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# House of Representatives

## OMNIBUS PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4236) to provide for the administration of certain Presidio properties at minimal cost to the Federal taxpayer, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

[The bill was not available for printing. It will appear in a future issue of the RECORD.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] and the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG].

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the chance to bring to the floor the biggest and most important parks and public lands package since 1978. In addition to provisions for protection of some of the most important natural landmarks, historic places and landscapes in the country, it includes a landmark bipartisan effort led by Representative BILL BAKER to protect the California Bay-Delta, a priority for both sides of the aisle. This package is chock full of solutions to local problems which have been brought to the attention of the committee by individual Members of the House or the other body.

Before a brief outline of the bills' many fine points, I am compelled to give a short history of how we arrived at such a massive package at this point in the session. Frankly, it was a few Members of the other body's fault. Though the Resource Committee has sent scores of individual bills to the Senate, holds by certain Members on these measures stopped the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources from moving individual or even small groups of bills for months. This hostage taking became so bad that when a large package of bills was finally freed in that body and attached to a Presidio bill we sent them, we made a conscious decision to try to place many of the bills stuck over there in this package. They followed suit.

As a result, many items were considered through this process, and some remain while others were dropped. I believe we have achieved a package which will benefit many Members, States and people throughout the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I will also say I have Members that have been disappointed, such as myself, because I think this administration deals with a forked tongue. Every time we reach an agreement, they would move the goalposts. I am not sure, maybe my good friend, the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER], knows we reached an agreement, and already the White House has tried to undo it. Already there are phone calls being made from the White

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WILLIAM M. THOMAS, *Chairman.*

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House to individual Members saying ''Oh, this has to be changed,'' after they signed off. That is not the way we should be doing business in this body.

A few highlights are in order: As I mentioned before, this bill has the monumental authorization for the environmental enhancement of the San Francisco Bay-Delta introduced by Congressman BILL BAKER.

In addition, it creates new units at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Kansas; Nicodemus National Historic site in Kansas; New Bedford National Historic Park in Massachusetts and Boston Harbor Islands in Massachusetts.

It also protects important Historic Sites like Manzanar National Historic Site in California and Independence Hall in Philadelphia through boundary adjustments. It celebrates the Selma to Montgomery civil rights march trail and reauthorizes the National Council on Historic Preservation.

It provides for the protection of Sterling Forest to protect the watershed for New Jersey and New York.

It finalizes a creative approach to the management and funding for the new Presido Park in San Francisco; it protects rivers, from the Columbia in Washington to the Lamprey in New Hampshire; it helps out Olympic effort in the 2002 Olympics in Utah with its solution to the Snowbasin facility problems; it also resolves long standing necessary administrative reforms in the National Park Service; and it also solves many, many longstanding local problems, from helping the children of the Alpine School District in J.D. HAYWORTH's district with a land grant in Arizona, to solving a problem in Congresswoman SEASTRAND's district by rounding out the Channel Islands National Park.

While I am pleased we have the bill before us, let me say that just as important as the things in the bill, are the things which are not in the bill. Many of our Members, including myself, would have liked to have more in the bill, but we have deleted many provisions, based upon Administration and Member objections. This includes a grazing provision very important to family ranchers and the Representatives in the public land west and a provision to save over 1,000 jobs in my district in Alaska in the timber industry.

Mr. Speaker, this is late in the session. I hope though Members will understand, each and every one of the them, we will be back. As long as I am chairman, and I believe that will happen, we will again address those issues we were unable to obtain in this legislation, and it will happen very early in the session. We hope we will be able to urge our Senators to act with a little more responsibility.

Again, may I suggest there are over 43 Republican projects in the bill and there are over 54 Democrat projects in this bill, and if that is not a bipartisan effort, I do not know what is.

Mr. Speaker, many good provisions have been dropped from this bill to ensure its passage at this late hour, largely in response to concerns expressed by the Clinton White House, the minority and other Members. That is a shame, because many of these provisions were real but we intend to bring them back as soon as possible next year and fix them. I urge Members to support the bill.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to all of you to understand one thing. We are going to vote on this legislation. I hope I do not see the fingerprints of the administration. Then it goes over to the other body to act on this legislation, and it is probably the only chance we have. There is a slight chance that we may have the conference up yet before this session is over, if we do not get out of here tonight, and God help us, I hope we get out of here tonight.

The Congress has been told that this will be vetoed by this administration. I do not think they will veto this. If they do, they are being very, very foolish.

Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the staffs that were working on this very hard. I want to say this to the minority and majority side: I think we have worked out something that every Member will have some responsibilities for and can take home and say we have done our job.

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. STUDDS].

(Mr. STUDDS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, I mostly would like to thank a number of my colleagues: the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER], the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG], the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. REGULA], the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN], and many, many others.

For those who think that the only true reflection of this House is some of the partisan fire that preceded this debate a few moments ago, I would ask them to reflect on what is transpiring now. This is the House at its best. This is substantive, nonpartisan legislating about things that matter, where people who have been colleagues and friends for many, many years come together to do things that we are all here to do.

The gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG], I know what he meant when he said there are so many Republican projects and so many Democrat projects in this bill. What he meant, I know, is that this has been approached in an utterly bipartisan fashion. I do not know a project in this bill that can be characterized frankly as a Republican or Democrat project. I know the many projects in Alaska. I know the Boston Harbor islands in my own State to which the gentleman referred. There are 31 islands there, and so far as I know none of them has a partisan registration affiliated with it.

What we do here speaks to history, speaks to culture, speaks to aesthetics and speaks the environment; speaks to everything that is best in this House. And in this, undoubtedly my final moments of speaking on the floor after more years than I would care to reflect, I extend a warm personal thank you to DON YOUNG of Alaska, GEORGE MILLER of California, JIM HANSEN of Utah, RALPH REGULA of Ohio, and SHERWOOD BOEHLERT of New York. Many, many others have worked on this bill, so many others for so many years. This is this institution at its nonpartisan best, and Members ought to be very, very proud of what we do now.

Mr. Speaker, it is with that real pride that I do something which many of us find very hard to do which is sit down.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SKAGGS].

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I am very glad that we are again acting to protect an extraordinary stretch of wild lands in Colorado, the North St. Vrain Creek watershed, extending from its headwaters in the Rocky Mountain National Park into the national forests area west of Longmont in the mountains.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work of the gentleman from Alaska and of the many others who have gone through one of the more extraordinary dances of parliamentary maneuvering in getting this package put together in the last minutes of this Congress. I am delighted that we are now going to be able to protect this area, not just for Coloradans on the Front Range, but all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very glad that we are again acting to approve legislation that includes provisions to protect North St. Vrain Creek, the largest remaining roadless canyon along Colorado's Front Range.

The effect will be to prevent construction of new dams on North St. Vrain creek as it flows through Rocky Mountain National Park and the Roosevelt National Forest, and will clarify public land ownership along the creek. Both of these provisions are based on freestanding legislation that I introduced last year, and I appreciate the inclusion of the North St. Vrain Protection Act in this bill.

North St. Vrain Creek, fed by countless rivulets and wild tributaries, is the primary stream flowing from the southeastern portion of Rocky Mountain National Park. From its beginnings at the continental divide, in snowfields near Long's peak, it courses through waterfalls and cascades in the Wild Basin area of the park. After leaving the park, the creek cuts a narrow, deep canyon until it reaches the Ralph Price Reservoir.

The watershed includes habitat for bighorn sheep, deer, elk, and mountain lions; for peregrine falcons, owls, hawks and songbirds; for native fish, insects, and other small creatures; and for a dazzling diversity of aquatic, riparian, and mountain plants. It provides popular hiking, fishing, and hunting terrain relatively near to some of Colorado's larger cities.

The stream, surrounded by a thousand shades of greenery cooled by the mist of tumbling water, provides a profound sense of refreshment, of inspiration, and of wonder. This joining of land and water is exceptional, even for Colorado—which is no small distinction.

The North St. Vrain should be kept free of additional dams and impoundments. To that end, my bill's provisions, now included in this bill, incorporate the recommendations of a citizens' advisory committee, which I appointed in conjunction with the Boulder County Commissioners. That committee spent over 5 years developing a consensus proposal on how to protect the creek and canyon while protecting local property and water rights.

Thus, these provisions represent a great deal of work by Coloradans—especially the 50 people who took part in 103 advisory committee meetings and performed over 300 hours of independent research. Another 600 people attended 12 public hearings on the proposal. I've never known such a dedicated and conscientious group of public servants as the unpaid members of this North St. Vrain Advisory Committee. They know the creek and its environs as thoroughly as any group of citizens anywhere knows a particular area in the United States.

The advisory committee reached four principal conclusions:

First, that the North St. Vrain Creek is deserving of National Wild and Scenic River status, but that it would be premature to seek legislation to so designate it, pending development of consensus on that point. This bill would not preclude such a designation later.

Second, that, for now a permanent prohibition should be placed on Federal approval or assistance for the construction of dams on the creek and on any part of its national park tributaries.

Third, that the National Park Service and the Forest Service should move promptly to reach agreement with the city of Longmont, CO, regarding Federal acquisition of lands the city owns along the creek.

And, fourth, that a series of the committee's recommendations should be followed in managing the Federal lands along the creek.

Three of these proposals are specified in the bill's language. I have submitted, as part of the hearing record, two documents related to the fourth proposal, regarding management of the relevant lands. One is a copy of the advisory committee's final report, and the other is a copy of the advisory committee's management plan outline. I will also present these documents to the Forest Service and National Park Service when they develop future management plans for the creek and adjoining lands.

The primary theme of these documents is that Federal management decisions should retain the current types and levels of recreational uses of the public lands in the corridor along North St. Vrain Creek. This can be done by restricting the expansion of trails and campgrounds, and through strategic land acquisitions to protect natural features from damage that would come from expanded or excessive uses. The documents also support continued good stewardship on private lands in the corridor under the guidance and control of Boulder County's land-use regulations, as well as continued protection against trespass.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced this legislation not only because of my belief in the importance of protecting the North St. Vrain, but also because of my firm conviction that the hundreds of Coloradans who have worked toward that goal have crafted a sound, effective consensus measure. Its provisions are good, clear, and straightforward, and they have the strong support of the people in the area. I urge the House to approve this bill, so that, with its enactment into law, the wonder of North St. Vrain Creek will be protected for all time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN].

(Mr. HANSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the chairman of the full committee for yielding to me. I appreciate the kind words of the gentleman from Massachusetts, who has been a gentleman to deal with on the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that I do not know if Members of this House realize how many hundreds and hundreds of hours have gone into this. In the committee that I chair, the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands, we have looked at over 100 pieces of legislation. We have held countless, countless hearings and markups, and it is sad that a lot of those things cannot come to pass. We wish they could, but they do not in this bill, but this is a good bill. This has a lot of good things in it.

I hope the folks realize that 37 out of the 50 States will be affected by this piece of legislation. Over 100 Members will be affected by this piece of legislation: things that many of us have been waiting to see come to pass in California, the Presidio bill, something we wondered, how do we handle this park that has been turned over by one sentence put in there by Phil Burton many years ago? In the event that the Army ever gives this up, what are going to do with it? It goes to the park system. However, it is not a park but it costs us $25 million a year. In here, we have a piece of legislation that takes care of this problem, which I compliment my friends California and others working in a bipartisan manner in handling this particular area.

We have some things about the 2002 winter games. It was not too long ago that over in Budapest all of those folks from America, all over the 48 lower States, were standing there and the gentleman got up and he made the statement, and he said the winter games for 2002 shall go to the City of Salt Lake. The place erupted, and who got on the television to talk about it? President Clinton go on, bless his heart, and he said ''I will do everything in my power to expedite the 2002 winter games.''

We will surely appreciate him signing this piece of legislation so a very, very minor land exchange can come about which will facilitate that, and 3 billion people around the globe will stand there and look at the downhill. For 100 years people will say so-and-so won the day going down this great, glorious and probably the best in the world downhill that we have got in the 2002 winter games, another piece of good legislation that is in this particular package.

□ 1800

There are just countless pieces of things that many Members are interested in. I am a little concerned about some of the phone calls many of us are getting regarding what we colloquially refer to as heritage areas. In most of thee heritage areas this language is in there.

I hope the folks from the West who are concerned are listening to this. No provision of this title shall be construed to impose any environmental, occupational safety or other rule, regulation standards or permit process that is differential from those that would be applicable had a national heritage area not been established.

So these great concerns of somebody swooping in and immediately taking over their ground is not really going to happen. I hope my good friends from that area totally understand that.

We have boundary adjustments in here. We have things of historical significance and we have things about civil areas. So we are very proud of this legislation. No one is ever 100 percent happy. Politics is the art of compromise. I look around this room and look at all the people who have compromised on this bill, and I know how that occurs.

I just want to say that on this thing I am very pleased to be a part of it. I appreciate all the people from the minority and majority side, Chairman YOUNG, Ranking Member MILLER, and others who have worked diligently with us on this piece of legislation.

I urge its support.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Montana [Mr. WILLIAMS].

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I want to note for my colleagues as well as my fellow Montanans that a long sought after land exchange called the Lost Creek land exchange involving directly approximately 14,000 acres of bighorn sheep habitat in a critical area in Montana is included in this bill. The trade is not without significant support and some opposition in Montana. I recognize that opposition.

I note for my colleagues, however, that the trade has received the bipartisan agreement of the two Democrats and the one Republican who make up the Montana congressional delegation. I and my two colleagues in the Senate will be working with the Forest Service to try to mitigate any concern that some in the timber industry have about this land exchange, but it clearly is in the best interest of the land, the people and the bighorn sheep of Montana. I thank my colleagues for agreeing to do this in the House. It turned out to be impossible to get it done in the Senate.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes and 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI].

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I, too, want to join my colleagues in commending the leadership of the committee for the bipartisan cooperation and effort that has been made to bring this legislation to the floor. To say that our differences have been hammered out is probably a good word to use, but they have and we are here.

I want to particularly acknowledge the leadership of the gentleman of Alaska, Chairman YOUNG, and the gentleman from Utah, Chairman HANSEN, as well as the gentleman from California, GEORGE MILLER, our champion for the Presidio. Of course we would not be here today without the full cooperation of the gentleman from Ohio, Chairman RALPH REGULA, and the gentleman from Illinois, SID YATES, the ranking member. I am grateful to them for all of their assistance in keeping the Presido going so that we this day can cross over a point where we reduce the cost to the taxpayer.

I also want to state that the support for the Presidio as it is bipartisan, it is bicameral and we have a great deal of support in the other body under the leadership of two great Senators, Senator BARBARA BOXER and Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN. In our community the support is bipartisan as well.

One of our strongest and most staunch supporters, unfortunately, will not be able to enjoy this day with us. His name is Jim Harvey, a former chairman of the board of the Trans-America Corporation, who died in early June. Jim was largely responsible for creating the Presidio council in 1991 which organized national support and philanthropic as well as pro bono donations to the Presidio as a national park.

I will for the record, Mr. Speaker, present some of the accomplishments of Jim Harvey. I just want to say that it is as though Jim Harvey truly appreciated what Thoreau asserted many years ago: Goodness is the only investment that never fails. Jim Harvey was a good man. He will be pleased with our progress today.

This legislation is important in terms of the Presidio as it recognizes the Presidio's worth as a national park as well as the need to streamline the management into a cost-effective structure for the American taxpayer. The Presidio trust brings a new approach to the Presidio that incorporates the best of the National Park Service and the best at real estate management into an alliance that will realize the best of the Presidio.

Under this trust we will be able to give maximum access to the American people to enjoy the Presidio as a national park with minimum cost to the American taxpayer.

The most eloquent spokesperson for the Presidio is the Presidio itself. So I hope that all of our colleagues will visit to see its magnificent scenic beauty, enjoy the military history and, for the history buffs here, also the great environmental worth that the Presidio has.

Passing the Presidio trust bill as part of this omnibus bill is not the final act, but does open the curtain to a wonderful production that we can all be proud of. Phillip Burton's legacy lives on.

The gentleman, Mr. HANSEN, recognized the goal of Phillip Burton in authorizing the Presidio as a national park. I feel as the person who serves in Congress in Phillip Burton's seat that we have a responsibility to Phillip's legacy to make this a great national park. In doing so, and in closing, I want to acknowledge the work of Judy Lemons of my staff. Many staff people worked very, very hard on this. But Judy was present at the birth of Golden Gate national recreation area of which the Presidio will become a part. She has worked every day to preserve the integrity of the Presidio as a national park. This victory today is a triumph for Judy Lemons. I want to thank Judy and to all who have been faithful to the effort and part of our success today.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH], a member of the committee.

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the committee for this time.

I rise in support of this legislation to echo what the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI] said. Here we have a wonderful opportunity for a bipartisan piece of legislation for projects that benefit the American people.

In the Sixth District of Arizona, Mr. Speaker, there are two sites in particular. We will take them alphabetically, the Alpine school district needs land, a tiny school district asking for the conveyance of fewer than 40 acres to build school sites and athletic fields. The tax base has dwindled. Resource based industries for one reason or another have not been allowed to operate. This is a wonderful chance to truly put children first and help education in the Alpine school district.

Second, Mr. Speaker, the Walnut Canyon National Monument outside Flagstaff, regardless of partisan dispensation or political stripe, the people of Flagstaff, indeed the people of the Sixth District of Arizona hope to see the boundaries expand on this great natural landmark and national monument. We have a chance to do that. So I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. KELLY].

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4236.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4236, and draw particular attention to the provision in the bill to authorize the Federal acquisition of the Sterling Forest watershed in New York and New Jersey.

Acquisition of the important 17,500 acres Sterling Forest reserve, located in southern New York and northern New Jersey 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. 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.

The modest Federal investment authorized by this legislation will protect the Sterling Forest watershed for generations to come, and do so in a very cost-effective and environmentally sound manner.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. REGULA], chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior of the Committee on Appropriations.

(Mr. REGULA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

We all know the words to the song, I am proud to be an American, that Lee Greenwood's sings so eloquently. Today, I am proud to be a Member of this body and proud to be an American. We have put aside our differences, our partisan parties. We worked with the White House, we developed a team effort to do something good for America. I speak to in our case the heritage corridor. Young men and women, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4–H Club kids, college kids will be able to walk a canal corridor 87 miles, long that is rich in history. Ohio was built by the canals. They will learn the story of yesterday's turnpikes. They will learn the story of the ecological development of our State because they will follow a river, they will follow the towpath of the canal.

What a wonderful opportunity this will be for young people to appreciate their heritage as young citizens of Ohio. It will happen because of what is being done today in this body and being done on a bipartisan basis with everybody being on the team.

I am grateful to all who had a part in shaping this legislation, and I hope

that it gets very strong support by all the Members. A great gift today for Americans in so many different ways.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE].

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to thank the committee and the ranking member for including in this legislation the text of H.R. 3911, which establishes the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson, NJ. I had introduced this bill earlier this session at the request of Assemblyman Bill Pascrell who is also the mayor of Paterson, NJ. It was a major piece of legislation that former Congressman Herb Klein had tried to get through this House. It is very important for the people of New Jersey, Passaic County and particularly, of course, for the residents of Paterson, NJ.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the previous speaker remember one thing, that there is a chairman, and he may not be recognized the next time in the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS].

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I want to join the accolades to Mr. YOUNG and Mr. STUDDS. I have had many happy years in this Congress, but among the happiest is when I served with them both on something that used to be known as the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. I never thought I would see the day when we were standing here in such comity. I am delighted that it is here.

I address much that is good in the bill and support it, of course, but I want to focus on the Coastal Barrier Islands provisions. Preserving the proper balance between protection of our natural resources and our private property rights is a critical point. I know how much this means to my home State of Florida with its miles and miles of fabulous beaches and outdoor recreational areas and opportunities on our barrier islands. I know that what we are doing here is going to continue that tradition and make possible enjoyment for more people in those wonderful areas.

I also would note that this is something that the legislative delegation, the people of Florida, the Governor, Senators from Florida, all are in accord on. It is wonderful when everybody is in agreement on something and it actually happens. I congratulate the Members who have made this happen.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. RICHARDSON], ranking member of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands.

(Mr. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks).

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding me the time.

This is a good bill. We have a lot of good national parks legislation besides the Presidio Trust. We have got the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, the Colonial National Historic Park, Wupatki National Monument Boundary Adjustment, Cumberland Gap National Historic Park, the Zion National Park Boundary Adjustment, the Rocky Mountain National Park Visitor Center, the Walnut Canyon National Monument Boundary Adjustment, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, the Women's Rights National Historic Park, the Big Thicket National Preserve.

And, Mr. Speaker, it would be incomplete if I did not mention two initiatives in my own State of New Mexico, one the Rio Puerto Watershed Act, which cleans up the water and the boundaries in that area and, of course, the Taos Bottleneck legislation.

This is an historic bill that turns over 765 acres of the Wheeler Peak Wilderness to management by the Taos Pueblo as part of the Blue Lake Wilderness Act legislation signed by President Richard Nixon in 1970 returning to the Taos Pueblo all lands that had been seized by the Federal Government. There was a sect of land that was not turned over to the pueblo. This bill does it. It is a good piece of legislation.

It is critically important that this passage now move through the other body. I want to commend Chairman YOUNG for his leadership and Chairman HANSEN and, of course, the Honorable GEORGE MILLER for their work. This is an important piece of legislation with a lot of bills for a lot of Members, bipartisan. We should get it passed.

□ 1815

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MARTINI], who has done an excellent job.

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, and I thank the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] and the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] and the minority ranking members for this excellent bill.

Today is indeed an historic day, not just for New Jersey and New York but for all Americans concerned about clean drinking water and preserving the environment. Persistence and hard work has brought Sterling Forest here today again for another vote.

Unlike other issues we consider in this body, there is literally no tomorrow for preserving Sterling Forest. The contract for the purchase of the land would expire, and if we did not act tonight as we are doing, the safe drinking water for over millions of New Jersey citizens would be in jeopardy.

I am pleased to say that by the action tonight this body is showing its responsibility and assuring that we have safe drinking water for over 2 million New Jersey citizens.

In addition to drinking water, Sterling Forest serves as a sanctuary for millions of people in that area. This is the last pristine area that will serve millions of people for future generations to come.

Let me, if I may, thank the other Members who have worked so hard to bring this to fruition tonight: of course the gentlewoman from New Jersey, Mrs. ROUKEMA, to whom I will yield, if I may, but also Representatives BOEHLERT, ZIMMER, GILMAN, FRELINGHUYSEN, FRANKS, and KELLY, and finally, first and foremost, to our Speaker, who made a commitment back in December to preserve Sterling Forest. He has fulfilled that promise today.

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MARTINI. I yield to the gentlewoman from New Jersey.

(Mrs. ROUKEMA asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I associate myself with the remarks of my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. MARTINI. This is truly a monument to patience, perseverance, common sense, consensus and compromise, and I want to thank the chairman of the committee and the ranking member for this wonderful work.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself with the comments of my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. MARTINI, the chairman and ranking member.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this omnibus parks package and urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important legislation. It is my understanding that the controversial measures included in previous versions of this bill have been removed and that this measure has been agreed to by both sides of the aisle and the Administration. This legislation is surely a monument to the patience, common sense, consensus and compromise wisdom of our colleagues who worked for so many months on this parks package.

This agreement is good news for the people of New Jersey and New York. Included in this legislation are provisions that will open the door toward the purchase of Sterling Forest. Enactment of this legislation is essential, if the Federal Government is to play a role in this public private partnership. This legislation along with the $9 million included in the omnibus budget package represents a big step toward our commitment to the preservation and protection of Sterling Forest once and for all.

First, I want to thank Chairman HANSEN for recognizing the overriding interest of the Nation—and for his willingness to understand that Sterling Forest is more than just a pristine piece of open space for camping, skiing, hiking, and fishing. It is the source of clean, safe drinking water for some 3 million northern New Jersey residents. If we allow that drinking water to be contaminated by development, we will pay the purchase price many times over in cleanup cost and the cost of building new water treatment plants. With this legislation, we are not being penny wise and pound foolish. Instead of reacting to a crisis after the fact, we are anticipating the problem now and taking steps to avoid it. This legislation is good public policy.

As you know, Sterling Forest is one of the largest tracts of privately-owned, undeveloped

forest land in the mid-Atlantic United States. This is heavily forested land—10 percent of which is located in my district in northern New Jersey and the remaining 90 percent of which is located in Orange County, New York, our colleague, BEN GILMAN's district. It currently provides countless recreational opportunities to millions of nearby residents and visitors. However, it is not recreation that brings me here today, but something far more fundamental: water.

As the primary source of drinking water to over 3 million residents of my State, preservation of Sterling Forest is essential. Numerous tributaries and feeder streams flow south from Sterling Forest right into the Wanaque Reservoir, which supplies drinking water for 25 percent of all residents of New Jersey.

Consequently, the protection of this unique natural resource in a region struggling to grapple with urban sprawl is a matter of utmost importance. This is a critical issue for the most densely-populated area of the nation's most densely-populated state, northern New Jersey.

Simply put, preserving Sterling Forest protects the drinking water supply of northern New Jersey and New York, and it is imperative for the 104th Congress to take action.

At the State level, the support for preserving Sterling Forest is equally strong. Governor Whitman has already signed into law legislation that commits our State to spending $10 million to help with the purchase of the Forest. In addition, Governor Pataki has committed his administration in Albany to match New Jersey's contribution dollar-for-dollar.

Here in Congress, legislation to protect Sterling Forest has enjoyed bipartisan support in both the New Jersey and New York delegations, as witnessed by the presence of those Members who are speaking today.

In these times of tight budget constraints, it is simply unrealistic to expect the government to carry the burden by itself. From the beginning, the coalition behind Sterling Forest firmly believe that the best method to use in preserving and protecting Sterling Forest was a public-private partnership, with its purchase price being funded using private, State, and Federal funds. That is why I introduced H.R. 194 in 1995 and have consistently supported H.R. 400 as passed by the Senate last July is the most expeditious solution to seeing that Sterling Forest was protected.

To date, at least $5 million in private contributions have been committed towards helping protect Sterling Forest. These efforts will continue, and private funds are expected to play an important role in the purchase of this land. And, as I've already mentioned, New Jersey and New York have committed to spending $10 million each.

I want to emphasize something about these Federal funds: this is a one-time funding request, because this legislation provides for the Palisades Interstate Park Commission [PIPC] and the State of New York to accept financial responsibility for the long-term management of the Sterling Forest.

I also want to thank Chairman REGULA. For years, I have worked with him in an effort to secure appropriate funding levels for this important project. I am happy to report that this year Chairman REGULA was instrumental in seeing that language was included in the Interior Appropriations bill which ranked Sterling Forest as one of the Nation's top two priorities for land acquisition and recommended that Sterling Forest receive $9 million as a down payment on the Federal Government's $17.5 million share of the purchase price.

Finally, I want to thank the Speaker for his strong endorsement of this important project to New Jersey. In March, Speaker GINGRICH visited Sterling Forest and promised that Congress would pass legislation to protect Sterling Forest this year. Clearly, his advocacy has been an important factor in reaching this point today, and I want to express my appreciation for his assistance.

On behalf the 3 million New Jersey residents who depend on this area for clean safe drinking water and the millions of recreational users who treasure this pristine open space, I urge your support.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York [Mr. HINCHEY].

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, as we have just hard, this bill will authorize the Federal Government to participate in the purchase of Sterling Forest, the last piece of open space in the Metropolitan New York Area. It is a critically important thing to do, protects the watershed of 2 million people in New Jersey, an additional number in southeastern New York. That alone makes this bill extremely important.

Also, this bill sets aside a number of American Heritage Areas around the country, and I would particularly like to note the fact that the Hudson River Valley, probably the most historic area in the Nation, is recognized as an American Heritage Area in this legislation. The Hudson Valley of course contains West Point, it contains Washington's headquarters, the first national historic site in the Nation, and a wealth of other historic places recognized by this American Heritage Area.

I want to thank my leader, the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER], the ranking member of the committee. I want to thank also the chairman the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG], and the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN], for their work on this bill. This is a very worthy product, and I appreciate the hard work that has gone into this by all the Members, and I would urge the Members in the other House to pay attention to this piece of legislation. It is critically important for millions of Americans and deserves to be passed by this Congress.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. VENTO].

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the chairman and ranking member, Mr. YOUNG and Mr. MILLER, and Mr. HANSEN, the subcommittee chairman, as well as Mr. RICHARDSON and all the sponsors.

I actually do not have a measure in this particular bill with 116 sections, but I feel a little bit of ownership because many of these issues, as my colleagues will understand, are issues that did not develop just in this Congress but have spanned many Congresses. In fact, some of them, unfortunately, have become old friends because we sent them to the other body before and they did not come back or we were not able to get our act together.

But I think that generally while many may find some provision in here that they do not agree with, that by and large this is a good bill, and I hope that the outcome by sending this to the Senate is going to be positive, and I think that the President, I hope that the President, can be convinced to in fact sign this into law.

Unfortunately, we normally have not done business like this with so many measures in one issue at the end. I hope in the future that we can do this in a more orderly manner. These are important issues. I especially feel keenly about the Heritage Areas and the generic language that is in each particular Heritage Area, and I know how important it is that we do this work so that we as a Congress have been very zealous about guarding the responsibilities with regards to land use questions, and in acting in this way we can, of course, continue to earn that particular responsibility.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California [Mr. MCKEON].

(Mr. MCKEON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bill, and I commend the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] and the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] for their leadership in bringing it to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the conference report on the Omnibus Parks and Public Land Management Act.

This legislation is important for numerous reasons; many of which impact California. For example, this conference report creates a public-private Presidio Trust to manage hundreds of historical buildings which cover more than 1,400 scenic acres at the foot of the Golden Gate Bridge. Both residents of my district and throughout the State of California have visited this site and enjoyed its beauty. With passage of this bill, that will continue to happen for years to come.

Additionally, this conference report also contains a provision which I have worked hard for in behalf of my constituents in the Santa Clarita Valley. I have included language which protects a pristine canyon contained in the Angeles National Forest. For many years, some have wanted to destroy this beautiful treasure by constructing a 190-million ton landfill.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to announce today that the Omnibus Parks bill will preserve and protect Elsmere Canyon and prevent its destruction; not only for the residents of the Santa Clarita Valley, but for all residents of southern California.

I urge an "aye" vote on this historic, environmental legislation. It truly reflects a commitment to preserve our natural resources both today and in the future.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. WELLER].

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, of course I want to rise in support of this important parks legislation and commend the bipartisan leadership of the chairman, and the ranking members and the committee members for moving this legislation.

I want to take a moment and note that this legislation contains a provision important to the south side of Chicago and the south suburbs of Chicago, a provision that directs the National Park Service to look at the feasibility of establishing an ecological park, a series of green ways linking the Indiana Dunes with the heritage corridor, a significant proposal because of its potential for establishing an urban park, open space and wildlife habitat and a rapidly growing older industrial area.

This proposal has locally strong bipartisan support from local conservation groups, elected officials and economic development organizations. Like the newly established tall grass prairie, the former Joliette Arsenal, the ecological park will become a major investment in the future of Illinois and the children of Illinois by setting aside open space and important wildlife habitat in an old urban area as well as a rapidly developing suburban area.

I thank the chairman and committee for their support, and I urge bipartisan support for this legislation.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to rise in support of this legislation, the Omnibus Park bill. This is, as many have already said, a product of bipartisan negotiations throughout many months, although it came down to the eleventh hour today, but throughout many months, over the provisions of this bill, and it makes some important additions and changes to our historic areas from San Francisco to Boston, from Alaska to Alabama.

I want to commend my colleagues and the chairman of the House Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] for his work and his patience, his patience in this effort. I know how he feels when we send bills to the Senate 1 year ago and 8 months ago and 6 months ago and they are never heard from until the eleventh hour. But because of his patience we are here tonight with this bill.

I want to thank the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. RICHARDSON}, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] for his effort as the chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands, to the gentleman from New York [Mr. BOEHLERT], who was involved in brokering and helping to negotiate this, and to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. REGULA] for his involvement and his perseverance on the matter of the Heritage Areas.

I also want to say that this bill also deals with the matter that is important to me, and that is that it authorizes $400 million to assure the implementation of crucial ecosystems restoration efforts to improve water quality, fishery and resources of San Francisco and Sacramento-San Juaquin Delta. This is an important step in implementing the Bay Area Accords that highlights the continuing success of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992 and moves us toward a consensus instead of conflict in California water policy, and I am particularly grateful for the bipartisan support that has been garnered for this effort.

Finally, let me say, Mr. Speaker, that this legislation started out as a single bill at one point, and that was to authorize the Presidio National Park in San Francisco, and I think every Member of this House knows how hard the gentlewoman from San Francisco [Ms. PELOSI] has worked on this effort. She has been absolutely tireless and relentless in her pursuit to see this, and I mean relentless as a compliment, in her pursuit to see this matter become law and to give a gift to this Nation of what is going to be one of the great, great national parks for visitors from across this Nation and from around the world as they visit this.

This is an effort to try to make sure that we can lessen the burden on the taxpayer and the operation of that park. And I also want to thank our Senators, Senator BOXER and Senator FEINSTEIN, for all of their effort, and I too want to recognize the effort of Judy Lemons in her support for this and her working on this and to John Lawrence and to Rick Healy for their negotiations today and to the minority staff.

Finally, let me say to the Members who are in strong support of this legislation, the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] knows that we were here in the last night of the last Congress and we lost many of these same projects, and we lost that effort. Those of my colleagues who are rising in strong support of this legislation, I would ask them to put in a kind word with their Senator on behalf of this legislation so these parks in some cases can be expanded or created and heritage areas can succeed, and I think this will turn out to be a major gift in terms of public lands management and to the people of this Nation.

Again, I want to thank all those who worked so terribly hard to get us here tonight and to Jeff Petrich, who worked very hard certainly on the Alaska provisions and was involved in these last hours of negotiations.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York [Mr. BOEHLERT].

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, how proud we should be of what we are about because this bill is exactly what the American people want, a parks bill that will benefit all areas of the country, a parks bill that will increase recreational and educational opportunities, a parks bill that will enhance environmental protection and most importantly for the long run, a parks bill that will ensure that future generations will have pristine areas to enjoy.

It is not easy putting this kind of package together. There are almost an infinite number of interests to balance. It is of necessity a lengthy and very difficult process.

I want to thank the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] and his staff for sticking to it, for continuing to work against all odds, for coming up with a final package that only the hypersensitive could quibble with on environmental grounds.

This is good legislation, this is a proud moment for this historic 104th Congress, and I urge my colleagues to give this measure the support it deserves.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of this measure, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the measure along with my colleagues, the gentlewoman from New Jersey [Mrs. ROUKEMA], the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MARTINI], the gentlewoman from New Jersey [Mrs. KELLY], and the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. ZIMMER]. We have all worked long and hard for passage of this legislation that preserves Sterling Forest.

This 18,000-acre tract of land which stretches along the New York-New Jersey border is the last largely undeveloped forest in the New York Metropolitan Area, and it is our last chance to protect the watershed for the New Jersey-New York area. This legislation provides payments in lieu of taxes for those municipalities involved, which will be done by authorizing the Palisades Park Commission that managed Sterling Forest.

I want to thank the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG], the chairman of the committee, the ranking minority leader, the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER], as well as the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN], the gentleman from Ohio, [Mr. REGULA], who have all worked hard in bringing this together, and I know it has been a difficult task, and I commend them for their work, as well as the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI], who brought us all together on her measure that made this measure move forward at this time.

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Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to fully support this measure.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. FROST] for a somewhat related matter.

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to speak out of order and to revise and extend his remarks.)

CONGRATULATING TEXAS RANGERS ON LANDMARK SEASON

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago the Washington Senators baseball team moved to Arlington, TX, in the heart of the 24th Congressional District.

For 25 seasons, that team—the Texas Rangers—played baseball without reaching the post-season playoffs. This Texas drought ended last night when the Texas Rangers won the Western Division of the American League.

No current team in major league baseball had played as many consecutive seasons without ever reaching post-season play.

There is joy today deep in the heart of Texas. I want to take this occasion to recognize the terrific season-long play of the Texas Rangers, the quiet steady leadership of their manager Johnny Oates and the skill of their front office headed by Club President Tom Schieffer.

The Rangers combined clutch hitting, excellent defense and improved pitching to take their first division crown. They enjoyed tremendous fan support in their new stadium, the ballpark, and now anxiously await their first post-season playoff series against the New York Yankees.

Congratulations Rangers on a landmark season.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. ROBERTS].

(Mr. ROBERTS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. Speaker, I have asked permission to revise and extend my remarks for the last time.

Mr. Speaker, like others before me, I rise to voice my strong support for the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Act, and I also want to thank my chairman, the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG], who has been an outstanding leader in this effort, the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN], a distinguished gentleman and friend, and that great athlete, the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER], for his help in regards to this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I am interested in this because it contains a particular park designation, the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Act, that will create the first and only unit of the national park system solely devoted to the preservation of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem.

Mr. Speaker, like others have already stated on the floor, if the good Lord and certain Senators are willing, we will get this package through. I would urge my colleagues to contact everyone in the other body to that goal.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. BLUTE].

Mr. BLUTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this parks bill, which I believe and I think people on both sides believe is one of the finest parks bills to ever pass this Congress in the long history of our great country.

I want to commend the chairmen, the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG], the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN], the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. REGULA], and everyone on both sides of the aisle who worked so hard to put this package together. I urge its passage here, and I urge its passage in the U.S. Senate.

In my district, the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor has been reauthorized in this bill for 10 years. It is a tremendous public-private partnership that has done tremendous things for the environment, for economic development, for job creation. Now the great city of Worcester will be included in the headwaters, as the headwaters of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.

Near the southern tip of my district, the New Bedford Historical Whaling Park that myself and the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK] and so many others have supported for so long will now come to fruition if we can get this passed through the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a tremendous bill for the entire country and it is a great environmental bill because these parks and heritage corridors will keep land open, and open space for our citizens for years and years and decades to come. I rise in strong support.

I think we all owe a great debt of gratitude to everyone on both sides of the aisle who worked on this bill, but particularly Chairman YOUNG, Chairman HANSEN, and Chairman REGULA, who really went to the mat for this bill and worked very, very hard. I also commend the ranking member and the administration for coming along with us.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California [Mr. BAKER], one of the leaders in this effort.

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the omnibus parks bill. This bill includes provisions which are vital to the heritage and habitat of the San Francisco Bay area.

H.R. 1296 includes my bill, H.R. 4126, the California Bay Delta Environmental Enhancement and Water Security Act. I thank the chairman, the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] for including these provisions of Federal matching funds for proposition 204 on the ballot this November in California.

This historic agreement will authorize $430 million for fiscal year 1998 through 2000 for ecosystem protection and restoration of the San Francisco Bay Delta region. I have worked with the environmental community and California water districts to craft H.R. 4126, which is cosponsored by 48 California Members.

Further, I have worked closely with the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI] in support of the Presidio provisions of this bill, which will protect the Presidio in a sound and cost-effective manner. These provisions will preserve the Presidio of California for generations to come. I appreciate her leadership.

I hope that the Members will join this bipartisan contingency of bay area legislators who see this bill as key to the environment and historic preservation of northern California.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by saying this: What Congress in the last 50 years has included more park projects for the opposing party than this bipartisan 104th Congress?

Again, Mr. Speaker, my thanks to Chairman YOUNG and the ranking member, the gentleman from California, Mr. MILLER, my neighbor to the north, for this wonderful bill. I fully support it and hope that the Senate will join us.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI].

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I am so delighted that the Presidio bill, which has been on the floor over and over again, is finally, hopefully, going to become law. I am glad it is such a strong engine to bring some other things along.

It was said about the Presidio in its life as an Army base that a shot was never fired in anger from the Presidio, or at the Presidio. As much as I thought we would come close, that seems to be true about the Presidio legislation again, thanks to the calm nature of the chairman and the ranking member of the committee.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again I want to thank the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] and all those who have worked very hard on this legislation. It is not everything I wanted. As I stressed before, we will be back. MacArthur said that, and he came back, and I will come back with a bigger and better army, and we will achieve those goals.

I think it is important to understand one thing. There is little in this bill for this chairman. Most of this is, very frankly, in areas that passed the House, and as the gentlewoman from San Francisco said, this is a strong train with the Presidio, but most all of this legislation already passed the House.

It is the unworkable situation that occurs in the other body, where the holds can be put on and on and on, that really, I think, hurts the process. Somewhere and somehow we have to expedite that process so when the House speaks, at least there should be a time limit to return the bill to the floor. It is unfair to tie everything, very frankly, to one horse. It is not the correct way to legislate. We have done

that. Hopefully the Senate will see the wisdom of adopting it, and we will go on next year and hope to do bigger and greater things.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4236, the omnibus parks bill. This bipartisan legislation will improve the lives of thousands of Americans. I am particularly interested in this legislation because it includes a provision, the Hanford Reach Preservation Act, which impacts my district directly. I want to thank my fellow colleagues on the House Resources Committee, in particular Chairman YOUNG and Subcommittee Chairman HANSEN, for their hard work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the Hanford Reach Preservation Act makes permanent the current moratorium on dam building, channeling, and navigational projects along the stretch of the Columbia River known as the Hanford Reach. Located in the heart of my Central Washington Congressional District, the Hanford Reach is regarded by many as the last free flowing stretch of the Columbia River. Running through the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, the Reach is also the location of some of the healthiest salmon runs anywhere in the Pacific Northwest.

For the past 8 years, the Federal Government has played an important role in protecting the Reach by prohibiting its agencies from constructing dams, channels, and other projects on this part of the River. The provision included in this bill permanently extends the current moratorium on these activities that is set to expire November 6, 1996.

The Hanford Reach Preservation Act will make a significant contribution to the continued protection of this pristine area. While more needs to be resolved within the local community before this area is completely protected, this language is a positive step in the right direction.

H.R. 4236 also includes a number of other positive proposals which improve the condition of our national parks, schools, and rivers. I also support this bill for what is not included in the package, namely a provision to establish a National Heritage Area program. While I have serious concerns about the individual heritage area designations in this bill, I am relieved that private property owners in my district will not have to worry about such designations infringing upon their Fifth Amendment rights.

Again, I thank my colleagues for their assistance and strongly urge the House to vote in favor of this measure. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, there are few people in this Congress that I have more respect for than the chairman of the House Resources Committee, DON YOUNG, and some of the other hardworking members of the Committee.

But I must oppose this so-called Presidio Package, H.R. 4236. Although there are many good things in this bill—badly needed boundary adjustments and local land exchange benefiting many worthy communities, to name a few—I simply cannot vote for a bill that creates five (5) new national parks, establishes as many as eleven (11) heritage areas, and facilities any number of other Federal designations that expand Federal ownership and control over public and private property. I would consider anything but a ''No'' vote on H.R. 4236 a dereliction of my duty as a Member of Congress from Idaho who came to this body promising to rein in our ever-expanding Federal Government. Although my Chairman and other Members speak eloquently of this compromise package, when boiled down to its essence, this bill expands the Federal Government's control on our land base.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to object to the method by which this more than 600 page bill was brought to the Floor. H.R. 4236 was introduced yesterday. Although it was debated passed and considered in a Conference Committee as H.R. 1296, H.R. 4236 included provisions I've never seen. For example, the last version of H.R. 1296 made available to me or my staff included only two (2) heritage areas. However, it is my understanding that today's H.R. 4236 includes as many as eleven (11). Heritage Areas are a concern for me. In fact, from my perspective, H.R. 4236 has been crafted with a great deal of secrecy. I must ask Mr. Speaker, what else is included?

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I am compelled to point out that, although there are five (5) specified Idaho projects, H.R. 4236 represents a compilation of measures supported by Members with very little interest or understanding of our public lands. I recognize that this so-called Omnibus Parks Bill is the result of a long difficult process. However, it has been pointed out that an Omnibus Bill was necessary because concerns, Senatorial holds, environmental community opposition and other legislative hurdles plugged the bills' legislative process. In total, it was argued tonight, an Omnibus bill was necessary to gain the legislative momentum to clear all hurdles. But I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that the Members would take a few moments to reflect on the difficulty by which this bill came to the Floor, and then to translate that difficulty to what a public lands state faces every time it must deal with the Federal Government. It is no different, and arguably worse.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I must oppose this measure and would hope the Members consider where we are going as a nation when we look up our resources.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this omnibus parks bill. It is good for the environment, preserves our natural, historic, and cultural resources, protects and improves our National Park System, and benefits tourism and business throughout the country. I urge its swift passage in the other body, and urge the President to sign this important legislation.

We are in the final hours of the 2d session of the historic 104th Congress and still have a good deal of business to conduct. I want my colleagues to know, on both sides of the isle, that I appreciate your hard work and tireless efforts as the Nation's business comes to a close. I want to recognize the efforts of Representatives YOUNG, HANSEN, REGULA, and MILLER for working together on a compromise package that should be signed by the President. I also appreciate the efforts of Senators WARNER and ROBB and Congressman GOODLATTE. Finally, I want to recognize the effort of the staff who worked on this legislation and who share our commitment to passing a meaningful parks bill this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I recall the waning hours of the 103d Congress when the so-called Vento parks package was stalled. There were many talks and negotiations in the final hours, much like the negotiations which occurred last night and today. Members of Congress and staff were running back and forth from House to House and office to office trying to find a workable compromise. We were so close, but, at about midnight on the last day of the session, the gravel dropped and Congress adjourned without passing a parks bill.

That was a disappointing night. It was disappointing because all the hard work residents and leaders in the valley have put into preserving these important sites had to wait for another day. After that day, the citizens of the valley and I became even more determined to see this project through to the end. This is the culmination of years of work in the valley and it is a credit to their hard work.

So here we are, in the final hours of the 104th Congress, poised to pass legislation which would create the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District. This is the culmination of 5 years of work, and it is my sincere hope that the Senate will pass this compromise in the coming days before the Congress adjourns sine die.

Mr. Speaker, I introduce legislation in the beginning of the 103d Congress and 104th Congress to protect these valley battlefield sites. Senators WARNER and ROBB introduced companion legislation in the Senate. After working with the administration, and other Members of Congress, a compromise was fashioned which passed the House in September 18, 1995, by a vote of 377 to 31 (H.R. 1091). As the body knows, Congressmen YOUNG and HANSEN were on the floor week after week after week passing park related measures, but the other body, for one reason or another, did not pass these bills. Finally, a package was put together with over 130 parks related provisions, the conference closed, and a veto threat issued.

Many thought the bill was doomed, but as I already stated, a group of members and staff stuck it out late at night to fashion a compromise. This legislation, if passed, will create the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District—a one of a kind affiliated unit of the National Park Service. This legislation forms a partnership with Federal, State, and local governments to preserve, conserve, protect, and interpret the historically significant Shenandoah Valley Civil War sites. Specifically, it will protect the two major valley campaigns—the Thomas J. ''Stonewall'' Jackson Valley campaign of 1862 and the decisive Philip Sheridan campaign of 1864—are the major Civil War battlefields not yet preserved.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, would like to thank and congratulate all parties for their hard work and urge support for this legislation and its swift passage. In particular, I would like to thank, William Moschella of my staff. Without his perseverance in negotiations, skill at legislative drafting, and willingness to find solutions to new problems, we would not be here today.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURTON of Indiana). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4236, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and yeas.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4236.

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

There was no objection.

## AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN THE ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 4236, OMNIBUS PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical and conforming changes to the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 4236.

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

There was no objection.

## VACATING ORDERING OF YEAS AND NAYS ON H.R. 4233, SAVINGS IN CONSTRUCTION ACT OF 1996

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to vacate the ordering of the yeas and nays on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4233) to provide for appropriate implementation of the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 in Federal construction projects, and for other purposes.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4233.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## CONCURRING IN SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2799, SAVINGS IN CONSTRUCTION ACT OF 1996

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2779) to provide for appropriate implementation of the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 in Federal construction projects, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

***SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.***

*This Act may be cited as the ''Savings in Construction Act of 1996''.*

***SEC. 2. FINDINGS.***

*The Congress finds the following:*

*(1) The Metric Conversion Act of 1975 was enacted in order to set forth the policy of the United States to convert to the metric system. Section 3 of that Act requires that each Federal agency use the metric system of measurements in its procurement, grants, and other business-related activities, unless that use is likely to cause significant cost or loss of markets to United States firms, such as when foreign competitors are producing competing products in non-metric units.*

*(2) In accordance with that Act and Executive Order 12770, of July 25, 1991, Federal agencies increasingly construct new Federal buildings in round metric dimensions. As a result, companies that wish to bid on Federal construction projects increasingly are asked to supply materials or products in round metric dimensions.*

*(3) While the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 currently provides an exemption to metric usage when impractical or when such usage will cause economic inefficiencies, amendments are warranted to ensure that the use of specific metric components in metric construction projects do not increase the cost of Federal buildings to the taxpayers.*

***SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.***

*Section 4 of the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 (15 U.S.C. 205c) is amended—*

*(1) by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (3);*

*(2) by striking ''Commerce.'' in paragraph (4) and inserting ''Commerce;''; and*

*(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:*

*''(5) 'full and open competition' has the same meaning as defined in section 403(6) of title 41, United States Code;*

*''(6) 'total installed price' means the price of purchasing a product or material, trimming or otherwise altering some or all of that product or material, if necessary to fit with other building components, and then installing that product or material into a Federal facility;*

*''(7) 'hard-metric' means measurement, design, and manufacture using the metric system of measurement, but does not include measurement, design, and manufacture using English system measurement units which are subsequently reexpressed in the metric system of measurement;*

*''(8) 'cost or pricing data or price analysis' has the meaning given such terms in section 304A of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 254b); and*

*''(9) 'Federal facility' means any public building (as defined under section 13 of the Public Buildings Act of 1959 (40 U.S.C. 612) and shall include any Federal building or construction project—*

*''(A) on lands in the public domain;*

*''(B) on lands used in connection with Federal programs for agriculture research, recreation, and conservation programs;*

*''(C) on or used in connection with river, harbor, flood control, reclamation, or power projects;*

*''(D) on or used in connection with housing and residential projects;*

*''(E) on military installations (including any fort, camp, post, naval training station, airfield, proving ground, military supply depot, military school, or any similar facility of the Department of Defense);*

*''(F) on installations of the Department of Veteran Affairs used for hospital or domiciliary purposes; or*

*''(G) on lands used in connection with Federal prisons,*

*but does not include (i) any Federal Building or construction project the exclusion of which the President deems to be justified in the public interest, or (ii) any construction project or building owned or controlled by a State government, local government, Indian tribe, or any private entity.''.*

***SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION IN ACQUISITION OF FEDERAL FACILITIES.***

*(a) The Metric Conversion Act of 1975 (15 U.S.C. 205 et sec.) is amended by inserting after section 13 the following new section:*

***''SEC. 14. IMPLEMENTATION IN ACQUISITION OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AND MATERIALS FOR FEDERAL FACILITIES.***

*''(a) IN GENERAL.—Construction services and materials for Federal facilities shall be procured in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth in chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code, section 2377 of title 10, United States Code, title III of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 251 et seq.), and section 3(2) of this Act. Determination of a design method shall be based upon preliminary market research as required under section 2377(c) of title 10, United States Code, and section 314B(c) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 264b(c)). If the requirements of this Act conflict with the provisions of section 2377 of title 10, United States Code, or section 314B of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, then the provisions of 2377 or 314B shall take precedence.*

*''(b) CONCRETE MASONRY UNITS.—In carrying out the policy set forth in section 3 (with particular emphasis on the policy set forth in paragraph (2) of that section) a Federal agency may require that specifications for the acquisition of structures or systems of concrete masonry be expressed under the metric system of measurement, but may not incorporate specifications, that can only be satisfied by hard-metric versions of concrete masonry units, in a solicitation for design or construction of a Federal facility within the United States or its territories, or a portion of said Federal facility, unless the head of the agency determines in writing that—*

*''(1) hard-metric specifications are necessary in a contract for the repair or replacement of parts of Federal facilities in existence or under construction upon the effective date of the Savings in Construction Act of 1996; or*

*''(2) the following 2 criteria are met:*

*''(A) the application requires hard-metric concrete masonry units to coordinate dimensionally into 100 millimeter building modules; and*

*''(B) the total installed price of hard-metric concrete masonry units is estimated to be equal to or less than the total installed price of using non-hard-metric concrete masonry units. Total installed price estimates shall be based, to the extent available, on cost or pricing data or price analysis, using actual hard-metric and non-hard-metric offers received for comparable existing projects. The head of the agency shall include in the writing required in this subsection an explanation of the factors used to develop the price estimates.*

*''(c) RECESSED LIGHTING FIXTURES.—In carrying out the policy set forth in section 3 (with particular emphasis on the policy set forth in paragraph (2) of that section) a Federal agency may require that specifications for the acquisition of structures or systems of recessed lighting fixtures be expressed under the metric system of measurement, but may not incorporate specifications, that can only be satisfied by hard-metric versions of recessed lighting fixtures, in a solicitation for design or construction of a Federal facility within the United States or its territories unless the head of the agency determines in writing that—*

*''(1) the predominant voluntary industry consensus standards include the use of hard-metric for the items specified; or*

*''(2) hard-metric specifications are necessary in a contract for the repair or replacement of parts of Federal facilities in existence or under construction upon the effective date of the Savings in Construction Act of 1996; or*

*''(3) the following 2 criteria are met:*