There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on Tuesday, November 16, for personal medical leave. Should I have been present for rollcall votes 587 through 595, I would have voted the following way:

On rollcall vote 587, I would have voted yes; on rollcall vote 588, I would have voted yes; on rollcall vote 589, I would have voted yes; on rollcall vote 590, I would have voted yes; on rollcall vote 591, I would have voted yes; on rollcall vote 592, I would have voted yes; rollcall vote 593, I would have voted yes; on rollcall vote 594, I would have voted yes; on rollcall vote 595, I would have voted no.

CITY OF SISTERS, OREGON, LAND CONVEYANCE

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 416) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to the city of Sisters, Oregon, a certain parcel of land for use in connection with a sewage treatment facility, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 416

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the city of Sisters, Oregon, faces a public health threat from a major outbreak of infectious diseases due to the lack of a sewer system;

(2) the lack of a sewer system also threatens groundwater and surface water resources in the area;

(3) the city is surrounded by Forest Service land and has no reasonable access to non-Federal parcels of land large enough, and with the proper soil conditions, for the development of a sewage treatment facility;

(4) the Forest Service currently must operate, maintain, and replace 11 separate septic systems to serve existing Forest Service facilities in the city of Sisters; and

(5) the Forest Service currently administers 77 acres of land within the city limits that would increase in value as a result of construction of a sewer system.

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable and upon completion of any documents or analysis required by any environmental law, but not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall convey to the city of Sisters, Oregon, (hereinafter referred to as the ''city'') an amount of land that is not more than is reasonably necessary for a sewage treatment facility and for the disposal of treated effluent consistent with subsection (c).

(b) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The amount of land conveyed under subsection (a) shall be 160 acres or 240 acres from within—

(1) the SE quarter of section 09, township 15 south, range 10 west, W.M., Deschutes, Oregon, and the portion of the SW quarter of section 09, township 15 south, range 10 west, W.M., Deschutes, Oregon, that lies east of Three Creeks Lake Road, but not including the westernmost 500 feet of that portion; and

(2) the portion of the SW quarter of section 09, township 15 south, range 10 west, W.M., Deschutes County, Oregon, lying easterly of Three Creeks Lake Road.

(c) CONDITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The conveyance under subsection (a) shall be made on the condition that the city—

(A) shall conduct a public process before the final determination is made regarding land use for the disposition of treated effluent,

(B) except as provided by paragraph (2), shall be responsible for system development charges, mainline construction costs, and equivalent dwelling unit monthly service fees as set forth in the agreement between the city and the Forest Service in the letter of understanding dated October 14, 1999; and

(C) shall pay the cost of preparation of any documents required by any environmental law in connection with the conveyance.

(2) ADJUSTMENT IN FEES.—

(A) VALUE HIGHER THAN ESTIMATED.—If the land to be conveyed pursuant to subsection (a) is appraised for a value that is 10 percent or more higher than the value estimated for such land in the agreement between the city and the Forest Service in the letter of understanding dated October 14, 1999, the city shall be responsible for additional charges, costs, fees, or other compensation so that the total amount of charges, costs, and fees for which the city is responsible under paragraph (1)(B) plus the value of the amount of charges, costs, fees, or other compensation due under this subparagraph is equal to such appraised value. The Secretary and the city shall agree upon the form of additional charges, costs, fees, or other compensation due under this subparagraph.

(B) VALUE LOWER THAN ESTIMATED.—If the land to be conveyed pursuant to subsection (a) is appraised for a value that is 10 percent or more lower than the value estimated for such land in the agreement between the city and the Forest Service in the letter of understanding dated October 14, 1999, the amount of equivalent dwelling unit monthly service fees for which the city shall be responsible under paragraph (1)(B) shall be reduced so that the total amount of charges, costs, and fees for which the city is responsible under that paragraph is equal to such appraised value.

(d) USE OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The land conveyed under subsection (a) shall be used by the city for a sewage treatment facility and for the disposal of treated effluent.

(2) OPTIONAL REVERTER.—If at any time the land conveyed under subsection (a) ceases to be used for a purpose described in paragraph (1), at the option of the United States, title to the land shall revert to the United States.

(e) AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE LAND IN SUBSTITUTION.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall acquire land within Oregon, and within or in the vicinity of the Deschutes National Forest, of an acreage equivalent to that of the land conveyed under subsection (a). Any lands acquired shall be added to and administered as part of the Deschutes National Forest.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 416.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may cosume.

Mr. Speaker, Senate bill 416 was introduced by Senator GORDON SMITH of Oregon. This legislation would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to the City of Sisters, Oregon, a certain parcel of land for use in connection with a sewage treatment facility.

Now, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), our colleague, should be commended for his dedication to this issue. He has worked tirelessly with the Forest Service and with the mayor of Sisters, Oregon, to shape Senate bill 416 so it could be passed today.

Senate 416 was favorably reported, as amended, from the full committee by voice vote on October 20, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support passage of Senate bill 416 under suspension of the rules.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) for further explanation of the bill.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE) for her work on this legislation, and I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) from the committee as well for his help in crafting the agreement that we approved.

Mr. Speaker, Senate bill 416 is of the utmost importance to the health and welfare of the constituents of my district. This legislation will convey a parcel of land for the use by the City of Sisters, Oregon, for the development of a sewage treatment facility. It has strong bipartisan support from its cosponsors, Senator WYDEN and Senator SMITH, and it passed unanimously in the other body.

The bill also has the support of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), my fellow Oregonian across the aisle who serves on the Committee on Resources as well.

Mr. Speaker, Sisters, Oregon is a popular tourist town surrounded by the Deschutes National Forest. Unfortunately, it lacks a wastewater treatment facility to support its residents who must use septic systems. There is a critical need for a treatment facility due to the failure of many of the aging septic tanks in this community.

There is a current and immediate health threat from surfacing effluent, to put it delicately. During the summer months, in order to accommodate tourists who often visit the surrounding lands, the city must place approximately 60 portable toilets around the town.

Even though the city is economically distressed, it has put together a financing package of approximately $7 million for a wastewater treatment facility. Unfortunately, additional funds to acquire land for the treatment facility

and the disposition of treated wastewater are currently beyond the residents' ability to pay, which is why we are here today.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, as amended, represents a bipartisan agreement for exchange of land for the City of Sisters in exchange for a waiver of hook-up fees and future services between its surrounding neighbor, the U.S. Forest Service. This agreement will allow a much-needed wastewater treatment facility to be built for the benefit of the residents of Sisters, the Forest Service and its employees, and the visitors who stop by this busy wayside as they travel through Oregon and vacation in nearby Forest Service lands.

The Federal Government will save tens of thousands of dollars in hook-up fees and future treatment expenses. The residents of Sisters will get the land they need to construct a treatment facility that will eliminate the health hazards they face.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mayor Steve Wilson of Sisters, the Deschutes Forest Supervisor Sally Collins, and the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health staff, and the minority staff as well, for all the hard work they put into this well-conceived legislation. I strongly support passage of Senate bill 416.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) who just spoke in the well for all the work that he did on this legislation, along with the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO). The gentleman has quite properly explained the impact of the legislation and we are in agreement with him and urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, S. 416 directs the Secretary of Agriculture to convey, after a public process, either 160 or 240 acres to the City of Sisters, Oregon for use as a sewage treatment facility. The City of Sisters is surrounded by federal land and is in dire need of a wastewater treatment plant. While I recognize that this is a worthy cause, I do not support the practice of giving away federal land. Nor do I support legislating land conveyances that circumvent the administrative process and fair market value requirements.

Nevertheless, I no longer object to this bill because under my amendment which the Committee adopted, the Forest Service will be adequately compensated for the land it conveys to the city. The city has agreed to waive sewage treatment-related costs for the Forest Service in the facility's service area in an amount equal to the value of the federal land. The bill also provides that if the final federal appraisal deviates by ten percent or more from the city's preliminary appraisal, then the city and the Secretary would have to mutually agree on compensation to attain the higher appraised value. This provision ensures that the federal government gets a close approximation of fair market value for its land.

I commend Mr. Walden for his hard work on this bill and his willingness to work with me to address my concerns, as well as those of the Forest Service. I urge my colleagues to support S. 416, as amended.

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

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, I have no more requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 416, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TORRES MARTINEZ DESERT CAHUILLA INDIANS AND GUIDIVILLE BAND OF POMO INDIANS OF GUIDIVILLE INDIAN RANCHERIA LAND LEASES

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1953) to authorize leases for terms not to exceed 99 years on land held in trust for the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and the Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians of the Guidiville Indian Rancheria, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1953

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF 99-YEAR LEASES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The first section of the Act entitled ''An Act to authorize the leasing of restricted Indian lands for public, religious, educational, residential, business, and other purposes requiring the grant of long-term leases'', approved August 9, 1955 (25 U.S.C. 415(a)), is amended by inserting ''lands held in trust for the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, lands held in trust for the Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians of the Guidiville Indian Rancheria, lands held in trust for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation'' after ''Sparks Indian Colony,''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to any lease entered into or renewed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 2. REVOCATION OF CHARTER OF INCORPORATION.

The request of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community of Wisconsin to surrender the charter of incorporation issued to the Community on May 21, 1938, pursuant to section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934, (commonly known as the ''Indian Reorganization Act'') is hereby accepted and that charter of incorporation is hereby revoked.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1953 is a technical amendments bill which will authorize leases for terms not to exceed 99 years on lands held in trust for the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians of the Guidiville Indian Rancheria.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will also revoke a Federal corporate charter granted to the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians in 1938. The band has asked us to revoke the charter because it is outdated, because it has never been used, and because it has been suspended by another charter. Only the Congress can revoke this charter.

Existing Federal law, which limits the leasing of land held in trust for Indian tribes to a period of not more than 25 years, has proven to be unrealistic in today's world of large investment requirements. Tribes need expanded leasing authority to increase on-reservation housing and to facilitate economic development.

Mr. Speaker, I support this technical amendment and urge my colleagues to pass same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would say that the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) has quite properly explained the legislation. The tribe has requested this matter, and it is similar to legislation that we have passed in previous years. I recommend that we support this legislation.

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1953. This is legislation that I introduced earlier this term in an effort to assist two tribes and some of the finest people in my community. The ability for these sovereign governments to execute 99-year leases is critical for their self-sufficiency and the diversity necessary for further economic viability. In addition, I support the new provisions added via the manager's amendment and am pleased that all of these contained provisions have been approved by the proper representatives of both parties.

Briefly, I would like to explain to my colleagues what Congress is accomplishing with this bill. Currently, federal law limits these tribes to executing a 25-year lease that may be renewed once for a second 25-year term. The bill's stated worthy purposes for public, religious, educational, residential, and business development reflect the future goals of the tribes and require this federal action permitting these entities the ability to grant long-term leases of 99 years.

One key principle that must remain fixed within the foundation of federal Native American policy is preserving the sovereignty of Indian tribes. This stated policy is unfortunately