

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 118.

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

There was no objection.

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

H. Con. Res. 118 would authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run that will be held on June 1, 2012.

As in years past, the Torch Run will be launched from the West Terrace of the U.S. Capitol and continue through the Capitol Grounds as part of the journey to the 27th Annual D.C. Special Olympics Summer Games.

The Special Olympics is an international organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children and adults with disabilities through athletics and competition. The Law Enforcement Torch Run began in 1981 when the police chief of Wichita, Kansas, saw an urgent need to raise funds for and to increase the awareness of the Special Olympics. The Torch Run was then quickly adopted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Today, the Torch Run is the largest grassroots effort that raises funds and awareness for the Special Olympics program. The event in D.C. is one of many Law Enforcement Torch Runs throughout the country and across 35 nations.

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

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

This year marks the 27th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit the District of Columbia Special Olympics. The torch relay event is a traditional event organized by law enforcement personnel for the D.C. Special Olympics, which takes place at Catholic University later this month. This event has become a popular event on Capitol Hill and is an integral part of the fund-raising efforts for the D.C. Special Olympics, raising thousands of funds through their own sales of t-shirts. Torch Run participants will assemble at the U.S. Capitol Building on June 1, 2012, for opening ceremonies, and then they will proceed to run or walk a 2.3-mile course to Fort McNair.

Each year, approximately 2,500 Special Olympians compete in over a dozen events in the District of Columbia, and more than 1 million children and adults with special needs participate in Special Olympics programs worldwide. The goal of the competitions is to allow mentally challenged individuals to participate in events where they are accepted and respected. Confidence and self-esteem are the building blocks for the Special Olympic Games. The Special Olympics of the District of Columbia have been operating for 43 years and have been providing services to a wide swath of D.C. residents. All pro-

grams offered to Special Olympics' athletes are always free of charge.

I am truly and personally pleased to support such a worthwhile organization, and I urge Members of the House to support House Concurrent Resolution 118 as well.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 118.

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. DENHAM. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CONVEYANCE OF PARCEL, TRACY, CALIFORNIA

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1302) to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Tracy, California, to the City of Tracy.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1302

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

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PARCEL, TRACY, CALIFORNIA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) CITY.—The term “City” means the city of Tracy, California.

(3) PARCEL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Parcel” means the approximately 150 acres conveyed to the City for educational or recreational purposes pursuant to section 140 of division C of Public Law 105-277 (112 Stat. 2681-599; 113 Stat. 104; 118 Stat. 335).

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “Parcel” does not include the approximately 50 acres conveyed to the City for economic development, in which the United States retains no reversionary interest, pursuant to section 140 of division C of Public Law 105-277 (112 Stat. 2681-599; 113 Stat. 104; 118 Stat. 335).

(b) CONVEYANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (c) through (f) of section 140 of division C of Public Law 105-277 (112 Stat. 2681-599; 113 Stat. 104; 118 Stat. 335) and subject to subsection (c), the Administrator may offer to enter into a binding agreement with the City, as soon as practicable, but not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, under which the Administrator may convey to the City, through a deed of release or other appropriate instrument, any reversionary interest retained by the United States in the Parcel, and all other terms,

conditions, reservations, and restrictions imposed, in connection with the conveyance of the Parcel.

(2) SURVEY.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the exact acreage and legal description of the Parcel shall be determined by a survey that is satisfactory to the Administrator.

(c) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (b), the City shall pay to the Administrator an amount not less than the appraised fair market value of the Parcel, as determined by the Administrator pursuant to an appraisal conducted by a licensed, independent appraiser, based on the highest and best use of the Parcel, as determined by the Administrator.

(2) TREATMENT.—The determination of the Administrator under paragraph (1) regarding the fair market value of the Parcel shall be final.

(d) COST OF CONVEYANCE.—The City shall be responsible for reimbursing the Administrator for the costs associated with implementing this section, including the costs of each applicable appraisal and survey.

(e) PROCEEDS.—

(1) DEPOSIT.—The net proceeds from the conveyance under this section shall be deposited in the Federal Buildings Fund established by section 592(a) of title 40, United States Code.

(2) EXPENDITURE.—The amounts deposited in the Federal Buildings Fund under paragraph (1) shall be available to the Administrator, in amounts specified in appropriations Acts, for expenditure for any lawful purpose consistent with the authority of the Administrator.

(f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Administrator may establish such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (b) as the Administrator considers to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(g) NO EFFECT ON COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act affects or limits the application of or obligation to comply with any environmental law, including section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

S. 1302 would direct the General Services Administration to sell 150 acres of land in Tracy, California, to the city of Tracy for not less than its appraised fair market value. This property is undeveloped land that was once under the custody and control of the Federal Government. However, the Federal Government maintains a reversionary

interest in the property based on certain usage restrictions.

Through three separate pieces of legislation enacted since 1999, Congress has conveyed the 150 acres to the city of Tracy and has restricted its use of the land to educational and recreational uses only. Over the past decade, the city of Tracy has determined that these uses are no longer feasible, and it would like to utilize the land for economic development, thus adding to its base and to the welfare of the citizens of Tracy. In fact, the city expects significant commercial interest in the property and is optimistic that future development on the land will create hundreds of much-needed jobs.

S. 1302 would remove all restrictions currently imposed on the property by Congress and would transfer complete ownership of the land from the Federal Government to the city of Tracy. Additionally, this legislation advances the goal of the disposing of unneeded Federal property, which is something that Mr. DENHAM, who is with me today, has been very active in.

As we look at the Senate bill passed by the Senate unanimously in August of last year, I believe we see a win-win. The Federal Government takes a piece of land it has no further interest in and that it has, through congressional acts in the past, locked up for specific uses not likely to occur, and we receive full fair market value for the property. This is the way Federal land in excess should be disposed of—sold at fair market value or above and assured to be put to good use by the recipient, which, in this case, is the city of Tracy.

I urge support for this, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of this important legislation, which would result in the efficient disposal of a parcel of Federal real property to the city of Tracy, California. It has been outstanding for some years.

The city of Tracy, with a population of 80,000, has been hard hit by the economic recession. Unemployment in and around Tracy stood at 16.2 percent a year ago, a level far higher than the national average. The people of Tracy are looking for every available avenue to revive their economy, and they have found such a stimulus in the potential construction of a solar field.

Congress can assist Tracy in its economic recovery by supporting S. 1302. This bill authorizes the city of Tracy to purchase, without restriction, 150 acres of Federal land previously conveyed by Congress for a specific public benefit use. The city would pay the Federal Government fair market value for the release of this reversionary interest.

□ 1700

The conveyance of land would permit Tracy to build a solar field at the site, a use which enjoys strong local support.

Tracy estimates that construction of a solar field will create approximately 200 jobs, which are much needed in the city. The project will also generate cleaner sources of energy and will alleviate the air-quality challenges that presently afflict that area. These are all powerful reasons to support the legislation.

I urge passage of S. 1302, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from California (Mr. DENHAM), who has been a strong advocate for both the disposal of property in a profitable way and in particular contacted us and asked us to move this legislation with a powerful and convincing argument.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1302, a bill to convey a parcel of land in the city of Tracy.

S. 1302 is commonsense legislation that will be a win for the Federal taxpayer, the local community, and private enterprise. Simply put, this bill allows the city of Tracy to purchase at fair-market value a parcel of land from the Federal Government.

Currently, the government has a reversionary interest in a vacant parcel of its land, and the community of Tracy deeply needs it. The city would like to purchase the land from the government at fair-market value and eliminate the reversionary interest so that the local community can decide what's best for the land. This land will then be leased to a private company to develop a solar project that will provide renewable energy and economic activity to the local community.

I had the opportunity to tour this location with the mayor of Tracy, Brent Ives, who's been working on this for quite some time. He showed how this project will provide a significant economic impact to a community struggling with high rates of unemployment.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will solve another problem created by too much government. Local control of this property will put people back to work, benefit the local economy, provide a source of renewable energy, and turn a profit for the taxpayer.

I was proud to be a cosponsor of the House version of this legislation introduced by Mr. McNERNEY, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and I again urge passage of S. 1302 and yield back the balance of my time.

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

Although this is a small piece of property, it's part of a vast amount of property the Federal Government currently owns, controls, and does not use. So as we take this step today, I hope all of my colleagues in the House and the Senate will look at this as at least a small contribution to a direction we should go, find ways to take govern-

ment-owned property, get it in private hands, paying property tax, being developed, and creating jobs throughout the areas in which it lies.

As I urge support, I would like to thank my colleague, the gentle lady from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), for her work; I would like to thank the Senate cosponsors, including Senator BOXER, for getting this to us; and I would like to thank Mr. DENHAM for brining it to the floor at this time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for S. 1302, an important bill to facilitate a land transfer in Tracy, California. I was proud to introduce identical companion legislation in the House of Representatives last year, and I am glad to see S. 1302 on a path to final enactment.

S. 1302 allows the city of Tracy to purchase 150 acres of property from the Federal Government. Congress previously conveyed the parcel to the city but placed certain restrictions on its use. This legislation waives these restrictions so long as the city purchases the property at fair market value.

Tracy has long-standing plans to build a solar energy project at the site. Building this solar field will create nearly 200 jobs, improve air quality, and increase the availability of renewable energy in California. S. 1302 will also generate revenue for the Federal treasury. This bill is a win for Tracy and a win for the taxpayers.

S. 1302 is being passed today in the spirit of bicameral, bipartisan cooperation. I would like to thank Senators BOXER and FEINSTEIN for their support of this initiative in the Senate as well as Representatives DENHAM and ISSA for their work here in the House. I look forward to seeing the President sign S. 1302 into law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1302.

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.

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.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.