

sensitivity and insight into the complexity of the marine and coastal environment that few members could challenge. This insight has served him well as a Chairman of the former House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, and in his present capacity as ranking member on the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans. Let there be no mistake: GERRY STUDDS' mark on national environmental policy, especially in the marine environment, has been profound.

Section 11 of H.R. 543 formally changes the name of the existing Stellwagen Bank sanctuary off the coast of Massachusetts to the "Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary." I realize after having worked closely with Congressman STUDDS on the designation of Stellwagen Bank in 1992 how deeply he feels about this very special place. It is a fitting tribute that this unique marine resource, which he worked so hard to protect for future generations, should bear his name. His knowledge, his expertise and his humor will all be missed. I will miss him as a friend and colleague in the Congress. But the Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary will remain a constant reminder of his impressive environmental legacy.

In closing, Mr. President, I have worked closely this Congress with my friend, the Chairman of the Oceans and Fisheries Subcommittee, Senator STEVENS, to pass strong, positive marine resources legislation that reflects and reaffirms the importance of ocean and coastal resources to our Nation and ensures they are treated as the priceless and essential natural resources they are. Not unlike the Sustainable Fisheries Act (S. 39), the Antarctica bill (H.R. 3060), and the reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act (H.R. 1965), this bill is another positive step toward ensuring that our Nation's vital marine and coastal resources are conserved and sensibly managed for the benefit of all. I wholeheartedly support this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished chairman and ranking member of the Commerce Committee, as well as Senator GORTON and Congressman METCALF, for their work on this bill.

We have reached an agreement on the provisions regarding the Northwest Straits of Washington State which I think will serve everyone's best interest. My amendment to the House passed bill deletes language establishing a local advisory committee under the control of NOAA, while retaining the requirement that final designation of a marine sanctuary in the Northwest Straits occur only via congressional authorization.

I was concerned that the creation of a NOAA-controlled advisory committee would undermine the very intent of bringing local community members together to consider the resource protec-

tion needs of the Northwest Straits in an objective and open forum. Many members of the local communities have serious concerns about the performance of NOAA over the last several years with regard to the proposed sanctuary. To establish a new advisory committee under NOAA's control would only perpetuate those concerns. I think it is much better if such local commissions or committees develop on their own, independent from the NOAA process, much as the Marine Resources Committee in the San Juan Islands has done.

It is my understanding that as NOAA continues with its assessment of the resource protection needs of the Northwest Straits, it will provide personnel and technical expertise and information to any local advisory committees or commissions that may develop and will include any recommendations put forward by such committees or commissions in NOAA's assessment.

My amendment will allow us to move this important bill forward with bipartisan consensus. I appreciate the significant role the Marine Sanctuaries Program plays in the protection of our Nation's ocean resources. The protection of marine life and marine habitat is a worthy goal. Marine sanctuaries may not only protect the marine environment but may also support regional economies by creating recreational and tourism opportunities and enhancing commercial fisheries and associated industries by providing refuges for fish and other marine life. I fully support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support our agreement.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating to the bill be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 543) was deemed read the third time and passed.

#### ORDER FOR COMMITTEES TO FILE SPECIAL REPORTS

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on November 21, 1996, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. committees have the authority to file special reports on non-legislative matters only. This does not include executive matters such as treaties or nominations, nor does it allow committees to report bills or resolutions after the sine die adjournment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### FORT PECK RURAL COUNTY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM ACT OF 1996

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on (S. 1467) to authorize the construc-

tion of the Fort Peck Rural County Water Supply System, to authorize assistance to the Fort Peck Rural County Water District, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, for the planning, design, and construction of the water supply system, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

*Resolved*, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1467) entitled "An Act to authorize the construction of the Fort Peck Rural County Water Supply System, to authorize assistance to the Fort Peck Rural County Water District, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, for the planning, design, and construction of the water supply system, and for other purposes", do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause, and insert:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fort Peck Rural County Water Supply System Act of 1996".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act:

(1) CONSTRUCTION.—The term "construction" means such activities associated with the actual development or construction of facilities as are initiated on execution of contracts for construction.

(2) DISTRICT.—The term "District" means the Fort Peck Rural County Water District, Inc., a nonprofit corporation in Montana.

(3) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—The term "feasibility study" means the study entitled "Final Engineering Report and Alternative Evaluation for the Fort Peck Rural County Water District", dated September 1994.

(4) PLANNING.—the term "planning" means activities such as data collection, evaluation, design, and other associated preconstruction activities required prior to the execution of contracts for construction.

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

(6) WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM.—The term "water supply system" means the Fort Peck Rural County Water Supply System, to be established and operated substantially in accordance with the feasibility study.

#### SEC. 3. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon request of the District, the Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the District for the planning, design, and construction by the District of the water supply system. Title to this project shall remain in the name of the District.

(b) SERVICE AREA.—The water supply system shall provide for safe and adequate rural water supplies under the jurisdiction of the District in Valley County, north-eastern Montana (as described in the feasibility study).

(c) AMOUNT OF FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), under the cooperative agreement, the Secretary shall pay the Federal share of—

(A) costs associated with the planning, design, and construction of the water supply system (as identified in the feasibility study); and

(B) such sums as are necessary to defray increases in the budget.

(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share referred to in paragraph (1) shall be 75 percent and shall not be reimbursable.

(3) TOTAL.—The amount of Federal funds made available under the cooperative agreement shall not exceed the amount of funds authorized to be appropriated under section 4.

(4) LIMITATIONS.—Not more than 5 percent of the amount of Federal funds made available to the Secretary under section 4 may be used by the Secretary for activities associated with—

(A) compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and