

(A) establishing a population-based database that may be used for longitudinal and other research on paralysis and other disabling conditions;

(B) developing comprehensive paralysis and other physical disability action plans and activities focused on the items listed in subsection (b)(4);

(C) assisting State-based programs in establishing and implementing partnerships and collaborations that maximize the input and support of people with paralysis and other physical disabilities and their constituent organizations;

(D) coordinating paralysis and physical disability activities with existing State-based disability and health programs;

(E) providing education and training opportunities and programs for health professionals and allied caregivers; and

(F) developing, testing, evaluating, and replicating effective intervention programs to maintain or improve health and quality of life.

(2) To private health and disability organizations for the purpose of—

(A) disseminating information to the public;

(B) improving access to services for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities and their caregivers;

(C) testing model intervention programs to improve health and quality of life; and

(D) coordinating existing services with State-based disability and health programs.

(d) **COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary shall ensure that activities under this section are coordinated as appropriate by the agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011.

TITLE XV—SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FACILITIES AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 15101. LABORATORY AND SUPPORT SPACE, EDGEWATER, MARYLAND.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT.**—The Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution is authorized to design and construct laboratory and support space to accommodate the Mathias Laboratory at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Maryland.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section a total of \$41,000,000 for fiscal years 2009 through 2011. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 15102. LABORATORY SPACE, GAMBOA, PANAMA.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT.**—The Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution is authorized to construct laboratory space to accommodate the terrestrial research program of the Smithsonian tropical research institute in Gamboa, Panama.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section a total of \$14,000,000 for fiscal years 2009 and 2010. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 15103. CONSTRUCTION OF GREENHOUSE FACILITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution is authorized to construct a greenhouse facility at its museum support facility in Suitland, Maryland, to maintain the horticultural operations of, and preserve the orchid collection held in trust by, the Smithsonian Institution.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$12,000,000 to carry out this section. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to designate certain land as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, to authorize certain programs and activities in

the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.”.

The amendment (No. 686) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: “To designate certain land as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, to authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.”.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, today the Senate has passed H.R. 146, the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009. As I said during the debate, H.R. 146 includes over 160 bills from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and reflects many years of hard work.

This achievement would not have been possible without the hard work of our outstanding staff. Both our ranking member, Senator MURKOWSKI, and I are very fortunate to have a very dedicated and experienced professional staff. They service the committee and the Senate well. They deserve our thanks.

On the Democratic staff of the committee, I would like to thank the committee's staff director, Bob Simon, and chief counsel, Sam Fowler, for all of their work on this legislation, as on all the legislation that comes through our committee. I would also like to thank senior counsel Patty Beneke; counsel Mike Connor, who worked on all of the water issues included in the bill; counsels David Brooks, Kira Finkler, and Scott Miller, who coordinated all of the park and public lands bills; professional staff members Jorge Silva-Banuelos, who worked very hard on many of the New Mexico land bills; and Jonathan Epstein; and two National Park Service fellows, Karl Cordova, who worked on the committee last year, and Mike Gauthier, who is on the staff for the current year.

I would also like to thank the committee's chief clerk, Mia Bennett; executive assistant Amanda Kelly; communications director Bill Wicker; press secretary David Marks; and staff assistants Rachel Pasternack, Anna-Kristina Fox, Gina Weinstock, and Rosemarie Calabro.

On the Republican side, let me acknowledge Senator MURKOWSKI's new staff director, McKie Campbell, and chief counsel Karen Billups. I would also like to note my thanks to former Senator Domenici's staff director during the previous Congress, Frank Macchiarola, former minority chief counsel, Judy Pensabene, and former professional staff member Tom Lillie. I would also like to recognize counsel Kellie Donnelly; as well as professional staff members Frank Gladics, Josh Johnson, Chuck Kleeschulte, and Kaleb Froehlich, all of whom made significant contributions to this bill.

In addition, I am very grateful to the committee's nondesignated staff: Allison Seyfurth, Dawson Foard, Nancy

Hall, Amber Passmore, Monica Chestnut, and Wanda Green.

H.R. 146 contains over 1,200 pages of text, and was the subject of numerous revisions. I am grateful to the help of the Senate legislative counsel office, and Gary Endicott, Heather Burnham, and Colin Campbell in particular.

I would also like to thank Cliff Isenberg from the Senate Budget Committee for his help; as well as Deb Reis from the Congressional Budget Office, and Tyler Kruzich, formerly with CBO.

Finally, let me acknowledge the great help in bringing the bill to the floor we received from the majority leader and his staff: Neil Kornze, Chris Miller, Randy DeValck, Gary Myrick, and, as always, the secretary for the majority, Lula Davis, as well as Tim Mitchell, the assistant secretary for the majority. I would also like to thank the cloakroom staff, Joe Lapia, Meredith Melody, Brandon Durlfänger, and Estaban Galvan, for all of their assistance.

All of these fine staff members had a hand in putting H.R. 146 together and moving it through the legislative process. We would not have been able to pass the bill without their hard work and their professionalism. I wish to thank each and every one of them for their good work.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that after the conclusion of my remarks, Senator WHITEHOUSE have the floor, and then Senator SHAHEEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PASSAGE OF H.R. 146

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, we just took a very important vote on a very important bill that is good for our country and good for our families. It is good for our heritage. It is good for our economy because I would argue that when we preserve magnificent places in our land, it encourages people to come and see those places and spend time around those places and spend money around those places, and that helps our economy.

I thank the leaders of the Energy Committee on both sides of the aisle, Senators BINGAMAN and MURKOWSKI, and others on the committee. I also thank the staff who worked hard, and I want to take exception to a remark by Senator COBURN. After the staff was thanked, he got up and said, “Well, what staff works for the American people?” Well, I would argue that all the staff here and all of the Senators here work for the American people. And