

by our county; the State of Tennessee is in favor of this. We have unanimous support from the Tennessee congressional delegation, both parties. The cultural committee of the five civilized tribes of Cherokees and Native Americans have supported this proposal.

The group that kept this dream alive from 1950 until now, and see, this original legislation passed in 1950 to add this to the National Park System, but Governor Frank Clement at the time decided to build a mental health center there. He did not sign the legislation. Now our colleague, his son, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT) is cosponsor of the legislation to finally add Moccasin Bend into the National Park System. We are encouraged by that greatly. Over the last 50 years, organizations have tried to bring this back up, but in the last 6 years or so an organization called Friends of Moccasin Bend have done yeoman's work in making this a reality.

We commend Mickey Robbins and Jay Mills, Bob Hunter, Mike Mann, Meg Beene, and many others: City Councilpersons Sally Robinson and John Taylor; our new Mayor, Bob Corker; County Executive Claude Ramsey. We have done very well to bring all these people together.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the committees very, very much: the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN); at the subcommittee level, the gentleman from Colorado (Chairman HEFLEY), and now the gentleman from California (Chairman RADANOVICH), and the ranking member, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), have worked with us to try to dot our I's and cross our T's.

There has been excellent staff support: Robb Howarth and Tod Hall; on the minority side, David Watkins has been very helpful. At the subcommittee level of the Committee on Appropriations, both in the Subcommittee on Interior and the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, where I serve, all of our staff members have been extremely helpful.

This is a great day in the history of our city and our region because Moccasin Bend needs to be a separate unit in the National Park System, a national historic site. Today, with bipartisan support, I hope we will pass this bill through the House of Representatives and send it to the United States Senate, and get in line so that when President Bush lifts the moratorium on new additions into the National Park System, we would maybe be behind the Ronald Reagan boyhood home. So the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) gets his wish first, and I get my wish second.

I thank my colleagues for working with me on this most important step

toward preserving a real American treasure, the Moccasin Bend National Historic Site.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) for the enthusiasm and dogged determination with which he has pursued this issue.

Obviously, judging from his remarks just now in the well and his every appearance before our committee and before this body, Members can really see his love for this area. I salute him for that dedication.

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

□ 1615

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 980, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

METACOMET-MONADNOCK-SUNAPEE-MATTABESSETT TRAIL STUDY ACT OF 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1814) to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Metacomet-Monadnock-Sunapee-Mattabesett Trail extending through western New Hampshire, western Massachusetts, and central Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Trails System, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1814

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 "Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail Study Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF METACOMET-MONADNOCK-MATTABESSETT TRAIL FOR POTENTIAL ADDITION TO THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM.

Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"() METACOMET-MONADNOCK-MATTABESSETT TRAIL.—*The Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail, a system of trails and potential trails extending southward approximately 180 miles through western Massachusetts on the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail, across central Connecticut on the Metacomet Trail and the Mattabesett Trail, and ending at Long Island Sound.*"

SEC. 3. EXPEDITED REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Notwithstanding the fourth sentence of section 5(b) of the National Trails System Act (16

U.S.C. 1244(b)), the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the study required by the amendment made by section 2 to Congress not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1814, introduced by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), authorizes a study to include the Metacomet-Monadnock-Sunapee-Mattabesett Trail for designation into the National Trail System. The trail would extend from southern Connecticut to northern Massachusetts and winds through some of the most scenic areas in these States. The trail also would help interpret much of the important early history of the Eastern United States.

The National Park Service would be in charge of conducting the study, which would then forward their recommendation to the appropriate congressional committees within 2 years.

If the study recommends inclusion into the National Trail System, Congress would then seek to approve the actual designation.

Mr. Speaker, this bill was amended during the committee proceedings to address concerns of private landowners in New Hampshire. The bill is now ready to move forward. It is supported by both the minority and the administration. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1814 as amended.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1814, introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), would provide for a study of a series of trails extending through western Massachusetts and central Connecticut. The purpose of this study would be to determine if the trails in question are a suitable and feasible addition to the National Trails System.

The trails are well established and traverse several hundred miles to provide a link to a number of historical and recreational sites in the Northeastern region. The testimony before the Committee on Resources indicate widespread public support for the trails, and the National Park Service testified that the trails would be a good candidate for study for possible designation as part of the National Trail System.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) for his initiative and for his pursuing this along every step of the way. I am aware of no opposition to the legislation, and I would urge its adoption by the House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER).

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1814, which authorizes the Department of Interior to conduct a feasibility study of the combined Metacomet-Monadnock-Sunapee-Mattabesett trails in Massachusetts and Connecticut for possible inclusion in the National Trail System.

Before I describe this project in my own words, I want to thank the chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH), and particularly the previous chairman, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY), and the ranking member, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, and, of course, the chairman of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), who happens to be in the Speaker's chair today, along with the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), along with all of the staff for the subcommittee and the full committee for so expeditiously bringing this legislation to the floor for action.

Mr. Speaker, these identified and potential trails begin with the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail at the Massachusetts/New Hampshire border and continue southward within the Connecticut River watershed along the Mt. Tom and Mt. Holyoke ranges through Massachusetts and Connecticut, then connect with Mattabesett Trail in Connecticut and eventually end at the shore of Long Island Sound.

Unique cultural, scenic, historic, and geological features of these New England trails distinguish them as worthy of this study and national recognition. The geological features are dominated by the steep volcanic trap-rock basalt ridges which rise more than 1,000 feet above the Connecticut River Valley floor in Massachusetts and Connecticut. These basalt ridges are the erosion-resistant remains of a 250 million-year-old volcanic activity. They define the route of the proposed National Scenic Trail and pass within just a few miles of major cities in Connecticut: New Haven, Meriden, New Britain, and Hartford; and in Massachusetts: Springfield, Holyoke, Westfield, and Amherst.

The trails provide over 180 miles of recreational hiking and backpacking for nearby residents of the Connecticut River Valley, including rural and major urban areas. In a region of increasing growth and sprawl, these trails also provide important open space and wildlife habitat.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has been co-sponsored by every Member of this House who has part of the trail passing

through their district and has the support of local communities, conservation groups, and constituents.

In Massachusetts, I would like to thank Pat Fletcher and Chris Ryan of Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club and Peter Westover at the Amherst Conservation Commission for their dedication to the project. In Connecticut, I would like to recognize the work of Ann Colson and Patty Pentergast at the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association, which is the organization that runs all of the public trail system managed by the State of Connecticut.

Other groups that have supported this effort include the Nature Conservancy, the New England Wildflower Organization, the Trustees of Reservation in Massachusetts, and the Kestrel Trust in the Connecticut River Valley. These citizens and hundreds of other volunteers and paid staff work hard to maintain and protect these trails.

Through this legislation, I, and the other sponsors of the bill, hope to provide additional resources and opportunities for the good work that all of those citizens and volunteers and organizations do. I urge a yes vote on H.R. 1814.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON).

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill that will provide the resources to enable us to study these trails, many of which go back hundreds of years, well before independence, and to study the possibilities they hold for future generations of preservation and restoration. It will be a great benefit to New England as well as to the whole country to be able to have the information to preserve these trails and to make sure that they will be there to serve future generations.

In New England, of course, it is a different matter than other parts of the country. These trails go in large measure through private lands and have a long tradition of being open and available to the public. So we look forward to the results of the study, and we thank the Speaker for considering this today.

I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) for his leadership in this matter. Without his personal involvement and the fact that he has hiked all these trails personally, I think this bill would not have moved along as rapidly as it has, and I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for his leadership.

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

I, too, want to join in the commendation to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER). I said in the beginning he has walked this legislation along every step of the way. I did not realize he had walked every step of the

trail as well. So I commend him for his leadership and personal involvement on this issue.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1814, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail extending through western Massachusetts and central Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Trails System."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1800

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY) at 6 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill and a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 838. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve the safety and efficacy of pharmaceuticals for children.

S. Con. Res. 74. Concurrent resolution condemning bigotry and violence against Sikh-Americans in the wake of terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. on September 11, 2001.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 8162(c)(3) of Public Law 106-79, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission: