

indicated their strong support for this measure. In fact, Senator MOYNIHAN has indicated he envisions this bill as part of his congressional legacy. This will probably be the last bill that Senator MOYNIHAN will have his name associated with as it passes the Senate, and he would like very much to have this bill signed into law before he leaves office. Furthermore, there is broad-based local enthusiasm and interest throughout the State for a Federal designation of the Erie Canalway system and local participation in the development of an Erie Canalway plan is a critical component of this legislation.

In 1995, at the request of Senator MOYNIHAN and myself, Congress directed the National Park Service to determine whether the Erie Canalway system merited Federal designation as a National Heritage Corridor. In 1998, the National Park Service study concluded that the Erie Canalway is an outstanding resource of great significance to the Nation and that it clearly merited Federal designation as a National Heritage Corridor. In response to this overwhelming support for some type of Federal designation for the Erie Canalway system, I worked closely with the National Park Service and the State of New York throughout the 106th Congress to craft legislation that balances the State's need to preserve its outstanding ongoing management activities of the canal with the creation of a Federal management framework that assists the State and local communities throughout the canalway in their development of integrated cultural, historical, recreational, economic, and community development activities.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5375 was introduced on October 3 this year after several months of detailed negotiations with the National Park Service and the State of New York. The bill would designate the canal as a heritage corridor and would establish a 27-member commission that would be empowered to develop a comprehensive preservation and management canalway plan for the corridor within 3 years.

Critical to the success of this commission is the fact that there will be broad-based local participation and involvement in the commission as each Member of Congress who represents the corridor will be able to appoint a local representative to the commission. This commission will develop a plan that enhances the historical, cultural, educational, natural, scenic, and recreational potential of the corridor in a way that complements the ongoing significant State role in preserving and protecting the Erie Canalway system.

Mr. Speaker, the State of New York built this canal. It is what helped us to populate the western reaches of our State, indeed, the western reaches of the then-settled United States. The State still maintains the canal at an expense of approximately \$60 million per year; and they have done a very,

very excellent job of keeping it in operating order. Therefore, the governor needs to have the appointment authority, and I think most reasonable people would agree.

What I envision coming out of this bill is a joint Federal-State cooperative effort where the National Park Service would provide necessary technical and financial assistance for education, interpretation, historic preservation, planning and recreational trail development and open space conservation, while the State of New York would maintain its ongoing operational management and maintenance of the Erie Canalway system. The system was the preeminent transportation corridor for the latter part of the 18th through the 20th century. Its role in American history is well documented. Therefore, I believe Federal designation is essential to preserve and maintain and interpret the canalway system in ways to reflect its importance and significance.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has broad-based bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues to adopt this measure so that we can continue to protect the canalway system for future generations.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE).

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time. It is an honor to be here today in support of this bill that I have had the pleasure of cosponsoring, along with the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) and a number of others that we have worked closely with over the years. The Erie Canal has a great history. The Erie Canal has a great future. That great future, though, depends in large part on what we do to recognize the past, to herald it, and to build a corridor along the canal so that residents of New York State and residents of the world can come and not only see and observe, but enjoy the Erie Canal.

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A good many individuals of both the Democratic and Republican Party have attempted to enhance the Erie Canal Corridor over the years. Certainly Governor Pataki, but most especially, too, I think the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Andrew Cuomo. He took what was known as the Small Cities Development Block Grant program and tried to use it within the State of New York to embellish the corridor by coming up with the canal corridor initiative.

The Canal Corridor initiative was basically an idea to use these small cities' monies to leverage additional assistance from both the public and private sector, to leverage that assistance by utilizing for the first time on a Federal level the Small Cities program and the section 108 program, which will enable communities to draw down against future monies to work in con-

cert for the first time in a very cooperative fashion with the Department of Agriculture and their rural development administration. That has worked extremely successfully.

In my congressional district, for example, whether one is in North Tonawanda or Lockport or Medina or Albion or Holley or Spencerport, one can see the results of the canal corridor initiative, and we have just started.

Passage of today's bill establishing an Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor will be a great step forward in further embellishing that corridor and helping to serve as both an economic and recreational catalyst for that region of New York State.

So I urge everyone to support this very fine bill.

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

Mr. HANSEN. 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 Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5375, as amended.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1752, S. 1474, S. Con. Res. 114, S. 698, S. 1438, H.R. 5478, S. 2749 and H.R. 5375.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 426

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 426.

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

There was no objection.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2000

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill