

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I also want to commend Congresswoman KIRKPATRICK for her leadership in preserving the culture, history and artifacts of this important area.

Just like Castle Nugent, enacting this bill spends no money and acquires no land—none. What it does is puts in place the authority necessary to acquire these invaluable pieces of our ancient past if and when the time is right and the money is available. Given the value of the resources involved, this should be an easy decision. It would be a shame if political gamesmanship and partisan bickering allowed these pieces of our past, the jobs that would be created, and the hard work of the people of this part of Arizona to be lost forever.

I ask my colleagues to vote “yes” on this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5110, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SEDONA-RED ROCK NATIONAL SCENIC AREA ACT OF 2010

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4823) to establish the Sedona-Red Rock National Scenic Area in the Coconino National Forest, Arizona, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4823

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 “Sedona-Red Rock National Scenic Area Act of 2010”.

SEC. 2. SEDONA-RED ROCK NATIONAL SCENIC AREA, COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST, ARIZONA.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—*There is established in the Coconino National Forest, Arizona, the Sedona-Red Rock National Scenic Area (in this section referred to as the “Scenic Area”) for the purposes of—*

(1) *limiting exchanges of land involving National Forest System land included in the Scenic Area; and*

(2) *managing the National Forest System land included in the Scenic Area as provided in the land and resource management plan for the Coconino National Forest.*

(b) **BOUNDARIES.**—*The Scenic Area shall consist of approximately 160,000 acres of National Forest System land in the Coconino National*

Forest, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Sedona-Red Rocks National Scenic Area” and dated June 7, 2010. The Scenic Area shall not include any land located outside the boundaries of the Coconino National Forest.

(c) **MAP AND BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION.**—*As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and boundary description of the Scenic Area with the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate. The map and boundary description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and description. The map and boundary description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.*

(d) **ADMINISTRATION.**—*The Secretary of Agriculture shall administer the Scenic Area in accordance with this Act, the land and resource management plan for the Coconino National Forest (including any subsequent amendment or revision of the plan), and the laws and regulations generally applicable to the National Forest System. In the event of conflict between this Act and such other laws and regulations, this Act shall take precedence.*

(e) **RESTRICTION ON SCENIC AREA LAND EXCHANGES.**—*With regard to acquisitions of land for public purposes, land exchanges that dispose of National Forest System land included in the Scenic Area may occur only if—*

(1) *the exchange results in the acquisition of land within the boundaries of the Scenic Area from a willing seller for inclusion in the Scenic Area;*

(2) *there is no net loss of National Forest System land within the boundaries of the Scenic Area; and*

(3) *an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and consistent with the applicable forest plan amendment is completed before any land exchange within the boundaries of the Scenic Area.*

(f) **DEPOSIT OF CONSIDERATION FROM CERTAIN LAND SALES; USE.**—

(1) **DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.**—*Moneys received by the Secretary of Agriculture from the sale or exchange of land located in the Coconino National Forest shall be deposited in the fund established by Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the Sisk Act; 16 U.S.C. 484a).*

(2) **USE OF FUNDS.**—*Notwithstanding the limitations on the use of moneys deposited in the fund established by Public Law 90-171, moneys deposited under paragraph (1) shall be available for use by the Secretary of Agriculture, without further appropriation and until expended, for the acquisition of land or interests in land within the National Forest System in Arizona.*

(g) **NO EFFECT ON SURROUNDING LAND, ROADS, OR EASEMENTS.**—*The establishment of the Scenic Area does not affect—*

(1) *the maintenance or use of public, private, or Forest Service roads within the Scenic Area;*

(2) *the legal status, maintenance, or use of rights-of-way and utility easements within the Scenic Area;*

(3) *the management of State, municipal, or private land located in the vicinity of or within the boundaries of the Scenic Area;*

(4) *the management of National Forest System land that is not included in the Scenic Area; or*

(5) *the construction or siting of transportation projects or water projects (and associated facilities) within the Scenic Area or in areas outside the Scenic Area.*

(h) **NO CAUSE OF ACTION.**—*Nothing in this Act creates a private cause of action in any Federal, state or tribal court.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN)

and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4823, introduced by Congresswoman ANN KIRKPATRICK, would authorize the establishment of the Sedona-Red Rock National Scenic Area in the Coconino National Forest in northern Arizona.

This legislation would protect approximately 160,000 acres by restricting land exchanges within the scenic area and by managing the land within the scenic area for conservation purposes. The bill specifically provides that the establishment of the national scenic area shall not impact surrounding land, roads or easements nor will it impact utility easements, the management of State, municipal or private land or the management of surrounding national forest land.

Mr. Speaker, 4823 is a good bill. Representative KIRKPATRICK has worked diligently with residents, officials, and business owners to craft this legislation, making it widely popular in the community of Sedona.

I urge Members to support H.R. 4823. I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1450

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have concerns about how this “National Scenic Area” designation will affect the safety, welfare, and economic livelihoods of those who live and work within this 160,000-acre proposal.

Mr. Speaker, there is no underlying act for national scenic areas, as is the case for wilderness proposals and wild and scenic river designations. Instead, unless guidelines are set limiting how restrictive the designation will be, a National Scenic Area designation is accompanied by only hope and uncertainty.

H.R. 4823 is silent on everything but the fact that land exchanges are prohibited. This sort of vague and open-ended delegation of authority is an invitation to litigation and bureaucratic overreach. So for that reason, Mr. Speaker, I cannot support this legislation in its current form.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Arizona, Representative KIRKPATRICK.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my legislation, H.R. 4823, the Sedona Red Rocks National Scenic Area Act.

I have often said that the congressional district I am fortunate to represent is the most beautiful in the country. The iconic red rocks that surround the Sedona community and extend into the Verde Valley are indeed a national treasure that is unparalleled. Millions of visitors come from across the Nation and around the globe each year to see the red rocks.

The communities throughout Red Rock Country in Arizona have, for years, discussed the long-term protection of the amazing national resource that surrounds the area. A nonpartisan community coalition came together to advocate for protection of the red rocks through a National Scenic Area, as designated by Congress.

Preserving the natural beauty of the red rocks will ensure that our great-grandchildren will be able to enjoy this unique site just as we do. Just as important, it will attract new visitors and more business to the surrounding communities, getting folks to work during this economic downturn. This bill is necessary to secure these tremendous benefits.

Last year, I circulated draft legislation to local stakeholders, to supporters, and to those with concerns. The Forest Service, the city government, the local Chamber of Commerce, the coalition, Realtors, small business owners, and concerned citizens provided valuable comments and edits to the text of this proposed bill. Through the House Natural Resources Committee, the bill has been further amended by both Republicans and Democrats and was reported from committee without objection.

Good ideas and good policy come from the people, and this bill is the culmination of much debate and feedback in the communities it will affect. Thanks to the involvement of so many people with so many different perspectives, we have put together legislation that will work better for the Sedona area now and in the future. It is the first step forward in moving towards meaningful, long-term protection of the area and towards economic development for the region.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, this is a low-cost jobs project. There is no cost to this. It is a project that I have been looking for that creates jobs that requires Federal action, not Federal spending.

It's appalling, but not surprising, that my esteemed colleagues on the other side of the aisle oppose a low-cost jobs project. They clearly do not understand what's happening to the American people who do not have a job. And when you do not have a job right now, nothing else matters. And it is unbelievable to me that, again, partisan bickering in Washington—not in Sedona—is going to stop a job creation bill.

It's time that Washington started listening to the American people. The people in Sedona are able to put aside partisan bickering and come together for the good of the community and to create jobs, and Washington cannot do the same? Believe me, I will let the folks back home know who rose in opposition, who let partisan bickering drown out their voices and drown out their common sense.

I have always said it is the American people that are going to turn this country around, not Washington, and this is exactly why. This is exactly why: Partisan bickering that gridlocks Washington.

Shame on you.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Apparently the gentlelady from Arizona wasn't listening to what I said in my opening remarks as to what concerns I had with this bill. I wish that she had yielded to me because I could have asked a question and maybe she could have enlightened me. But my understanding is there is absolutely nothing in Federal law that designates or describes what a scenic area is. Unlike a wilderness area, unlike a wild and scenic river, nothing describes what a scenic area is. I said in my opening remarks that the reason I oppose this is simply because the vagueness of this opens up potential litigation that will likely affect those surrounding this area. That's what my concern is. I would be willing to work with anybody to try to resolve these issues, but to suggest that my opposition to this is because I am opposed to jobs, it simply misses the point. The gentlelady was simply not listening to what I was saying.

Now, I do have a concern when there are Federal dollars that are spent, but there are no Federal dollars on this; it's simply that we don't have what a designation is. In fact, one could say, Mr. Speaker, if one were thinking in a mischievous way, that the only job creation that legislation like this would create, if it were passed, would be for the trial bar because they could sue over something that is not described in statute. Who wins by that? I don't think the private property owners around this area would win by that.

So I'm disappointed that she would use the tone of argument against our opposition as not trying to work together. There is just simply no designation for "scenic" in Federal statute. Don't you think we ought to have some designation before we designate something "scenic"?

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, it's been clear from listening to my colleague Mrs. KIRKPATRICK that not only she, but the community, recognizes that this bill is good for business and good for jobs. People come from all over the world to enjoy the unique red rock landscape and the world-class rec-

reational opportunities this place offers.

This bill helps conserve that landscape that the community relies on for tourism. In fact, there were several amendments offered by the other side of the aisle at markup, and all of the amendments offered by the minority were accepted and they addressed their concerns then. In markup, Mr. FLAKE also added to this clause a section that provided that the construction or siting of transportation projects or water projects within the scenic area or outside the scenic area would not be impacted.

This is a good bill which the people of Mrs. KIRKPATRICK's district strongly support. The community has diligently worked together to help get this bill here today, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4823, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1500

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LAND CONVEYANCE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5494) to direct the Director of the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior to transfer certain properties to the District of Columbia, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5494

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

SECTION 1. TRANSFER OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall transfer to the District of Columbia by quitclaim deed all right, title, and interest of the United States to the following properties in the District of Columbia:

(1) Square 336, Lot 828, as shown on Assessment and Taxation Plat 3761-Y among the records of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia (Shaw Junior High School recreation fields).

(2) Square 542, Lot 85, as referenced on page 104 of Subdivision Book 141 and shown on Map 8634 among the records of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia (Southwest Library).

(3) Square 2864, Lot 830, as shown on Assessment and Taxation Plat 3495-G among the records of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia (Meyer Elementary School).