

Recently, an innovative partnership strategy was developed with the States of New Jersey and New York to bring the preservation of Sterling Forest within reach. Each State has set aside \$10 million to contribute toward the acquisition and private philanthropy has donated another \$7.5 million. The final contribution needed is \$17.5 million from the Federal Government.

The House Appropriations Committee realized the need to purchase this land and has recommended \$9 million for the first-year funding of this project. This legislation will move us one step closer toward acquiring Sterling Forest. It authorizes \$17.5 million for acquisition of the most environmentally sensitive portion of the forest—90 percent of the tract—and includes a land swap for the remaining 10 percent of the property. It also directs the Secretary of the Interior to designate excess Federal lands to be sold to raise money to fund the purchase of the additional 10 percent of the land.

Mr. Speaker, the owners of the remainder of Sterling Forest have agreed to sell the majority of the property—including the most critical watershed natural, and recreation lands. Unfortunately, we only have 2 years in which to purchase the property or else the owners will move forward with a plan to build thousands of homes and millions of square feet of office and commercial space on Sterling Forest.

I commend the House of Representatives for considering H.R. 3907. After several years of stalemate on this issue we are now one step closer to preserving Sterling Forest forever.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3907, legislation which authorizes \$17.5 million for the acquisition of the important 17,500 acres Sterling Forest reserve, located in southern New York and northern New Jersey. The acquisition of the Sterling Forest represents perhaps the most important environmental issue for our region, and represents an outstanding environmental accomplishment for the 104th Congress.

Sterling Forest is at the headwaters of a system of reservoirs which provide water for 1.8 million Metropolitan area residents. It is heavily forested, accommodating a wide variety of wildlife and plant species, and also includes a portion of the Appalachian Trail. Twenty-six million Americans live within a 2-hour drive of this important environmental resource.

The acquisition of the Sterling Forest represents a unique partnership between the Federal Government, the States of New York and New Jersey, and environmental and other private sector interests. The States have each pledged \$10 million toward acquisition, and the private sector will put up \$5 million.

Protecting the Sterling Forest makes sense from an environmental standpoint, it makes sense from a recreational standpoint, and it represents a good deal for the taxpayer. In New Jersey alone, an estimated \$150 million in water treatment costs will be required if the reservoirs adjacent to the forest are polluted from runoff resulting from over-development. The modest Federal investment authorized by this legislation will protect these reservoirs for generations to come, and do so in a very cost-effective and environmentally sound manner.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

□ 1130

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3907, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 84. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation and coastwise trade endorsement for the vessel BAGGER, and for other purposes.

S. 172. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation for the vessel L.R. BEATTIE.

S. 212. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel SHAMROCK V.

S. 213. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel ENDEAVOUR.

S. 278. An act to authorize a certificate of documentation for the vessel SERENITY.

S. 279. An act to authorize a certificate of documentation for the vessel WHY KNOT.

S. 475. An act to authorize a certificate of documentation for the vessel LADY HAWK.

S. 480. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel GLEAM.

S. 482. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation and coastwise trade endorsement for the vessel EMERALD AYES.

S. 492. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation for the vessel INTREPID.

S. 493. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation for the vessel CONSORTIUM.

S. 527. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel EMPRESS.

S. 528. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of docu-

mentation and coastwise trade endorsement for three vessels.

S. 535. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue certificates of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in coastwise trade for each of 2 vessels named GALLANT LADY, subject to certain conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 561. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel ISABELLE, and for other purposes.

S. 583. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation and coastwise trade endorsement for two vessels.

S. 653. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with the appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel AURA.

S. 654. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with the appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel SUNRISE.

S. 655. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with the appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel MARANTHA.

S. 656. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with the appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel QUIETLY.

S. 680. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation and coastwise trade endorsement vessel YES DEAR.

S. 739. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with the appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel SISU, and for other purposes.

S. 763. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation and coastwise trade endorsement for the vessel EVENING STAR, and for other purposes.

S. 802. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation and coastwise trade endorsement for vessel ROYAL AFFAIRE.

S. 808. An act to extend the deadline for the conversion of the vessel M/V TWIN DRILL, and for other purposes.

S. 826. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with the appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel PRIME TIME, and for other purposes.

S. 869. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with the appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel DRAGONESSA, and for other purposes.

S. 889. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with the appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel WOLF GANG II, and for other purposes.

S. 911. An Act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade of the United States for the vessel SEA MISTRESS.

S. 975. An Act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel JAJO, and for other purposes.

S. 1016. An Act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of