

I would also like to thank the gentleman from California (Chairman DOOLITTLE); the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG); the Speaker; the majority leader; the majority whip; the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), the ranking member; and the staffs of those committees and the leadership staff, particularly Tom Pyle in the House majority whip's office; and the gentleman on my staff, Jafar Karim, for the hard work that they have put in making this bill become a reality.

I would also like to recognize, Mr. Speaker, the project sponsors, those community leaders, the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, who have fought hard and been so persistent in moving this project forward.

It has been a long process. This bill was introduced back in 1994. It has been refined and reworked to where we are today.

Let me just very briefly state why I believe it is so important and why this is important that this bill move at this time. First off, this helps fulfill promises made by the Federal Government to South Dakota in the Flood Control Act of 1944, wherein South Dakota gave up over half a million acres of prime bottom land in exchange for irrigation benefits and other benefits, many of which never materialized.

Secondly, the legislation authorizes construction of a water system that, when built, will meet critical water needs of 22 communities in South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota. Over 180,000 people will be served with clean drinking water.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is important because this is a health issue. This is a safety issue, and this is an economic development issue for these communities.

Finally, it is important, Mr. Speaker, that we do this now because of the growing sense of urgency when it comes to the water needs of this area and because this legislation has been around and been refined and reworked over four sessions of Congress. The time for action is now.

I want to express my appreciation to those who have helped us bring it to this point and the opportunity to move this legislation forward, and so I encourage all my colleagues to support the legislation; and on behalf of the people of South Dakota, I thank my colleagues.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the committee amendment to H.R. 297, the bill to authorize the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System.

The Lewis and Clark Rural Water System is designed to provide replacement or supplemental water supplies from the Missouri River to areas in southeastern South Dakota, north-

western Iowa, and southwestern Minnesota serving up to about 180,000 people.

This region has seen substantial growth and development in recent years, and we know that future water needs in the area will be significantly greater than the current available supply. Many residents in the project area have water of such poor quality it does not meet present or proposed standards for drinking water. Many communities rely on shallow aquifers as the primary source of drinking water, aquifers which are very vulnerable to contamination by surface activities, including large hog farms. Why do we not clean up the hog farms?

Lewis and Clark Rural Water System will provide a reliable source for supplemental drinking water. I urge my colleagues to support the authorization of this project with a "yes" vote on H.R. 297.

Mr. Speaker, the committee amendment includes several additional provisions affecting water resource activities of the Bureau of Reclamation in Northern California. I have no objection to these provisions.

In fact, I want to thank the committee for including title 3, the "Treatment of Project Costs For Sly Park Unit," which will provide for the Secretary to exclude these costs in excess to be repaid by the Sly Park Unit beneficiaries from the pooled reimbursable costs of the Central Valley Project until such time as the facilities are integrated into the water supply yield to the Central Valley project.

This will provide a correction of an inadvertent oversight that could prove costly to a number of urban water districts in California. I think that this is a proper resolution of this issue.

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 297, the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System Act, which has been reported out of the House Committee on Resources.

The Lewis and Clark Rural Water System Act will serve a number of communities in Minnesota, Iowa and South Dakota. Currently these communities are served by shallow aquifers that are vulnerable to contamination. Many of these towns have tried repeatedly to dig new wells. Unfortunately, they have had little luck.

The area that would be served by H.R. 297 is currently experiencing a drought with no immediate relief in sight. This bill will not alleviate the current crisis but protect the region from the water level uncertainties associated with shallow aquifers in the future. That certainty not only lends peace of mind to local citizens, but is also crucial to the area's economic development plans. The business climate cannot flourish when the water supply is questionable.

The Senate has already passed legislation authorizing the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System Act. Time is of the essence for this project and it is my hope that any differences with the Senate can be quickly resolved.

Mr. Speaker, I again ask my colleagues to support H.R. 297.

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

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 297, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 297, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

#### SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING RAISING OF UNITED STATES FLAG IN AMERICAN SAMOA

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 443), expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with regard to the centennial of the raising of the United States flag in American Samoa, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. RES. 443

*Whereas the people of American Samoa have inhabited Tutuila and the Manu'a Islands for at least 3,000 years and developed a unique and autonomous seafaring and agrarian culture, governing themselves through their own form of government;*

*Whereas in 1722, Dutch explorer Jacob Roggeveen became the first European to sight—but not land on—the shores of the Samoan Islands, islands which remained isolated for another 46 years because Roggeveen miscalculated their location;*

*Whereas in 1768, French explorer Louis Antoine de Bougainville, the second European to sight the Samoan islands, became so impressed with the sailing skills of the natives he named the islands "L'Archipel des Navigateurs," and for generations thereafter the entire Samoan island group was known to the Western World as the "Navigator Islands";*

*Whereas in 1787, Frenchman Jean Francois La Perouse landed on the shores of these islands and thus began the "opening" of Samoa to the West, with American whalers as the principal group to engage the people of Samoa in trade and commerce, followed from 1830 on by English missionaries;*