

Moreover, the bill would provide an important first step to creating a biological corridor that extends from north of Tucson to Mexico for animal movements that are necessary for the long-term viability of some species.

In addition, two of southern Arizona's perennial streams, the Cienega Creek and the Babocomari River, would be protected, ensuring a long-term, sustainable riparian area.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the author of this bill, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE).

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule for H.R. 2941, the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area Establishment Act.

As the gentleman from Washington said, it is an open rule, and deserves support of all the Members of this body.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 0, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 513]

YEAS—411

Abercrombie	Bilbray	Campbell
Ackerman	Billarakis	Canady
Aderholt	Bishop	Cannon
Allen	Blagojevich	Capps
Andrews	Bliley	Capuano
Archer	Blumenauer	Cardin
Armey	Blunt	Carson
Baca	Boehler	Castle
Bachus	Boehner	Chabot
Baker	Bonilla	Chambliss
Baldacci	Bonior	Clayton
Baldwin	Bono	Clement
Ballenger	Borski	Clyburn
Barcia	Boswell	Coble
Barr	Boucher	Coburn
Barrett (NE)	Boyd	Collins
Barrett (WI)	Brady (PA)	Combest
Bartlett	Brady (TX)	Condit
Barton	Brown (FL)	Coyers
Bass	Brown (OH)	Cook
Becerra	Bryant	Cooksey
Bentsen	Burr	Costello
Bereuter	Burton	Cox
Berkley	Buyer	Coyne
Berman	Callahan	Cramer
Berry	Calvert	Crane
Biggert	Camp	Crowley

Cubin	Hyde
Cummings	Inslee
Cunningham	Isakson
Danner	Istook
Davis (FL)	Jackson (IL)
Davis (IL)	Jackson-Lee
Davis (VA)	(TX)
Deal	Jefferson
DeFazio	Jenkins
DeGette	John
Delahunt	Johnson (CT)
DeLauro	Johnson, E. B.
DeLay	Johnson, Sam
DeMint	Jones (NC)
Deutsch	Jones (OH)
Diaz-Balart	Kanjorski
Dickey	Kaptur
Dicks	Kasich
Dingell	Kelly
Dixon	Kennedy
Doggett	Kildee
Dooley	Kilpatrick
Doolittle	Kind (WI)
Doyle	Kingston
Dreier	Kleczka
Duncan	Knollenberg
Dunn	Kolbe
Edwards	Kucinich
Ehlers	Kuykendall
Ehrlich	LaFalce
Emerson	LaHood
Engel	Lampson
English	Lantos
Etheridge	Largent
Evans	Larson
Everett	Latham
Ewing	LaTourette
Farr	Leach
Fattah	Lee
Filner	Levin
Fletcher	Lewis (CA)
Foley	Lewis (GA)
Forbes	Lewis (KY)
Ford	Linder
Fossella	Lipinski
Fowler	LoBiondo
Frank (MA)	Lofgren
Frelinghuysen	Lowe
Frost	Lucas (KY)
Gallely	Lucas (OK)
Ganske	Luther
Gejdenson	Maloney (CT)
Gekas	Maloney (NY)
Gephardt	Manzullo
Gibbons	Markey
Gilchrest	Martinez
Gillmor	Mascara
Gilman	Matsui
Gonzalez	McCarthy (MO)
Goode	McCarthy (NY)
Goodlatte	McCrery
Gordon	McDermott
Goss	McGovern
Graham	McHugh
Green (TX)	McInnis
Green (WI)	McIntyre
Greenwood	McKeon
Gutierrez	McKinney
Gutknecht	McNulty
Hall (OH)	Hall (TX)
Hansen	Meek (FL)
Hastings (FL)	Meeks (NY)
Hastings (WA)	Menendez
Hayes	Metcalf
Hayworth	Mica
Herger	Millender-
Hill (IN)	McDonald
Hill (MT)	Miller, Gary
Hilleary	Miller, George
Hilliard	Minge
Hinche	Mink
Hinojosa	Moakley
Hobson	Mollohan
Hoefl	Moore
Hoekstra	Moran (KS)
Holden	Moran (VA)
Holt	Morella
Hooley	Myrick
Horn	Nadler
Hostettler	Napolitano
Houghton	Neal
Hoyer	Nethercutt
Hulshof	Ney
Hunter	Northup
Hutchinson	Norwood
	Nussle

Oberstar	Taylor (MS)
Olver	Taylor (NC)
Ortiz	Terry
Ose	Thomas
Owens	Thompson (CA)
Oxley	Thompson (MS)
Packard	Thornberry
Pallone	Thune
Pascarell	Thurman
Pastor	Tiahrt
Pease	Tierney
Pelosi	Toomey
Peterson (MN)	Towns
Peterson (PA)	Trafficant
Petri	Turner
Phelps	
Pickering	
Pickett	Baird
Pitts	Chenoweth-Hage
Pombo	Clay
Pomeroy	Eshoo
Porter	Franks (NJ)
Portman	Goodling
Price (NC)	Granger
Pryce (OH)	Hefley
Quinn	
Radanovich	
Rahall	
Ramstad	
Rangel	
Regula	
Reyes	
Reynolds	
Riley	
Rivers	
Rodriguez	
Roemer	
Rogan	
Rogers	
Rohrabacher	
Ros-Lehtinen	
Rothman	
Roukema	
Roybal-Allard	
Royce	
Rush	
Ryan (WI)	
Ryun (KS)	
Sabo	
Salmon	
Sanchez	
Sanders	
Sandlin	
Sanford	
Sawyer	
Saxton	
Scarborough	
Schaffer	
Schakowsky	
Scott	
Sensenbrenner	
Serrano	
Sessions	
Shadegg	
Shaw	
Shays	
Sherman	
Sherwood	
Shimkus	
Shows	
Shuster	
Simpson	
Sisisky	
Skeen	
Skelton	
Slaughter	
Smith (MI)	
Smith (NJ)	
Smith (TX)	
Smith (WA)	
Snyder	
Souder	
Spence	
Spratt	
Stark	
Stearns	
Stenholm	
Strickland	
Stump	
Stupak	
Sununu	
Talent	
Tancredo	
Tanner	
Tauscher	
Tauzin	

Udall (CO)	Weldon (FL)
Udall (NM)	Weldon (PA)
Upton	Weller
Velázquez	Wexler
Visclosky	Weygand
Vitter	Whitfield
Walden	Wicker
Walsh	Wilson
Wamp	Wolf
Waters	Woolsey
Watkins	Wu
Watt (NC)	Wynn
Watts (OK)	Young (AK)
Waxman	Young (FL)
Weiner	

NOT VOTING—22

King (NY)	Paul
Klink	Payne
Lazio	Stabenow
McCollum	Sweeney
McIntosh	Vento
Miller (FL)	Wise
Murtha	
Obey	

□ 1220

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri changed her vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 110. Joint Resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes.

QUESTION OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of a personal privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). The Chair has been apprised of the predicate on which the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) seeks recognition and finds (in consonance with the precedents cited in section 708 of the House Rules and Manual) that it qualifies as a question of personal privilege under rule IX.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to thank the Members of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for concluding what has been a 4-year nightmare to myself and my family. In fact, 4 years, 1 month and 31 days ago, a group associated with Ralph Nader filed an ethics complaint against me.

I have agreed to accept a single letter of reproof to settle this matter. Now, this letter of reproof deals with matters of appearances of improprieties to which I acknowledge. I am very pleased that the committee dismissed the wild and inaccurate charges originally filed by the Nader group. I am very pleased

that not a single allegation, not a scintilla of evidence, not a hint of any of this referred to any actions that I took that influenced my activities as chairman of my committee.

Now, the Webster dictionary defines reproof. As we know, a letter of reproof, by definition, is the mildest form of sanction. The Webster dictionary defines it as, and I quote, "to scold or correct, usually gently and with kindly intent."

Now, I must confess I feel neither gentle nor kindly about this 4-year nightmare which has been so difficult for my family and which has cost hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees.

It began with this Nader organization complaint filed. And under the rules, it is a fact, not an opinion, it is a fact that, under the rules, such a complaint must include the signatures of three sitting Members. It is a fact, not an opinion, that at least one of those signatures, not only was not signed by a Member, his name was not even spelled correctly. So on the face of it, this should have been rejected in the very beginning. The then committee began the investigation by violating their own rules. But that is something behind us.

It is also a fact that, in the week of October 5, 1998, 2 years ago, the then chairman of the committee sought me out and said to me, and I can quote it because I immediately not only wrote it down, but also sent it to my attorneys and sent a copy of a letter to the distinguished gentleman himself to make sure that I had not misunderstood. He said to me that, after conferring with other Members of the committee, that they wanted to wrap up the matter by year's end because there was nothing of substance. It was, and I emphasize, I quote, "B.S." I immediately prepared a memorandum, and of course my family and I proceeded on this basis.

As it turned out, that was 2 years ago. I was told they wanted to wrap it up by year's end. It did not happen. We regret that. But we went on to do our best to try to comply with this nightmare.

It is also a matter of public record that the chairman of the investigation committee and I have had bad blood over the years, largely, although not exclusively, over the fact that I refused to block a 6-runway which he wanted killed for his airport. At the time, people came to me and said "you should object under the rules to that gentleman being chairman of the subcommittee." I said absolutely not. I said then that gentleman is an honorable gentleman, and I said now that gentleman is an honorable gentleman. So I agreed for us to proceed under those rules.

I agreed to this letter. It is true that, after my chief of staff of 22 years re-

tired, I and my new chief of staff contacted that old chief of staff numerous times on official business to get guidance because that former chief of staff was the only one who had the knowledge that we needed to conduct the affairs of our office. If that created an appearance of impropriety, absolutely. That is true.

It is also true that my wife and I and my family went to Puerto Rico on what we believed to be an official trip. While it is true that we did, indeed, meet with two different organizations on official business plus, as a member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I took time to meet with DEA agents on drug matters relating to Puerto Rico, nevertheless it was concluded by the committee that this trip was more recreational. I accept that judgment that it created the appearance of recreation.

It is also true that my congressional staff contributed many times to work in my campaign. It is true that we kept no written records. I acknowledge that. I admit that. If that is an appearance of impropriety, so be it. We understand that the particular staff person in question did testify that she worked nights and weekends to make it up. But, absolutely, we did not keep records which have been deemed to be adequate, and so I have no problem in acknowledging that violation.

It is also true that the Bud Shuster for Congress Committee spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on dinners and charter flights. We identified it as political. But it is true that we did not spell out the details. We did not spell out who it was we had dinner with. We did not spell out the purpose of the dinner. We reported it all on our FEC reports, but we did not provide any detail. So if that is an appearance of impropriety, so be it. I accept it.

Also, the word "excessive" was used in spending campaign funds. Now, if one comes from a rural area, we do not have the benefit of airlines, scheduled airlines. We have to use charter flights.

□ 1230

But between the dinners and the flights, these campaign expenses were "excessive." We thought that was something the FEC was supposed to deal with, but nevertheless we accept that. If that created the appearance of impropriety, so be it.

But I would point out, in fact, it really raises my hackles a bit when people say, "Well, you didn't have any opposition." My colleagues, I have got to confess to the sin of pride. I am the only Pennsylvanian in our Nation's history who has won both the Democratic and the Republican nominations nine times. These Democratic nominations did not fall out of the sky. We conduct very, very complicated write-in campaigns. And in 11 counties, we have had to run 11 campaigns for a write-in campaign. It costs a lot of money.

We work 365 days a year on the political end of our activities, and we do spend an awful lot of money. And if that created the appearance of impropriety, I accept that.

Now, if our practices created the appearance of impropriety, our attorneys at one point said, wait a minute, these are common practices. I said, well, I thought they were, but maybe they are not. So our attorneys initiated investigations into the FEC reports as well as the ethics report of 35 Members of Congress, both sides of the aisle, particularly Members of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and the leadership in the Congress to see whether these practices were also conducted by other Members of the Congress. And, indeed, they discovered that in a vast majority of the cases, meals, with the full range of Washington restaurants, Mr. K's, Red Sage, Morton's, Capitol Grill, were paid for by campaign expenses. The Palm, the MCI Center, private clubs, golfing expenses; all paid for with campaign expenses. Entertainment, music, florists, commercial airfare.

Indeed, I emphasize since we do not have commercial flights in rural Pennsylvania, I had to rely on charter flights, but we spent an awful lot of money on it. And if that created an appearance of impropriety, absolutely I accept that.

Members, as they traveled around in style, Sun Valley, campaign expenses or paid for by private groups; Sun Valley, Idaho, Jackson Hole, Aspen, Boulder, Miami, Boca Raton, Orlando, Ft. Myers, Naples, Palm Springs, Pebble Beach, the list goes on and on, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Bermuda, Virgin Islands, Cuba, Panama, London, Scotland, Ireland, Rome, Zurich, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Africa, et cetera, et cetera, all paid for by private groups.

Now, it is a fact that we did not keep a record of how much of my time was spent on official business and how much time was spent on recreation. This is one of the things that the Congress and the committee might want to consider clarifying this, so that when a Member does go on a trip paid for by a private group, he should keep a record of how many hours and minutes he spends on official business and how many hours and minutes he spends on recreations so we would know clearly and so my colleagues do not find themselves in the same difficulty in which we have found ourselves.

In fact, I considered introducing legislation, but it is not my style to do something with tongue-in-cheek to say that we have got to have written records of every time we go and have a dinner with somebody, and we must write down who the person was and what was talked about. Do we really want that around here? Well, what is

good for the goose is good for the gander, but it is certainly not my point to suggest that that should be done.

I have to tell my colleagues that my attorneys read the committee report, and they take violent exception to some of the characterizations in it, and urge, by the way, that all my colleagues read our reply to the report, but I accept the letter of reproof. I accept the appearance of impropriety. In the course of it, my attorneys tell me there were 150 subpoenas, 75 witnesses, 33 depositions; and they tell me time and time again in debriefings that they were informed that these witnesses by the staff attorneys were intimidated, were threatened, and were harassed.

I want to emphasize very strongly, these are not the gentlemen and ladies on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. As far as I have been apprised, the gentlemen and the ladies on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct conducted themselves in a manner which we all would expect them to conduct themselves. The staff, of course, was a different situation.

So in conclusion, this 4-year ordeal is over. I accept the findings to stop the hemorrhaging of legal fees and to put this behind us. I am less than thrilled by the drumbeat of malicious, inaccurate newspaper stories which have appeared over the period of time. I certainly want to thank my family and my friends, my staff and my colleagues for their tremendous support which I have received during this 4-year nightmare. And perhaps most significantly, as a result of the tremendous support I have received, our Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has been able to be an effective committee, has been a committee which in fact, more than any other committee in the Congress, I am told, has seen 119 pieces of legislation signed into law, the largest and most productive committee of the Congress with, indeed, some historic pieces of legislation.

So I accept the findings of the committee in order to put this behind us. And most importantly I want to thank all my colleagues for their tremendous support over this period of time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, the apologia pro vita sua we have just heard from the gentleman in the well is and represents one of the most intensely personal moments in this body; one of the most human experiences that we engage in. None of us, unless we stand in that well, as the gentleman has just done, can understand the pain and the difficulty, but also the strength of character it takes to deliver the statement the gentleman has just made, and to say "I accept the judgment." But it is characteristic of the gentleman to do so.

The gentleman has led the committee throughout all this ordeal with dignity and effectiveness. I know how pained the gentleman is over this report, but I am proud of this moment that he has taken to address his colleagues and to address the country and to address this institution, and I thank the gentleman.

Mr. SHUSTER. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, and I yield back the balance of my time.

LAS CIENEGAS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to House Resolution 610 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2941.

□ 1240

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2941) to establish the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area in the State of Arizona, with Mr. QUINN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 30 minutes.

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in full support of H.R. 2941, which establishes the Cienegas National Conservation Area and the Sonoita Valley Conservation Planning District in the State of Arizona. Authored by my colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), this legislation will ensure the future protection and use of this area.

The purpose of H.R. 2941 is to preserve the many historical, recreation, and rangeland resources of the region while also allowing for environmentally responsible grazing and recreation to continue. The planning district consists of approximately 137,000 acres of land in the Arizona counties of Pima and Santa Cruz. The conservation area on the southern end of the planning district encompasses nearly 42,000 acres of Federal public land. Both of these management prescriptions will conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the unique aquatic, wildlife, cave, historical, and other resources and values which allowing livestock grazing and recreation to continue.

In 1995, the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership was formed to work on public lands issues in the Empire-Cienega Resources Conservation Area, which the BLM established in 1988. The partnership is comprised of various stakeholders, such as hiking clubs, conservation organizations, grazing and mining interests, off-highway vehicle clubs, mountain bike clubs, as well as Federal, States, and county government entities. The SVPP has developed a collaborative management plan for these lands, and the National Conservation Area designation gives this plan's objectives permanence.

The establishment of this conservation planning district and national conservation will not affect any property rights of any lands or interests in lands held by the State of Arizona, any political subdivisions of the State of Arizona, or any private landowners. In addition, reasonable access to non-federally owned lands or interest in lands within the NCA must be provided. The establishment of the National Conservation Area must also allow for multiple use, such as grazing, motorized vehicles, military overflights, and hunting.

Mr. Chairman, this bill ensures the designation of the NCA will not lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones. This bill also assures that any activity or use on lands outside the NCA are not precluded as a result of the designation. In addition, this bill directs the Secretary to develop and implement a comprehensive management plan for the long-term management of the area.

Mr. Chairman, my colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), deserves a lot of credit for bringing H.R. 2941 to this point. Following the initial hearing on this legislation, many concerns were raised about boundaries, private and State lands, and grazing language. After several months of negotiation with the minority and the Secretary of the Interior, he has produced legislation that is balanced and reasonable. I want to commend the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) for his patience and hard work. This is a worthy piece of legislation, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2941.

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PASTOR), a member of the powerful Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this legislation, which I have cosponsored and is of tremendous importance to Arizona maintenance.

I appreciate the efforts of the chairman of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG); and the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr.