

the Agriculture Under Secretary, who in response to my questioning said that the President will sign this bill into law.

On top of its stunning wild character, the 106,577-acre Wild Sky Wilderness is particularly noteworthy because it embraces lower elevation lands than most of the existing Federal wilderness areas in our State. As a result, the new wilderness will afford statutory protection to headwaters streams and watersheds vital to the survival and restoration of healthy runs of salmon and steelhead in the Skykomish River, for which the area is named.

Passage of this legislation contributes to the important goal of protecting a greater diversity of biological communities in our National Wilderness Preservation System—including deep, forested valleys as well as towering, ice-clad mountain peaks. This lower elevation wilderness land will provide greater opportunities for year-round recreational adventures for Washington State residents.

During the congressional consideration of this wilderness proposal, our committee has dealt with a question that all too easily can mislead those who are not familiar with the 1964 Wilderness Act and of the consistent approach Congress has followed over four decades now in applying the protection of that historic conservation law to additional portions of our Federal lands.

As Congress acts on wilderness proposals such as this Wild Sky Wilderness legislation, it is important that we take care to follow the legislative history of the Wilderness Act of 1964, which was a bipartisan product of our committee, and the precedents consistently laid down over the subsequent more than four decades as Congress has enacted more than 130 laws under both Democratic and Republican leadership that have designated new wilderness areas across our country.

It is clear that the Wilderness Act reserves to Congress alone the decision as to what Federal lands are “suitable” for designation as wilderness. Subsection 2(a) of the Wilderness Act specifies that “. . . no Federal lands shall be designated as ‘wilderness areas’ except as provided for in this Act or by a subsequent Act.” Subsection 3(c) further specifies that the President may make recommendations, but that “A recommendation of the President for designation as wilderness shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of Congress.”

Despite this full history of Congressional action, some tried to question the inclusion of certain lands in the Wild Sky Wilderness because these lands showed fading evidence of past logging, old roads, and similar evidence of human use and impact. This objection, sometimes referred to as the “purity theory” of wilderness, is not based on an accurate understanding of the Wilderness Act and the intent of those who enacted it.

The new Wild Sky Wilderness includes some evidence of past human uses and impacts, including evidence of logging, old logging roads and logging railroad grades, and some culverts installed along those roads and railroad grades. In this way, it is no different than many wilderness areas Congress has previously designated as wilderness.

During a debate here on the House floor in 1969, Representative Morris K. Udall, the former chairman of our committee and himself one of the architects of the Wilderness Act, explained this practical approach intended by

the authors of the Wilderness Act to the House:

It would be nice to have our national wilderness system absolutely pure and completely free of any sign of the hand of man. But the fact is that we are getting a late start in this business of preserving America's wilderness. Logging has occurred; wood roads have been opened and later abandoned; cabins have been built which in time have decayed and fallen down; in the interest of public health and safety and to protect the natural resources there may sometimes be lookout towers and patrol cabins. All of these are imperfections within the wilderness. Yet how often is man able to create or to establish anything which is truly perfect? Very, very rarely—if ever. [Congressional Record, September 24, 1969]

Mr. Speaker, these remarks by Rep. Udall perfectly explicate the practical approach that Congress has always followed as we choose lands for protection in our National Wilderness Preservation System. He went on to further explain that:

Congress has declared it is our national policy to preserve America's wilderness resource. Whether some prior existing imperfection—something less than absolutely purity—is to be accepted into the national wilderness system should be determined by whether its inclusion will significantly contribute to the implementation of this national policy of wilderness preservation or whether its omission will significantly obstruct this policy. [CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, September 24, 1969]

In keeping with the practical approach he has so cogently summarized, I want to emphasize that some of the low elevation lands within the Wild Sky Wilderness show evidence of past human use and impacts. We have made a careful judgment that inclusion of these lands is important to serve the overall purpose of wilderness protection. As chairman Udall would have put it, every acre in the proposed Wild Sky Wilderness exhibits “substantially all the value of wilderness.” We should preserve it.

I would also like to take a moment to pay tribute to Ms. Karen Fant, who devoted her life to preserving wilderness and wildlife in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. She spent four decades organizing for conservation, working for groups including the Alaska Coalition, Sierra Club, Olympic Park Associates, Wild Sky Working Group, Washington Wilderness Coalition, and Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition. Her activism spanned many years, crossed state lines, and extended as far as Chongqing, China, where she dedicated herself to developing a strategy to address environmental degradation in Asia as a board member of the Seattle-Chongqing Sister City Association.

Karen was instrumental in passing the 1984 Washington State Wilderness Act, which sets aside over one million acres of new wilderness. She also initiated the efforts to preserve Wild Sky. I cannot imagine a better way to honor Karen's conservation legacy than for my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 886, the Wild Sky Wilderness Act of 2007. Passage of this legislation is the perfect tribute to Karen's legacy.

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 886.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCERNING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLOODING OF CELILO FALLS

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 217) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the 50th anniversary of the flooding of Celilo Falls.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 217

Whereas Celilo Falls, located near The Dalles, Oregon, was a great fishing and trading location for Indian tribes and has been called the “Wall Street of the West” by historians;

Whereas artifacts suggest tribes as far as Alaska, the Great Plains and the Southwest United States came to trade and fish at Celilo for over 10,000 years;

Whereas the Umatilla, Nez Perce, Yakama and Warm Springs tribes reserved their fishing rights at their usual and accustomed places, including Celilo, when they signed treaties with the United States;

Whereas on March 10, 1957, to provide hydroelectricity and irrigation, The Dalles Dam was constructed;

Whereas the completion of the dam inundated Celilo in six hours, quickly changing the way of life for tribes that fished at Celilo; and

Whereas tribes still live and fish along the river, exercising their treaty rights agreed with the Congress of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes the 50th anniversary of the flooding of Celilo Falls and the change of life it imposed upon tribal peoples.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 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 Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

The purpose of House Resolution 217, introduced by our colleague from Oregon, Mr. DAVID WU, is to express the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the 50th anniversary of the flooding of Celilo Falls. Celilo Falls was a unique natural feature formed as the Columbia River carved a path

through the hard volcanic rock east of the Cascade Mountains. On March 10, 1957, the Dalles Dam was completed, flooding the historic fishing and trading area around Celilo Falls.

For over 10,000 years, the falls had been an area of intense trading and commerce for Indian tribes from as far away as Alaska, the Great Plains, and the Southwest. The falls were also noted as an extremely abundant fishery, where tons of Columbia River salmon were caught, dried, and traded.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution simply seeks to recognize the 50th anniversary of the flooding of the falls, and to remember Celilo Falls as an important area of fishing and trading for many tribal peoples.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 217, and I offer my congratulations to Congressman WU for his leadership on this resolution.

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

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

H. Res. 217 recognizes the flooding of Celilo Falls in Oregon. In 1957, the U.S. Corps of Engineers constructed the multipurpose Dalles Dam to provide much needed hydropower and irrigation for the Pacific Northwest. As a result of the dam, the falls were inundated, changing the way four tribes fished at the location.

This resolution recognizes the 50th anniversary of that change.

It is my understanding that this resolution will not be used for future litigation claims and legislative purposes, so we have no objection.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU).

Mr. WU. I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, for thousands of years, a village stood at Celilo Falls on the Columbia River, which today is the boundary between the States of Oregon and Washington.

Celilo Falls was known to Native Americans as a center for gathering and trade in the Pacific Northwest. It was so important that some have even called Celilo Falls the Wall Street of the West. Lewis and Clark described it as a great emporium where "the neighboring nations assemble."

Artifacts suggest that tribes as far away as Alaska, the Great Plains, and the Southwest of the United States came to trade at the falls for salmon and other goods. The trade was so extensive and the number of tribes who came to Celilo was so extensive that the number of languages spoken developed into a trade jargon known as Chinookan, and it was used among the people conducting business at Celilo.

Celilo Falls was also known as a great salmon fishery. Salmon were both sacred to and provided economic

wealth for the tribes who fished in the area. Thousands gathered to fish and trade along the river.

Fifty years ago, Celilo Falls changed forever. In 1957, the Dalles Dam was completed a few miles downriver from Celilo. Once the dam was completed and the flood gates closed, Celilo Falls was inundated in just 6 hours.

The Dalles Dam was constructed to provide hydroelectricity, irrigation, and to enable navigation. The dams along the Columbia and other rivers created numerous benefits for the Pacific Northwest. The slack water created by the dams provided easy and safe river navigation upriver to deliver goods to the inland Northwest. Today, barges can travel as far as Lewiston, Idaho, because of the navigable waters created by the dams.

However, the benefits created by the dams changed a way of life for the tribal peoples who were the first inhabitants of the Columbia River Basin. While some may not remember Celilo Falls before the Dalles Dam was completed, its effects remain fresh in the minds of many of the tribes of the Pacific Northwest. Recently, the 50th anniversary of the flooding of the falls was acknowledged by these tribes. This event both mourned what was lost and celebrated what remains today, tribal stories and culture, a way of life. Attendees included tribal officials and tribal members throughout the Pacific Northwest, nontribal members, and various Federal, State, and local governmental officials. The attendees reflect the relationship of the various groups who now work together to manage the river for all those who live in and visit the region today.

This resolution seeks to acknowledge and commemorate the flooding of Celilo Falls. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WU. I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. PEARCE. I would appreciate engaging in a brief colloquy regarding H. Res. 217.

Is it the understanding of the gentleman from Oregon that the enactment of this resolution will not be used for litigation or legislative purposes?

Mr. WU. The gentleman is correct. The purpose of the resolution is commemorative, and limited to an expression of the sense of the House of Representatives.

Mr. PEARCE. I thank the gentleman for that clarification.

Mr. WU. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I would yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

(Mr. WALDEN of Oregon asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, today we memorialize and remember the events of more than 50 years ago when the gates closed for

the first time on the Dalles Dam, and within 6 hours another wild and noisy stretch of the mighty Columbia River fell silent and serene in the name of progress.

Celilo Falls was also known as Wyam, which means echo of falling water, or sound of water upon the rocks. And, indeed, what a sound it must have been to hear the fourth largest river in America as it crashed over basalt rocks and cliffs. Lewis and Clark's journals refer to the falls as a place where "the river turned on edge."

This photograph here to my left is actually one my father took as a colorized slide before the falls was inundated. It shows the tribal members fishing from these wooden platforms, roped to the edge with ropes around their waist. They would spread sand out on the platforms because all the water made the platforms so slick, and then they would engage with the dip nets to hoist 40-pound, 50-pound, 60-pound salmon out of the river. The trick was not to get more than two fish in your net because that might be more than you weighed, and you ran the risk of being dragged into the river. Indeed, there was a young man who fell in the river, and later was rescued and saved because he ended up in a net and was able to be pulled out.

What a river it was and what a river it is. As the Columbia River passed over these falls, the sound could be heard from miles away. During periods of high water, nearly 1 million cubic feet of water per second would pass over these falls. Now, let me put that in comparison: Niagara Falls in New York, 200,000 cubic feet of water passes over those falls.

□ 1245

A million would have passed over these. But it wasn't just these falls, because you see the basalt rapids continued on toward the Dalles for 11 miles. So not only were there these falls, but there were other rapids and falls along the way. And it was more than just a roaring falls or an historic and bountiful fishing area. It was, as some historians noted, "the Wall Street of the West."

In his book, "The Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Trout, Their Fight for Survival," author Anthony Netboy described the scene this way:

"Here came Indians from the interior who had no fishing grounds of their own or whose fishing was poor, to trade for dried salmon, offering peltries from Montana, jade axes from the Fraser River area, horn of mountain sheep, baskets, rabbit or bearskins. The Klamath and Modoc peoples from Klamath Lake brought slaves and dentalia shells, their medium of exchange. Trade connections with the Dalles, says the anthropologist Philip Drucker, in 'Cultures of the North Pacific Coast,' stretched across the Rockies and into the Great Plains."

This was one of the most significant fisheries of the Columbia River. In

“Recalling Celilo,” author Elizabeth Woody writes:

“Historically, the Wyampum lived at Wyam for over 12,000 years. Estimates vary, but Wyam is among the longest continuously inhabited communities in North America. The elders tell us we have been here from time immemorial.

“Today we know Celilo Falls as a lost landmark. It was a place as revered as one’s own mother.”

Woody goes on to write:

“What happened at Wyam was more significant than entertainment. During the day, women cleaned large amounts of finely cut fish and hung the parts to dry in the heat of the arid landscape. So abundant were the fish passing Wyam on their upriver journey that the fish caught there could feed a whole family through the winter. Many families had enough salmon to trade with other tribes or individuals for specialty items.

“No one would starve if they could work. Even those incapable of physical work could share other talents. It was a dignified existence.”

The tribes called themselves “salmon people.” And it is easy to understand why. In 1805, Lewis and Clark estimated seeing five tons of dried salmon stacked in a single village near the Dalles.

The dawn of the 20th century brought change to the area with the construction in 1913 of the Dalles-Celilo Canal, providing the first safe passage around the falls. Then in the 1930s and 1940s, more pressures built as down-river communities suffered from floods, river traffic increased, and a Nation at war needed more electricity to power its industry.

In 1950, Congress authorized the construction of the Dalles Dam, and on March 10, 1957, the gates of this river-blocker closed and within hours, silence overtook Celilo Falls, Wyam and the way of life known for centuries.

Now, plans for construction of the dam were battled by Chief Tommy Thompson as he and the tribal members knew that the end of the falls would mean the end of life as they had known it. But they could not stop the effort. Their village was relocated. The government paid tribal members in one-time sums of nearly \$4,000, and promised sustained fisheries and access to new fishing sites.

Layfee Foster, of the Dalles, took this famous photograph of Chief Tommy Thompson and his wife, Flora, and their granddaughter, Linda George, whom I met at the ceremony at Celilo Falls last month.

I would like to read from Mr. Netboy’s book again, as he eloquently states the last of the first salmon rites that were held in April of 1956. He writes:

“On Sunday, April 20, 1956, when the Dalles Dam was about to be enclosed and the Celilo fishery, dating back to a long forgotten time would be inundated, I witnessed the last of the first salmon rites at Celilo village. The day

was warm and sunny, and hundreds of tribesmen gathered for this sad occasion on the banks of the Columbia, the women wearing multi-colored flowing dresses and scarves, and the men awkward-fitting store clothes. Emissaries of Tommy Thompson, chief of the host band, the Wyams, said to be over 100 years old, had to seek elsewhere than the Columbia for salmon because an early spring thaw in the mountains made it impossible to use the historic site to catch enough fish for the festival. They bought 400 pounds of salmon in Portland, and members of Warm Springs Reservation who had fishing rights at Celilo helped out with donations of venison and roots for the occasion.

“The stolid, bronze-colored chief sat at the head table in the longhouse, surrounded by silent and respectful tribesmen squatting on mats on the earthen floor. Outside, slabs of salmon were being smoked over log fires tended by women, just as when Lewis and Clark camped here in 1805 and smoked a pipe of peace with the chief.

“Chief Thompson blessed the first fish caught a few days before and made a speech in his native language that was charged with emotion. Before it was over, the vigorous old man was weeping. Although I did not understand a word, I could imagine the feelings that inspired him as he saw the last bit of land held by the tribe about to go underwater and the ancient picturesque fishery disappear. He had seen the white settlers pour into the valley, and the baleful impact they made on the natives’ culture. The churning river where he had fished as a youth, from rickety platforms, would become a placid lake. There were tears in the eyes of many who listened to him.

“When the First Salmon rites were concluded, the chief permitted newsmen to photograph him with his younger wife, Flora. Usually the festival lasted a few days, but this time it was confined to one. There were bone games in the afternoon and dances in the evening. The next morning the Portland Oregonian reported an interview with Henry Thompson, son of the chief, who said, and I quote, ‘When the dam is finished and there are no more fish at Celilo, my father will still live here and will die here. I too will die here. Both of us were born at Celilo, and here,’ pointing to the Indian cemetery on a bluff of the village, ‘amid the rimrock, we will be buried.’

“Tommy Thompson died 3 years later, and without him, without the roaring falls, and with salmon caught elsewhere, the First Salmon ceremonies held occasionally at the new Celilo village built by the Corps of Engineers on the bluff lost their flavor and meaning and were eventually abandoned.”

Today the Dalles Dam employs 150 people, generates enough electricity to power two cities the size of Portland, Oregon, helps control run-off in the spring. The power it produces makes no

carbon emissions and is 90 percent efficient.

Today the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is rehabilitating the Celilo village, spending \$13 million to build a new sewer plant, new houses, a playground, school and update the water and electrical system. A new longhouse was completed last year.

Today we memorialize the situation at Celilo, the loss of that great falls and the work that remains ahead.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) as much time as he may consume.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman’s courtesy, and I am pleased to join with my colleagues from Oregon in recognizing the importance of the anniversary of the flooding of Celilo Falls.

Mr. Speaker, we have, in the Northwest, I think, in recent years, started to re-evaluate our relationship to native peoples and to the special sites that are holy for them.

I remember in my youth Celilo Falls when it was a site of the native fishing, going by on a train, watching the dip netting, pulling these fish from the falls. It was something that I didn’t properly appreciate at the time. People in my own family were talking about the great dam that was about to be constructed, and using it as a metaphor for progress in our community.

Well, transforming the mighty Columbia River into a machine that has aided navigation and electric generation has had many positive aspects for the Pacific Northwest, but it has been devastating for the Native Americans.

Sadly, our history, since the treaty of 1855, has been one where we have not always honored even the provisions in those treaties to Native Americans. And particularly the site at Celilo, where we are talking about over 10,000 years of history, strikes special significance. It is an unparalleled meeting point for people of native tribes that, slowly but surely, now we are starting to recognize, starting to appreciate, the Federal Government is starting to invest in working with them to restore the heritage. I hope that this recognition of the significance of the 50th anniversary of the flooding of the falls might be another signal that we are appreciating our responsibility in partnership with native people, the need to work with them in terms of first foods, in terms of historic sites, in terms of restoring the spirit of partnership in those treaties too often that has not been observed.

I appreciate my colleague, Congressman WU, bringing this forward. I appreciate the Congress focusing attention on it today, but I hope it is the beginning of a more sustained effort to keep faith with our native people.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I cannot enhance or extend the word pictures given by my colleague from Oregon and would, therefore, reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, let me, if I may, inquire of the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) if he has any additional speakers.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I do not have other speakers and would yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 217.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CENTRAL TEXAS WATER RECYCLING ACT OF 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 609) to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 609

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 "Central Texas Water Recycling Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. PROJECT AUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (Public Law 102-575; 43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 16 the following new section:

"SEC. 16. CENTRAL TEXAS WATER RECYCLING AND REUSE PROJECT.

"(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary, in cooperation with the City of Waco and other participating communities in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities to reclaim and reuse water in McLennan County, Texas.

"(b) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of the project described in subsection (a) shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost.

"(c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation and maintenance of the project described in subsection (a).

"(d) SUNSET OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this section shall terminate 10 years after the date of enactment of this section."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 2 of Public Law 102-575 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 16 the following:

"Sec. 16. Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project."

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

We support the passage of H.R. 609 and commend our colleague, Representative CHET EDWARDS, for his persistence and hard work to secure authorization for this important project.

The purpose of this legislation is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project. This project would treat and recycle waste water generated by the City of Waco and six neighboring communities. Recycling and reuse of this water would decrease the strain on older treatment plants in the area and help meet future demands, providing reclaimed water for golf courses, landscaping, and other industrial uses.

The water recycling project identified in this bill will be eligible for limited financial assistance from the Bureau of Reclamation's title 16 water recycling program. Water recycling and desalination projects are proven technologies that can help stretch limited water supplies in areas such as Texas. The City of Waco is keenly aware that additional sources of water will be required to meet future water demands and should be commended for looking for sustainable solutions.

In the 109th Congress, the Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing on almost identical legislation. This legislation was subsequently passed by the House under suspension of the rules.

I want to express our full support for this legislation. I offer my congratulations to Congressman EDWARDS for his leadership.

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

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

This bill authorizes Federal participation in a water reuse project in McLennan County, Texas. As central Texas cities experience rapid population growth and increased water demand, these communities are being proactive to better utilize their existing water supplies. We have no objection to this well-intended bill.

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

□ 1300

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, let me first begin by thanking Mr. GRIJALVA for his leadership and for his kind comments about our work together on this. Let me also thank Mr. PEARCE for his cooperative, bipartisan effort. These are the kinds of bills that don't fill up the press galleries, but they are certainly important to the folks in our communities throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, our communities and Nation have a responsibility to be good stewards of our water resources. And that is why I introduced H.R. 609, the Central Texas Water Recycling Act of 2007.

This bill will authorize an innovative water recycling program in partnership with my hometown of Waco, Texas, and several neighboring communities. It supports efforts to manage water resources efficiently in McLennan County by strategically locating regional satellite treatment plants that will not only provide for conservation of our community's water supply, but by doing so efficiently, will help reduce costs to taxpayers.

The initial projects under this legislation can provide up to 10 million gallons of water per day, reuse water, thereby reducing the water demand on Lake Waco. Instead of wasting valuable drinking water for use in factories and on golf courses in the July and August heat of my district, we will be able to use lower-cost recycled wastewater for those purposes and save enough drinking water to supply 20,000 households in central Texas.

The bottom line is this: Being good stewards of our water supply, we will reduce water costs for businesses, save central Texas taxpayers millions of dollars, and encourage economic growth in our area.

I want to thank Chairman RAHALL and Ranking Member YOUNG for their support of this measure; and the subcommittee chairman, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and the ranking subcommittee member, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, for their key role on this bill's passage. This is the kind of bipartisan effort, as I mentioned earlier, that shows what Congress can do when we work together on a bipartisan basis.

I also want to thank the mayors, city council, and staff from the cities of Waco, Lorena, Robinson, Hewitt, Woodway, Bellmead, and Lacy-Lakeview for their cooperative efforts that brought us here today.

Finally, I want to extend special credit to Waco's city manager, Larry Groth, a very special friend of mine, for his extraordinary leadership on this bill. Without Mr. Groth's leadership, hard work, and professionalism, we would not be here today. And as a citizen of Waco, I am grateful for his outstanding service to my hometown.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.