

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I also yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 491.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2240) to authorize the exchange of land or interest in land between Lowell National Historical Park and the city of Lowell in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2240

*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 "Lowell National Historical Park Land Exchange Act of 2012".*

#### SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS.

*The Act entitled "An act to provide for the establishment of the Lowell National Historical Park in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes" approved June 5, 1978 (Public Law 95-290; 16 U.S.C. 410cc et seq.), is amended in section 202, by adding at the end the following:*

*"(d)(1) The Secretary may exchange any land or interest in land within the boundaries of the park for any land or interest in land owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the city of Lowell, or the University of Massachusetts Building Authority.*

*"(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), an exchange under this subsection shall be subject to the laws, regulations, and policies applicable to exchanges of land administered by the National Park Service and any other terms and conditions that the Secretary determines to be necessary to protect the interests of the United States.*

*"(3) Where facilities or infrastructure required for the management and operation of the Lowell National Historical Park exists on the Federal land to be exchanged, and the non-Federal land or interest in land to be exchanged is not of equal value, the values shall be equalized by the payment of cash to the Secretary. The Secretary shall not be required to equalize the values of any exchange conducted under this subsection if the land or interest in land received by the Federal Government exceeds the value of the Federal land or interest in land exchanged."*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and in-

clude extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2240, introduced by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS), will authorize a land exchange between the Lowell National Historical Park and the city of Lowell, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the University of Massachusetts Building Authority.

This will allow the transfer of the visitor center parking lot in exchange for an equal number of parking spaces in a new garage to be built by the city. The Park Service property, where the current lot is located, is needed for the community development, and the stakeholders have concluded that this is a more beneficial use to the community and the park visitors.

I urge the adoption of H.R. 2240, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TSONGAS. It is with great pleasure that I rise today in support of H.R. 2240, the Lowell National Historical Park Land Exchange Act.

This legislation will facilitate the exchange of land or interest in land between the city of Lowell and the Lowell National Historical Park.

In 1978, legislation was passed establishing this park. It was championed by my late husband as well as by two Republican Members of Congress who previously represented this district. We should take bipartisan pride in its great success.

This national park was given a unique mandate to not only preserve and interpret the resources representing Lowell's central role in our 19th century industrial revolution, but also to serve as a catalyst in revitalizing the city's physical, economic, and cultural environment, all outgrowths of the city's industrial heritage.

In working together with the city of Lowell, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and many other public and private partners, the Lowell National Historical Park has played a vital role in rehabilitating over 400 structures and has since 1978 helped spur an estimated \$1 billion in private investment in the city. All of this has been done while the park has developed a compelling array of programs, exhibits, guided tours, and other interpretive programs.

□ 1700

H.R. 2240 would allow the park and its partners to continue working to advance the park's mission to preserve the city's historic industrial architecture while creating jobs and continuing to partner with the city of Lowell to advance a critical economic develop-

ment project, the Hamilton Canal District.

This legislation would most immediately allow the park to exchange a current surface parking lot for an equivalent number of spaces in a new garage that will be built by the city of Lowell adjacent to the present parking lot, guaranteeing necessary parking spaces for park visitors while freeing the surface parking lot for the incorporation into the Hamilton Canal District redevelopment.

On the space of the current parking lot and adjacent vacant property, the city, in working with private partners, plans to construct over 400,000 square feet of commercial and R&D space, generating as many as 1,600 jobs. As such, it is a critical piece in the master redevelopment plan for the area. This land exchange is supported by the Lowell National Historical Park, the city of Lowell, and all local stakeholders, and has received all major State permits and local zoning allowances.

Because the enabling law for the Lowell National Historical Park only provides for the park to receive additional land, it is not allowed to exchange land. This legislation would allow this mutually agreed-upon exchange. I want to stress that this legislation will cost the taxpayers absolutely nothing.

I thank Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member MARKEY, as well as Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA and the committee staff for working with me to advance this bill to the floor. It is my hope that my colleagues today will appreciate the importance of passing this legislation to create jobs, continue revitalizing this historic mill city, and protect a key part of our industrial heritage and economic history.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. It's another great bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2240, 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. BISHOP of Utah. 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.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.