The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I do so for the purpose of asking the gentleman from New Jersey to explain his unanimous consent request.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, coastal barriers are dynamic ecosystems and are prone to frequent moving and shifting as a result of storms and other natural processes. Despite their vulnerability, these areas are attractive locations to live in and are popular for vacation destinations.

Congress approved the Coastal Barriers Resources Act of 1982 to protect these areas by establishing a system of barrier units that are precluded from receiving Federal development assistance, including Federal flood insurance. The System is administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Maps depicting the various units are adopted by Congress, and any changes to the boundaries of System units require legislative action. The System includes 274 otherwise protected areas. Otherwise protected areas include lands that are held for conservation purposes by the Federal, State, and local governments or private conservation groups.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 34 adopts maps drawn by the Fish and Wildlife Service that correctly portray the boundaries of the Cayo Costa State Park in Florida, and this is supported by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Committee on Resources majorly and minority.

H.R. 34 passed the House of Representatives as H.R. 1431 on September 21, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, I believe H.R. 34 corrects a true mapping error, and I strongly urge the passage of this legislation.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, further reserving my right to object, this bill would authorize a minor map correction to change the boundaries of an otherwise protected area (OPA) to make these boundaries coterminal with the boundaries of a State park. This correction would exclude 14 acres of private land from the OPA.

The Committee on Resources has thoroughly reviewed the underlying justification for this map correction and has worked closely with the Fish and Wildlife Service throughout. The Fish and Wildlife Service is not willing to prove conclusively that Congress intended to include private lands abutting the boundaries of the State park when it created this OPA in 1990. Also, there is reasonable doubt that these private lands would have qualified for inclusion under the Fish and Wildlife Service's designation criteria for otherwise protected areas or undeveloped coastal barriers.

This bill will rectify a previous mapping error by the Fish and Wildlife Service and bring this OPA into conformance with congressional intent to use existing park boundaries as the basis for OPA boundaries. The Administration supports this legislation and I urge that the House pass the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 34

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

SECTION 1. CORRECTIONS TO MAPS.  
(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, before the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, make such corrections to the map described in subsection (b) as are necessary to ensure that depictions of areas on that map are consistent with the depictions of areas appearing on the map entitled “Amendments to the Coastal Barrier Resources System”, dated...
Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I do so for the purpose of asking the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, S. 574 is a second correction to the Coastal Barrier Resources System. In this case, the proposed change is to a unit affecting the Cape Henlopen State Park in Delaware.

This modification will remove approximately 32 acres of this privately owned land that lies outside of the State park. This property was incorrectly incorporated within the unit, and it is appropriate to properly adjust the boundaries of DE-03P. Furthermore, this legislation adds approximately another acre to the Coastal Barrier Resource System.

Mr. Speaker, the House version of this legislation was the subject of a subcommittee hearing. It was carefully considered by the full Committee on Resources. It was adopted by the House of Representatives with the passage of H.R. 1431.

In addition, the other body unanimously adopted S. 574 as introduced by Senator Biden of Delaware on April 22. During our hearing, the administrative witnesses testified that the ‘‘modification of the boundary constitutes a valid technical correction that conforms to the boundaries of the OPA to the boundaries of the State park, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department supports.’’

Mr. Speaker, I urge an ‘‘aye’’ vote. Mr. SAXTON of Delaware. Mr. Speaker, further reserving my right to object, this bill has been thoroughly reviewed by the Committee on Resources. The technical corrections contained in this bill are legitimate, non-controversial, and supported by the Administration.

I am especially pleased that this legislation would add an additional 213 acres of land within Cape Henlopen State Park to the Coastal Barrier Resource System. I support this bill and I urge a ‘‘aye’’ vote.

Mr. CASTLE of Delaware. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 574, a bill to correct the boundary of the Coastal Barrier Resources System Map in Lewes, Delaware.

Back in 1990, when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was drawing the boundary for this map, the service inadvertently included the Cape Shores Development and the Barcroft Corporation in the system. The Fish and Wildlife Service had intended to follow the boundaries of Cape Henlopen State Park, but followed the wrong line on the map. As a result, this has made it difficult for Barcroft and the homeowners in Cape Shores to obtain affordable flood insurance.

This summer, the House passed an identical bill introduced to correct this problem as a subtitle to H.R. 1431, a comprehensive bill to reauthorize the Coast Barrier Resources Act. Due to time constraints, the Senate was not able to pass its own comprehensive reauthorization bill.

Therefore, in order to expedite the legislative process and make sure Barcroft Corporation and the residents of Cape Shores can obtain affordable flood insurance before winter storms strike Delaware, it is essential that we pass this legislation before the session ends.

I want to thank the Resources Committee Chairman, DON YOUNG; the Resources Fisheries Subcommittee Chairman, JIM SAXTON; and their staff for their tremendous efforts on this. I believe they shall make such corrections to the map described in subsection (b) as are necessary to move on that map the boundary of the otherwise protected area (as defined in section 12 of the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 3503 note; Public Law 101–591)) to the Cape Henlopen State Park boundary to the extent necessary.

(1) to exclude from the otherwise protected area the adjacent property leased, as of the date of enactment of this Act, by the Barcroft Corporation and Barcroft Associates which are privately held corporations under the law of the State of Delaware; and

(2) to include in the otherwise protected area the southeastern corner of Cape Henlopen State Park seaward of the Lewes and Rehoboth Canals.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM ACT

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Resources be discharged from further consideration of the Senate bill (S. 1866) to redesignate the Coastal Barrier Resources System as the ‘‘John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System,’’ and ask for its immediate consideration by the Committee on Resources.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California).

Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I take this time for the purpose of asking the gentleman from New Jersey for an explanation of his unanimous consent request.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, finally, we are considering S. 1866, the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Act. The late Senator John Chafee was one of the program's biggest supporters, and he remained one of the program's biggest supporters up until his untimely death earlier this year.

The late Senator Chafee, in his role as ranking member and later chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, was a guardian of this System's integrity, and worked tirelessly to prevent any unnecessary encroachment into the System.

Senator Chafee served the people of Rhode Island with great distinction for over 20 years. It is a fitting tribute to his name to name the Coastal Barrier Resources System in his honor. I urge my colleagues to vote ‘‘aye’’ on this measure.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, further reserving my right to object, with the recent passing of Senator John H. Chafee, Congress has lost a compassionate and persuasive advocate for the protection and preservation of our Nation's natural heritage. Senator Chafee's many legislative accomplishments, including his leadership in authorizing and improving keystone environmental legislation such as the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Endangered Species Act to only name a few, leave a legacy of accomplishment that is both daunting and admirable. As many people know, Senator Chafee deeply loved the coastal barrier beaches and islands of his beloved Ocean State. Perhaps this lifelong affection explains why Senator Chafee worked so tirelessly to create the Coastal Barrier Resource System in 1982 and why he fought so strenuously to protect it in the intervening years.

If there really is a way to pay tribute to this modest and self-effacing man, I can think of no better testimonial than to re-name the Coastal Barrier Resources System in his honor. It will serve as a lasting tribute to the man, and a reminder to us all of the important work that still remains unfinished in order to protect our Nation's environment. I support this bill and urge all Members to vote for it.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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