

amendment, which deals with the pressing need for fish and wildlife habitat protection and restoration within the National Forest System. Thank you and I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to speak about what seems like an annual ritual. We are now in the thick of the appropriations process and that can mean only one thing. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have sharpened their pencils and are loading up budget bills with legislative riders that surrender our environment to special interests.

There riders not only threaten important environmental and public health protections, but they subvert the democratic process by trying to force through legislative changes without the benefit of hearings or public scrutiny.

I am calling on my colleagues and the public to demand an end to this yearly assault on our precious natural resources and our open form of government.

I would like to highlight a few of the attacks within the FY 2001 House Interior Appropriations that is before us today.

One rider would prohibit any spending on national monuments developed after 1999. Among the monuments affected are the Grand Canyon-Parashant, Giant Sequoia, Agua Fria and the California Coastal National Monuments. The monuments were created by the Administration to strengthen protection of these unique federal lands.

Apparently, for some, it is not important to protect our land.

Another rider would effectively prevent agencies from implementing the American Heritage Rivers Program. This is a program where the federal government provides help to river communities looking for backing on environmental and economic development projects. This program helps communities improve water quality.

Apparently, for some, it is not important to help communities.

Another rider within the bill would block federal agencies funded within the bill from action on global warming. This rider is not even needed because the Administration does not intend to implement the Protocol prior to congressional ratification. The President is continuing to work on international negotiations on this important treaty.

Apparently, for some the climate is not important.

Finally, besides the various riders, the bill does not adequately fund many programs at the levels needed to carry them out. One such program is the President's Land Legacy Initiative. This appropriation bill places these important conservation programs in jeopardy by rejecting the President's request for a permanent funding source. This program is also drastically under-funded. As a result, federal land conservation efforts to protect national treasures, such as the Everglades, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and various Civil War Battlefields are in jeopardy.

Apparently, for some, our national treasures are not important.

Well, for many, including people in central New Jersey, our national treasures, our constitution, our communities and our land are important. I urge all of my colleagues to reject these antienvironmental riders that threaten our environment and our democracy.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to any amendment that strikes language currently in the Interior Appropriations legislation for Fiscal Year 2001 to not allow any federal funds to be used on national monuments created since 1999. I support Mr. HANSEN's effort in the Interior Appropriations bill to bring accountability back to the Administration's use of the 1906 Antiquities Act.

Mr. Chairman, Congress has spent too much time in the last few months reacting to monument designations after unilateral declaration by the Administration.

When Secretary Babbitt first announced his desire to create a higher protective status on lands in the Arizona Strip region, he agreed to work legislatively on a proposal to protect the historic uses of this area. After his announcement, I worked closely with local residents, elected officials, tribal officials, conservationists in the region, as well as the Governor, federal land management agencies and the State Lands, Minerals and Game and Fish departments to develop legislation reflecting the Secretary's publicly stated objectives.

On August 5, 1999, I introduced H.R. 2795, the Shivwits Plateau National Conservation Area Establishment Act. The original intent of the legislation was to initiate a dialogue with the Secretary, particularly considering the Secretary had not outlined his ideas in any form of legislation.

On January 11, 2000, after months of negotiating, the President, with the Secretary's recommendation, walked into Arizona and declared two national monuments, the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument in northern Arizona and the Agua Fria National Monument north of Phoenix.

In regard to the Agua Fria National Monument, the Secretary first made public his proposal to create a more restrictive status for the area just four months before the actual monument designation.

The original intent of the 1906 Antiquities Act was to protect small areas of land and specific items of archaeological, scientific, or historic importance in imminent danger of destruction. While the Administration contends that the areas designated as national monuments are threatened by increasing development and recreation, the government controls the development which occurs on those lands and has the authority to address problems if and when they exist.

Frankly, the Administration's decision to preempt any action by Congress is political. No reasonable public process has been used to secure public input on the merits of these designations and no environmental assessments have been done. The designations are occurring without any formal public input as mandated by NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, by highlighting these lands as national monuments, the President is merely calling more attention to the areas and significantly increasing recreation and visitation and jeopardizing the very resources he is attempting to "protect." I urge my fellow members to vote no on any amendment to remove language in the Interior Appropriations language to prohibit funds to be used on any national monuments created since 1999. Congress has already spent too much time react-

ing to the unilateral declaration of such monuments.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, this Member rises today in support of H.R. 4578, the Interior appropriations bill and wishes to particularly thank the chairman of the Subcommittee, the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the ranking member, the distinguished gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) for their hard work on the bill.

This Member understands that the Members of the Subcommittee were extremely limited by the 302(b) allocation received and as a result were forced to make tough spending decisions. However, this Member is pleased that continued funding was made available for the next phase of construction of the replacement facility for the existing Indian Health Service hospital in Winnebago, Nebraska. As the members of the Subcommittee know, this ongoing project has a long and difficult history, and the Subcommittee's support is greatly appreciated.

In closing Mr. Chairman, this Member wishes to acknowledge and express his most sincere appreciation for the extraordinary assistance that Chairman REGULA, the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, and the Subcommittee staff have provided thus far on this important project and urges his colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE), having resumed the chair, Mr. LATOURETTE, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4578) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2966

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my name as cosponsor of H.R. 2966.

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

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order