ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpose further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

MANILAQ ASSOCIATION PROPERTY CONVEYANCE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 443) to provide for the conveyance of certain property from the United States to the Manilaq Association located in Kotzebue, Alaska, as amended.

The Clerk reads the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 443

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

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, but not later than 180 days after such date, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall convey to the Manilaq Association located in Kotzebue, Alaska, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in section 2 as of the date of the conveyance.

(b) EASEMENT.—The Secretary shall accord any easement over property conveyed as may be reasonably necessary to satisfy any retained obligations and liability of the Secretary.

(c) NOTICE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE ACTIVITY AND LIABILITY.—The Secretary shall convey all hazardous substances, hazardous waste, pollutants, toxic substances, solid waste, or any other environmental contamination or hazard as defined in any Federal law, on any property described in section 2 as of the date of the conveyance.

SEC. 2. PROPERTY DESCRIBED.

The property, including all land and appurtenances, to be conveyed pursuant to section 1 is as follows:

(1) KOTZEBUE HOSPITAL AND LAND.—Re-Plat of Friends Mission Reserve, Subdivision No. 2, U.S. Survey 2062, Lot 1, Block 12, Kotzebue, Alaska, containing 4,600 acres recorded in the Kotzebue Recording District, Kotzebue, Alaska, on August 18, 2009.

(2) KOTZEBUE QUARTERS AK A KIC SITE.—Re-Plat of Friends Mission Reserve, U.S. Survey 2062, A, Block 14, containing 5,229 acres recorded in the Kotzebue Recording District, Kotzebue, Alaska, on December 12, 1941.

(3) KOTZEBUE QUARTERS AK MANILAQ SITE.—Lot 1B, Block 26, Tract A, Townsite of Kotzebue, U.S. Survey No. 2983 A, Kotzebue, Alaska, containing 1,29 acres recorded in the Kotzebue Recording District, Kotzebue, Alaska, on December 23, 1941.

SEC. 3. ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal law, the Manilaq Association shall not be liable in any action under any Federal law for any injury to the environment, including any violation of Federal law by any other person or entity.

(b) EASEMENT.—The Secretary shall accord any easement over property conveyed as may be reasonably necessary to satisfy any retained obligations and liability of the Secretary.

The Committee on Natural Resources concurs that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 443 at this time, the Committee on Energy and Commerce does not waive any jurisdiction over the matter contained in this or similar legislation. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Energy and Commerce re-presented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include your letter and this response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Energy and Commerce, as well as the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS, Chairman.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to pass the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

MR. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 443.

This bill would provide the Maniilaq Association with clear title to land previously conveyed to it by the United States. Elimination of this restriction would enable the association to obtain loans for improvements to the property without Federal involvement.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the author of this legislation, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG). Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank Chairman HASTINGS and the ranking member for their cooperation in moving this bill.

As you said in your explanation, this is a noncontroversial bill. It solves the problem for the health providers of that area in Kotzebue. I urge the House to pass the bill.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 443, 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. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.