

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

LAKE TAHOE BASIN MANAGEMENT  
UNIT, NEVADA, LAND CONVEY-  
ANCE

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 74) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Nevada, to the Secretary of the Interior, in trust for the Washoe Indian Tribe of Nevada and California.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 74

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

## SECTION 1. WASHOE TRIBE LAND CONVEYANCE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the ancestral homeland of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (referred to in this Act as the "Tribe") included an area of approximately 5,000 square miles in and around Lake Tahoe, California and Nevada, and Lake Tahoe was the heart of the territory;

(2) in 1997, Federal, State, and local governments, together with many private landholders, recognized the Washoe people as indigenous people of Lake Tahoe Basin through a series of meetings convened by those governments at 2 locations in Lake Tahoe;

(3) the meetings were held to address protection of the extraordinary natural, recreational, and ecological resources in the Lake Tahoe region;

(4) the resulting multiagency agreement includes objectives that support the traditional and customary uses of National Forest System land by the Tribe; and

(5) those objectives include the provision of access by members of the Tribe to the shore of Lake Tahoe in order to reestablish traditional and customary cultural practices.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to implement the joint local, State, tribal, and Federal objective of returning the Tribe to Lake Tahoe; and

(2) to ensure that members of the Tribe have the opportunity to engage in traditional and customary cultural practices on the shore of Lake Tahoe to meet the needs of spiritual renewal, land stewardship, Washoe horticulture and ethnobotany, subsistence gathering, traditional learning, and reunification of tribal and family bonds.

(c) CONVEYANCE ON CONDITION SUBSEQUENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, the easement reserved under subsection (d), and the condition stated in subsection (e), the Secretary of Agriculture shall convey to the Secretary of the Interior, in trust for the Tribe, for no consideration, all right, title, and interest in the parcel of land comprising approximately 24.3 acres, located within the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit north of Skunk Harbor, Nevada, and more particularly described as Mount Diablo Meridian, T15N, R18E, section 27, lot 3.

(d) EASEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The conveyance under subsection (c) shall be made subject to reservation to the United States of a nonexclusive easement for public and administrative access over Forest Development Road #15N67 to National Forest System land, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(2) ACCESS BY INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall provide a reciprocal easement to the Tribe permitting vehicular access to the parcel over Forest Development Road #15N67 to—

(A) members of the Tribe for administrative and safety purposes; and

(B) members of the Tribe who, due to age, infirmity, or disability, would have difficulty accessing the conveyed parcel on foot.

(e) CONDITION ON USE OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In using the parcel conveyed under subsection (c), the Tribe and members of the Tribe—

(A) shall limit the use of the parcel to traditional and customary uses and stewardship conservation for the benefit of the Tribe;

(B) shall not permit any permanent residential or recreational development on, or commercial use of, the parcel (including commercial development, tourist accommodations, gaming, sale of timber, or mineral extraction); and

(C) shall comply with environmental requirements that are no less protective than environmental requirements that apply under the Regional Plan of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

(2) TERMINATION AND REVERSION.—If the Secretary of the Interior, after notice to the Tribe and an opportunity for a hearing, based on monitoring of use of the parcel by the Tribe, makes a finding that the Tribe has used or permitted the use of the parcel in violation of paragraph (1) and the Tribe fails to take corrective or remedial action directed by the Secretary of the Interior—

(A) title to the parcel in the Secretary of the Interior, in trust for the Tribe, shall terminate; and

(B) title to the parcel shall revert to the Secretary of Agriculture.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) 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. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 74 directs the Secretary of Agriculture to convey a 24-acre parcel of land in the national forest system at Lake Tahoe to the Secretary of Interior who will then hold it in trust for the benefit of the Washoe Tribe of the California and Nevada Paiute Indians. The tribe will use the property for customary and traditional cultural purposes just as they did when their ancestral homelands encompassed a 5,000-square-mile area around the Lake Tahoe Basin.

H.R. 74 was developed after a 1997 meeting among Federal, State and local officials who recognized the tribe's historic connection to the area before it was included in the national forest system. Under the bill, permanent residential development or com-

mercial use is prohibited. It also contains provisions designed to ensure the continuation of public and administrative access to adjacent national forest lands. The tribe will also receive an easement to permit vehicular access on a forest development road for access to the property for safety and administrative purposes and for the convenience of tribal members who have difficulty walking.

This legislation has been passed by the House or the Senate in different forms in the last two Congresses. It is time now for this bill to be passed into law. I am hopeful that it will arrive on the President's desk this year so the people of the Washoe Tribe will finally be able to enjoy a piece of their rich cultural heritage.

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 74 directs the Secretary to convey without consideration approximately 24 acres of lakefront property in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit to the Washoe Tribe of Nevada. The land to be conveyed was part of the Washoe Tribe's 5,000-square-mile ancestral home in the vicinity of Lake Tahoe. The tribe has historically gathered along the shore of Lake Tahoe for traditional and cultural purposes. H.R. 74 requires the tribe to limit its use of the land to traditional and customary uses and to prohibit development and commercial use of the site. The tribe must also comply with environmental regulations that are no less protective than those of the Tahoe Regional Plan.

Finally, the bill provides for an easement to the United States and a reciprocal easement to the tribe over a forest road and has a reversionary clause.

In past Congresses, the same bill has passed both Houses but failed to become law. I urge my colleagues to vote for this legislation. I congratulate the gentleman from Nevada for his hard work and leadership on this bill.

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a brief moment to thank my friend and colleague from New Mexico for his support and leadership on this important bill as well.

I urge a positive vote on this bill.

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. 74.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LANDER COUNTY, NEVADA, LAND  
CONVEYANCE

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