYANCES.—The Secretary shall promptly proceed with the conveyance of all land necessary to fulfill the final entitlement of all Native Corporations in accordance with—

“(I) this Act; and

“(II) the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act (43 U.S.C. 1611 note; Public Law 108–452).

“(iv) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—Nothing in this section enlarges or diminishes the responsibility and authority of the State with respect to the management of fish and wildlife on public land in the State.

“(D) MAPS.—

“(i) AVAILABILITY.—Each map referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(i) shall be available in the appropriate offices of the Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture.

“(ii) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, may make any necessary correction to a clerical or typographical error in a map referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(i).

“(7) ESCROW FUNDS.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this section, the escrow requirements of section 2 of Public Law 94–204 (43 U.S.C. 1613 note) shall apply to proceeds (including interest) derived from the land withdrawn under paragraph (2).

“(c) CONVEYANCE OF ROADS, TRAILS, LOG TRANSFER FACILITIES, LEASES, AND APPURTENANCES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The land conveyed to an Urban Corporation under subsection (b)(1)(A)(i) shall include all right, title, and interest of the United States in all roads, trails, log transfer facilities, leases, and appurtenances on or related to the land conveyed to the Urban Corporation.

“(2) CONDITIONS.—The land conveyed to an Urban Corporation under subsection (b)(1)(A)(i) shall be subject to all valid existing rights in accordance with section 14(g), including any reciprocal rights-of-way, easements, or agreements for the use of the roads, trails, log transfer facilities, leases, and appurtenances conveyed under subsection (b)(1)(A)(i).

“(3) CONTINUATION OF AGREEMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—On or before the date on which land is conveyed to an Urban Corporation under subsection (b)(1)(A)(i), the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall provide to the Urban Corporation notice of all reciprocal rights-of-way, easements, and agreements for use of the roads, trails, log transfer facilities, leases, and appurtenances on or related to the land in existence as of the date of enactment of this section.

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—In accordance with section 14(g), any right-of-way, easement, or agreement described in subparagraph (A) shall continue unless the right-of-way, easement, or agreement—

“(i) expires under its own terms; or

“(ii) is mutually renegotiated.

“(d) SETTLEMENT TRUST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Urban Corporation may establish a settlement trust in accordance with section 39 for the purposes of promoting

the health, education, and welfare of the trust beneficiaries, and preserving the Native heritage and culture, of the community of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, or Wrangell, as applicable.

“(2) PROCEEDS AND INCOME.—The proceeds and income from the principal of a trust established under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) first be applied to the support of those enrollees, and the descendants of the enrollees, who are elders or minor children; and

“(B) thereafter to the support of all other enrollees.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY) 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 to include extraneous material on H.R. 41, 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, I rise today in support of H.R. 41, the Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition and Compensation Act, introduced by Mr. BEGICH of Alaska. This bill amends the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, or ANCSA, to recognize the Alaska Native communities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell.

ANCSA was signed into law to resolve the longstanding issues surrounding the land claims of Alaska Natives. Under ANCSA, roughly 200 village corporations and 12 regional corporations were established. However, those five communities I just mentioned were excluded from the list of southeast Alaska Native villages. As a result, they have missed out on numerous opportunities afforded to other Alaska Native communities.

Although the five communities objected to their exclusion, no right of appeal was provided for the southeast villages, so their challenges were rejected outright.

Recognizing these five communities under ANCSA has been a longstanding goal of the Alaska delegation. Accordingly, this legislation amends ANCSA to allow them to organize into Alaska Native urban corporations and select one township each within the Tongass National Forest. The lands covered by this legislation were selected in consultation with the affected Alaska Native communities, local stakeholders, the U.S. Forest Service, and the general public.

I commend Representative BEGICH for this work on behalf of his constituents, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 41, the Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition and Compensation Act, would amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, or ANCSA, to address the exclusion of five southeast Alaska Native communities.

When ANCSA was enacted in 1971 to resolve Alaska Native land claims, Congress created the Alaska Native Corporations, a structure that is vastly different than the framework established for Tribal nations in the lower 48. Most Alaska Natives were enrolled into both a village corporation and a regional corporation. However, the communities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell were left off the eligibility list for establishing village corporations under ANCSA.

H.R. 41 seeks to address that omission by creating Alaska Native Urban Corporations for each of the five communities and authorizing the conveyance of approximately 23,040 acres of land, consistent with the acreage provided to the other southeast Alaska Native communities under ANCSA, from the Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that, over the years, this legislation has generated debate, particularly regarding the conveyance of Federal lands within the Tongass National Forest. As the legislation advances, we remain committed to working with our colleagues in the Senate to address the historic injustices that occurred for these communities while safeguarding the cultural, ecological, and economic importance of the Tongass National Forest.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 41, the Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition and Compensation Act.

This bill rights a wrong that has endured for more than 50 years.

When Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1971, it made a promise to Alaska Native people: land and the right to form their own corporations to manage that land and build their futures. However, five southeast Alaska communities, Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell, were left out.

Through no fault of their own, the Native people of these communities were given a name no Native community should ever have to carry: the Landless.

For half a century, the people of these five communities have come to Washington, made their case, and waited patiently and persistently for this body to keep its word. They have done everything that was ever asked of them.

My predecessors have introduced this bill ten times in this body, and in all those years, this House has yet to pass this bill.

Today, we change that.

H.R. 41 finally allows these communities to do what every other Alaska Native community was able to do decades ago: organize their corporations, receive their land, and chart their own course.

This action fulfills a promise and recognizes that Alaska Native self-determination was always meant to include these communities.

To the elders and leaders of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell who never gave up: We thank them for persevering.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 41.

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

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 41 amends ANCSA to recognize the communities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell. For over 50 years, these communities have missed out on the opportunities afforded under ANCSA. This legislation will deliver the fairness these communities deserve.

I, again, thank Mr. BEGICH for his work on behalf of his constituents, I urge passage of H.R. 41, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). 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. 41, 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.

BENTON MACKAYE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY ACT OF 2026

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2768) to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Benton MacKaye Trail as a national scenic trail, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2768

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 “Benton MacKaye National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study Act of 2026”.