

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1937 was introduced by Senator CRAIG from Idaho. A companion bill, H.R. 4437, was introduced by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS).

This legislation allows consumer-owned utility systems in the Pacific Northwest to aggregate their power contracts from the Bonneville Power Administration into a single contract. The purpose is to provide administrative and operational efficiencies for the power purchasers and for Bonneville.

The bill does not expand any such customers' rights to purchase requirements for power from Bonneville and does not allow resale by the joint operating entity of such power to customers that are not its members or participants.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following letters for the RECORD:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, 24 July 2000.

Hon. TOM BILEY,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On July 19, 2000, the Committee on Resources ordered favorably reported without amendment S. 1937, to amend the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act to provide for sales of electricity by the Bonneville Power Administration to joint operating entities. This bill was referred to the Committee on Resources and additionally to the Committee on Commerce, where the Subcommittee on Energy and Power has marked up and forwarded the bill to the Full Commerce Committee.

Given the rapidly approaching adjournment date for the 106th Congress, and several of our Pacific Northwest Congressional Members' wish to move this bill as quickly as possible, I ask that you allow the Committee on Commerce to be discharged from further consideration of the bill. We can then schedule it for Floor consideration as soon as possible and send it onto the President.

Of course, by allowing this to occur, the Committee on Commerce does not waive its jurisdiction over S. 1937 or any other similar matter. Although I have no reason to believe that the bill would not be passed without amendment and signed into law by the President, if a conference on the bill became necessary, I would support the Committee on Commerce's request to be named to the conference. Finally, this action should not be seen as precedent for any other Senate bill which affects the Committee on Commerce's jurisdiction. I would be pleased to place this letter and your response in the Committee on Resources' report on the bill to document this agreement.

As always, I appreciate your cooperation and that of your staff in moving this bill.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, July 24, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Resources, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR DON: Thank you for your recent letter regarding your committee's action on S. 1937, a bill to amend the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act to provide for sales of electricity by the Bonneville Power Administration to joint operating entities. As you know, Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives grants the Committee on Commerce jurisdiction over the generation and marketing of power and the legislation was additionally referred to the Committee on Commerce. As you also noted, the Subcommittee on Energy and Power approved the bill for consideration by the Full Committee on May 16, 2000.

Because of the importance of this legislation, I recognize your desire to bring it before the House in an expeditious manner, and I will not exercise the Committee's right to further consideration of this legislation. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, however, the Committee on Commerce does not waive its jurisdiction over S. 1937. In addition, the Commerce Committee reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I appreciate your commitment to support any request by the Commerce Committee for conferees on S. 1937 or similar legislation.

I request that you include this letter and your response in your committee report on the bill and as part of the Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

TOM BILEY,
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oregon for his management of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I wish that every bill could be passed in such a fashion and with such strong bipartisan support and the spirit of cooperation on both sides of the aisle.

This bill amends the Pacific Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act to allow the administrator of Bonneville Power Administration to sell electricity at wholesale to Joint Operating Entities, the acronym JOEs. JOEs are comprised of public power bodies or cooperatives that aggregate their power contracts into a single contract for administrative and operational efficiencies. Under the bill, the power is sold solely for the purpose of meeting regional firm power consumer loads of regional public bodies and cooperatives that are members of the JOE. Other Federal power marketing agencies currently make similar aggregate sales. The Bonneville Power Ad-

ministration, for example, also makes aggregated sales for transmission contracts and nonfirm and surplus power sales.

Mr. Speaker, the bill is narrowly drawn to allow only JOEs that were in existence as of the date of enactment to participate. It does not expand purchasers' rights or ability to resell power other than to their own retail customers or other JOE members, or as otherwise permitted by law.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. 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 Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1937.

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.

DESCHUTES RESOURCES CONSERVANCY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1027) to reauthorize the participation of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Deschutes Resources Conservancy, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1027

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Deschutes Resources Conservancy Reauthorization Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PARTICIPATION OF BUREAU OF RECLAMATION IN DESCHUTES RESOURCES CONSERVANCY.

Section 301 of the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 (division B of Public Law 104-208; 110 Stat. 3009-534) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3), by inserting before the period at the end the following: ", and up to a total amount of \$2,000,000 during each of fiscal years 2002 through 2006"; and

(2) in subsection (h), by inserting before the period at the end the following: "and \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2006".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALDOMAVEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all

Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 1027.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Deschutes Resources Conservancy was authorized in 1996 as a 5-year pilot project designed to achieve local consensus for projects to improve the ecosystem health in the Deschutes River Basin.

The existing authorization provides up to \$1 million through the Bureau of Reclamation each year for projects. Projects funded through the Conservancy demonstration include: piping for irrigation district delivery systems to prevent water loss; securing water rights for instream flows to secure Squaw Creek habitat; providing fencing of riparian areas to project riverbanks; working with private timberland owners to restore riparian and wetland areas; and seeking donated water rights to enhance instream flows in the Deschutes River Basin.

Mr. Speaker, the bill would reauthorize the 5-year pilot project from 2002 to 2006 and increase the authorization ceiling to \$2 million annually.

Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent piece of legislation. It is a great group that puts a lot of hard work into these projects, and I would encourage my colleagues to support its reauthorization.

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 thank my good friend, the gentleman from Oregon, for the management of this legislation. I thank the good Senator from Oregon, Senator GORDON SMITH, for his chief sponsorship of this bill. I thank also my good friend, the gentleman from Oregon, for his passage previously of similar legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Senate bill 1027 is to extend participation of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Deschutes Resources Conservancy.

The Deschutes Resources Conservancy was authorized in 1996 as a 5-year pilot project designed to achieve local consensus for projects to improve ecosystem health in the Deschutes River Basin. Mr. Speaker, S. 1027 will reauthorize funding of these activities for another 5 years and increase the authorization ceiling to \$2 million annually.

This is a highly successful, inexpensive, and popular program involving the cooperation of irrigators, ranchers, environmentalists and State, local and Federal Government agencies. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. 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 Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1027.

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.

SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST LAND CONVEYANCE

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3657) to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of public domain land in the San Bernardino National Forest in the State of California, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3657

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

SECTION 1. LAND CONVEYANCE AND SETTLEMENT, SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST, CALIFORNIA.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—Subject to valid existing rights and settlement of claims as provided in this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall convey to KATY 101.3 FM (in this section referred to as "KATY") all right, title and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property consisting of approximately 1.06 acres within the San Bernardino National Forest in Riverside County, California, generally located in the north ½ of section 23, township 5 south, range 2 east, San Bernardino meridian.

(b) LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—The Secretary and KATY shall, by mutual agreement, prepare the legal description of the parcel of real property to be conveyed under subsection (a), which is generally depicted as Exhibit A-2 in an appraisal report of the subject property dated August 26, 1999, by Paul H. Meiling.

(c) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration for the conveyance under subsection (a) shall be equal to the appraised fair market value of the parcel to be conveyed. Any appraisal to determine the fair market value of the parcel shall be prepared in conformity with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions and approved by the Secretary.

(d) SETTLEMENT.—In addition to the consideration referred to in subsection (c), upon the receipt of \$16,600 paid by KATY to the Secretary, the Secretary shall release KATY from any and all claims of the United States arising from the occupancy and use of the San Bernardino National Forest by KATY for communication site purposes.

(e) ACCESS REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding section 1323(a) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3210(a)) or any other law, the Secretary is not required to provide access over National Forest System lands to the parcel

of real property conveyed under subsection (a).

(f) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Any costs associated with the creation of a subdivided parcel, recordation of a survey, zoning, and planning approval, and similar expenses with respect to the conveyance under this section, shall be borne by KATY.

(g) ASSUMPTION OF LIABILITY.—By acceptance of the conveyance of the parcel referred to in subsection (a), KATY, and its successors and assigns, will indemnify and hold harmless the United States for any and all liability to General Telephone and Electronics Corporation (also known as "GTE"), KATY, and any third party that is associated with the parcel, including liability for any buildings or personal property on the parcel belonging to GTE and any other third parties.

(h) TREATMENT OF RECEIPTS.—All funds received pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (16 U.S.C. 484a; commonly known as the Sisk Act), and the funds shall remain available to the Secretary, until expended, for the acquisition of lands, waters, and interests in land for the inclusion in the San Bernardino National Forest.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3657.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3657 was introduced by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. BONO). This legislation would convey a little over an acre of Forest Service land to a radio station located in the San Bernardino National Forest in California for fair market value.

During the subcommittee hearing on this bill, the administration requested that the bill be amended to include language that would require the radio station to prove that it had clear title to all existing structures on the site. During the markup, the legislation was amended to include that language. The bill is supported by the administration.

I would urge Members to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3657, 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 thank my good friend, the gentleman from Oregon, for management of this legislation. I thank our Chairman of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Alaska