

use the property to be conveyed under this section to provide visitor services, to construct and utilize facilities and utilities, and to implement wildlife conservation projects.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5094 will transfer title to Mattamuskeet Lodge from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to the State of North Carolina.

This historic facility, built by the WPA in 1937, is on the National Registry of Historic Places and is located on the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge in Hyde County, North Carolina. For years, the lodge served as a cultural focal point in eastern North Carolina, as local residents gathered at the facility for high school proms, weddings, and other community events. Duke University, East Carolina University, and Notre Dame and other universities also used the lodge as a research center to study the area's pristine coastal ecology wildlife. Sadly, 5 years ago the lodge was closed to the public because of dangerous structural problems.

In response, Senator Jesse Helms and I repeatedly urged the Fish and Wildlife Service to budget money for restoration of the lodge. When that effort failed, we obtained \$4.1 million in Federal funds to fix the problem. Regrettably, the Interior Department took most of the money to fight wildfires out west, and then refused to replace it.

As a result, North Carolina State Senate President Marc Basnight and I began to work on the idea of transferring the lodge to the State of North Carolina so it could be restored and reopened. We worked with the State administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and H.R. 5094 represents an agreement between all parties. In fact, in the Resources Committee hearing on the bill, the Fish and Wildlife Service testified in support of the bill, saying: "This legislation removes a significant obligation for the Service."

It is unfortunate that the lodge was allowed to deteriorate. H.R. 5094 is essential because, until the title is conveyed to the State of North Carolina, the process of restoring this landmark facility cannot begin.

I urge an "aye" vote on this bill.

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

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

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the aisle have no objection to this legislation which has been adequately explained by the majority. I would add that this conveyance comes at no cost to the Federal taxpayer. Furthermore, this legislation will remove a costly maintenance burden from the budget of this particular national wildlife refuge, and will ensure that this historic structure remains a public landmark benefiting the people of the region.

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5094.

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.

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2006

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5539) to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Reauthorization Act, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5539

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 "North American Wetlands Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 7(c) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4406(c)) is amended by striking "fiscal year 2007" and inserting "each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present H.R. 5539 introduced by the distinguished chairman of the House Committee on Resources, Congressman RICHARD POMBO. First enacted in 1989, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act has become one of our Nation's most effective conservation programs. Since the first wetlands grant was awarded, more than 1,500 conservation projects have been funded involving more than 3,200 partners. As a direct result, more than 23 million acres of wetlands and associated habitat have been protected, restored, or enhanced in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Wetlands are among the world's most productive environments. They are critical to the survival of not only thousands of wildlife species but also to the people who live along our coasts. Without these wetlands, the impact of the hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico would have been far worse in terms of loss of human life and destruction of private property.

Since the inception of this program, the amount of private nongovernmental matching money has been remarkable. It now stands in excess of \$2.1 billion. It is, therefore, not surprising that this legislation has been enthusiastically supported by more than 40 major conservation organizations.

For the past 5 years, Congress has appropriated about \$40 million each year for this program. Under H.R. 5539, existing funding levels would be extended for an additional 5 years. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act has been remarkably effective in conserving wetlands. I want to thank Chairman POMBO for his extraordinary leadership on this most important conservation issue.

I urge an "aye" vote on this legislation.

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

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

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, this week will mark the 20th anniversary of the creation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, a joint conservation strategy implemented by both the United States and Canada to protect and restore wetland habitat stretching across North America.

Soon after the establishment of this comprehensive strategy in 1986, the Congress, led by the Dean of the House, JOHN DINGELL, authorized the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to establish a matching-grant program to take the goals of the North American plan off the drawing board and

into the landscape of the North American continent.

As many Members know, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act has demonstrated time and time again that it is one of our greatest wetlands conservation success stories.

Grants under the act have not only generated hundreds of millions of non-Federal matching funds; these contributions have been converted into acquisition, conservation, protection and restoration of millions of acres of wetlands across the United States, Canada and Mexico. Few Federal programs deliver such a bang for the buck.

Although the current authorization of appropriations does not expire until next year, there is no reason why we should not reauthorize this highly popular and effective conservation program to ensure its future success.

I commend the sponsors of this legislation, most notably Resources Chairman POMBO, ranking Resource Committee Democrat Member NICK RAHALL and Congressman JOHN DINGELL, for their steadfast interest in this act and for their leadership in wetlands conservation.

I urge every Member to support this reauthorization.

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my support for the reauthorization of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. In my home State of Louisiana, we certainly understand the vital role that our wetlands serve for wildlife. Over five million waterfowl utilize the Louisiana wetlands during migration, while there are 79 individual endangered species that reside there. Louisiana's wetlands also provide our country with substantial economic benefits. Over 30 percent of the Nation's seafood is harvested from our wetlands, and the network of interconnected waterways provides ample routes for waterborne commerce.

I would also like to highlight the importance of Louisiana's coastal wetlands as our first line of defense against hurricanes. As we lose 25 square miles of wetlands per year, we lose the buffer that these wetlands provide against storm surge. The destructive effects of hurricanes were made abundantly clear last year with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. A healthy wetland system, combined with improved levees and other flood control projects, will help minimize the damage to south Louisiana when future storms arrive. With about two million people—over half the State's population—living in Louisiana's coastal parishes, we cannot afford to underestimate the importance of our wetlands. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "yea."

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5539, 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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 8, 2006.

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 8, 2006, at 3:30 pm:

That the Senate Passed without amendment H.R. 2808.

That the Senate Passed with an amendment, appoints conferees and requests a conference with the House H.R. 5631.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM BOUNDARY REVISION

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 138) to revise the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Jekyll Island Unit GA-06P, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 138

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

SECTION 1. REPLACEMENT OF CERTAIN JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM MAP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The map subtitled "GA-06P", relating to the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System unit designated as Coastal Barrier Resources System Jekyll Island Unit GA-06P, that is included in the set of maps entitled "John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System" and referred to in section 4(a) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(a)), is hereby replaced by another map relating to the unit entitled "John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Jekyll Island Unit GA-06P" and dated July 10, 2006.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall keep the replacement map referred to in subsection (a) on file and available for inspection in accordance with the provisions of section 4(b) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(b)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 138 introduced by Congressman JACK KINGSTON of Georgia. This legislation involves Jekyll Island, Georgia. This island is owned by the State, managed by the Jekyll Island Authority, and it was largely developed long before its inclusion in the Coastal Barrier Resources System in 1990. Unlike other Otherwise Protected Areas, the property was never held for conservation or recreation purposes. The Jekyll Island Authority has limited development on the island to 35 percent of the land area and currently 33 percent is developed.

Based on the legislative history, it is unclear why these lands were ever included in the system, since it does not meet any of the fundamental requirements for inclusion.

Under the terms of this legislation, the 35 percent planned area for development would be removed from the system which represents about 1,300 acres. In return, the State of Georgia has agreed to add 1,157 of fastlands and wetlands and other water to the Coastal Barrier Resources System.

Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote on this legislation.

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

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

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, the majority has already explained this legislation. I would only add that it is our understanding that the State is required, under its master plan for Jekyll Island, to limit development to preserve as open space no less than 40 percent of the island.

In light of stringent planning requirements, the corrections provided in the new maps adopted by this legislation should help the State realize its goals under the master plan without compromising the integrity of the Coastal Barrier Resources System.

We on this side of the aisle do not object to the consideration of this legislation.

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and want to thank both the majority Member and the minority Member for letting me talk a little bit about Jekyll Island.

During the course of the bill, we were having an immigration hearing in Cannon, and I came over here as quickly as I could; but I wanted to talk somewhat about the bill, which I understand the Resources Committee has accepted, and I certainly appreciate that.

A lot of people have done a lot of hard work on it, but I just wanted to say that the importance of this legislation, which is agreed to, goes back to