Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is identical to legislation that I introduced earlier this year, which the House passed last month.

This legislation simply corrects a mapping error that currently excludes Dare County from qualifying for Federal flood insurance under the Coastal Barrier Research Act.

Congress adopted the Coastal Barrier Research System in the 1980s to protect the coast from future development. When the North Carolina areas were added to the system, it was Congress’ intent for the line to be adjacent to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore boundary, thus allowing certain privately owned structures to remain eligible for flood insurance.

Unfortunately, the National Park Service incorrectly identified the boundary, which resulted in inaccurate maps. This error incorrectly puts approximately 200 landowners in harm’s way, especially during hurricane season.

With Hurricanes Dennis and Floyd recently wiping havoc on the Outer Banks of Eastern North Carolina, this legislation is a justified step forward in providing the necessary assistance to the landowners in Dare County. Currently, these residents have been left unprotected by the inability of the Federal Government to appropriately manage the Coastal Barrier Resource System.

With the assistance of Senator HELMS, the Committee on Resources, and the Fish and Wildlife Service, we have been able to work towards a solution that all sides can agree to. With the help of the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), we were able to pass this legislation through the House earlier this year. Passing Senate S. 1398 today will complete the work we all started a year ago.

The importance of passing this legislation could not be more timely after one of the worst hurricane seasons in recent history. I would hope and encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let me say at the outset that I very much appreciate the cooperation of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) and their staffs for working with us to shape this legislation.

I am satisfied that the boundary changes authorized in this bill are legitimate technical corrections which will resolve the past mapping errors and boundary discrepancies, and I urge the passage of this legislation.

The Coastal Barrier Resources System is critical to the long-term protection of the Nation’s coastal resources, and we must remain vigilant to protect it from unwarranted encroachment.

All this bill would do is substitute a final series of revised maps to replace an earlier series already approved by the House when it passed H.R. 1431 on September 21. This bill would authorize the final agreed upon maps.

Let me say from the start, I very much appreciate the cooperation of Mr. SAXTON and his staff in working with the minority in shaping this legislation. I am satisfied that the boundary changes authorized in this bill are legitimate technical corrections which would resolve past mapping errors and boundary discrepancies.

Moreover, we have been assured that none of the coastal barrier units labeled as LO3 have been changed in any way to reduce their spatial areas. And importantly, we have also added approximately 2,300 acres of additional coastal barrier lands to the “otherwise protected area” labeled as NC03–P. I want to thank Mr. SAXTON and the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. JONES, for agreeing to this addition.

Experience has made me necessarily cautious when it comes to modifying any coastal barrier boundary. But in this case, I believe we have gotten it right. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1398.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1167, the bill just passed.