

Passage of this legislation settles all claims by the Pueblo pending in the United States Courts of Federal Claims. We understand that both the administration and the entire New Mexico delegation fully support this settlement and the corresponding legislation.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the passage of my bill, H.R. 5842, the "Pueblo of Isleta Settlement and Natural Resources Restoration Act of 2006." I jointly introduced this bill with the support of the entire New Mexico Delegation. While this bill is a settlement of claims against America by a tribal government, the result of this settlement will benefit the Pueblo, the State of New Mexico and all of America. By passing this bill we fulfill our responsibility for the trust and management of these tribal lands.

This bill will settle the Pueblo's claims against the United States for mismanagement damages of the Pueblo's tribal lands. The final settlement to this case was reached in June between the U.S. Departments of Interior and Justice and the tribal leaders and will expire at the end of this session of Congress unless we act.

H.R. 5842 in settling the claims will result in a tremendous victory not just for the Pueblo of Isleta but also for the whole of New Mexico. Specifically, the legislation provides \$32.8 million from the Department of Justice judgment fund and an additional \$7.2 million to be appropriated.

The victory in the bill is that these funds will be used for the acquisition, restoration, improvement, development and protection of the land, natural resources and cultural resources of the Pueblo. The measure also calls for the Pueblo to invest \$7.1 million of its own funds for the drainage and remediation of agricultural lands and the rehabilitation of forest and range land.

This commitment of the tribe shows their willingness to work to restore not just their lands but also a key portion of the Rio Grande Watershed bringing environmental improvements to every water user on the Rio Grande River.

If this bill isn't passed all we will have is more delay, more cost and a situation that benefits no one. Therefore, I urge all my colleagues to join me and help get this settlement agreement completed today. This bill benefits New Mexico, and protects the American taxpayer through a fair comprehensive settlement of the Pueblo's claim.

I want to thank many people for their hard work on making this bill a reality. Specifically, I want to thank Governor Robert Benavides of Isleta for his hard work and leadership in making this settlement such a success for not just his citizens but all of New Mexico.

I want to thank my colleague, Mrs. WILSON for her help and my Chairman Mr. POMBO for his leadership. Finally, I appreciate the hard work of the House Resources staff, Chris Fluhr, Matt Miller, and Todd Willens for helping bring this legislation to the House floor today.

Again, this settlement is good for America and should be passed here today.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, we have no objection in regards to this legislation. I

will encourage its adoption this evening.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I have no additional Speakers, and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5842.

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.

DOUGLAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON, PUD CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4789) to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public land located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Wells Hydroelectric Project of Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, to the utility district, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4789

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 "Douglas County, Washington, PUD Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) PUBLIC LAND.—The term "public land" means the approximately 622 acres of Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and identified for conveyance on the map prepared by the Bureau of Land Management entitled "Douglas County Public Utility District Proposal" and dated March 2, 2006.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) PUD.—The term "PUD" means the Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF PUBLIC LAND, WELLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding the land use planning requirements of sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713), and notwithstanding section 24 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 818) and Federal Power Order for Project 2149, and subject to valid existing rights, if not later than 45 days after the date of completion of the appraisal required under subsection (b), the Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, submits to the Secretary of the Interior an offer to acquire the public land for the appraised value, the Secretary shall convey, not later than 30 days after the date of the offer, to the PUD all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the public land.

(b) APPRAISAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete an appraisal of the public land. The appraisal shall be conducted in accordance with the "Uniform Appraisal

Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions" and the "Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice".

(c) PAYMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the public land is conveyed under this section, the PUD shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the appraised value of the public land as determined under subsection (b).

(d) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize legal descriptions of the public land to be conveyed under this section. The Secretary may correct any minor errors in the map referred to in section 2 or in the legal descriptions. The map and legal descriptions shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(e) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—As a condition of conveyance, any costs related to the conveyance under this section shall be paid by the PUD.

(f) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—The Secretary shall deposit the proceeds from the sale in the working capital fund of the Bureau of Land Management established by section 306 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1736).

SEC. 4. SEGREGATION OF LANDS.

(a) WITHDRAWAL.—Except as provided in section 3(a), effective immediately upon enactment of this Act, and subject to valid existing rights, the public land is withdrawn from

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, and all amendments thereto;

(2) location, entry, and patenting under the mining laws, and all amendments thereto; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws, and all amendments thereto.

(b) DURATION.—This section expires two years after the date of enactment of this Act or on the date of the completion of the conveyance under section 3, whichever is earlier.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 4789 would convey nearly 400 acres of small isolated Bureau of Land Management parcels of land to the Wells Hydroelectric Project located in Anzwell, Washington. The project provides power to large parts of Oregon and Washington.

The small parcels being conveyed are difficult for the BLM to manage and makes management of the Wells Hydroelectric project area difficult for the utility company which manages its area not just for power generation, but also for a variety of public recreation uses.

The land would be conveyed for fair market value and the legislation ensures that recreational opportunities would continue.

I urge passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I too support this legislation. I encourage its

passage this evening and yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers and yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4789, 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.

ARTHUR V. WATKINS DAM ENLARGEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3626) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility of enlarging the Arthur V. Watkins Dam Weber Basin Project, Utah, to provide additional water for the Weber Basin Project to fulfill the purposes for which that project was authorized, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3626

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 "Arthur V. Watkins Dam Enlargement Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Arthur V. Watkins Dam is a feature of the Weber Basin Project, which was authorized by law on August 29, 1949.

(2) Increasing the height of Arthur V. Watkins Dam and construction of pertinent facilities may provide additional storage capacity for the development of additional water supply for the Weber Basin Project for uses of municipal and industrial water supply, flood control, fish and wildlife, and recreation.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF FEASIBILITY STUDY.

The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, is authorized to conduct a feasibility study on raising the height of Arthur V. Watkins Dam for the development of additional storage to meet water supply needs within the Weber Basin Project area and the Wasatch Front. The feasibility study shall include such environmental evaluation as required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and a cost allocation as required under the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (43 U.S.C. 485 et seq.).

SEC. 4. COST SHARES.

(a) *FEDERAL SHARE.*—The Federal share of the costs of the study authorized in section 3 shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the study.

(b) *IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.*—The Secretary shall accept, as appropriate, in-kind contributions of goods or services from the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District. Such goods and services accepted under this section shall be counted as part of the non-Federal cost share for the study.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$1,000,000 for the Federal cost share of the study authorized in section 3.

SEC. 6. SUNSET.

The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this Act shall terminate 10

years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 3626 introduced by our colleague the esteemed ROB BISHOP from Utah begins the effort to expand water storage in northern Utah to meet growing demands.

This legislation authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to look at the feasibility of enlarging the Arthur V. Watkins Dam for this purpose. I commend Mr. BISHOP for introducing this forward-thinking and bipartisan bill. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, we too support passage of this legislation, encourage its adoption, and yield back the remainder of our time.

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP), the author of the legislation.

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, of all of the water-related bills that the Resources Committee has discussed, in my opinion this is still the best dam bill that we have, which would expand the growth of the Arthur Watkins Dam and Willard Bay.

Yesterday the Science Committee produced several bills that came to this body to try and help with the issue of drought. That was the purpose of this bay and dam in 1957 when it was produced, to make sure that we can provide adequate water resources for agriculture, and the growing population in the State of Utah.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member, and specifically the staff and the subcommittee chairman for bringing this bill to the floor, and to fulfill my commitment to the majority leader, I promised as soon as we passed this bill to get a haircut, no later than Tuesday of next week.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3626, the Arthur V. Watkins Dam Enlargement Act of 2005. In terms of water-related bills, this is one of the best dam bills the Committee on Resources has considered this year. H.R. 3626 will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study which will consider enlarging the Arthur V. Watkins dam. In my home county of Box Elder, Utah, this facility is better known as Willard Bay.

Willard Bay is a popular recreation facility, drawing in outdoor enthusiasts from all over Utah. It is known for its great fishing, water skiing and beaches. Willard Bay is the furthest downstream facility operated by the Weber

Basin Water Conservancy District. The first phase was constructed between 1957 and 1964, with additional improvements being made as recent as the last decade. Willard Bay is an important water storage facility in my state and district. With its 215,000 acre feet capacity, the water resource in Willard Bay meets the culinary and recreational needs of hundreds of thousands of my constituents in the Top of Utah.

As the population of Northern Utah grows, the need for additional water storage capacity is acute. Utah recently emerged from a 5 year period of drought. Winter of 2005–2006 was favorable and helped to recharge our reservoirs, lakes and aquifers. However, being in the Intermountain West, there's no guarantee that every year will be a good water year. In the high deserts of Utah, every drop of water counts.

The water engineers of the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District are the brightest and hardest working individuals in their field. They have figured out how to use almost every drop of water in the reservoir. However, it is disconcerting to look out over the reservoir during the hot summer months, when there is a drought, and not see any water in the reservoir. By studying the feasibility to increase the storage capacity, we will hopefully be in a better position to meet the water needs of our people, in the next decade.

The administration testified in favor of H.R. 3626 at a congressional hearing last November. H.R. 3626 was subsequently discharged from the House Committee on Resources on a voice vote. It is a good bill and much needed by my constituents. I appreciate Chairman POMBO and his staff for their excellent work in bringing this dam bill—the best of all of them—to the floor today.

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3626, 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.

LOWER REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN STUDY ACT

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4750) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of implementing a water supply and conservation project to improve water supply reliability, increase the capacity of water storage, and improve water management efficiency in the Republican River Basin between Harlan County Lake in Nebraska and Milford Lake in Kansas, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4750

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 "Lower Republican River Basin Study Act".