the student athletes on the tennis team.

Winning a national championship is something to be proud of, not only for the university but for its students, faculty, and the surrounding community. The achievement that marks a national championship brings out the best athletic performance our collegiate sports have to offer. Everyone involved in this should be congratulated for their performances.

In closing, I would urge Members to support this resolution, and again I commend the University of Illinois men's tennis team, extend to them my commendations and extend to the President, President Stukel and all of the faculty, this is a rare occurrence for the University of Illinois. I know everybody in Illinois is indeed delighted that the university has reached this milestone.

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly remarkable group of young athletes. The University of Illinois fighting Illini Men's Tennis Team had a memorable and historic 2002–2003 season. Beside winning their seventh consecutive Big Ten Conference regular-season championship, as well as their sixth Big Ten Tournament crown in the last 7 years, the undefeated Fighting Illini won the first NCA team championship in the history of the University of Illinois tennis program.

Using three different players in the singles and doubles tournaments, the Illini captured the rare triple crown of college tennis by winning the national championships in the team tournament, the singles tournament, and the doubles tournament and were the first team in the Nation to do so with three different players since the current NCAA tennis team championship format began in 1977.

Coach Craig Tiley, Assistant Coach Bruce Berque and the entire University of Illinois men's tennis team are a great source of pride for their university, the Champaign-Urbana community and the 15th District of Illinois. I thank Chairman BOEHNER and Alison Ream of the Education and Workforce Committee for their help with bringing H. Res. 391 to the floor and I ask my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JOHNSON) for bringing forth this resolution honoring the Fighting Illini athletes, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 391.

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.

CAPTIVE WILDLIFE SAFETY ACT

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1006) to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1006

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 ''Captive Wildlife Safety Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF PROHIBITED WILDLIFE SPECIES.

Section 2 of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (g) through (j) as subsections (h) through (k), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) PROHIBITED WILDLIFE SPECIES.—The term 'prohibited wildlife species' means any lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, or cougar species, or any hybrid of such a species.''.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITED ACTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3372) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking '', or'' at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''or'' after the semicolon at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) any live animal of a prohibited wildlife species (subject to subsection (e));'';

(B) in paragraph (3)(B), by inserting ''or'' after the semicolon at the end; and

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking ''paragraphs (1) through (4)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (1) through (3)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) NONAPPLICABILITY OF PROHIBITED WILDLIFE SPECIES OFFENSE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a)(2)(C) does not apply to importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase of an animal of a prohibited wildlife species, by a person that, under regulations prescribed under paragraph (3), is described in paragraph (2) with respect to that species.

''(2) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—A person is described in this paragraph, if the person—

''(A) is licensed and inspected by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service with respect to that species;

''(B) is a State college, university, or agency, State-licensed wildlife rehabilitator, or State-licensed veterinarian;

''(C) is an accredited wildlife sanctuary that cares for prohibited wildlife species and—

''(i) is a corporation that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code 1986 and described in sections 501(c)(3) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of such Code;

''(ii) does not commercially trade in animals listed in section 2(g), including offspring, parts, and byproducts of such animals;

''(iii) does not propagate animals; and

''(iv) does not allow direct contact between the public and animals; or

''(D) has custody of the animal solely for the purpose of expeditiously transporting the animal to a person described in this paragraph with respect to the species.

''(3) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Director of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, shall promulgate regulations describing the persons described in paragraph (2).

''(4) STATE AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this subsection preempts or supersedes the authority of a State to regulate wildlife species within that State.''.

(b) APPLICATION.—Section 3(a)(2)(C) of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (as added by subsection (a)(1)(A)(iii)) shall apply beginning on the effective date of regulations promulgated under section 3(e)(3) of that Act (as added by subsection (a)(2)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILCHREST. 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 H.R. 1006.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of this legislation, I am pleased to rise in strong support of the Captive Wildlife Safety Act. This measure addresses the growing problem of unqualified and inexperienced individuals who are purchasing an increasing number of large exotic cats. There are dozens of Web sites that offer lion or tiger cubs for as little as $300. Sadly, we know that one of those Internet tigers ended up living in deplorable conditions in an apartment complex in Bronx, New York.

While these species are extremely attractive when they are young, they quickly become 400-pound unwanted pets. Those buying these cats simply do not have the knowledge or resources to provide the specific nutritional, physical and environmental requirements of these animals. In many cases, they are unaware of the animals' growth patterns and the enormous cost of caring for them over their lifetime. In addition, escaped exotic animals have seriously injured or killed a number of our citizens.

In far too many cases, these pets are abandoned, locked away in tiny cages, or sold for their hide, meat and bones because, sadly, they are worth more dead than alive. H.R. 1006 will help to solve the problem by making it illegal to buy, sell, or trade certain large exotic cats in interstate or foreign commerce.

Under the terms of the bill, the term ''prohibited wildlife species'' is defined to include lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars and cougars and the hybrids of those species. The measure does not ban the private ownership of these cats and specific exemptions have been provided by qualified aquariums, circuses, sanctuaries and zoos.

During our subcommittee hearing, there was a great deal of support for H.R. 1006. One of our witnesses was Ms.

Tippi Hedren who is not only a famous actress, but also someone who has dedicated her life to saving hundreds of wildlife species by operating the Shambala Sanctuary in southern California. In her remarks, Ms. Hedren noted that the Captive Wildlife Safety Act is a bipartisan, commonsense measure to safeguard the public and prevent harm to animals. It will help to stop a largely underground, and in many cases criminal, economy that breeds, trades, and butchers wild, exotic and often endangered species.

Mr. Speaker, this is a timely solution to a growing problem, and I compliment the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) and his constituent, Tippi Hedren, for their tireless leadership on this legislation. I urge an aye vote on H.R. 1006.

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

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

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) said, H.R. 1006 is a noncontroversial bill that was passed and reported by voice vote by the Committee on Resources on September 11.

The final language incorporates some minor, noncontroversial changes that were made by the other body to further refine the bill passed by the House.

Recent news reports have repeatedly demonstrated that the holding and unsupervised breeding of large cats, such as lions and tigers, is not only dangerous to the handlers and the general public, but this growing trend is also extremely harmful to the welfare of these magnificent predatory animals.

The limited provisions in this legislation will finally provide a straightforward strategy to address this problem by prohibiting the interstate trade in these animals or hybrids derived from these animals. Moreover, this legislation will ensure that in the future, only those facilities that are Federally or State licensed or have the requisite capabilities to care for these animals are allowed to do so. We can only hope this transition will be short.

I commend the bill's sponsors, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) for their tireless leadership in bringing forward this sensible animal welfare legislation, and I urge Members to support this bill.

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

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON).

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I rise in strong support for H.R. 1006, the Captive Wildlife Safety Act. I thank the gentleman from Maryland for his support and for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor.

This act will take a large stride in preventing future acts by lions, tigers, and other exotic cats to people in our towns and cities across the country. In early October, a tiger found in a New York City apartment generated wide media attention to the issue of private ownership of wild animals such as lions and tigers. While this seems like an isolated incident, it represents one of the many attacks that have occurred over the last several years. Before we saw footage of the 400-pound tiger on the national news, we saw reports that people of all ages, including children, have fallen victim to injury or death by such animals. This problem has persisted over time as trade of lions, tigers and other big cats have continued to flourish.

Some estimates state that there are more than 15,000 exotic cats living in captivity in the United States. While some are held in zoological institutions and preserves, most of these animals are maintained as pets, caged in back yards, basements or closets. These animals can be purchased at auctions or on Web sites that advertise and sell these animals.

Lions and tigers are inherently hardwired to hunt, attack and defend themselves with brutal force when feeling threatened. It is for this reason that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Zoo and Aquarium Association have taken public stands against keeping these dangerous carnivores as pets.

The dangers these big cats pose to people are self-evident and well documented. In Loxahatchee, Florida, last February, a 58-year-old woman was bitten in the head by a 750-pound pet Siberian-Bengal tiger mix. In Lexington, Texas, in October 2001, a 3-year-old boy was killed by his stepfather's pet tiger. This past April, two people fell victim to tiger attacks, a 35-year-old woman in Adair, Oklahoma, and a 32-year-old man in Hennepin, Illinois. Both these tigers were being held at unaccredited animal parks, and the results are all too clear.

These animals require trained personnel equipped with the proper tools and facilities to ensure they are kept in an environment where the probability of an attack is lowered to the safest possible level. How can we expect a person with no experience in caring for a tiger or lion to have the knowledge and education to take necessary safeguards to prevent an attack? People in neighborhoods and communities across the country should no longer have to take that risk.

This legislation would add lions, tigers, cheetahs, leopards, jaguars, and cougars to the Lacey Act to prohibit these animals from being sold or purchased in interstate or foreign commerce. This will greatly decrease the possibility of one of these animals escaping from captivity, bringing further harm and injury to innocent people around the Nation.

I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) for helping me on this bipartisan effort. I also extend special thanks to the Committee on Resources chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), and once again the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), whose leadership was essential in this endeavor.

I also want to send my gratitude to a dear friend and constituent of mine, Tippi Hedren, whose expertise and knowledge helped in the introduction of this bill, and who, for more than 30 years, has worked tirelessly in the defense, protection and care for animals.

In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1006 which will help stop the spread of big cats and provide an essential safety mechanism to further decrease the number of attacks on people by these ferocious animals.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), a sponsor of the bill.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and his efforts for helping to bring this bill to the floor. And I also thank the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) for his steadfast efforts to get this bill before the committee. I also want to take a moment to thank Loren Bausell and Jean Flemma, both former staff of mine, who helped initially craft this legislation when I introduced this bill has year, and worked with the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) on this year's proposal.

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I also want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), chairman of the Committee on Resources; and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), the subcommittee chair, for their efforts. I would like to join the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) in also thanking Tippi Hedren, who has been involved in this issue for so many years and whom I have had an opportunity to meet with numerous times on this subject matter. To see this bill now come to the floor I think is an important milestone in her effort for the safety of the public and for the welfare of these large animals.

I hope we can quickly reconcile the differences between the House and Senate legislation and get this enacted into law this year. This bipartisan bill represents a firm commitment to protect the safety of the American public and the welfare of wild animals that are increasingly kept as pets.

Our bill provides a first step in addressing a growing national problem. According to best estimates, there are more than 5,000 tigers in captivity in the United States. There are perhaps more tigers in captivity than there are tigers in their native habitats throughout the range in Asia. I have got a stack of news articles over an inch

thick describing instances in almost every State where some exotic pet escaped and was roaming around a suburban neighborhood. There are also more disturbing articles about well-intentioned pet owners who have run out of money because the feeding of a 200-pound tiger is very expensive. Then there are the cases where the animals, which are far from domesticated, harm their owners or others.

Owning an exotic cat is not like owning Morris the house cat. These animals are big, they cost a lot to feed, and they are one degree away from their wild instincts at any moment. The Captive Wildlife Safety Act bars the interstate sale or transportation of lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs and cougars, or their hybrids, in an attempt to exercise some control over the burgeoning interstate commerce of these animals. The legislation would not ban all private ownership of these prohibited species; rather, it would outlaw the commerce of these animals for use as pets.

The bill is specifically aimed at the unregulated and untrained individuals who are maintaining these wild animals as exotic pets. Zoos, circuses, and sanctuaries are better equipped with both the physical and financial resources to care for these animals and are not affected by this legislation.

At a time when almost anything can be bought on the Internet, it is not surprising that the animals can all be purchased through the more than 1,000 Web sites that promote private ownership of these wild animals. The Captive Wildlife Safety Act represents an emerging consensus on the need for comprehensive Federal legislation to regulate what type of animals can be kept as pets.

We simply have got to understand that we have got to do this both for the safety of our neighborhoods which now has occurred both in suburban areas and rural areas and even now in urban areas with the captive keeping of these animals. We have got to do it for the safety of the neighborhoods, and we have got to do it for the welfare of these animals. We cannot let the care of these animals, the welfare of these animals be kept in a haphazard fashion based upon the whims of an individual at any given time simply to grab the ownership of one of these animals only later to find out that they are not trained or capable in other ways to take care of these cats or financially cannot take care of them and they either turn them over to the public or they set them loose or these cats escape and cause danger in the neighborhoods. It is not fair to the animals, and it is certainly not in the best interest of our communities. I would hope that we would be able to pass this legislation right away.

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

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I just want to make a closing comment. I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) for their effort to stay steadfast with this legislation to get it passed. I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) for assisting us in this. I also want to thank the committee staff on both sides of the aisle for their knowledge and information and help with the passing of this bill. I urge my colleagues to vote ''aye.''

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1006, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARD OF CONCESSIONS IN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1204) to amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to establish requirements for the award of concessions in the National Wildlife Refuge System, to provide for maintenance and repair of properties located in the System by concessionaires authorized to use such properties, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1204

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

SECTION 1. LEASES, PERMITS, AND CONTRACTS FOR BUILDINGS, FACILITIES, AND PROPERTIES IN THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.) is amended by—

(1) striking section 6 (relating to amendments to other laws, which have executed);

(2) redesignating section 5 (16 U.S.C. 668ee) as section 6; and

(3) inserting after section 4 the following:

''SEC. 5. CONCESSION CONTRACTS.

''(a) CONTRACT REQUIREMENT.—(1) The Secretary shall not authorize a person to use any land or water in the System for any activity described in subsection (b), except under a contract that complies with the requirements established under subsection (c).

''(2) The Secretary may not award a contract required under this subsection except under a competitive bidding process.

''(3) This subsection does not apply with respect to any administrative site, visitors facility, or revenue producing visitor service mandated or authorized pursuant to section 1306 or 1307 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3196, 3197).

''(b) COVERED CONCESSION ACTIVITIES.—(1) The activity referred to in subsection (a) is any commercial activity conducted to provide accommodations, facilities, or services to members of the public who are visiting lands or waters in the System, for the purpose of providing such visitors recreational, educational, or interpretive enjoyment of lands or waters in the System.

''(2) Such activity does not include—

''(A) any activity carried out under a procurement contract, grant agreement, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreements;

''(B) the performance of volunteer services;

''(C) any activity by a governmental entity;

''(D) the operation of a bookstore in a refuge facility by a national wildlife refuge Friends organization; and

''(E) the performance of any guide or outfitter services authorized by any permit or other authorization issued by the Secretary, including services related to fishing, hunting, boating, sightseeing, hiking, or camping, except that this subparagraph does not include the construction, maintenance, or occupancy of significant structures or facilities.

''(c) STANDARDIZED CONTRACT.—(1) The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall issue regulations that implement this section.

''(2) Regulations under this subsection shall authorize a contract to use a provision other than those specified, by the Secretary as part of a standardized contract only if—

''(A) the provision addresses extenuating circumstances that are specific to a refuge or the contract; and

''(B) the provision is approved by the Secretary in writing.

''(3) The Secretary shall require in each contract provisions that require that any activity conducted in the System under the contract—

''(A) must be a compatible use; and

''(B) must be designed to—

''(i) conserve the natural and cultural resources of the System;

''(ii) facilitate the enjoyment of the lands and waters of the System by visitors to the System; and

''(iii) enhance such visitors' knowledge of the natural resources of the System.

''(d) MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR.—(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall include, in each contract that authorizes a person to use any land or water in the System for any activity described in subsection (b), provisions that—

''(A) authorize the person to maintain or repair any improvement on or in such land or water that the person is authorized to use for such activity; and

''(B) treat costs incurred by the person for such maintenance or repair as consideration otherwise required to be paid to the United States for such use.

''(2) This subsection does not authorize any maintenance or repair that is not directly related to an activity described in subsection (b) that is authorized by the contract.

''(3) The United States shall retain title to all real property that is maintained or repaired under this subsection.

''(e) NO COMPENSABLE INTEREST.—Nothing in this Act shall be considered to convey to any person any right to compensation for—

''(1) the value of any maintenance activities, repairs, construction, or improvements on or in land or water in the System; or

''(2) buildings, facilities, fixtures, and nonmovable equipment that the person is authorized to use under this Act.