

(3) Tract C, portions of isolated parcels of National Forest Land located in Township 20 south, Range 10 East section 25 and Township 20 South, Range 11 East sections 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, and 21 consisting of approximately 1,260 acres, as depicted on map entitled "Deschutes National Forest Isolated Parcels, January 1, 2000".

(4) Tract D, Alsea Administrative Site, consisting of approximately 24 acres, as depicted on site plan map entitled "Alsea Administrative Site, May 14, 1999".

(5) Tract F, Springdale Administrative Site, consisting of approximately 3.6 acres, as depicted on site plan map entitled "Site Development Plan, Columbia Gorge Ranger Station, April 22, 1964".

(6) Tract G, Dale Administrative Site, consisting of approximately 37 acres, as depicted on site plan map entitled "Dale Compound, February 1999".

(7) Tract H, Crescent Butte Site, consisting of approximately .8 acres, as depicted on site plan map entitled "Crescent Butte Communication Site, January 1, 2000".

(b) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration for a sale or exchange of land under subsection (a) may include the acquisition of land, existing improvements, or improvements constructed to the specifications of the Secretary.

(c) APPLICABLE LAW.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, any sale or exchange of National Forest System land under subsection (a) shall be subject to the laws (including regulations) applicable to the conveyance and acquisition of land for the National Forest System.

(d) CASH EQUALIZATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may accept a cash equalization payment in excess of 25 percent of the value of land exchanged under subsection (a).

(e) SOLICITATIONS OF OFFERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary may solicit offers for sale or exchange of land under this section on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe.

(2) REJECTION OF OFFERS.—The Secretary may reject any offer made under this section if the Secretary determines that the offer is not adequate or not in the public interest.

(3) RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL.—The Bend Metro Park and Recreation District in Deschutes County, Oregon, shall be given the right of first refusal to purchase the Bend Pine Nursery described in subsection (a)(1).

(f) REVOCATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any public land order withdrawing land described in subsection (a) from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws is revoked with respect to any portion of the land conveyed by the Secretary under this section.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The effective date of any revocation under paragraph (1) shall be the date of the patent or deed conveying the land.

SEC. 4. DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.

(a) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—The Secretary shall deposit the proceeds of a sale or exchange under section 3(a) in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (16 U.S.C. 484a) (commonly known as the "Sisk Act").

(b) USE OF PROCEEDS.—Funds deposited under subsection (a) shall be available to the Secretary, without further Act of appropriation, for—

(1) the acquisition, construction, or improvement of administrative and visitor facilities and associated land in connection with the Deschutes National Forest;

(2) the construction of a bunkhouse facility in the Umatilla National Forest; and

(3) to the extent the funds are not necessary to carry out paragraphs (1) and (2), the acquisition of land and interests in land in the State.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall manage any land ac-

quired by purchase or exchange under this Act in accordance with the Act of March 1, 1911 (16 U.S.C. 480 et seq.) (commonly known as the "Weeks Act") and other laws (including regulations) pertaining to the National Forest System.

SEC. 5. CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES.

The Secretary may acquire, construct, or improve administrative facilities and associated land in connection with the Deschutes National Forest System by using—

(1) funds made available under section 4(b); and

(2) to the extent the funds are insufficient to carry out the acquisition, construction, or improvement, funds subsequently made available for the acquisition, construction, or improvement.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

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

Madam Speaker, S. 1936 was introduced by Senator RON WYDEN. It would allow the Forest Service to sell the Bend Pine Nursery in the State of Oregon and use the proceeds to purchase other lands in that State. The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) has introduced the House companion bill for this measure, H.R. 4774, and he should be commended for his work on behalf of the State of Oregon.

S. 1936 passed the full committee on September 20 of this year by a voice vote; and I would urge support for the passage of S. 1936, as amended, under suspension of the rules.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, S. 1936 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange seven administrative sites and facilities on approximately 1,325 acres on the Deschutes National Forest in Oregon. The bill provides that the City of Bend, Oregon, will be given the right of first refusal to purchase one particular site, the 210-acre Bend Pine Nursery, for the potential use as a park. Funds from the sale of these Federal assets will be used to construct new Forest Service administrative facilities for the Deschutes and Umatilla National Forests. The estimated value of the land to be conveyed is between \$3 million and \$4 million. The administration supports this legislation, and we do not object to it.

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

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) for their help in this legislation. Certainly my colleague from Oregon, Senator WYDEN, who with Senator SMITH and I, have teamed up on this legislation to make it a bipartisan effort to transfer this land, allow it to be transferred, to surplus property over to the City of Bend who will have the first right of refusal on the Bend Pine Nursery.

The city in turn will turn this wonderful open space, an extraordinary piece of land, into something for all time for parks and ball fields for children and for families. So it is an excellent conveyance. It follows all the rules and all the laws of the Federal Government, and in addition it is a bonus for the taxpayers because the Deschutes National Forest now pays something on the order of \$750,000 a year in leases for their current buildings; and a new headquarters will be built out of the proceeds of these funds so the taxpayers will save this lease payment every year. So it is a win for the taxpayers. It is a win for the children and families of Bend, and it is certainly a win for the Federal Government.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1936, 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.

LOWER DELAWARE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1296) to designate portions of the lower Delaware River and associated tributaries as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1296

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 "Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Rivers Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Public Law 102-460 directed the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation and consultation with appropriate Federal, State, regional, and local agencies, to conduct a study of the eligibility and suitability of the lower Delaware River for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System;

(2) during the study, the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Study Task Force and

the National Park Service prepared a river management plan for the study area entitled "Lower Delaware River Management Plan" and dated August 1997, which establishes goals and actions that will ensure long-term protection of the river's outstanding values and compatible management of land and water resources associated with the river; and

(3) after completion of the study, 24 municipalities along segments of the Delaware River eligible for designation passed resolutions supporting the Lower Delaware River Management Plan, agreeing to take action to implement the goals of the plan, and endorsing designation of the river.

SEC. 3 DESIGNATION.

Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended—

(1) by designating the first undesignated paragraph following paragraph 156, pertaining to Elkhorn Creek and enacted by Public Law 104-208, as paragraph 157;

(2) by designating the second undesignated paragraph following paragraph 156, pertaining to the Clarion River, Pennsylvania, and enacted by Public Law 104-314, as paragraph 158;

(3) by designating the third undesignated paragraph following paragraph 156, pertaining to the Lamprey River, New Hampshire, and enacted by Public Law 104-333, as paragraph 159;

(4) by striking the fourth undesignated paragraph following paragraph 156, pertaining to Elkhorn Creek and enacted by Public Law 104-333; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"(161) LOWER DELAWARE RIVER AND ASSOCIATED TRIBUTARIES, NEW JERSEY AND PENNSYLVANIA.—(A) The 65.6 miles of river segments in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, consisting of—

"(i) the segment from river mile 193.8 to the northern border of the city of Easton, Pennsylvania (approximately 10.5 miles), as a recreational river;

"(ii) the segment from a point just south of the Gilbert Generating Station to a point just north of the Point Pleasant Pumping Station (approximately 14.2 miles), as a recreational river;

"(iii) the segment from the point just south of the Point Pleasant Pumping Station to a point 1,000 feet north of the Route 202 bridge (approximately 6.3), as a recreational river;

"(iv) the segment from a point 1,750 feet south of the Route 202 bridge to the southern border of the town of New Hope, Pennsylvania (approximately 1.9), as a recreational river;

"(v) the segment from the southern boundary of the town of New Hope, Pennsylvania, to the town of Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania (approximately 6 miles), as a recreational river;

"(vi) Tinicum Creek (approximately 14.7 miles), as a scenic river;

"(vii) Tohickon Creek from the Lake Nockamixon Dam to the Delaware River (approximately 10.7 miles), as a scenic river; and

"(viii) Paunacussing Creek in Solebury Township (approximately 3 miles), as a recreational river.

"(B) ADMINISTRATION.—The river segments referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior. Notwithstanding section 10(c), the river segments shall not be administered as part of the National Park System."

SEC. 4. MANAGEMENT OF RIVER SEGMENTS.

(a) MANAGEMENT OF SEGMENTS.—The river segments designated in section 3 shall be managed—

(1) in accordance with the river management plan entitled "Lower Delaware River Management Plan" and dated August 1997 (referred to as the "management plan"), prepared by the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Study Task Force and the National Park Service, which establishes goals and actions that will ensure long-term protection of the river's outstanding values and compatible management of land and water resources associated with the river; and

(2) in cooperation with appropriate Federal, State, regional, and local agencies, including—

(A) the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection;

(B) the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources;

(C) the Delaware and Lehigh Navigation Canal Heritage Corridor Commission;

(D) the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission; and

(E) the Delaware River Greenway Partnership.

(b) SATISFACTION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR PLAN.—The management plan shall be considered to satisfy the requirements for a comprehensive management plan under subsection 3(d) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(d)).

(c) FEDERAL ROLE.—

(1) RESTRICTIONS ON WATER RESOURCE PROJECTS.—In determining under section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1278(a)) whether a proposed water resources project would have a direct and adverse effect on the value for which a segment is designated as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") shall consider the extent to which the project is consistent with the management plan.

(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Any cooperative agreements entered into under section 10(e) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(e)) relating to any of the segments designated by this Act shall—

(A) be consistent with the management plan; and

(B) may include provisions for financial or other assistance from the United States to facilitate the long-term protection, conservation, and enhancement of the segments.

(3) SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary may provide technical assistance, staff support, and funding to assist in the implementation of the management plan.

(d) LAND MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide planning, financial, and technical assistance to local municipalities to assist in the implementation of actions to protect the natural, economic, and historic resources of the river segments designated by this Act.

(2) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—After adoption of recommendations made in section III of the management plan, the zoning ordinances of the municipalities bordering the segments shall be considered to satisfy the standards and requirements under section 6(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1277(c)).

(e) ADDITIONAL SEGMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph, the term "additional segment" means—

(A) the segment from the Delaware Water Gap to the Toll Bridge connecting Columbia, New Jersey, and Portland, Pennsylvania (approximately 9.2 miles), which, if made part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System in ac-

cordance with this paragraph, shall be administered by the Secretary as a recreational river;

(B) the segment from the Erie Lackawanna railroad bridge to the southern tip of Dildine Island (approximately 3.6 miles), which, if made part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System in accordance with this paragraph, shall be administered by the Secretary as a recreational river;

(C) the segment from the southern tip of Mack Island to the northern border of the town of Belvidere, New Jersey (approximately 2 miles), which, if made part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System in accordance with this paragraph, shall be administered by the Secretary as a recreational river;

(D) the segment from the southern border of the town of Phillipsburg, New Jersey, to a point just north of Gilbert Generating Station (approximately 9.5 miles, which, if made part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System in accordance with this paragraph, shall be administered by the Secretary as a recreational river;

(E) Paulinskill River in Knowlton Township (approximately 2.4 miles), which, if made part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System in accordance with this paragraph, shall be administered by the Secretary as a recreational river; and

(F) Cook's Creek (approximately 3.5 miles), which, if made part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System in accordance with this paragraph, shall be administered by the Secretary as a scenic river.

(2) FINDING.—Congress finds that each of the additional segments is suitable for designation as a recreational river or scenic river under this paragraph, if there is adequate local support for the designation.

(3) DESIGNATION.—If the Secretary finds that there is adequate local support for designating any of the additional segments as a recreational river or scenic river—

(A) the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a notice of the designation of the segment; and

(B) the segment shall thereby be designated as a recreational river or scenic river, as the case may be, in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.).

(4) CRITERIA FOR LOCAL SUPPORT.—In determining whether there is adequate local support for the designation of an additional segment, the Secretary shall consider, among other things, the preferences of local governments expressed in resolutions concerning designation of the segment.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

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

Madam Speaker, the Delaware River is the last free-flowing river in the eastern United States. Approximately 330 miles in length, the river flows along four State boundaries and provides water to nearly 10 percent of the Nation's population. The upper and

middle Delaware River regions have already received wild and scenic designation; and in 1992, Congress authorized a study of the lower Delaware region to determine its viability for the wild and scenic designation.

The study concluded that 14 segments were eligible for the wild and scenic classification. S. 1296 would designate eight of these segments as wild and scenic. According to S. 1296, the Secretary of Interior will continue working with the local river municipalities and within 3 years of the enactment of this bill may designate any of the remaining segments in the management plan as wild and scenic.

□ 1445

Madam Speaker, I urge support for S. 1296.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to offer my strong support for S. 1296, the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, introduced by New Jersey Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG.

As one of the Members who represents the Delaware River region, I am proud to be a cosponsor of the House companion legislation to S. 1296, along with my colleagues, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. RUKEMA). This Delaware designation is truly a bipartisan effort, and I am pleased that it is now moving toward passage.

In 1978, Congress included two sections of the Upper Delaware River in the National Wild and Scenic River System, protecting 110 miles of outstanding recreational and natural resources. S. 1296 would add the portion of the Delaware River that extends from the Delaware Water Gap to Washington Crossing, a span of about 65 miles, and would add it to the Wild and Scenic River System. The passage of this will add one more glittering accomplishment to the legacy of our colleague, FRANK LAUTENBERG, who is retiring in January from the other body on the other side of the Capitol.

As my colleague has said, the Delaware River is the longest free-flowing river in the eastern United States, spanning from its headwaters in the Catskills of New York to the mouth of the Delaware Bay. Its watershed includes 12,765 square miles in portions of four States.

Over 6 million people make their home in the Delaware River's watershed, and almost 10 percent of the Nation's population relies on these waters for drinking, recreational and industrial use. The Delaware River is among the country's most scenic, and thousands of species of plants and animals

thrive in its waters and along its banks. The river can boast of a proud and prominent place in our Nation's history and now sustains a thriving center of economic development and tourism.

The 65 miles of river that would be protected as a result of this legislation are rich in natural and historic resources. It includes eight national historic landmarks and 29 national historic districts.

To underscore the cultural importance of the Delaware, I would like to read a passage from the frontispiece of the book on the Delaware by Bruce Stutz, a piece by Walt Whitman:

"As I was crossing the Delaware today, saw a large flock of wild geese, right overhead, not very high up, ranging in V-shape, in relief against the noon clouds of light smoke-color. Had a capital, though momentary view of them, and then of their course on and on southeast, till gradually fading . . . the waters below—the rapid flight of the birds, appearing just for a minute—flashing to me such a hint of the whole spread of Nature with her eternal unsophisticated freshness, her never-visited recesses of sea, sky, shore—and then disappearing into the distance."

What Walt Whitman described I think highlights the importance of this area; but unmanaged development and inappropriate use of the river's resources threaten its health, the quality of its waters, natural habitats, scenic beauty, and historical sites. This legislation will protect the river from dangerous and unplanned development and from federally licensed dams, diversion projects, and channelization that could destroy the nature of the watershed and threaten the populations that depend on it.

In addition, the bill, S. 1296, encourages local control through a management plan that will, one, protect riparian landowner rights; two, maintain and improve water quality; three, preserve natural and historical resources; four, encourage recreational use and eco-tourism; five, preserve open space; six, minimize the adverse effects of development; and, seven, involve the public in educational programs that recognize the value of this resource and ways to protect it.

Our citizens along the river who are environmentally wise can use this designation as a scenic river to carry further the improvements that have been made. By the mid-1950s, the popular fish, the shad, had disappeared. Now the shad are back in large numbers, and Lambertville's Shad Fest is a grand occasion every year.

The quality of water has a direct relationship to the Nation's economy, including the number of tourists, shoppers, and recreation enthusiasts who visit the area. The river has provided a vital link to neighboring communities in Pennsylvania, New York, and Delaware.

S. 1296 is needed to ensure that this sense of community that had developed

around the river continues to be nurtured. S. 1296 is needed to ensure that the future environment and the economic benefits of the Lower Delaware River are protected.

The Wild and Scenic River designation would encourage natural and historic resource preservation and would help preserve the future of ecologically sensitive recreation areas.

This legislation has garnered the support of a wide variety of groups and citizens. Over 100 community and advisory groups have worked on this campaign, including the Heritage Conservancy, the Delaware Greenway Commission, the Nature Conservancy, the Delaware River Keeper, the Delaware River Basin Commission, State parks, chambers of commerce, power and water companies, and other local businesses. In addition, 24 of the 30 municipalities along the eligible section of the river have passed resolutions supporting its designation.

In 1992, Congress authorized a study of the Lower Delaware for potential inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River Systems. The National Park Service studies have been completed, and local municipalities have reviewed and supported the draft legislation and the management plan. It is incumbent on us to do our part to support the affected communities by passing this legislation before concluding this session of Congress. In fact, the legislation is overdue.

Quite simply, the communities in the Delaware River watershed understand the importance of the river and the need to protect it. S. 1296 would further aid these communities by providing comprehensive planning and financial and technical assistance to allow local municipalities to sustain the protection of the river.

Referring back to Walt Whitman, Langston Hughes wrote:

Old Walt Whitman
Went finding and seeking,
Finding less than sought
Seeking more than found,
Every detail minding
Of the seeking or the finding.
Pleased equally
In seeking as in finding,
Each detail minding,
Old Walt went seeking
And finding.

Langston Hughes also talks about the historical cultural importance of this important river, the longest free-flowing river in the eastern United States. I hope my colleagues will recognize the importance of protecting this valuable natural resource, and I strongly urge all Members to support S. 1296, the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

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

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

Madam Speaker, all I can say after listening to the great passages of our

former literary giants, is I ask the House to pass this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1296.

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.

ALLOWING LEASE OR TRANSFER OF LAND OWNED BY COUSHATTA TRIBE OF LOUISIANA

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5398) to provide that land which is owned by the Coshatta Tribe of Louisiana but which is not held in trust by the United States for the Tribe may be leased or transferred by the Tribe without further approval by the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5398

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

SECTION 1. APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED TO VALIDATE LAND TRANSACTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, without further approval, ratification, or authorization by the United States, the Coshatta Tribe of Louisiana, may lease, sell, convey, warrant, or otherwise transfer all or any part of the Tribe's interest in any real property that is not held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe.

(b) TRUST LAND NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this section is intended or shall be construed to—

(1) authorize the Coshatta Tribe of Louisiana to lease, sell, convey, warrant, or otherwise transfer all or any part of an interest in any real property that is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe; or

(2) affect the operation of any law governing leasing, selling, conveying, warranting, or otherwise transferring any interest in such trust land.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5398, legislation which will allow the Coshatta Tribe of Louisiana to sell, lease, or otherwise transfer its interest in any real property which is not held in trust by the United States. This bill is necessary because Federal law limits a tribe's authority to sell

land which it owns, even though that land is not held in trust.

I urge support for this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, first let me thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHN) for his dedication and leadership on this legislation.

This legislation would enable the Coshatta Tribe of Louisiana to transfer, sell, or lease fee lands without further approval of the United States. In addition to trust land held by the United States for the benefit of the tribe, the tribe also owns land outside the reservation system. This land, owned in fee status, is subject to State and local laws and taxes. Recently, however, there has been confusion with regard to the authority of the Coshatta Tribe in using these fee lands.

H.R. 5398 would help by alleviating this confusion over the tribe's authority regarding fee lands. This bill would not apply to lands held in trust by the United States, but would allow the tribe to pursue future economic development activities as it determines.

This legislation is good, just policy; and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. JOHN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5398, which would provide that land, which is owned in fee by the Coshatta Indian Community in Louisiana and not held in trust by the United States, may be leased or transferred without further approval by the United States.

Existing federal law provides that Indian tribes may not lease, sell or otherwise convey land which they may have title to unless the conveyances are approved by Congress. This prohibition, enacted into law in 1834 to prevent the unfair or improper disposition of Indian-owned land, has been interpreted by the courts to apply even though the land was purchased by the tribes with their own money and even though the land is not held in trust by the federal government.

In 1834, this process made perfect sense. Today, however, this process has proven to be a major detriment to economic development for the Coshatta Tribe. It puts the tribe at a distinct disadvantage, because the tribe finds that it cannot develop or use land which it has acquired to its full advantage. H.R. 5398 will allow the Coshatta Tribe to use the fee land it has purchased just like any other landowner, without having to come to Congress any time it wants to sell, lease, or even mortgage that land.

In addition to the land owned by the tribe and held in trust by the U.S. Department of Interior, the Coshatta Tribe owns the fee land which is not held in trust. This fee land, while owned by the tribe, is subject to state and local laws and the tribe does not have the authority to conduct gaming activities on this land. As the Coshatta Tribe continues to work toward establishing long-term financial security for its members, they are finding it

necessary to have the ability to establish business agreements with non-Indian partners using the fee land to pursue future economic development activities, including the development of golf courses, business parks, and recreation and convention centers.

On February 29 of this year, this body granted the Lower Sioux Indian Community in Minnesota these same rights that I am seeking for the Coshatta Indian Community. Companion legislation, S. 2792, has been introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senator JOHN BREAUX of Louisiana. Locally, this legislation is supported by the Town of Elton and the Allen Parish Assessor.

The Coshatta Tribe has made significant progress in recent years to eliminate poverty and reduce reliance on government programs. By passing H.R. 5398, this Congress will further empower the Coshatta Tribe to empower themselves.

Madam Speaker, I thank the leadership for bringing this legislation to the floor today, and I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 5398.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5398.

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.

PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE BY HOUSE WITH AMENDMENT IN SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1444, FISHERIES RESTORATION AND IRRIGATION MITIGATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 630) providing for the concurrence by the House with an amendment in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1444.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 630

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill, H.R. 1444, with the Senate amendments thereto, and to have concurred in the Senate amendment with the following amendments:

(1) Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to plan, design, and construct fish screens, fish passage devices, and related features to mitigate impacts on fisheries associated with irrigation system water diversions by local governmental entities in the Pacific Ocean drainage of the States of Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Idaho."

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act of 2000".