December 14, 2011

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H8949

acres, are currently the site of the existing Native health facility and of proposed long-term care facilities and employee housing.

The subject lands have already been conveyed by the Secretary to the appropriate quit claim deed. The Federal Indian law, however, under these laws, transferring a land through the use of a quit claim deed could present some obstacles for the future use of the land by the association. H.R. 443 addresses this problem by directing the Secretary to convey the property through the use of a warranty deed. This method provides clean title to the land. The administration testified in support of the land transfer, and we have heard no other objection to this bill.

The bill was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The chairman of that committee, Mr. Upton, has kindly forgone action on the bill in the interest of expediting its consideration on the House floor. I thank him for his cooperation and at this point would like to include in the Record an exchange of letters between our committees regarding this bill.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,

Washington, DC, December 7, 2011.

Hon. Doc Hastings,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS: I am writing concerning H.R. 443, to provide for the conveyance of certain property from the United States to the Maniilaq Association located in Kotzebue, Alaska. This matter was reported out of your Committee on October 5, 2011. I wanted to notify you that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will forego action on H.R. 443 so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

This is being done with the understanding that the Committee on Energy and Commerce is not waiving any of its jurisdiction, and the Committee will not in any way be prejudiced by the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I urge your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 443, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN PUBLIC ACCESS ACT OF 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2719) to ensure public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain in the Hanford Reach National Monument for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, cultural, and other purposes.

The Clerk reads the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows: H.R. 2719

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 “Rattlesnake Mountain Public Access Act of 2011”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Hanford Reach National Monument is public land that belongs to the American people.

(2) The United States Fish and Wildlife Service’s Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Monument restricts public access to large portions of the Monument, including the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain.

(3) Public access to Rattlesnake Mountain is important for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, and cultural purposes.

(4) Rattlesnake Mountain reaches an elevation of 3,660 feet above sea level—the highest elevation of the Monument, and provides unparalleled scenic views over the Monument, the Hanford Site, and the Columbia River.

(5) Public access to Rattlesnake Mountain will increase tourism interest in the Monument and will provide economic benefits to local governments.

SEC. 3. ENSURING PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE SUMMIT OF RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN IN THE HANFORD REACH NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall provide public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain in the Hanford Reach National Monument for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, cultural, and other purposes, including—

(1) motor vehicle access;

(2) pedestrian and other nonmotorized access.

(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements to facilitate access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain—

(1) with the Secretary of Energy, the State of Washington, or any local government agency or other interested persons, for guided tours, including guided motorized tours to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain; and

(2) with the Secretary of Energy, and with the State of Washington or any local government agency or other interested persons, to maintain the access road to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.
by unanimous consent, and I appreciate the support of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for this measure. With that, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 2719, which would require the Fish and Wildlife Service to provide both motorized and non-motorized access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain. This bill would allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to enter into cooperative agreements with the Department of Energy, the State of Washington, local governments, and other interested persons to provide guided tours to the summit of the mountain and to maintain the access road to the summit. In 2008 the Fish and Wildlife Service completed a management plan for this area and determined that Service-sponsored or led tours and a hiking trail are appropriate uses of the area. In October, at the hearing on H.R. 2719, the Fish and Wildlife Service supported the bill’s intent to provide appropriate public access on Rattlesnake Mountain that gives due consideration to all stakeholders, including the Yakima tribe.

I commend Chairman Hastings from Washington for introducing this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. Hastings) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2719.

Amendment: The text of the amendment is as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Sugar Loaf Fire Protection District Land Exchange Act of 2011.”

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.
In this Act:
(1) DISTRICT.—The term “District” means the Sugar Loaf Fire Protection District of Rider, Colorado.
(2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land” means—
(A) the parcel of approximately 1.52 acres of land in the National Forest that is generally depicted on the map numbered 1, entitled “Sugarloaf Fire Protection District Proposed Land Exchange”, and dated November 12, 2009; and
(B) the parcel of approximately 3.56 acres of land in the National Forest that is generally depicted on the map numbered 2, entitled “Sugarloaf Fire Protection District Proposed Land Exchange”, and dated November 12, 2009.
(3) NATIONAL FOREST.—The term “National Forest” means the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests located in the State of Colorado.
(4) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Non-Federal land” means the parcel of approximately 5.17 acres of non-Federal land in unincorporated Boulder County, Colorado, that is generally depicted on the map numbered 1, entitled “Sugarloaf Fire Protection District Proposed Land Exchange”, and dated November 12, 2009.
(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 3. LAND EXCHANGE.
(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the provisions of this Act, if the District offers to convey to the Secretary all right, title, and interest in the District in and to the non-Federal land, and the offer is acceptable to the Secretary—
(1) the Secretary shall enter into cooperative agreements with the Department of Energy, the State of Washington, local governments, and other interested persons to provide guided tours to the summit of the mountain and to maintain the access road to the summit.

(d) TIME FOR COMPLETION OF LAND EXCHANGE.—It is the intent of Congress that this exchange be completed not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.
(e) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY TO CONDUCT SALE OF FEDERAL LAND.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with paragraph (2), if the land exchange under subsection (a) is not completed by the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary may offer to sell to the District the Federal land for the fair market value of the Federal land.

H8950 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE December 14, 2011