for farmers. I am delighted that, in the bipartisan spirit of this body, we are going to get in passed into law.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1444, the ''Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act,'' legislation to establish a fish screen construction program for irrigation projects in Idaho, Washington, Montana and Oregon.

H.R. 1444 is needed to assist in the effort to protect the Northwest's endangered fish species. The bill aims to decrease fish mortality rates by aiding in the construction of fish screens to prevent juvenile salmon from straying into water diversion projects.

Many farms in the Northwest are irrigated by water diverted from streams and rivers. Water is transported to farms via irrigation canals connecting to streams and rivers. The irrigation canals pose a major risk to juvenile salmon, called smolts, migrating downstream to the ocean. Smolts die when they are diverted from the rivers and streams into irrigation ditches. Fish screens placed at entrances to irrigation diversions will prevent smolts from swimming into irrigation ditches and decrease mortality rates for fish stocks in the Northwest. H.R. 1444 sets up a federal program to assist in the construction of fish screens. Under the legislation, participation in the program will be voluntary and a local share of 35 percent of the cost of each project is required.

During negotiations over the legislation, there was some debate over which agency will have responsibility for administering the fish screen program. The original House bill put the Army Corps of Engineers in charge of the program while the Senate bill gave the responsibility to the Department of Interior. It was the Senate sponsor's hope that the Bureau of Reclamation, would be responsible for administering the program within the Department of Interior.

Under this final version of H.R. 1444, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will have responsibility for administering the program. The Fish and Wildlife was chosen as the lead agency because it has the expertise to most effectively administer the fish screen program. However, I would like to make it clear there are other federal agencies with expertise, capability and an interest in reducing fish mortality at irrigation diversions. Recognizing this, the bill directs the Fish and Wildlife Service to consult with other agencies when implementing the program. I also believe that, in addition to a consultative role, other agencies may contribute funds for programs developed under the authority of the act. I see the contribution of funds from federal agencies other than the Fish and Wildlife Services as especially appropriate from agencies involved in water management in the region and in the operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System, including the Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bonneville Power Administration to contribute the funds for the fish screen construction program.

In fact, it is my understanding that the draft Biological Opinion for the Federal Columbia River Power System issued in July calls for offsite mitigation by these agencies. Such mitigation under the draft Biological Opinion can include construction and installation of fish screens at irrigation diversions. I am hopeful that contributions of funds to develop programs under the authority of this act could be credited as offsite mitigation under the finalized Biological Opinion.

As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee as well as the House Resources Committee, I want to acknowledge the interest that Transportation Committee maintains in the bill and the projects developed under the bill's authority. The Transportation Committee should receive any reports prepared for Congress on the program. The Committee should particularly be included if projects relate to compliance with the Clean Water Act. In addition, the Corps of Engineers and EPA should be consulted on projects developed for compliance with the Clean Water Act.

The legislation is supported by numerous conservation, recreation and water user groups including the Oregon Water Resources Congress and Save Our Wild Salmon, a coalition of sport and commercial fishing groups, fishing businesses and conservation organizations. The bill is also supported by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The bill has bipartisan support in the House and Senate. Representative PETER DEFAZIO (D–Ore.) and Representative GREG WALDEN (R–Ore.), members of the House Resources Committee, are original cosponsors of H.R. 1444. The bill was approved by the House of Representatives on November 9th of last year. A similar measure was introduced in the Senate by Senator RON WYDEN (D–Ore.) and Senator GORDON SMITH (R–Ore.) and was approved by the full Senate on April 13, 2000. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important legislation.

I also want to thank my colleagues who helped with this bill, including Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Resources Committee Chairman DON YOUNG and Ranking Member GEORGE MILLER, and Senators RON WYDEN and GORDON SMITH. I'd also like to acknowledge the many congressional staff members who worked on this bill including: Kathie Eastman of my personal staff, Lindsay Slater and Troy Tidwell of Mr. WALDEN's staff; Steve Lanich, Bob Faber and Doug Yoder of the House of Resources Committee; Ben Grumbles and Art Chan of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee; Joshua Sheinkman, and Eileen McLellan of Senator WYDEN's staff; Valerie West of Senator SMITH's staff; and former staffers Cynthia Suchman and Martin Kodis.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 630.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4187; S. Con. Res. 145; S. 406; H.R. 4404, as amended; H.R. 1695; H.R. 2570; S. 1705; S. 2917; H.R. 5041; H.R. 4521, as amended; H.R. 5308, as amended; H.R. 4646, as amended; H.R. 3926; H.R. 4312; S. 2102; S. 1936, as amended; S. 1296; H.R. 5398; and H. Res. 630.

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

There was no objection.

FEDERAL FIREFIGHTER RETIREMENT AGE CORRECTION ACT

Mr. OSE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 460) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that the mandatory separation age for Federal firefighters be made the same as the age that applies with respect to Federal law enforcement officers.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 460

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MANDATORY SEPARATION AGE FOR FIREFIGHTERS.

(a) CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The second sentence of section 8335(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting '', firefighter,'' after ''law enforcement officer''; and

(B) by inserting '', firefighter,'' after ''that officer''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8335(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the first sentence.

(b) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The second sentence of section 8425(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting '', firefighter,'' after ''law enforcement officer''; and

(B) by inserting '', firefighter,'' after ''that officer''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8425(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the first sentence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 460.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have the House consider H.R. 460, important legislation introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY). This bipartisan legislation amends Federal civil service law relating to the Civil Service Retirement System and the Federal Employees' Retirement System to provide the same mandatory separation age for