

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I too share the comments of the gentleman. We did not try to sneak minimum wage or the Republican tax cut in this bill. This bill was kept clean through the process. It is purely bipartisan, and we can all be very proud when the vote names the Spanish Peaks of Colorado as a wilderness.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor of H.R. 898, I rise in support of this important bill to designate the Spanish Peaks as wilderness.

The mountains we call the Spanish Peaks are two volcanic peaks in Las Animas and Huerfano Counties. Their Native American name is Wayatoya. The eastern peak rises to 12,893 feet above sea level, and the summit of the western peak is at 13,626 feet.

These two peaks were landmarks for Native Americans and for some of Colorado's other early settlers and for travelers along the trail between Bent's Old Fort on the Arkansas River and Taos, New Mexico.

This part of the San Isabel National Forest has outstanding scenic, geologic, and wilderness values, including a spectacular system of more than 250 free-standing dikes and ramps of volcanic materials radiating from the peaks. These lands are striking for their beauty and are also very valuable for wildlife habitat.

Since 1977, the Spanish Peaks have been included on the National Registry of Natural Landmarks, and the State of Colorado has designated them as a natural area. The Forest Service first reviewed them for possible wilderness designation as part of its second roadless area review and evaluation and first recommended them for wilderness in 1979. However, the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1980 instead provided for their continued management as a wilderness study area—a status that was continued on an interim basis by the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993.

In short, Mr. Speaker, the Spanish Peaks are a very special part of Colorado. Their inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System has been too long delayed. In fact, I had hoped that designation of this area as wilderness would be completed last year. The House did pass a Spanish Peaks wilderness bill sponsored by my predecessor, Representative David Skaggs, and Representative MCINNIS after it was favorably reported by the Resources Committee. Unfortunately, the Senate did not act on that measure.

So, I am very appreciative of the persistence shown by Representative MCINNIS as well as the good work of Chairman YOUNG and Subcommittee Chairman CHENOWETH, and the leadership of Representative MILLER of California and the gentleman from Washington, Mr. SMITH. As a new Member of the Committee, I am very glad to have been able to work with them to bring us to where we are today with this bill.

This bill does differ from last year's Skaggs-McInnis bill in a few respects, and in particular by the exclusion from wilderness of an old road, known as the Bulls Eye Mine Road, and the inclusion of language related to that road.

Because some questions have been raised about the scope and effect of that language, contained in subsection 3(1), I thought it was important to provide a further explanation of

how that subsection would or would not affect management of this area. Accordingly, I greatly appreciate the assistance of the gentleman from American Samoa in engaging my colleague from Colorado, Mr. MCINNIS, in a brief colloquy regarding that part of the bill. This colloquy is an important part of the legislative history of this bill.

As was mentioned earlier during debate on this bill, its passage is an appropriate step in recognition of the recent 35th anniversary of the enactment of the Wilderness Act. As a strong supporter of protecting wilderness—and particularly of protecting our wilderness areas in Colorado—I hope that this is only the first of several Colorado wilderness bills that will come before the House in the months ahead.

Already, the Resources Committee has approved a bill that, among other things, would designate additional wilderness in the area of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. And currently pending before the Committee are two wilderness bills I have introduced, dealing with the James Peak area and with lands within Rocky Mountain National Park, as well as a very important bill by our colleague Ms. DEGETTE that breaks important new ground in terms of protecting wilderness areas on public lands in Colorado managed by the Bureau of Land Management. In my opinion, all these measures deserve priority consideration in our Committee and here on the floor of the House.

Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, I again thank both the gentleman from American Samoa and my colleague, Mr. MCINNIS, for their cooperation, and am glad to join in support of the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Act.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 898.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

QUINEBAUG AND SHETUCKET RIVERS VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1619) to amend the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 to expand the boundaries of the Corridor, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1619

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCE.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the “Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Reauthorization Act of 1999”.

(b) *REFERENCE.*—Whenever in this Act a section or other provision is amended or repealed,

such amendment or repeal shall be considered to be made to that section or other provision of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-449; 16 U.S.C. 461 note).

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Section 102 of the Act is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts” after “State of Connecticut”;

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraphs (3) through (9) as paragraphs (2) through (8), respectively; and

(3) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by inserting “New Haven,” after “Hartford.”.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUINEBAUG AND SHETUCKET RIVERS VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR; PURPOSE.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—Section 103(a) of the Act is amended by inserting “and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts” after “State of Connecticut”.

(b) *PURPOSE.*—Section 103(b) of the Act is amended to read as follows:

“(b) *PURPOSE.*—It is the purpose of this title to provide assistance to the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, their units of local and regional government and citizens in the development and implementation of integrated natural, cultural, historic, scenic, recreational, land, and other resource management programs in order to retain, enhance, and interpret the significant features of the lands, water, structures, and history of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley.”.

SEC. 4. BOUNDARIES AND ADMINISTRATION.

(a) *BOUNDARIES.*—Section 104(a) of the Act is amended—

(1) by inserting “Union,” after “Thompson,”; and

(2) by inserting after “Woodstock” the following: “in the State of Connecticut, and the towns of Brimfield, Charlton, Dudley, E. Brookfield, Holland, Oxford, Southbridge, Sturbridge, and Webster in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which are contiguous areas in the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley, related by shared natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources”.

(b) *ADMINISTRATION.*—Section 104 of the Act is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(b) *ADMINISTRATION.*—

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—(A) The Corridor shall be managed by the management entity in accordance with the management plan, in consultation with the Governor and pursuant to a compact with the Secretary.

“(B) The management entity shall amend its by-laws to add the Governor of Connecticut (or the Governor's designee) and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (or the Governor's designee) as a voting members of its Board of Directors.

“(C) The management entity shall provide the Governor with an annual report of its activities, programs, and projects. An annual report prepared for any other purpose shall satisfy the requirements of this paragraph.

“(2) *COMPACT.*—To carry out the purposes of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into a compact with the management entity. The compact shall include information relating to the objectives and management of the Corridor, including, but not limited to, each of the following:

“(A) A delineation of the boundaries of the Corridor.

“(B) A discussion of goals and objectives of the Corridor, including an explanation of the proposed approaches to accomplishing the goals set forth in the management plan.

“(C) A description of the role of the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

“(3) **AUTHORITIES OF MANAGEMENT ENTITY.**—For the purpose of achieving the goals set forth in the management plan, the management entity may use Federal funds provided under this Act—

“(A) to make grants to the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, their political subdivisions, nonprofit organizations, and other persons;

“(B) to enter into cooperative agreements with or provide technical assistance to the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, their political subdivisions, nonprofit organizations, and other persons;

“(C) to hire and compensate staff; and

“(D) to contract for goods and services.

“(4) **PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.**—The management entity may not use Federal funds received under this Act to acquire real property or any interest in real property.”

SEC. 5. STATES CORRIDOR PLAN.

Section 105 of the Act is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b);

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (a);

(3) in subsection (a) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking the first sentence and all that follows through “Governor,” and inserting the following: “The management entity shall implement the management plan. Upon request of the management entity,”; and

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking “identified pursuant to the inventory required by section 5(a)(1)”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) **GRANTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—For the purposes of implementing the management plan, the management entity may make grants or provide technical assistance to the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, their political subdivisions, nonprofit organizations, and other persons to further the goals set forth in the management plan.”

SEC. 6. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.

Section 106 of the Act is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “Governor” each place it appears and inserting “management entity”;

(B) by striking “preparation and”;

(C) by adding at the end the following: “Such assistance shall include providing funds authorized under section 109 and technical assistance necessary to carry out this Act.”; and

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may not make any grants or provide any assistance under this Act after September 30, 2009.”

SEC. 7. DUTIES OF OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.

Section 107 of the Act is amended by striking “Governor” and inserting “management entity”.

SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.

Section 108 of the Act is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the period the following: “and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts”.

(2) in paragraph (3), by inserting before the period the following: “and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts”;

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking “each of” and all that follows and inserting the following: “the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments, the Windham Regional Council of Governments, and the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments in Connecticut, (or their successors), and the Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission and the Southern Worcester County Regional Planning Commission (or their successors) in Massachusetts.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) The term “management plan” means the document approved by the Governor of the State of Connecticut on February 16, 1999, and adopted by the management entity, entitled “Vision to Reality: A Management Plan”, the management plan for the Corridor, as it may be amended or replaced from time to time.

“(7) The term “management entity” means Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation (or its successor) incorporated in the State of Connecticut.”

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 109 of the Act is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 109. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated under this title not more than \$1,000,000 for any fiscal year. Not more than a total of \$10,000,000 may be appropriated for the Corridor under this title after the date of the enactment of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Reauthorization Act of 1999.

“(b) **50 PERCENT MATCH.**—Federal funding provided under this title may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of any assistance or grant provided or authorized under this title.”

SEC. 10. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) **LONG TITLE.**—The long title of the Act is amended to read as follows: “An Act to establish the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor in the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes.”

(b) **HEADING.**—The heading for section 110 of the Act is amended by striking “service” and inserting “system”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1619 amends the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 by expanding the boundaries of the Corridor.

Specifically, this bill authorizes the expansion of the Corridor into the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Corridor currently is wholly contained within the State of Connecticut. These river valleys contain significant natural and historical resources, including scenic vistas, archaeological sites, and recreational opportunity.

As a college student, I canoed down through this river. It is a beautiful river valley.

□ 1530

The bill, as amended, assures that both the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of Connecticut remain involved in the management of the corridor. Furthermore, the legislation provides for a sunset of the funding and assistance from the Federal Government which may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of that assistance or grant.

This bill has local and State support and is also supported by the adminis-

tration. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1619, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I do want to commend first the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) for their sponsorship of this legislation. I also want to commend the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ), the chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, for their sponsorship and support of this legislation; and definitely both the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), the chairman and the ranking member of the full committee, for their support.

Mr. Speaker, the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor is an 850-square-mile area, including more than 25 towns, along the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers in Northeastern Connecticut. The area includes lush woodlands, clean rivers and streams, as well as many historically and culturally significant sites. This corridor has been referred to as the “last green valley” in the area between Boston and Washington.

The 103rd Congress designated the area as a National Heritage Corridor. None of the land within the corridor is federally owned but the designation has allowed the National Park Service to provide important technical assistance, coordination and funding to what began, and has continued to be, a grassroots effort to preserve this area and to educate people about its importance.

Mr. Speaker, a management plan for the corridor, approved by the Governor of Connecticut, was adopted earlier this year and a private, nonprofit organization has been designated to implement the plan.

The bill, H.R. 1619, sponsored, as I said earlier, by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) would reauthorize the corridor and extend its reach in the process. This legislation would add several counties in Massachusetts to the corridor and amend the original enabling legislation to reflect adoption of the management plan. Importantly, this measure was amended by the Committee on Resources to increase oversight of the corridor’s management entity.

Mr. Speaker, creation of this heritage corridor has led to important educational and preservation efforts. It has worked so well, in fact, that another State now wants to be included.

This bill, H.R. 1619, would allow more people to experience and benefit from the beauty and history of this area. Again, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, as the sponsor of H.R. 1619 along with Congressman NEAL, I rise in strong support of this measure. I would like to begin by thanking Chairmen YOUNG and HANSEN and Ranking Members MILLER and ROMERO-BARCELÓ and their staffs for their support in moving this legislation through the Committee process. I truly appreciate their efforts.

The bill before us today represents a consensus reached between residents of Connecticut and Massachusetts to expand the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor. The new communities in Massachusetts and Connecticut are linked to the existing 25 towns in the Corridor by geography, history, culture and, most importantly, the rivers they share.

The bill before us today has been slightly modified from the measure Congressman Neal and I introduced in late April. I am pleased to report that the amended version has the support of the National Park Service, the States of Connecticut and Massachusetts, the management authority and citizens in both states.

The bill expands the boundary of the Corridor to include Union, Connecticut and the towns of Brimfield, Charlton, Dudley, E. Brookfield, Holland, Oxford, Southbridge, Sturbridge, and Webster, Massachusetts. It designates a local, nonprofit entity—Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc.—as the management entity. It provides a continuing role for the Governors of Connecticut and Massachusetts in Corridor management. Finally, the measure increases federal support for the Corridor.

I believe the increase in funding is reasonable. It would provide the necessary funds to expand programs into the new communities in Massachusetts and Connecticut. It would also bring the Quinebaug and Shetucket in line with other Corridors created since 1996. The National Park Service has also supported the increase in testimony before the subcommittee on Parks and Public Lands.

I want to note that this bill does not change the non-regulatory nature of the Corridor. Land use and zoning regulations will remain completely under the control of local governments. Moreover, the management entity does not have the authority to purchase land with federal funds. Land will remain in private hands and local residents will continue to chart the region's direction. The Corridor has always been, and continues to be, a mechanism for organizing many efforts to achieve common goals.

The Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers National Heritage Corridor is a nationally significant resource which deserves continued federal support. The Corridor has proven to be successful over the last four years in preserving cultural, natural and historic resources and in promoting to better understanding of the importance of this region to our country. Passing this legislation today will allow citizens in Connecticut and Massachusetts to build on this record of success.

I urge my colleagues would join me in voting in support of H.R. 1619.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of an extremely worthwhile piece of legislation, the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Reauthorization Act of 1999, House Resolution 1619. H.R. 1619 expands the boundaries of this National Heritage Corridor by ten towns, nine of which are in my home state of Massachusetts. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. GEJDENSON for his tireless efforts on behalf of this bill.

The Quinebaug and Shetucket region's history and significance begins with the Native Americans, as it was largely a frontier zone between tribes. European settlement began in the late 1650s, and the area soon became a center of fiscal, religious, and political radicalism. The Industrial Revolution began on a small scale here, with water powered textile structures on lesser streams and as a spillover from the adjoining Blackstone Valley. However, the latter half of the nineteenth century saw the construction of the great mills that characterize the valley. Staffed by immigrants from Europe and Canada, these factories were the region's prime economic engine.

However, the twentieth century brought steady declines of the textile industry, leaving many formerly busy mills empty or only marginally used. Thus, the region entered a long period of economic recession and the need to develop a more diversified economy, a condition that brings us to the present day.

The region into which we wish to expand this Heritage Corridor is clearly both culturally and environmentally part of "the Last Green Valley." The expansion area shares a history, a desire to protect resources and a view to economic revitalization. The mill towns and farmland offer residents and visitors a special view into the American experience and allow them to explore New England's agrarian and industrial past.

Environmental protection is one of the most important tasks facing the American people as we go forth into the new millennium. As such, the goal of this legislation is to develop and implement natural, cultural, historic, scenic, recreational, land and other resource management programs. The purpose is to retain and enhance the significant features of lands, water, structures, and history of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley. The National Heritage Corridor designation allows local governments and grassroots organizations to carry out their visions for a healthier, more sustainable society. As always, the delicate balance between environmental protection and economic growth is at the heart of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor.

Since the authorization of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor in 1994, the State of Connecticut, via the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc., has worked efficiently under a constrained budget by combining the financial resources of the public and private sectors. As a result, the economic aspect of the Corridor has been as successful as the environmental protection programs. The Corridor Commission has been able to match federal funds at a ratio of 12:1. The Commission and its partners have revitalized Industrial Revolution era mills, enhanced greenways and waterways,

and have increased preservation of open space and wildlife habitats, resulting in an increase in tourism. The proximity of the Corridor to the major metropolitan areas of Springfield, Worcester, Boston, Hartford, Providence, and New York City serves as further evidence that this expansion is an economically viable venture.

In order to ensure that the projects selected reflect the needs and desires of the states, the Corridor Commission Board of Directors will include voting members from the offices of the Governors of Massachusetts and Connecticut. The Commission will also be linked to, and under the guidance of, the Secretary of the Interior via a compact.

Mr. Speaker, the most important people involved in the environmental and historical preservation process are the locals. These are the people involved in the actual work that our legislation authorizes. I would like my colleagues to understand that the local governments and local business along the Corridor are in overwhelming support of this legislation. I have received numerous calls from businessmen and women looking for ways to get involved and the Boards of Selectmen of the affected towns have been pressing the issue in their town halls. The people have spoken out and they are in favor of the Corridor Expansion.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that we in Massachusetts are not stepping on the toes of our Connecticut neighbors. The members of the Massachusetts State Heritage Corridor Commission have been working with their successful counterparts from Connecticut for a long time now. The two groups have come to an understanding and are looking forward to working together. In order for the Corridor Expansion to be a success, the experience of those on the Connecticut side must be utilized.

Mr. Speaker, once again I would like to thank Mr. GEJDENSON for all of his work, and I would like to thank the members of the Corridor Commission who have been the driving force behind this legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1619, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the six bills just considered.

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