

Mineral Resources Research Act of 1996. It sunsets the methane hydrate R&D program after the end of fiscal year 2005, and it requires the Secretary of Energy to engage the national research council to conduct a study of the progress of the program and to make recommendations for future methane hydrate R&D needs. The NRC report is to be transmitted to Congress not later than September 30, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, the House unanimously approved a similar version of H.R. 1753 last October, which the Senate amended in November. I commend this revised version of the bill which represents the bipartisan agreement with the Senate to the House for its adoption.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today to move one step closer to enactment of the Gas Hydrates Research and Development Act. I am happy that we have reached an agreement that everyone can support. I would like to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the chairman of the full committee, and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), the ranking member, along with the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the chairman of the subcommittee, for all of their hard work on this bill. I would also like to commend my good friend and colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE) for his leadership and his hard work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, gas hydrates have the potential to provide a significant natural gas resource to this country if they can be safely and economically extracted from the ocean floor, where they are found. This legislation establishes an interagency research and development program to examine many issues associated with the extraction of gas hydrates, including the possible economic, environmental, and energy benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the Energy and Environment Subcommittee, I am pleased that we are considering H.R. 1753, the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000. My friend and colleague on the subcommittee, Mr. DOYLE, introduced H.R. 1753 in May 1999, and last October 26, the House unanimously approved a similar version of the bill. The Senate amended the House-passed bill last November, and this revised version of the bill represents a bipartisan agreement with the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct pleasure of serving on both the House Science Committee and the Resources Committee which shared jurisdiction on this bill. I want to thank my friends on Resources for all their hard work in getting H.R. 1753 to the floor. I would espe-

cially like to thank Chairman YOUNG and Congresswoman CUBIN for their willingness to work with me and the chairman of the Science Committee on this important piece of legislation.

Methane hydrates are ice-like substances found in undersea sediments and in Arctic permafrost. These hydrates will one day provide an abundant supply of clean natural gas if science can discover practical and environmentally sound extraction methods. However, much more research is needed before we can attain that goal. H.R. 1753 brings us closer to the day when we can safely and effectively begin to use this abundant, new source of energy.

This legislation will make funds available to continue research into extracting this clean and bountiful potential source of energy. It also seeks to better coordinate the research efforts of the Department of Energy, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Navy, the Minerals Management Service, and NOAA.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, which will help secure our energy future. I thank the Chair.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House is considering H.R. 1753. The Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act, a five year authorization measure that will promote the research, identification, assessment, exploration and development of methane hydrate resources.

As members will recall, H.R. 1753 was previously considered on the suspension calendar and passed by the House on October 26, 1999. Under the leadership of Senator AKAKA, the bill was subsequently passed by the Senate in November of 1999. The version before us today does not differ in scope or direction, but does incorporate minor changes agreed to by all parties that have been involved in this most important energy initiative.

In my view, the need for heightened methane hydrate research has always been critical in nature. But the attention being paid to the recent increase in oil prices and cost hikes at the gas pump has served to reinforce our nation's need to become less dependent on foreign oil and to enhance the use of our domestic fuel base in a manner that meets the requirements for cleaner fuels and reduced emissions.

The potential for significant benefits to consumers, the environment, and business exist in methane hydrate research. I have previously cited the following information, but it bears repeating. It has been projected that U.S. gas consumption is expected to increase by 40% by the year 2020. Couple this with the fact that currently more than half of the present U.S. oil supply is imported and without natural gas production, our oil import volume would be much larger. But if only 1% of the methane hydrate resource could be made recoverable, the United States could more than double its domestic natural gas resource base. In short, when a new, abundant resource is found that meets a growing demand with a greater level of efficiency, consumers will not only have a greater selection of options, but more affordable costs as well.

I am particularly proud of the existing research into this area that has been done by DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory

in Pittsburgh, as well as the recognized efforts of Gerald Holder at the University of Pittsburgh. I am confident that framework, guidance, and authority embodied in The Methane Hydrates Research and Development Act will enable further examination into what could conceivably save consumers billions of dollars, make difficult national environmental decisions easier, and strengthen our Nation's energy security.

Once again, I want to extend my sincerest appreciation to Senator AKAKA, Chairman SENSENBRENNER, Representative CALVERT, and Representative COSTELLO for their efforts and support in moving forward with H.R. 1753, The Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 453.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AUTHORIZING USE OF EAST FRONT OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR PERFORMANCES SPONSORED BY JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 281), authorizing the use of the East Front of the Capitol Grounds for performances sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 281

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),*

#### SECTION 1. AUTHORIZING USE OF EAST FRONT OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR PERFORMANCES SPONSORED BY KENNEDY CENTER.

In carrying out its duties under section 4 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76j), the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, in cooperation with the National Park Service (in this resolution jointly referred to as the "sponsor"), may sponsor public performances on the East Front of the Capitol Grounds at such dates and times as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate may approve jointly.

#### SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any performance authorized under section 1 shall be free of admission charge to the public and arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress, under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board.

(b) ASSUMPTION OF LIABILITIES.—The sponsor shall assume full responsibility for all liabilities incident to all activities associated with the performance.

#### SEC. 3. PREPARATIONS.

(a) STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT.—In consultation with the Speaker of the House of

Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, the Architect of the Capitol shall provide upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment as may be required for a performance authorized under section 1.

(b) **ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.**—The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board may make such additional arrangements as may be required to carry out the performance.

**SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.**

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 4 of the Act of July 31, 1946 (40 U.S.C. 193d; 60 Stat. 718), concerning sales, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, with respect to a performance authorized by section 1.

**SEC. 5. EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.**

A performance may not be conducted under this resolution after September 30, 2000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

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

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 281, introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and cosponsored by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the ranking member of the committee, authorizes the use of the East Front of the Capitol for performances by the Millennium Stage of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. It is expected that performances will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from Memorial Day to September 30, 2000.

The performances will be open to the public, free of admission charge, and the sponsors of the event, the Kennedy Center and the National Park Service, will assume responsibility for all liabilities associated with the event. The resolution expressly prohibits sales, displays, advertisements, and solicitation in connection with the event.

Mr. Speaker, this unique event allows the Kennedy Center to provide leadership in the national performing arts education policy and programs and could conduct community outreach as provided for in its mission statement. By permitting these performances on the east front, the Congress is assisting the Kennedy Center in fulfilling this mission.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I join with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) in supporting House Concurrent Resolution 281, which authorizes a series of summer concerts sponsored by the JFK Center to be conducted here on Capitol Hill. These concerts are held from Memorial Day throughout the summer and conclude around Labor Day. I must say they have enriched my tenure here on the Hill.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays during the summer months, residents, many tourists and other visitors to Capitol Hill are treated to wonderful, free concerts, with entertainment provided by some of America's most enduring and endearing artists.

As with all events on the Capitol grounds, these concerts are free, open to the entire public, and will be arranged in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Hill police. We do owe a debt of gratitude to the Kennedy Center for its sponsorship of the summer program which includes all types of music, dance, and vocal performances.

I thank the chairman for his expeditious handling of this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 281.

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

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 281, which authorizes a series of summer concerts, sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Center to be conducted here on Capitol Hill.

Consistent with past summers, the concerts are held from Memorial Day throughout the summer, and conclude at the end of summer, around Labor Day. The musical performances feature the best of American talent, and provide hours of enjoyment for all listeners.

The Kennedy Center is to be commended for its solid commitment to educating the American public to the joys of the performing arts. The Millennium stage at the Kennedy Center has been an enormous hit. Free concerts are arranged each day in the Great Hall, all you need to do is to show up and be treated to wonderful free performances.

The summer concerts series is another sign of the Center's commitment to bring performing art to all Americans, consistent with President Kennedy's devotion to the arts.

As with all events on Capitol grounds, these concerts are free, open to the entire public, and will be arranged in accordance with rules and regulations of the office of the Architect of the Capitol, and the Capitol Police.

I look forward to this very enjoyable summertime entertainment and I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 281.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 281.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JUDGE J. SMITH HENLEY  
FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1605) to designate the United States courthouse building located at 402 North Walnut Street and Prospect Avenue in Harrison, Arkansas, as the "Judge J. Smith Henley Federal Building," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1605

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

**SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.**

*The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 402 North Walnut Street in Harrison, Arkansas, shall be known and designated as the "J. Smith Henley Federal Building and United States Courthouse".*

**SEC. 2. REFERENCES.**

*Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "J. Smith Henley Federal Building and United States Courthouse".*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1605, as amended, designates the Federal building and United States courthouse in Harrison, Arkansas as the "J. Smith Henley Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

Judge Henley was a lifelong resident of northwest Arkansas. He was born in Saint Joe, Arkansas, attended the University of Arkansas, and practiced law in Boone County. Judge Henley was appointed as a United States district judge in 1958 for the eastern and western districts of Arkansas, and in 1975 was appointed to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the 8th District. He took senior status in 1982 and continued to carry an active docket until his death in 1987.

This designation is a fitting tribute, and I urge enactment of the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1605 is a bill to designate the courthouse building located at 402 North Walnut Street, Harrison,