into this well-conceived legislation. I strongly support passage of Senate bill H.R. 1953.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) who just spoke in the well for all the work that he did on this legislation, along with the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DeFazio). The gentleman has quite properly explained the impact of the legislation and we are in agreement with him and urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, S. 416 directs the Secretary of Agriculture to convey, after a public process, either 160 or 240 acres to the City of Sisters, Oregon for use as a sewage treatment facility. The City of Sisters is surrounded by federal land and is in dire need of a wastewater treatment plant. The bill provides for a conveyance that will provide the city with an administrative process and fair market value requirements.

Nevertheless, I no longer object to this bill because under my amendment which the Committee adopted, the Forest Service will be adequately compensated for the land it conveys to the city. The city has agreed to waive sewage treatment-related costs for the Forest Service in the facility's service area in an amount equal to the value of the federal land. The bill also provides that if the final federal appraisal deviates by ten percent or more from the city's preliminary appraisal, then the city and the Secretary would have to mutually agree on compensation to attain the higher appraisal value. This provision ensures that the federal government gets a close approximation of fair market value for its land.

I commend Mr. Walden for his hard work on this bill and his willingness to work with me to address my concerns, as well as those of the Forest Service. I yield back my colleagues to support S. 416, as amended.

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

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, I have no more requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1953 is a technical amendments bill which will authorize leases for terms not to exceed 99 years on land held in trust for the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, the Cahuilla Indians, and the Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians of the Guidiville Indian Rancheria, as amended.

The Speaker read as follows:

SEC. 2. REVOCATION OF CHARTER OF INCORPORATION.

The request of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community of Wisconsin to surrender the charter of incorporation issued to the Community on May 21, 1938, pursuant to section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934, (commonly known as the 'Indian Reorganization Act') is hereby accepted, and the charter of incorporation is hereby revoked.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DON YOUNG), the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DON YOUNG).

Mr. DON YOUNG. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1953. This is legislation that I introduced earlier this term in an effort to assist two tribes and some of the finest people in my community. The ability for these sovereign governments to execute 99-year leases is critical for their self-sufficiency and the diversity necessary for further economic viability. In addition, I support the new provisions added via the manager's amendment and am pleased that all of these contained provisions have been approved by the proper representatives of both parties.

Briefly, I would like to explain to my colleagues what Congress is accomplishing with this bill. Currently, federal law limits these tribes to executing a 25-year lease that may be renewed once for a second 25-year term. The bill's stated worthy purposes for public, religious, educational, residential, and business development reflect the future goals of the tribes and require this federal action permitting these entities the ability to grant long-term leases of 99 years.

One key principle that must remain fixed within the foundation of federal Native American policy is preserving the sovereignty of Indian tribes. This stated policy is unfortunately meaningless if Congress fails in its duty to exercise its legislative authority and empower tribes. Tribes must have the appropriate legal authority through the necessary tools for true self-sufficiency, governance, and development. They must be free to undertake the type of modern development that this bill contemplates. This is a fair and equitable result for the meaningful self-determination worthy of a sovereign nation and its people going into the 21st century.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman DON YOUNG), the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the distinguished ranking member (Mr. MILLER), the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), and the other Members who were instrumental in the passage of this overdue and worthwhile bill. In addition, I am grateful that my colleagues and I were able to secure its passage this year, because there is no need to delay the implementation of any bill designed with the sole focus of helping Native Americans and Indian tribes.

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

Mr. HANSEN. 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 Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1953, 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.

WATER FEASIBILITY STUDY ON JICARILLA APACHE RESERVATION IN NEW MEXICO

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3851) to direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a feasibility study on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3851

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that-

(1) there are major deficiencies with regard to adequate and sufficient water supplies available to residents of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation in the State of New Mexico;

(2) the existing municipal water system that serves the Jicarilla Apache Reservation is under the ownership and control of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and is outdated, dilapidated, and cannot adequately and safely serve the existing and future growth needs of the Jicarilla Apache Tribe;

(3) the federally owned municipal water system that serves the Jicarilla Apache Reservation has been unable to meet the minimum federal water requirements necessary for discharging wastewater into a public watercourse and has been operating without a federal discharge permit;

(4) the federally owned municipal water system that serves the Jicarilla Apache Reservation is being operated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for violations of federal safe drinking water standards and poses a threat to public health and safety both on and off the Jicarilla Apache Reservation;

(5) the lack of reliable supplies of potable water to economic development and has detrimental effects on the quality of life and economic self-sufficiency of the Jicarilla Apache Tribe;

(6) due to the severe health threats and impediments to economic development, the Jicarilla Apache Tribe has authorized and expended $4,500,000 of tribal funds for the repair and replacement of portions of the municipal water system on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation;

and

(7) the United States has a trust responsibility to ensure that adequate and safe water supplies are available to meet the economic, environmental, water supply, and public health needs of the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Pursuant to reclamation laws, the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation and in consultation and cooperation with the Jicarilla Apache Tribe, shall conduct a feasibility study to determine the most feasible method of developing a safe and adequate municipal, rural, and industrial water system for the residents of the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation in the State of New Mexico.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after funds are appropriated under this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall transmit to Congress a report containing the results of the feasibility study required by subsection (a).

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated $200,000 to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

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

Mr. Speaker, the existing water system that is being used to meet the municipal water needs on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation in Northern New Mexico was built in the 1920s by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The system was originally built solely for the use of the BIA, who continues to own the system. Over the years, the tribe has made random connections to the system. It has deteriorated and become overutilized. However, it is now regarded as the tribe's municipal water source, even though it does not adequately and safely serve the existing and future growth needs of the Jicarilla Apache Tribe.

In addition, the BIA has been unable to meet the Federal Clean Water Act requirements necessary for discharging wastewater into a public watercourse and has been operating without a Federal discharge permit.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has seen a growing number of requests to develop, operate, and maintain water systems on Indian lands throughout the United States. Unfortunately, the BIA has chosen other priorities, with the result that many tribes' needs for safe drinking water have not been addressed. In the last several years, the Jicarilla tribe has spent more than $4.5 million of tribal funds for the repair and replacement of portions of the systems on the reservation.

The purpose of this legislation is to provide some funding to conduct a feasibility study which will evaluate what steps the BIA should take to rehabilitate the system. Since the BIA has failed to fund such an evaluation up to this point, the Bureau of Reclamation, through its Indian Affairs technical assistance office, is being asked to conduct this study.

Based on discussions with the various groups involved with the legislation, no more than $200,000 would need to be authorized to determine the most feasible method of developing a safe and adequate municipal, rural, and industrial water system for the reservation.

The ultimate authorization and cost of construction will remain the responsibility of the BIA.

I urge passage of this bill.

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will authorize and direct the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a feasibility study with regards to the rehabilitation of the municipal water system of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation, located in the State of New Mexico.

I am very pleased to be joined by several of my colleagues in sponsorship of this important bill. They include the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON), as well as the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER). As a ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH), the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY), and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERRUA).

Mr. Speaker, the Jicarilla Apache Reservation relies on one of the most unsafe municipal water systems in the country. While the system is a federally owned entity, the Environmental Protection Agency has, nevertheless, found the system to be in violation of the national safe drinking water standards for the last several years. Since 1995, the water system has continually failed to earn renewal of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination permit.

The sewage lagoons of the Jicarilla water system are now operating well over 100 percent capacity, spilling wastewater into the nearby arroyo that feeds directly spoke the Navajo River. This river serves as a primary source of groundwater for the region, the resulting pollution of the stream not only affects the reservation, but also travels downstream, creating public health hazards for families and communities both within and well beyond the reservation's borders.

Alarmingly, Jicarilla Apache youth are now experiencing higher than normal incidences of internal organ diseases affecting the liver, kidneys, and stomach, ailments suspected to be related to the contaminated water.

Because of the lack of sufficient water resources, the Jicarilla Tribe is not only facing considerable public health concerns, but it has also had to put a break on other important community improvement efforts, including the construction of much-needed housing and the replacement of deteriorating public schools.

For all of these reasons, the Tribal Council has been forced to declare a state of emergency for the reservation and has appropriated over $4.5 million of its own funds to begin the process of rehabilitating the water system.

I urge passage of this bill.

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