

that harm disclosed it. Female observers were at least twice as likely to become targets as men.

As a member of both the Science Committee and the Education Committee, for years I have heard consistent support for getting more women into scientific careers. That is important, but it is also important to keep them safe while they are at work.

We must do more to prevent harassment and assault, help survivors seek justice, and hold harassers accountable for their actions. This bipartisan bill builds on NOAA's progress by expanding the agency's sexual harassment prevention and response policy to include employees of contractors, who were originally not covered.

My bill also directs NOAA to provide a clear, secure structure to anonymously report sexual harassment or assault. This would allow survivors to more easily identify safe reporting services without triggering an investigative process, if that is what the survivor prefers.

This bill would also add provisions so new covered employees and change of station or work location requests are included in the report to Congress. Importantly, this bill empowers NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement to enforce prohibitions on assault, intimidation, and interference with fisheries observers by removing restrictive stipulations that the acts be forcible in nature and occur on a vessel for NOAA to investigate.

NOAA has taken meaningful steps to protect its researchers, contractors, and ocean-dependent communities. That work should be recognized. This bill, as the chairman recognized, will strengthen those efforts and make needed improvements to prevent harassment, modernize reporting, and hold harassers accountable to bring justice to survivors.

We must do everything we can to create a work environment where scientists can achieve the next breakthrough discoveries, and everyone can feel safe at sea without fear of harassment, assault, or retaliation.

I am very grateful to Representatives SALAZAR and FITZPATRICK for cosponsoring this important legislation. I thank Chair WESTERMAN and Ranking Member HUFFMAN for advancing it through the Natural Resources Committee to the floor.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the NOAA Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Improvements Act.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 2406, 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. 2406, 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.

PROVIDING FOR THE EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN INDIAN LAND DISPUTES REGARDING LAND IN ILLINOIS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 550) to provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 550

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS.

(a) JURISDICTION CONFERRED ON THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the United States Court of Federal Claims shall have jurisdiction to hear, determine, and render judgment on a land claim of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma under its Treaty with the United States of America signed at Grouseland August 21, 1805 (7 Stat. 91) (commonly known as the "Treaty of Grouseland"), without regard to the statute of limitations, including section 2501 of title 28, United States Code, and any delay-based defense, no matter how characterized.

(2) JURISDICTION EXPIRATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the jurisdiction conferred to the United States Court of Federal Claims under paragraph (1) shall expire unless the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma files a land claim under that paragraph.

(b) EXTINGUISHMENT OF TITLE AND CLAIMS.—Except for a claim filed under subsection (a)(1), all other claims, including any and all future claims, of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, or any member, descendant, or predecessor in interest to the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, to land in the State of Illinois are extinguished.

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 have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 550, 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.

S. 550, introduced by then-Senator Mullin and championed by Chairman

COLE in this Chamber provides a narrow pathway for the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to bring its treaty-based land claim related to certain lands in Illinois before the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Now located in Oklahoma, the Tribe was originally based in the Great Lakes and Midwest region. The 1805 Treaty of Grouseland recognized the Miami Tribe's title to lands in the Wabash River watershed and ensured that the U.S. would not purchase portions of that territory without Tribal consent.

In the decades that followed, additional treaties and Federal policies led to the large-scale cessions of the Tribe's land, including their historic homelands in Illinois. These lands are central to this legislation, as they were later patented to non-Native settlers without properly extinguishing Tribal title. This forms the basis of the Tribe's treaty-based claim.

Congress enacted the Indian Claims Commission Act of 1946, which established the Indian Claims Commission, or ICC, to provide a forum for Tribes seeking monetary compensation for claims against the U.S. that predated August 13, 1946.

The ICC did not restore land. Rather, it awarded monetary damages based on the land's value at the time of the taking. At the time of the ICC, the Miami Tribe preferred the return of the land in Illinois over cash awards. The Indian Claims Commission Act of 1946 required all claims to be filed within 5 years of enactment and barred late claims from being filed. The ICC ceased operations in 1978, and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims assumed all remaining matters.

This legislation provides a narrow jurisdictional pathway for the Miami Tribe to bring its treaty-based land claim before the U.S. Court of Federal Claims within 1 year of the enactment of this legislation.

This legislation only authorizes monetary relief against the U.S. and precludes any equitable relief or recovery against private landowners. Finally, this legislation extinguishes the Tribe's remaining land and title claims to the specified Illinois lands.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman COLE for being a long-time champion of this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 550 would provide the U.S. Court of Federal Claims with jurisdiction over the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma's land claim in east central Illinois.

Prior to being forcibly removed from their homeland, the Miami Tribe resided in the Great Lakes region.

In 1805, the Miami Tribe, the Eel River Band, and the Wea signed the Treaty of Grouseland with the United States. The 1805 treaty provided that land south of the Great Lakes in the

Wabash River watershed were not ceded and the United States would not purchase lands without the consent of the signatories.

However, the United States later violated this treaty when lands were placed into the public domain and parcels were transferred to settlers without extinguishing the Tribe's title to the land. This has resulted in difficulties and confusion with the current landowners as the Miami Tribe maintains a claim to the title.

S. 550 would allow the Tribe 1 year to bring their claim before the U.S. Court of Federal Claims and would extinguish any other of the Tribe's claims to the land.

The bill provides the Tribe with a path forward to get their day in court but does not dictate an ultimate outcome.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), who is the lead sponsor of the House companion to this bill and who is the chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my very good friend, Chairman WESTERMAN, for yielding me the time and for bringing this important piece of legislation to the floor. I also thank Congresswoman BETTY MCCOLLUM of Minnesota for her collaboration, and Secretary Markwayne Mullin for his work on this legislation during his time in the Senate.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, in strong support of S. 550, the companion legislation to my bill, H.R. 2827. The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma have been waiting more than 10 years for this legislation to pass, and today is finally that day.

Mr. Speaker, that would not be possible without Chairman WESTERMAN's help and support, and I am very appreciative.

Resolving this land claim will remedy a mistake made by the Federal Government roughly two centuries ago. In 1805, the Miami Tribe, Eel River Band, and Wea, signed the Treaty of Grouseland, which, under Article IV, reserved all lands within the Wabash River watershed and land located west of the Wabash River, which is in present-day Illinois. From 1805 to 1840, the United States transferred 2.6 million acres of this land to non-Native settlers without having acquired title from the Tribes. As a result, title to that land is still held by the Miami Tribe's superior claim to title, and the Tribe never consented to that land being purchased.

S. 550 will allow the Miami Tribe to have their rightful day in court and extinguish all claims to this land in Illinois. This straightforward, bipartisan piece of legislation will not only provide finality for the Miami Tribe, but also certainty to the landowners and farmers in Illinois who have been living on this land for generations.

As a Tribal member myself, it is an honor to help a fellow Tribal nation and be a voice here in Washington. Today is a testament of Congress upholding its trust and treaty responsibility, and I would like to thank Chairman WESTERMAN again for his support. Chairman HURD, Ranking Member HUFFMAN, and Ranking Member LEGER FERNANDEZ were also instrumental, and I appreciate the efforts of their staff and their support and efforts on this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of S. 550.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman COLE for his remarks, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to thank Chairman COLE for his dedication to this bill and seeing it through.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this bipartisan piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 550, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 550.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADVANCING WATER RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION ACT OF 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7889) to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to reauthorize the water resources research and technology institutes 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. 7889

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 "Advancing Water Research and Collaboration Act of 2025" or the "AWRC Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF PURPOSE.

Section 103(4) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10302(4)) is amended by inserting ", including the growing artificial intelligence industry," after "private industry".

SEC. 3. WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTES.

Section 104 of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking "subsection 104(g) of this Act" and inserting "subsection (g)"; and

(B) by striking the subsection designation and all that follows through "Any sums" in paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(f) GENERAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$16,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029.

"(2) FAILURE TO OBLIGATE.—Any amounts"; and

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking "(2) Research funds" and inserting the following:

"(4) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—Research funds";

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the third sentence, by striking "Funds made" and inserting the following:

"(3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds made"; and

(ii) by striking "by institutes which focuses" in the first sentence and all that follows through "Such funds when appropriated" in the second sentence and inserting the following: "by institutes with respect to any of the following:

"(A) Research that focuses on water problems and issues of a regional or interstate nature beyond those of concern only to a single State.

"(B) Research that relates to specific program priorities identified jointly by the Secretary and the institutes.

"(C) Research that relates to water problems identified by Congress as being of an interstate nature.

"(2) FEDERAL COST-SHARE.—Funds made available under this subsection"; and

(C) by striking the subsection designation and all that follows through "only" in the first sentence of paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(g) ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR RESEARCH FOCUSED ON WATER PROBLEMS OF INTERSTATE NATURE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts authorized under subsection (f)(1) for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029, not more than 20 percent is authorized to be used".

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. 7889, 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 in support of H.R. 7889, the Advancing Water Research and Collaboration Act of 2025, sponsored by Representative WITTMAN from Virginia.

Water is one of our Nation's most important resources, and the challenges facing our water systems are becoming more complex. This legislation takes a practical approach to strengthening the science and partnerships we need to manage those challenges.

The bill reauthorizes the Water Resources Research Act Program, which