

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".*

**SEC. 2. REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF STUDY.**—Pursuant to reclamation laws, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and in consultation and cooperation with the States of Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado, may conduct a study to—

(1) determine the feasibility of implementing a water supply and conservation project that will—

(A) improve water supply reliability in the Republican River Basin between Harlan County Lake in Nebraska and Milford Lake in Kansas, including areas in the counties of Harlan, Franklin, Webster, and Nuckolls in Nebraska and Jewel, Republic, Cloud, Washington, and Clay in Kansas (in this section referred to as the “Republican River Basin”);

(B) increase the capacity of water storage through modifications of existing projects or through new projects that serve areas in the Republican River Basin; and

(C) improve water management efficiency in the Republican River Basin through conservation and other available means and, where appropriate, evaluate integrated water resource management and supply needs in the Republican River Basin; and

(2) consider appropriate cost-sharing options for implementation of the project.

(b) **COST SHARING.**—The Federal share of the cost of the study shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the study, and shall be non-reimbursable.

(c) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary shall undertake the study through cooperative agreements with the State of Kansas or Nebraska and other appropriate entities determined by the Secretary.

(d) **COMPLETION AND REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this section the Secretary of the Interior shall complete the study and transmit to the Congress a report containing the results of the study.

(2) **EXTENSION.**—If the Secretary determines that the study cannot be completed within the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary—

(A) shall, at the time of that determination, report to the Congress on the status of the study, including an estimate of the date of completion; and

(B) complete the study and transmit to the Congress a report containing the results of the study by not later than that date.

(e) **SUNSET OF AUTHORITY.**—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. 4750, sponsored by Congressman Tom Osborne, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility of a water supply and conservation project in the Republican River Basin.

This legislation would enact into law one requirement of the Republican River Compact Settlement negotiated between the States of Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado, and approved by the United States Supreme Court in 2003.

The feasibility study would help clarify the opportunities to increase water

storage in the river basin, and is needed to increase water availability and encourage more efficient water use.

I urge my colleagues to support this needed 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 balance of our time.

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Mexico for yielding me time and bringing this forward, and for the rapidity with which we are moving through the bills tonight. We are sorry to slow you down. But the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and I would like to say a few words about this bill. He was a co-author with me.

As you mentioned, H.R. 4750 is a study as to how to more efficiently utilize water between Harlan County Dam in Nebraska and Milford Reservoir in Kansas. The reason this is so important is that Nebraska and Kansas signed a compact in 2002, which means that a lot of Nebraska water goes down the Republican River into Kansas, and Nebraska so far has been short. We are 100,000 acre feet short, as a matter of fact, over the last 3 years.

And this has been exacerbated by an extreme drought which we have had for the last 6 years. So this water shortage has made for a very critical situation. So if we can, through this study, allocate water more effectively, save some water, it will help farmers, ranchers, municipalities both in Nebraska and Kansas.

We want to thank you. We want to thank Mr. POMBO and the resources staff for bringing forth this bill on short notice. We think it is very important. We urge its passage. We appreciate the cooperation on both sides of the aisle on this bill.

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Mexico. I also thank the gentleman from Wisconsin this evening for being here in support of H.R. 4750. As has been indicated, this is a very important issue for many in both the State of Nebraska and the State of Kansas. I particularly want to express my appreciation to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and really the cooperation that has existed on very difficult issues between the State of Nebraska and the State of Kansas.

Water is a huge issue in the midwest. It always has been, probably always will be. But it is especially exacerbated by the fact of inadequate rainfall for now, four, five and six years in much of Kansas and much of Nebraska.

An agreement was reached, compact litigation ensued. Ultimately a settle-

ment of that litigation was reached. And that settlement provides for the State of Nebraska and the State of Kansas to come together, provide some money, share with the Federal Government.

The Department of Interior would then conduct a study. The State of Kansas, and I believe the State of Nebraska has appropriated this money for the fiscal year. That is why this legislation is so important to be timely considered and timely approved. All that now remains is for the Federal Government to meet its obligation under the settlement agreement.

The feasibility study is desperately needed to increase the water availability to find out how we do that, and to encourage its efficient use and conservation within our delivery system.

Madam Speaker, the feasibility study authorized by 4750 is not only necessary to ensure the State remains in compliance with that agreement, but to make certain that the economic, agriculture and personal use of water is done in a very efficient and effective way.

I urge Members of Congress to approve this legislation.

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I would remind the Members that this is a very bipartisan bill, everything being bipartisan except the name of the river basin being studied. I would urge passage.

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. 4750, 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.

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**LAS CIENEGAS ENHANCEMENT ACT**

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5016) to provide for the exchange of certain Bureau of Land Management land in Pima County, Arizona, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5016

*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 “Las Cienegas Enhancement Act”.*

**SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

*In this Act:*

(1) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term “Federal land” means the Sahuarita parcel of land consisting of approximately 1,280 acres, as depicted on the map entitled “Las Cienegas Enhancement Act—Federal Land” and dated May 9, 2006.

(2) **LANDOWNER.**—The term “landowner” means Las Cienegas Conservation, LLC.