

At its core, this bill reflects a simple principle: Where there is strong local support, a clear public purpose, and appropriate safeguards, decisions should be made by the people closest to the resource.

That principle is, in fact, at the heart of this legislation.

H.R. 5911 would convey the Crystal Reservoir, Full Moon Dam and Ditch, and the surrounding land necessary for their operations to the city of Ouray, along with the associated water rights and infrastructure.

This request came from the city of Ouray itself. It is not a top-down proposal. It is a locally driven solution to a local problem.

For generations, Crystal Reservoir has served the community in multiple ways. It provides water for municipal use and agriculture. It supports recreation. It supports the city's hot springs, and it serves as an important resource for wildfire suppression in a region where that responsibility becomes more and more important each year.

In 2024, structural concerns at Full Moon Dam forced the United States Forest Service to drain the reservoir. Almost overnight, the community lost a resource it had relied upon for generations.

Today, the question before us is straightforward: Who is best positioned to restore, maintain, and manage this resource going forward?

The city of Ouray has answered that question. The city is prepared to assume full responsibility for repair, operation, maintenance, and liability.

The city is prepared to do the work. The city is prepared to bear the responsibility, and the city is prepared to make the long-term investments necessary to restore this important asset.

At the same time, this legislation protects the public interest. It preserves public access. It protects recreational opportunities. It prohibits commercial development. It includes a reversionary provision to ensure that the land continues to be used for its intended purpose, the land remains protected, and the public remains welcome.

The difference is that management moves closer to the people who depend on this resource every day.

This legislation is also good government. At a time when Federal land management agencies face substantial deferred maintenance backlogs, this bill relieves the Federal Government of future operational and maintenance obligations, while placing the resource in the hands of a willing and capable local partner.

In the West, we often say that water is life. This bill recognizes that reality. It respects local stewardship. It respects taxpayers, and it recognizes that communities willing to assume responsibility should be empowered to do so.

This is a story about local responsibility. The community is stepping forward to preserve an important re-

source, maintain public access, and ensure that future generations can continue to benefit from it.

Congress should support that effort. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 5911.

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

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, at its core, this bill is about restoring a public recreation site that is vital to a nearby community. We have an opportunity to turn a stalled Federal asset into a functioning local resource, to replace uncertainty with action, and to show that when communities are ready to step up, Congress is willing to meet them there. That is a result that is worth supporting.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this 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. 5911, 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.

ALBUQUERQUE INDIAN SCHOOL ACT OF 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6162) to transfer certain Federal land into trust for certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6162

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 "Albuquerque Indian School Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF LAND INTO TRUST FOR THE 19 PUEBLOS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—*In this section:*
(1) 19 PUEBLOS.—*The term "19 Pueblos" means the New Mexico Indian Pueblos of—*

- (A) Acoma;
- (B) Cochiti;
- (C) Isleta;
- (D) Jemez;
- (E) Laguna;
- (F) Nambe;
- (G) Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan);
- (H) Picuris;
- (I) Pojoaque;
- (J) San Felipe;
- (K) San Ildefonso;
- (L) Sandia;
- (M) Santa Ana;
- (N) Santa Clara;
- (O) Santo Domingo;

- (P) Taos;
- (Q) Tesuque;
- (R) Zia; and
- (S) Zuni.

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

(3) SURVEY.—*Except as provided in subsection (e), the term "survey" means the survey plat entitled "Plat of Tracts 1 Thru 3 Lands of US Indian Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs", prepared by Surv-Tek, Inc., and dated May 2023.*

(b) TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.—*Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services shall—*

(1) complete the relocation of all Federal tenants; and

(2) transfer to the Secretary administrative jurisdiction over the Federal land described in subsection (d).

(c) LAND INTO TRUST.—*Not later than 90 days after completion of the relocation of all Federal tenants under subsection (b)(1) and transfer of administrative jurisdiction under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary shall take into trust all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land described in subsection (d) for the benefit of the 19 Pueblos.*

(d) FEDERAL LAND.—*The Federal land referred to in this section is the 3 tracts of Federal land, the combined acreage of which is approximately 9.89 acres, that were historically part of the Albuquerque Indian School and, as of the date of enactment of this Act, are under the administrative jurisdiction of the General Services Administration, more particularly described as follows:*

(1) TRACT 1.—*The approximately 3.57 acres located in secs. 7 and 8 of T. 10 N., R. 3 E., of the New Mexico Principal Meridian in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on which stands a 76,682 square foot warehouse, as identified on the survey.*

(2) TRACT 2.—*The approximately 5.78 acres located in secs. 7 and 8 of T. 10 N., R. 3 E., of the New Mexico Principal Meridian in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as identified on the survey.*

(3) TRACT 3.—*The approximately .54 acres located in secs. 7 and 8 of T. 10 N., R. 3 E., of the New Mexico Principal Meridian in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as identified on the survey.*

(e) SURVEY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—*The Secretary—*
(A) shall obtain, with respect to the land transferred under subsection (b)(2)—

(i) a survey; and

(ii) from the Administrator of General Services, copies of all encumbrances of the land; and
(B) may make minor corrections to the survey and legal description of the Federal land described in subsection (d) as the Secretary determines to be necessary to correct clerical, typographical, and surveying land title errors.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—*The survey and all applicable transfer documents obtained under paragraph (1) shall be recorded in the public records of the County Clerk Office of Bernalillo County, New Mexico, and in the appropriate Land Titles and Records Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.*

(f) USE OF LAND.—*The Federal land taken into trust under subsection (c) shall be—*

(1) used for the educational, health, cultural, business, and economic development of the 19 Pueblos; and

(2) subject to Federal laws applicable to Indian trust land in the State of New Mexico.

(g) LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS.—*The Federal land taken into trust under subsection (c) shall remain subject to any private or municipal encumbrance, right-of-way, restriction, easement of record, or utility service agreement in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.*

(h) CONVEYANCE OF BUILDINGS AND OTHER STRUCTURES.—*Not later than 90 days after the relocation of all Federal tenants in subsection (b)(1) and the transfer of administrative jurisdiction under subsection (b)(2), the United*

States shall convey all ownership interests of the United States in all buildings, structures, improvements, and appurtenances located within Tract 1 described in subsection (d)(1), to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, to own in fee.

(i) GAMING PROHIBITION.—The land taken into trust under subsection (c) shall not be used for any class II gaming or class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (as those terms are defined in section 4 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

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 in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on H.R. 6162, 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 assume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 6162, the Albuquerque Indian School Act of 2025. This legislation conveys approximately 9.89 acres of Federal land in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Department of the Interior to be held in trust for the 19 pueblos of New Mexico. The land is currently owned by the General Services Administration.

The transfer includes three tracts formerly used by the Albuquerque Indian School, which operated for a century, from 1881 to 1981. Those tracts remain historically and culturally significant to the 19 pueblos.

H.R. 6162 requires the 19 pueblos to use the transferred land for educational and cultural purposes, as well as economic development. The legislation has received wide support from the All Pueblo Council of Governors, the Albuquerque City Council, the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, and various local officials. It also includes a prohibition on gaming, subject to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is always a good day when New Mexico is in the House, and we are in the House today with the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, which is why I am so honored to be able to speak about my legislation supported by the entire New Mexico delegation, H.R. 6162, which is the Albuquerque Indian School Act.

Back home in New Mexico, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center is a place for community, culture, language, celebration, education, and economic

development for our 19 pueblos right in the heart of my hometown in Albuquerque.

What is now the nationally recognized Indian Pueblo Cultural Center was once the Albuquerque Indian School, which was established as an Indian boarding school in the 1880s. Although the school operated through 1981, Congress began efforts to return the property to New Mexico's 19 pueblos in 1969, and the center was reopened as a cultural center in 1976. Since then, Congress has passed a number of bills to place this land into trust for the benefit of the pueblos.

H.R. 6162 continues this important work, and this bill will transfer 9.89 acres of land that was historically a part of the former Albuquerque Indian School from the GSA to the Department of the Interior so that it can be taken into trust for the benefit of our 19 pueblos who helped to govern the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center.

□ 1520

The IPCC campus serves as a vibrant gathering place, where Pueblo culture is celebrated through community events, educational experiences, the arts, and economic opportunities for Pueblo and local economic development.

This property is managed by the All Pueblo Council of Governors and New Mexico's 19 sovereign Pueblos. This council traces its origins back to before 1598 and is one of the oldest, continuous intertribal governing organizations in North America today. It serves as a collective voice for the Pueblo nations. Through leadership, advocacy, and cultural stewardship, the council works to protect Tribal sovereignty and advance the shared priorities of our Pueblo communities.

Under the leadership and dedication of the Pueblos, a site that was once marked by trauma and cultural loss has been transformed into a place of renewal, resilience, and investment in Tribal communities. Since its opening in 1976, the IPCC has served as a living hub for Pueblo languages, art, culture, dance, storytelling, and empowerment of our Pueblo communities, right in the heart of our city, as thousands of visitors from all over the world come every year to visit.

We invite everyone across the country and the world to come visit and to join us in celebrating Pueblo culture. The center serves as a home not only to the thriving communities of our New Mexico Pueblo communities but also as a place for education. It is home to regional BIE and BIA offices; tribally run businesses; a Native-run charter school; and a meeting space, of course, for the All Pueblo Council of Governors.

Mr. Speaker, passing H.R. 6162 will allow the IPCC to continue to expand its work to promote cultural preservation, economic opportunity, community development, and economic development, while honoring the history,

traditions, and enduring strength of the 19 Pueblos. It also represents another step in restoring Tribal stewardship over ancestral lands and ensuring that this historic site continues to serve future generations in New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, 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. 6162 furthers the 19 Pueblos' efforts to consolidate parcels of land related to the former Albuquerque Indian School, which holds significant cultural and historical value. I commend my colleague, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY), for her work on behalf of her constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I support this 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. 6162, 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.

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2026

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7618) to amend title 54, United States Code, to modify certain cost-sharing requirements for grant programs under the American Battlefield Protection 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. 7618

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 "American Battlefield Protection Program Amendments Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM GRANT PROGRAMS.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION OF BATTLEFIELD ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 308103(f) of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking "2028" and inserting "2036".

(b) BATTLEFIELD INTERPRETATION MODERNIZATION GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 308104 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (d).

(c) BATTLEFIELD RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 308105 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

"(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to provide grants under section