CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE 16705

September 10, 2001

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE), for his work on H.R. 434, the Emigrant Wilderness Protection Act. This bill would give the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to enter into a cooperative agreement with non-Federal entities to retain, maintain, and operate at private expense the 12 small check dams and weirs, located within the Emigrant Wilderness boundary. The work would be down under terms and conditions established by the Secretary and without use of mechanized transport or motorized equipment. The bill authorizes $20,000 to be appropriated to cover administrative costs incurred by the Secretary to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Although not specifically indicated within the legislation, it is widely believed that the intent of Congress when it passed the Emigrant Wilderness Act in 1974 to preserve the 18 check dam structures. Report language for the 1974 act explained: “Within the area recommended for wilderness designation, there are drift fences, five miles, which will be maintained, but several cabins and barns will be removed within 10 years. Two snow cabins will be retained. The weirs and small dams will likewise be retained.”

H.R. 434 would allow for the nonmotorized maintenance and repair of 12 concrete dams in the Emigrant Wilderness in the Stanislaus National Forest, California, and for other purposes.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) and the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON).

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1937, authored by the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. LARSEN) will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies for three Native American tribes in the State of Washington. The purpose of the studies is to investigate the feasibility of providing potable water and wastewater distribution systems to meet the future domestic and commercial needs of the tribes. This is a noncontroversial bill, and I urge its adoption.

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

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

I rise in strong support as well of H.R. 1937, the Pacific Northwest Feasibility Studies Act. I congratulate my colleague, the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. LARSEN), for his hard work in bringing this bill to the House floor today.

H.R. 1937 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to engage in water supply feasibility studies to benefit several Native American communities in the State of Washington. The studies will help the communities to identify the best ways to meet their water supply and distribution needs for domestic, rural, and commercial water users.

The bill also requires the Secretary to make the results of these studies available to the public and to publish a notice of the availability of study results. The report and accompanying environmental and economic analyses will provide the Congress with recommendations on how best to proceed with cost-effective, and environmentally sound solutions to the water problems facing these communities.

This legislation enjoys broad support, and I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 1937.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN), the sponsor of H.R. 1937.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a few minutes to speak on behalf of H.R. 1937, the Pacific Northwest Feasibility Studies Act of 2001.

I first want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVET) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) on the Republican side, and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH), and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) on the Democratic side for their support in shepherding this legislation to the floor today.

I just want to point out this bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct water feasibility studies for three Native American tribes in Washington State. I want to speak briefly about one in particular, which is in my district, the Tulalip Indian Tribe. The Tulalip reservation is located outside of Marysville and covers approximately 35 square miles. The permanent population of the reservation is under 7,000 and continues to grow significantly, but during the summer and holidays the reservation population increases by up to 40 percent.

Like many American Indian reservations, the Tulalip reservation faces growing water problems due to the presence of glacial sediments, a shallow aquifer system, bordering salt water and limited drainage. Likewise, most of the current drinking water on the reservation is supplied from a patchwork of public and private wells. Continued degradation of the water resources on the reservation will limit the development of the reservation and surrounding areas.

The study that this bill authorizes is vital to ensure the long-term safety and accessibility of groundwater on the reservation. So I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, H.R. 1937.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, in closing, to thank the ranking member, the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), for her support in helping to bring these four bills to the House floor today.

Like many American Indian reservations, the Tulalip reservation faces growing water problems due to the presence of glacial sediments, a shallow aquifer system, bordering salt water and limited drainage. Likewise, most of the current drinking water on the reservation is supplied from a patchwork of public and private wells. Continued degradation of the water resources on the reservation will limit the development of the reservation and surrounding areas.

The study that this bill authorizes is vital to ensure the long-term safety and accessibility of groundwater on the reservation. So I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, H.R. 1937.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, in closing, to thank the ranking member, the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), for her support in helping to bring these four bills to the House floor today. Especially the first one, I failed to thank her on the floor for that, so I want to thank her and all the Members for their support in bringing these four bills forward.

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to thank my colleague for those kind words. It has been a pleasure sharing this afternoon with him and getting these bills to the floor and passed, as well as working with him on the committee these several years.

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

Dr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the minority leader of the House of Representatives, Mr. SMITH, and the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVET), for their remarks on H.R. 695, H.R. 434, H.R. 1628, and H.R. 1937, the four bills just considered.

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

There was no objection.

BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMISSION

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2133) to establish a commission for the purpose of encouraging and providing for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education.

The Clerk reads as follows:

Senate amendments:

Page 3, line 8, strike out “Chair” and insert “one of two Co-chairpersons”.

Page 3, after line 8, insert:

(2) Two representatives of the Department of Justice appointed by the Attorney General, one of whom shall serve as one of two Co-chairpersons of the Commission.

Page 3, line 9, strike out “(2)” and insert “(3)”.

Page 3, strike out lines 11 to 22.

Page 3, after line 22, insert:

(A) The Members of the Senate from each State described in subparagraph (i) shall each submit the name of 1 individual from the State to the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate.

(i) The States described in this clause are the States in which the lawsuits decided by the Brown decision were originally filed (Delaware, Kansas, South Carolina, and Virginia), and the State of the first legal challenge involved (Massachusetts).

(ii) The Members of the Senate from each State described in subparagraph (A)(ii) shall each submit the name of 1 individual from the State to the Speaker of the Senate, in consultation with the minority leader of the Senate, shall recommend to the President 5 individuals, 1 from each of the States described in clause (iii).

(iii) The States described in this clause are the States in which the lawsuits decided by the Brown decision were originally filed (Delaware, Kansas, South Carolina, and Virginia), and the State of the first legal challenge involved (Massachusetts).

(B) The Members of the House of Representatives from each State described in subparagraph (A)(iii) shall each submit the name of 1 individual from the State to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(i) After review of the submissions made under clause (i), the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the minority leader of the House of Representatives, shall recommend to the President 5 individuals, 1 from each of the States described in clause (iii).

(ii) The States described in this clause are the States in which the lawsuits decided by the Brown decision were originally filed (Delaware, Kansas, South Carolina, and Virginia), and the State of the first legal challenge involved (Massachusetts).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE September 10, 2001 A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.