

NAYS—65

Abercrombie	Gonzalez	Norwood
Ackerman	Hansen	Oberstar
Andrews	Hill (IN)	Ortiz
Baldacci	Hilliard	Peterson (MN)
Barcia	Holt	Phelps
Blagojevich	Isakson	Rivers
Bono	Jefferson	Roemer
Brown (OH)	John	Sanchez
Callahan	Jones (NC)	Sanders
Cardin	Kildee	Sandlin
Carson	Kind (WI)	Saxton
Chambliss	Lee	Shuster
Clay	Levin	Souder
Conyers	Lewis (GA)	Stark
Crane	Luther	Stupak
Danner	McCarthy (MO)	Tauscher
DeFazio	McDermott	Thompson (CA)
DeGette	McKinney	Watt (NC)
Delahunt	Meeks (NY)	Waxman
Deutsch	Miller, George	Woolsey
Dingell	Mink	Young (AK)
Gilchrest	Moore	

NOT VOTING—15

Dunn	King (NY)	Napolitano
Eshoo	Klink	Paul
Franks (NJ)	Lazio	Riley
Hastings (FL)	McCollum	Vento
Hefley	McIntosh	Wexler

□ 1310

Mr. VITTER and Mr. HINOJOSA changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 506, the Rule for Interior Appropriations Conference Report, I was unavoidably detained in a business meeting. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and that I may include tabular and extraneous material on the conference report to accompany H.R. 4578.

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

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4578, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 603, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 4578) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes. The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 603, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of September 29, 2000, at page H8472.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

□ 1315

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

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

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to thank those that supported the rule; and to all Members, I believe that this bill today is something we can point to with pride in supporting it.

I know there are differences on how we approached it, but this bill provides for the future of this Nation in terms of our assets, our land and our unique ecology; and I hope that all of my colleagues will look carefully at all the things that are in this bill, to realize what it means, not only to your district, but to the Nation.

As my term as chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations nears an end with this conference agreement, I would especially like to take the opportunity to thank the Members of the subcommittee. I might say that this conference was unique. For the first time in my 6 years on this subcommittee, the conference report was signed by every member of the conference committee from both parties in both Houses, and it will be supported by the administration.

I thank the Members for their support as we did work together to produce this agreement. Especially I extend my appreciation to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) for their hard work during our conference and throughout the year.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to the excellent staff on the subcommittee who have dedicated hours, numerous hours on this bill. And I wanted to also make a comment here, and that is that this bill is in the true tradition of Sid Yates, who was the previous chairman of this subcommittee. I think Sid would be very proud of what is in this bill. In his many years as chairing the subcommittee, much of what we have done are things that he cherished and worked for. And I say to you, Sid, if you are watching, that we thank you for all of your good service. This bill today perhaps is an accumulation of some of the things that you were pushing for for years and years as you chaired the committee.

This is a good bill, I say to my colleagues, one that all of us should support. It provides \$18.8 billion in the funding for the Department of the Interior and related agencies. It includes wildfire funding, a recognition that the fires are a problem on our 200 million acres of forest land. It has \$2.9 billion and of that amount, \$1.6 billion is emergency funding. And for those of my colleagues who noticed the size of this bill, keep in mind that we had to address not only fire emergencies, but

we also had to address other emergencies that were overlooked in the supplemental appropriations bill.

While it is a large number, it does represent a number of dollars that were meant to address the interests of many Members in the House. The conference report includes a new land conservation, preservation and infrastructure improvement title which makes available \$12 billion over the next 6 years for programs such as Federal and State land acquisition, urban parks, State and wildlife conservation, PILT and backlog maintenance. State and other conservation programs receive \$300 million, \$300 million to the States, including a new \$50 million State wildlife grant program.

We do ask for accountability, and I think that is our responsibility to the taxpayers to say to the States we want you to be accountable in the expenditures of these monies.

Also in this report, there is \$200 million for PILT, that is \$65 million more than what was in the bill that passed the House. And again I think it is a recognition that we have to support these local governments, the schools and local government agencies with some type of substitute for the losses that they have because of the Federal lands, and so I am pleased that we have a very substantial amount in PILT.

We have initiated several new funding provisions to prepare for wildfires, wildfires that have swept across the West. There is \$128 billion for State and rural fire and economic assistance. We recognize, and I know many of my colleagues watched the shows that the people were coming even from offshore to help fight the wildfires, and, of course, the States and local communities were very instrumental in this effort.

We have \$377 million to increase wildfire readiness, \$422 million for additional wildfire suppression and \$277 million for hazardous fuel reduction work. To address the impact of the current fire season, we have also provided \$227 million to rehabilitate areas damaged by fires and \$351 million to reimburse firefighting costs already incurred.

And I say one of the good features is that we try to clean up forests through the readiness programs and through the suppression programs, so that when we get lightning strikes, they do not burn with such intensity, because as you have fuel buildup by failure to thin and so on, you obviously add to the intensity of any blazes.

I am especially pleased that we have addressed the numerous operational and maintenance shortfalls. We have \$1.4 billion for the operation of the national parks, \$25 million more than last year. We have \$1.6 billion for the BLM which includes a \$66 million increase overall, and \$18 million for revision of the Bureau's land management plans, and \$356 million for national wildlife refuges.

Funding has been included within these operational accounts to address