

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the Senate bill, S. 624, and 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 do want to compliment and commend the gentleman from Montana, Senator CONRAD BURNS, for his sponsorship of Senate bill 624.

The bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to plan, design, construct, operate, maintain, and replace the Assiniboine and Sioux rural water systems within the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana, and directs the Secretary to enter into a cooperative agreement with the tribe. All costs of the Indian system would be non-reimbursable.

The bill also authorizes the Dry Prairie Rural Water System, a project to serve non-Indian residents in the area, with the Federal Government paying 76 percent of those project costs. The Dry Prairie system would be interconnected with the Fort Peck Reservation system.

I note that S. 624 is opposed by the administration, primarily because the administration believes the costs of non-Indian water supply projects should be fully reimbursed by the project beneficiaries. While I agree we should make every attempt to comply with this policy goal, I believe that in this case some Federal cost-sharing is appropriate.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, I support and urge the passage of S. 624, The Fort Peck Rural Reservation Rural Water System Act. This bill authorizes the construction of a fresh water system for residents on and near the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in northeast Montana. I introduced companion legislation along with Senator BURNS, and a version of his bill has already passed the Senate.

The need for a safe and reliable water source is particularly acute on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. In one community, sulfate levels in the water are four times the standard for safe drinking water, and in four communities, iron levels are five times the standard. The unemployment rate on the Fort Peck Reservation is near 75 percent, and the reservation has been plagued by health alerts for drinking water, despite the fact that the area is located near one of the largest manmade reservoirs in the United States. Health problems such as heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes run rampant.

A safe and reliable source of water is necessary to both improve health and stimulate economic development on the reservation and in an area of Montana far remote from any major population centers. Those who live on the Fort Peck Reservation and in nearby communities deserve the peace of mind that comes with a safe supply of water. S. 624 will improve the water systems for at least 24,000 Montanans in this area, and will provide water not only for drinking, but also for agriculture.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few of the people without whom this bill

would not have been possible. Former Montana Lieutenant Governor Dennis Rehberg brought this issue to the attention of House Leadership while Speaker HASTERT was visiting Montana. Without the renewed momentum due to Mr. Rehberg's efforts and the integrity of the House Leadership, the water safety issues at Fort Peck may have gone unaddressed. I would especially like to thank Chairman DOOLITTLE for his willingness not only to work with all those involved in the bill, but to spearhead efforts to find a solution to this problem.

And certainly not least of all, I would like to thank Senator CONRAD BURNS for being the champion of this project in the Senate. He has put an extraordinary amount of work and effort into improving the lives and health of the people in the Fort Peck area, and the residents there owe him a debt of gratitude for moving this dream to the brink of reality.

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

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I have no further 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 Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 624, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DETERMINING SIZE AND QUORUM OF LEGISLATURE BY LAWS OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2296) to amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide that the number of members on the legislature of the Virgin Islands and the number of such members constituting a quorum shall be determined by the laws of the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2296

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

SECTION 1. SIZE AND QUORUM OF LEGISLATURE DETERMINED BY LAWS OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

(a) SIZE OF LEGISLATURE.—Section 5(b) of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands (48 U.S.C. 1571(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking “fifteen”; and
(2) by inserting after the first sentence the following: “The number of such senators shall be determined by the laws of the Virgin Islands.”

(b) NUMBER CONSTITUTING QUORUM.—The first sentence of section 9(a) of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands (48 U.S.C. 1575(a)) is amended to read as follows: “The number of members of the legislature needed to constitute a quorum shall be determined by the laws of the Virgin Islands.”

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. 2296.

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, I rise today in support of H.R. 2296, legislation which would amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide that the number of members of the legislature of the Virgin Islands and the number of such members constituting a quorum shall be determined by the laws of the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask support for passage of H.R. 2296, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, again I want to highly commend and compliment the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) for her sponsorship and authorship of this legislation. It certainly has the bipartisan support of both sides of the aisle on this committee.

Mr. Speaker, I find it interesting that the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands still have to come to Congress to reduce the size of their legislature. But that they must do so provides some insight into the structure of the relationships between the United States and its insular areas. For better or worse, each relationship is unique.

In the case of the Virgin Islands, Congress has given the authority to the Government of the Virgin Islands to establish a constitutional form of government under which the people of the Virgin Islands could control such things as the size of their government. This more localized form of government has not been established yet, and in an effort to make the government more efficient, the people of the Virgin Islands wish to reduce the size of their unicameral legislature from 15 members to 9.

This is a request being made by the people of the Virgin Islands, and it comes to Congress from a duly enacted resolution of the local legislature. As it is in keeping with the wishes of the people and their elected local representatives, and is consistent with sound management practices, I support this bill and ask my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the passage of H.R. 2296 is long overdue. This noncontroversial legislation allows the Virgin Islands Government to free up

government revenue by reducing the size of their legislature and thereby redirecting the savings towards education, law enforcement, and other issues confronting their community.

H.R. 2296 was first introduced by our colleague, Ms. CHRISTIAN-CHRISTENSEN, during the 105th Congress and though it passed the Resources Committee unanimously, we were unable to get it scheduled for floor consideration. I am pleased that we are finally taking action on this legislation today and hope that it provides some relief of our fellow Americans in the Virgin Islands who have not experienced the same level of economic prosperity we have enjoyed on the mainland.

I commend the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands for her work on this matter and urge full support of its passage.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2296, a bill I introduced earlier this year to give my constituents, the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, a greater degree of self-government by allowing us and not Congress, to determine the size of our local legislature.

I must begin my remarks by also thanking the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), chairman of the Committee on Resources and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), ranking member, for their support and hard work in getting this bill to the floor today.

The gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG), the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), Ranking Democrat, and I all recognize and acknowledge that H.R. 2296 is only necessary because the Virgin Islands have not yet adopted a local constitution after four attempts.

Although I believe our adopting a constitution would be the preferred process, a constitution convention and adoption of a Virgin Islands constitution may still be a long way off. Therefore, H.R. 2296 was introduced on June 22 of last year in response to a resolution that was passed by the 22nd Legislature of the Virgin Islands to petition Congress to reduce the size of the local legislature from its current 15 members to 9 as a means of saving our cash-starved government badly needed funds. A similar bill to H.R. 2296 was introduced in the 105th Congress and was reported out by the Committee on Resources in August 5 by a voice vote.

The Virgin Islands continues to struggle, Mr. Speaker, with a severe fiscal crisis, and H.R. 2296 is looked at by some Virgin Islanders as a means of saving scarce funds by reducing the size of our legislature. I drafted this bill to cede the authority to restructure the legislature to the Virgin Islands rather than have Congress prescribe a specific number of local senators because, in my estimation, all alternatives that can produce more ac-

countability and reduce budgets ought to be considered, not just the reduction in numbers.

In closing, I want to thank Virgin Islands Senator Adlah Foncie Donastorg for his authorship of the resolution which led to the introduction of the bill before us today. I also want to thank the staff of the Committee on Resources for their work on the bill. I thank my colleagues for supporting it.

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

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I have no further 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 Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2296.

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.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1654, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. SENSENBRENNER submitted the following conference and statement on the bill (H.R. 1654) to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002.

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 106-843)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1654), to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the “National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2000”.

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Subtitle A—Authorizations

Sec. 101. Human space flight.

Sec. 102. Science, aeronautics, and technology.

Sec. 103. Mission support.

Sec. 104. Inspector general.

Sec. 105. Total authorization.

Subtitle B—Limitations and Special Authority

Sec. 121. Use of funds for construction.

Sec. 122. Availability of appropriated amounts.

Sec. 123. Reprogramming for construction of facilities.

Sec. 124. Use of funds for scientific consultations or extraordinary expenses.

Sec. 125. Earth science limitation.

Sec. 126. Competitiveness and international cooperation.

Sec. 127. Trans-Hab.

Sec. 128. Consolidated space operations contract.

TITLE II—INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Sec. 201. International Space Station contingency plan.

Sec. 202. Cost limitation for the International Space Station.

Sec. 203. Research on International Space Station.

Sec. 204. Space station commercial development demonstration program.

Sec. 205. Space station.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 301. Requirement for independent cost analysis.

Sec. 302. National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 amendments.

Sec. 303. Commercial space goods and services.

Sec. 304. Cost effectiveness calculations.

Sec. 305. Foreign contract limitation.

Sec. 306. Authority to reduce or suspend contract payments based on substantial evidence of fraud.

Sec. 307. Space shuttle upgrade study.

Sec. 308. Aero-space transportation technology integration.

Sec. 309. Definitions of commercial space policy terms.

Sec. 310. External tank opportunities study.

Sec. 311. Notice.

Sec. 312. Unitary Wind Tunnel Plan Act of 1949 amendments.

Sec. 313. Innovative technologies for human space flight.

Sec. 314. Life in the universe.

Sec. 315. Carbon cycle remote sensing applications research.

Sec. 316. Remote sensing for agricultural and resource management.

Sec. 317. 100th Anniversary of Flight educational initiative.

Sec. 318. Internet availability of information.

Sec. 319. Sense of the Congress; requirement regarding notice.

Sec. 320. Anti-drug message on Internet sites.

Sec. 321. Enhancement of science and mathematics programs.

Sec. 322. Space advertising.

Sec. 323. Aeronautical research.

Sec. 324. Insurance, indemnification and cross-waivers.

Sec. 325. Use of abandoned, underutilized, and excess buildings, grounds, and facilities.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration should continue to pursue actions and reforms directed at reducing institutional costs, including management restructuring, facility consolidation, procurement reform, and convergence with defense and commercial sector systems, while sustaining safety standards for personnel and hardware.

(2) The United States is on the verge of creating and using new technologies in microsatellites, information processing, and space transportation that could radically alter the manner in which the Federal Government approaches its space mission.

(3) The overwhelming preponderance of the Federal Government's requirements for routine, unmanned space transportation can be met most