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House of Representatives

SMITHSONIAN CONSERVATION BIOLOGY INSTITUTE ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5717) to authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, and construct a facility and to enter into agreements relating to education programs at the National Zoological Park facility in Front Royal, Virginia, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5717

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 "Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute Enhancement Act".

SEC. 2. FACILITY FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution is authorized to plan, design, and construct a facility on National Zoological Park property in Front Royal, Virginia for the purpose of conducting research and educational programs.

(b) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (a)—

(1) \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011; and

(2) \$3,000,000 in the aggregate for all succeeding fiscal years.

SEC. 3. AGREEMENTS FOR HOUSING AND OTHER SERVICES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution is authorized to enter into agreements for the provision of housing and other services to the participants in the programs referenced in section 2.

(b) *COSTS.*—The housing and other services described in subsection (a) shall be provided at no cost to the Smithsonian Institution.

SEC. 4. ANIMAL HOLDING FACILITY.

The Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution is authorized to plan, design, and construct animal holding and related program facilities on National Zoological Park property in Front Royal, Virginia, to be funded from non-federal sources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter on this legislation.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5717 would upgrade the Smithsonian Institution's scientific and educational activities at its unique animal conservation facility, the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute at Front Royal, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, in the interest of time, I understand that there is a consensus on this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise in support of H.R. 5717. Once again, we are back in a bipartisan state supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the Smithsonian Institution is an invaluable part of our national heritage and our ongoing commitment to historical preservation and scientific advancement. I am pleased to support this legislation sponsored by our friend and colleague, Congressman SAM JOHNSON, and the congressional members of the Smithsonian Board of Regents. This legislation will help further the institution's founding mission, which is to support and increase the diffusion of knowledge.

This authorizing legislation supports the Smithsonian's important biological conservation work conducted at the National Zoological Park located in Front Royal, Virginia, and strengthens their collaborative partnership with George Mason University in these efforts. The planned renovation and construction, which leverages a very modest Federal investment with significant non-Federal funds, will enhance the education and professional training programs currently underway.

□ 2040

The Smithsonian is truly a unique part of our American culture. I am pleased to support this authorization which helps the Smithsonian maintain its well-deserved international reputation for excellence in scientific discovery and advancement and its continued commitment to the environment that we must steward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5717.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5717, the "Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute Enhancement Act".

H.R. 5717, as amended, authorizes the Smithsonian Institution to expand the National Zoological Park facility in Front Royal, Virginia, in furtherance of conservation biology research, education and training.

Specifically, this legislation will authorize the Smithsonian to: renovate a building to be used primarily for classroom and laboratory space; enter into agreements that will enable third party strategic partners to construct and operate housing and food service facilities on Smithsonian property; and plan, design, and construct animal holding facilities—all at the Front Royal property.

The building renovation project is to be funded equally by Federal appropriation, in the amount of \$5 million, and by Smithsonian trust sources. The housing and food service facilities are to be funded entirely by third-party financing. The animal holding facility is to be funded entirely from Smithsonian trust sources (i.e., non-Federal sources).

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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