H.R. 3595

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

SECTION 1. INCREASED AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE RECLAMATION SAFETY OF DAMS ACT OF 1978.

The Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 is amended—

(1) in section 4 (43 U.S.C. 508)—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''or from nonperformance of reasonable and normal maintenance of the structure by the operating entity'';

(B) in subsection (c), by—

(i) inserting after ''1984'' the following: ''and the additional $380,000,000 further authorized to be appropriated by amendments to that Act in 2000'';

(ii) striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(iii) in the first sentence of paragraph (3), as so redesignated, inserting ''irrigation,'' after ''Costs allocated to the purpose of'', and inserting ''without regard to water users' ability to pay'' before the period at the end; and

(C) in subsection (d), by inserting before the period at the end the following: ': Provided further, That the Secretary is authorized to expend payments of such reimbursable costs made pursuant to a repayment contract at any time prior to completion of construction'';

(2) in section 5 (43 U.S.C. 509), by—

(A) inserting after ''levels)'' the following: ''and, effective October 1, 1997, not to exceed an additional $380,000,000 (October 1, 2000, price levels),'';

(B) striking ''$750,000'' and inserting ''$1,200,000 (October 1, 2000, price levels), plus or minus such amounts, if any, as may be justified by reason of ordinary fluctuations in construction costs as indicated by engineering cost indexes applicable to the types of construction involved herein,''; and

(C) striking ''sixty days (which'' and all that follows through ''day certain)'' and inserting ''30 calendar days''; and

(3) in section 2 (43 U.S.C. 506), by inserting ''(a)'' before ''In order to'', and by adding at the end the following:

''(b) Prior to selecting a Bureau of Reclamation facility for modification, the Secretary shall notify project beneficiaries in writing of such selection and solicit their interest in participating in evaluating the facility for modification. If requested by the project beneficiaries, the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, is authorized to negotiate an agreement with project beneficiaries for the cooperative oversight of planning, design, cost containment, procurement, construction, and management of the modifications. Prior to submitting the modification reports required by section 5, the Secretary shall consider, and where appropriate implement, alternatives recommended by project beneficiaries. Within 30 days after receiving such recommendations, the Secretary shall provide to the project beneficiaries a written response detailing proposed actions to address the recommendations. The Secretary's response to the project beneficiaries shall be included in the modification reports required by section 5.

''(c) Following submission of the reports required by section 5, project beneficiaries who wish to receive regular information concerning the status and costs of modifications shall notify the Secretary in writing. During the construction phase of the modifications, the Secretary shall keep such beneficiaries informed of the costs and status of such modifications. The Secretary shall consider, and where appropriate implement, alternatives recommended by project beneficiaries concerning the cost containment measures and construction management techniques needed to carry out such modifications.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

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

Mr. Speaker, this legislation would increase the authorized cost ceiling for the Bureau of Reclamation's dam safety program. The program is designed to ensure that its facilities operate in a safe and reliable condition to protect the public, property, and natural resources downstream of reclamation structures.

Since the introduction of this bill, members of the Subcommittee on Water and Power have worked to ensure that project beneficiaries are informed of the costs and status of dam safety modifications. This legislation requires the Secretary to provide the costs and the status of the modifications if the project beneficiaries notify the Secretary in writing of their interest in this information.

In addition, the legislation requires the Secretary to consider and, where appropriate, implement containment and construction management techniques and recommendations provided by the project beneficiaries regarding costs.

I urge an aye vote.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. The bill amends the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to increase the authorized cost ceiling for the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act by $380 million.

The bill also makes important changes pertaining to reimbursable costs. The amendment affords local projects beneficiaries an opportunity to negotiate an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, allowing for local participation in the oversight of dam safety project planning, design, cost containment, and other matters.

It should be clearly understood, however, that the public safety responsibilities of the Secretary pursuant to this Act are not diminished or affected in any way by these procedures allowing for full participation by the project beneficiaries.

I urge adoption of this legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3595, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□

MIWALETA PARK EXPANSION ACT

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 1725) to provide for the conveyance by the Bureau of Land Management to Douglas County, Oregon, of a county park and certain adjacent land.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Page 3, strike out lines 6 through 10 and insert:

(1) IN GENERAL.—After conveyance of land under subsection (a), the County shall manage the land for public park purposes consistent with the plan for expansion of the Miwaleta Park as approved in the Decision Record for Galesville Campground, EA #OR110–99–01, dated September 17, 1999.

Page 3, line 14, strike out ''purposes—'' and insert ''purposes as described in paragraph 2(b)(1)—''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1725, as amended and introduced by my colleague the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

A significant amount of effort has gone into the preparation of this bill, and I would like to begin by commending the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) for their diligence in bringing this legislation to the floor.

The Miwaleta Park, located in Oregon, is a 30-acre area jointly managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Douglas County.

□ 1515

The title to this park and surrounding area is currently held by the BLM; and under H.R. 1725, the title and all rights and interests to this land would be transferred to Douglas County for the purpose of building a public campground.

I reiterate my support for H.R. 1725 and ask for support of this legislation.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1725.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 1725.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□

WASHINGTON-ROCHAMBEAU REVOLUTIONARY ROUTE NATIONAL HERITAGE ACT OF 2000

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4794) to require the Secretary of the Interior to complete a resource study of the 600 mile route through Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia, used by George Washington and General Rochambeau during the American Revolutionary War.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4794

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Heritage Act of 2000''.

SEC. 2. STUDY OF THE WASHINGTON-ROCHAMBEAU REVOLUTIONARY ROUTE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives, a resource study of the 600 mile route through Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia, used by George Washington and General Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau during the American Revolutionary War.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with State and local historic associations and societies, State historic preservation agencies, and other appropriate organizations.

(c) CONTENTS.—The study shall—

(1) identify the full range of resources and historic themes associated with the route referred to in subsection (a), including its relationship to the American Revolutionary War;

(2) identify alternatives for National Park Service involvement with preservation and interpretation of the route referred to in subsection (a); and

(3) include cost estimates for any necessary acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives identified pursuant to paragraph (2).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4794 requires the Secretary of the Interior to complete a resource study of the 600-mile route used by George Washington and General Rochambeau during the Revolutionary War. The extensive route travels through nine different States and stretches from Massachusetts to Virginia.

The study will identify the full range of resources and historic themes associated with the route and identify alternatives for a National Park Service involvement with the preservation and interpretation of the route.

Compared to those of the Civil War, there just are not that many designated historic sites associated with the Revolutionary War. We need to protect these very important Revolutionary War sites as well. Thus, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4794.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4794, the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Heritage Act of 2000. I want to commend our colleague, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), for all of the work he has done on this legislation. There is bipartisan support by every Member who represents the areas crossed by this road.

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill H.R. 4794, the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Heritage Act of 2000.

At the outset, Mr. Speaker, I wish to deeply thank the gentleman from Alaska, Chairman YOUNG, and the gentleman from California, Mr. MILLER, for all of their efforts to bring this bill to the floor today. I also would like to thank and commend my colleagues Mr. GILCHREST and Ms. KELLY, who helped to have this bill placed on the House Calendar, and the other co-sponsors of this bill.

Earlier this year, I received a letter from Hans DePold, a constituent of mine and a Member of the Sons of the American Revolution. The letter asked for my help in preserving a very special piece of history for all Americans, a route traveled by General George Washington and General Rochambeau during the American Revolution. It is from this correspondence and several meetings with Mr. DePold that I decided to introduce this piece of legislation. Since the introduction of H.R. 4794, I have received letters of support from States across this Nation urging the preservation of this Route.

Almost 220 years after the Yorktown campaign, which was the decisive battle in the Revolutionary War, few Americans are unaware of the assistance from America's French Allies. In 1780, George Washington's army dwindled to less than 3,000 and assistance was desperately needed. Fortunately, 5,000 troops from the French expeditionary army, led by General Rochambeau, landed in Newport, Rhode Island to assist General Washington. At Rochambeau's urging, Washington abandoned his original plan to face the British in New York, and the combined army continued south to Yorktown, Virginia. General Rochambeau was vital in advising Washington and in guiding the ''end-game'' strategy that implemented the Yorktown Campaign.

The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route is just another example of our Country's rich history. The troops traveled through 9 states up and down the East Coast and it is this route these soldiers took that has become known as the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Road.

When the troops passed through Connecticut, many buildings served as inns or officers housing. Seven towns and cities in my Congressional District have been documented as Washington Rochambeau sites. But my District and the State of Connecticut only represent a small piece of the larger story. There has been no comprehensive effort since 1957 to mark this route in its entirely.

This bill would authorize the National Park Service to conduct a resource study for the 600 miles that extend through Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia. The study would identify the means of preservation and interpretation of the Route for the education of the public.

The Secretary will also consult with the State and Local historic associations and other appropriate organizations. This bill will help in preserving this route, which serves as a reminder of how Americans won their freedom.

This legislation has bipartisan support and the co-sponsorship of every member who represents the district where the WRRR travels through.

I applaud the hard work and vision of the members of The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Russell Wirtalla, Vice President of the New England Region Sons of the American Revolution, and Hans DePold, Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Committee of Correspondence. My sincere thanks and admiration also goes to Dr. Jacques Bossiere Chairman of the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Committee, Dr. James Johnson, Executive Director of the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Committee and Serge Gabriel, President of Souvenir Francais, Connecticut. In addition I would like to recognize, John Shannahan and Mary M. Donahue of the Connecticut Historical Commission, Dr. Robert A. Selig an eminent historian on Rochambeau's Cavalry, and Marolyn Paulis, President of the Connecticut State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. It would be remiss of me to not also recognize the work and support of Jay Jackson, Chancellor and Dr. David Musto, President of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut. Much gratitude is also extended to Larry Gall of the National Park Service and Steve Elkinton, Director of National Park Service Historic Trails.

I would also like to offer my gratitude for the support of the Ambassador of France to the United States, François Bujon de l'Estang.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a letter of support from François Bujon de l'Estang, the Ambassador of France to the United States, and urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE
AUX ETATS-UNIS,
Washington, June 29, 2000.

Hon. JOHN B. LARSON,
Member of Congress, House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LARSON: Thank you for taking the initiative to introduce a legislation to commission the Secretary of Interior and the National Park Service to complete a resource study of the Washington-Rochambeau