

1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.) and other applicable law, the Secretary may provide funds to match non-Federal funds donated under a cooperative agreement under this paragraph. With respect to each project or program, the amount of funds provided by the Secretary may not exceed the amount of the non-Federal funds donated through the project or program.

“(ii) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—Any Federal funds used to fund a project or program under a cooperative agreement may be used only for expenses directly related to the project or program and may not be used for operation or administration of any non-Federal entity.

“(iii) OWNERSHIP OF FACILITIES.—Any new facility, improvement to an existing facility, or other permanent improvement to a refuge constructed under this subsection shall be the property of the United States Government.

“(D) TREASURY ACCOUNT.—Amounts received by the Secretary of the Interior as a result of projects and programs under subparagraph (B) shall be deposited in a separate account in the Treasury. Amounts in the account that are attributable to activities at a particular refuge or complex of geographically related refuges shall be available to the Secretary of the Interior, without further appropriation, to pay the costs of incidental expenses related to volunteer activities, and to carry out cooperative agreements for the refuge or complex of refuges.”

#### SEC. 6. REFUGE EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT.

Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f) (as amended by section 5) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) REFUGE EDUCATION PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT.—

“(1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior shall develop guidance for refuge education programs to further the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System and the purposes of individual refuges through—

“(A) providing outdoor classroom opportunities for students on national wildlife refuges that combine educational curricula with the personal experiences of students relating to fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitat and to the cultural and historical resources of the refuges;

“(B) promoting understanding and conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants and cultural and historical resources of the refuges; and

“(C) improving scientific literacy in conjunction with both formal and nonformal education programs.

“(2) REFUGE PROGRAMS.—Based on the guidance developed under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Interior may develop or enhance refuge education programs as appropriate, based on the resources of individual refuges and the opportunities available for such programs in State, local, and private schools. In developing and implementing each program, the Secretary should cooperate with State and local education authorities, and may cooperate with partner organizations in accordance with subsection (d).”

#### SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f) (as amended by section 6) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2004.”

Mr. SAXTON (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate amendments be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, as the author of H.R. 1856, the National Wildlife Refuge Sys-

tem Volunteer and Community Partnership Act, I am pleased to report that the Senate has passed this bill with amendments and returned it to us.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a very successful program to encourage volunteer activities at National Wildlife Refuges and other Service field stations. Last year, for example, over 25,000 volunteers donated nearly \$11 million worth of services, ranging from staffing visitor centers, to hunter safety classes, and operating heavy equipment.

I introduced H.R. 1856 after a field hearing held near the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in my district in New Jersey. That hearing addressed the large maintenance backlog at refuges. We heard from several local volunteer conservation groups who pointed out problems with the existing volunteer program. This bill is intended to solve those problems.

The biggest obstacle to improving the volunteer program is a shortage of staff at refuges. We can't expect refuge employees who have full-time operation and maintenance duties to also donate all of their weekends to working with volunteer groups. H.R. 1856 would address this problem by establishing up to 20 pilot projects for the purpose of hiring full-time volunteer coordinators. This will make it much easier for the Service and conservation groups to work together for the benefit of refuges.

H.R. 1856 also makes it easier for interested individuals and groups to donate money or services to refuges. It would ensure that gifts to a particular refuge will actually go to that refuge, instead of disappearing into a nationwide account.

Finally, the bill allows refuge managers to enter into cooperative agreements with local conservation groups to conduct projects on refuges. Again, these provisions are designed to make it easier for refuge managers to cooperate with local organizations. For example, if a volunteer group were interested in constructing a wildlife observation tower or other improvement at a refuge, this section would allow the refuge manager to contribute materials or staff assistance to the project.

All of these provisions are designed to make it easier for volunteers who are interested in helping to conserve fish and wildlife to contribute their skills and enthusiasm to our National Wildlife Refuges. Over the last two years, Congress and the Administration have significantly increased the resources available to Refuge operations and maintenance. However, even with those increased resources, the use of volunteers who donate their time and energy is still needed to allow the Refuge System to meet its conservation and management goals. By making it easier for them, this bill will enhance an already successful program and ultimately benefit fish and wildlife conservation throughout the National Wildlife Refuge System.

I urge you to agree to clear H.R. 1856, as amended by the Senate, and to send it to the President for signature. Together with the historic National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-57) and increased funding, this Congress has done more for our National Wildlife Refuge System than any other in the last 30 years.

I urge the House to accept the Senate amendments on H.R. 1856.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the initial request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. 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. 1856, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

#### PERMITTING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR PRESENTATION OF CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO NELSON ROLIHLAHLA MANDELA

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Oversight be discharged from further consideration of the House concurrent resolution (H.Con.Res. 326) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol on September 23, 1998, for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to Nelson Mandela, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 326

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).* That the rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on September 23, 1998, for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. Physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SAND CREEK MASSACRE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE STUDY ACT OF 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1695) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site in the State of Colorado as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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