

Department program which makes grants available to fund a Native American ironworker training program. This program would provide members of federally recognized Indian tribes with both classroom and on-the-job ironwork training.

With unemployment rates increasing to a staggering rate of over 80 percent on some Indian reservations, this program is desperately needed. It will provide the program participants with the knowledge and the ability to join a skilled labor force as a career.

I want to commend our colleague Mr. LYNCH of Massachusetts for his hard work and for his dedication to this piece of legislation, and I ask my colleagues to support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 6685 reauthorizes a vital educational grant program to train members of federally recognized Indian tribes to become ironworkers. By the way, they are outstanding ironworkers, and they always have been. They built the City of New York and New Jersey, itself, and I have to recognize their capabilities.

This apprentice program has trained thousands of Native Americans over the years, providing graduates with careers, earning above-average wages. Graduates of this program have been a significant source of economic support in their tribal communities. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I urge all Members to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6685.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam 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.

COASTAL AND ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1907) to authorize the acquisition of land and interests in land from willing sellers to improve the conservation of, and to enhance the ecological values and functions of, coastal and estuarine areas to benefit both the envi-

ronment and the economies of coastal communities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1907

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 "Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF COASTAL AND ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 307 the following new section:

"AUTHORIZATION OF THE COASTAL AND ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM

"SEC. 307A. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, in cooperation with appropriate State, regional, and other units of government, for the purposes of protecting important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural, undeveloped, or recreational state to other uses or could be managed or restored to effectively conserve, enhance, or restore ecological function. The program shall be administered by the National Ocean Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.

"(b) PROPERTY ACQUISITION GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make grants under the program to coastal states with approved coastal zone management plans or National Estuarine Research Reserve units for the purpose of acquiring property or interests in property described in subsection (a) that will further the goals of—

"(1) a Coastal Zone Management Plan or Program approved under this title;

"(2) a National Estuarine Research Reserve management plan;

"(3) a regional or State watershed protection or management plan involving coastal states with approved coastal zone management programs; or

"(4) a State coastal land acquisition plan that is consistent with an approved coastal zone management program.

"(c) GRANT PROCESS.—The Secretary shall allocate funds to coastal states or National Estuarine Research Reserves under this section through a competitive grant process in accordance with guidelines that meet the following requirements:

"(1) The Secretary shall consult with the coastal state's coastal zone management program, any National Estuarine Research Reserve in that State, and the lead agency designated by the Governor for coordinating the implementation of this section (if different from the coastal zone management program).

"(2) Each participating coastal state, after consultation with local governmental entities and other interested stakeholders, shall identify priority conservation needs within the State, the values to be protected by inclusion of lands in the program, and the threats to those values that should be avoided.

"(3) Each participating coastal state shall to the extent practicable ensure that the acquisition of property or easements shall complement working waterfront needs.

"(4) The applicant shall identify the values to be protected by inclusion of the lands in the program, management activities that are planned and the manner in which they may affect the values identified, and any other information from the landowner relevant to administration and management of the land.

"(5) Awards shall be based on demonstrated need for protection and ability to successfully leverage funds among participating entities, including Federal programs, regional organizations, State and other governmental units, landowners, corporations, or private organizations.

"(6) The governor, or the lead agency designated by the governor for coordinating the implementation of this section, where appropriate in consultation with the appropriate local government, shall determine that the application is consistent with the State's or territory's approved coastal zone plan, program, and policies prior to submittal to the Secretary.

"(7)(A) Priority shall be given to lands described in subsection (a) that can be effectively managed and protected and that have significant ecological value.

"(B) Of the projects that meet the standard in subparagraph (A), priority shall be given to lands that—

"(i) are under an imminent threat of conversion to a use that will degrade or otherwise diminish their natural, undeveloped, or recreational state; and

"(ii) serve to mitigate the adverse impacts caused by coastal population growth in the coastal environment.

"(8) In developing guidelines under this section, the Secretary shall consult with coastal states, other Federal agencies, and other interested stakeholders with expertise in land acquisition and conservation procedures.

"(9) Eligible coastal states or National Estuarine Research Reserves may allocate grants to local governments or agencies eligible for assistance under section 306A(e).

"(10) The Secretary shall develop performance measures that the Secretary shall use to evaluate and report on the program's effectiveness in accomplishing its purposes, and shall submit such evaluations to Congress triennially.

"(d) LIMITATIONS AND PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTIONS.—

"(1) A grant awarded under this section may be used to purchase land or an interest in land, including an easement, only from a willing seller. Any such purchase shall not be the result of a forced taking under this section. Nothing in this section requires a private property owner to participate in the program under this section.

"(2) Any interest in land, including any easement, acquired with a grant under this section shall not be considered to create any new liability, or have any effect on liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any person injured on the private property.

"(3) Nothing in this section requires a private property owner to provide access (including Federal, State, or local government access) to or use of private property unless such property or an interest in such property (including a conservation easement) has been purchased with funds made available under this section.

"(e) RECOGNITION OF AUTHORITY TO CONTROL LAND USE.—Nothing in this title modifies the authority of Federal, State, or local governments to regulate land use.

"(f) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not make a grant under the program unless the

Federal funds are matched by non-Federal funds in accordance with this subsection.

“(2) COST SHARE REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Grant funds under the program shall require a 100 percent match from other non-Federal sources.

“(B) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary may grant a waiver of subparagraph (A) for underserved communities, communities that have an inability to draw on other sources of funding because of the small population or low income of the community, or for other reasons the Secretary deems appropriate and consistent with the purposes of the program.

“(3) OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS.—Where financial assistance awarded under this section represents only a portion of the total cost of a project, funding from other Federal sources may be applied to the cost of the project. Each portion shall be subject to match requirements under the applicable provision of law.

“(4) SOURCE OF MATCHING COST SHARE.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(A), the non-Federal cost share for a project may be determined by taking into account the following:

“(A) The value of land or a conservation easement may be used by a project applicant as non-Federal match, if the Secretary determines that—

“(i) the land meets the criteria set forth in section 2(b) and is acquired in the period beginning 3 years before the date of the submission of the grant application and ending 3 years after the date of the award of the grant;

“(ii) the value of the land or easement is held by a non-governmental organization included in the grant application in perpetuity for conservation purposes of the program; and

“(iii) the land or easement is connected either physically or through a conservation planning process to the land or easement that would be acquired.

“(B) The appraised value of the land or conservation easement at the time of the grant closing will be considered and applied as the non-Federal cost share.

“(C) Costs associated with land acquisition, land management planning, remediation, restoration, and enhancement may be used as non-Federal match if the activities are identified in the plan and expenses are incurred within the period of the grant award, or, for lands described in (A), within the same time limits described therein. These costs may include either cash or in-kind contributions.

“(g) RESERVATION OF FUNDS FOR NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE SITES.—No less than 15 percent of funds made available under this section shall be available for acquisitions benefitting National Estuarine Research Reserves.

“(h) LIMIT ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—No more than 5 percent of the funds made available to the Secretary under this section shall be used by the Secretary for planning or administration of the program. The Secretary shall provide a report to Congress with an account of all expenditures under this section for fiscal year 2009 and triennially thereafter.

“(i) TITLE AND MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED PROPERTY.—If any property is acquired in whole or in part with funds made available through a grant under this section, the grant recipient shall provide—

“(1) such assurances as the Secretary may require that—

“(A) the title to the property will be held by the grant recipient or another appro-

priate public agency designated by the recipient in perpetuity;

“(B) the property will be managed in a manner that is consistent with the purposes for which the land entered into the program and shall not convert such property to other uses; and

“(C) if the property or interest in land is sold, exchanged, or divested, funds equal to the current value will be returned to the Secretary in accordance with applicable Federal law for redistribution in the grant process; and

“(2) certification that the property (including any interest in land) will be acquired from a willing seller.

“(j) REQUIREMENT FOR PROPERTY USED FOR NON-FEDERAL MATCH.—If the grant recipient elects to use any land or interest in land held by a non-governmental organization as a non-Federal match under subsection (g), the grant recipient must to the Secretary's satisfaction demonstrate in the grant application that such land or interest will satisfy the same requirements as the lands or interests in lands acquired under the program.

“(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) CONSERVATION EASEMENT.—The term ‘conservation easement’ includes an easement or restriction, recorded deed, or a reserve interest deed where the grantee acquires all rights, title, and interest in a property, that do not conflict with the goals of this section except those rights, title, and interests that may run with the land that are expressly reserved by a grantor and are agreed to at the time of purchase.

“(2) INTEREST IN PROPERTY.—The term ‘interest in property’ includes a conservation easement.

“(l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, H.R. 1907 would authorize the existing Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, which is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

This very popular program was first established under the fiscal year 2002 Appropriations Act for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, State, and Related Agencies.

Since its inception, the CELCP program has awarded more than \$176 million in matching grants to eligible coastal States and territories to acquire properties or conservation easements from willing sellers to protect

fish and wildlife habitat from future development and to preserve scarce coastal open space.

This bill was introduced by Congressman JAMES SAXTON and was subsequently reported by the Committee on Natural Resources. This legislation would formally authorize the program consistent with past appropriations acts and with NOAA's own program guidelines.

Madam Speaker, the existing CELCP program is both targeted and effective, and it addresses a critical habitat conservation need in many coastal States and territories. The bill is strongly supported by the administration, by the Coastal States Organization and by several respected conservation organizations, including the Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land.

I commend Congressman SAXTON for his steadfast efforts to authorize this program and to protect and to conserve the coastal zone of the United States. I ask my colleagues to support the passage of this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Congressman JIM SAXTON, who has worked tirelessly on this legislation and to have it scheduled for floor debate today. He cannot be here because he is en route.

He has had a long and distinguished career championing ocean and coastal causes in the House of Representatives. He will be missed as he retires at the end of this Congress. I thank him for his service and for his leadership on the Natural Resources Committee as well as for his being a former Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee member. I wish him good winds and fair seas in his next voyage in life.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to my friend, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPs).

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1907, which formally codifies NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, informally known as the CELCP program.

First, I want to thank the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Mr. RAHALL, and the chairwoman of the subcommittee, Ms. BORDALLO, for bringing H.R. 1907 before us today. I also want to join with the ranking member, Mr. YOUNG, in recognizing the author of this legislation, Mr. SAXTON, for his leadership in all of the areas that he has worked on, especially in this area. Those comments of my colleague from Alaska were very well said. For years, Mr. SAXTON has been a champion for the marine environment, and his passion for our oceans will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, it's well-known that more and more people are moving to the coast to enjoy its beauty and its recreational opportunities. An estimated 60 percent of Americans will live along our coasts during the next 2 years. More than ever, the pressures of urbanization and of coastal pollution threaten to impair watersheds, to impact wildlife habitat and to cause irreparable damage to our fragile coastal ecology.

We see strong signals of what continuing down this path could bring us: beach closings, fish kills, human health impacts, and a lack of public access to beaches and to coastal waters. That's why we need initiatives like the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, the CELCP program.

This existing program pairs willing sellers through community-based initiatives with sources of Federal funds in order to enhance environmental protection. Lands can be acquired in full or through easements, and none of the lands purchased through this program would be held by the Federal Government. It puts land conservation initiatives in the hands of State and local communities. That's why it's supported by the Coastal States Organization.

In my congressional district, we've worked collaboratively with coastal communities, with environmental groups, with willing sellers, and with the State to conserve lands around the Morro Bay National Estuary, on the nationally significant Gaviota Coast and near the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area.

These lands are home to a wide variety of plants and animal species that are particularly threatened by encroaching development and pollution. By working with local communities to purchase lands and easements, California has been able to successfully preserve the natural and scenic heritage of some of its last undeveloped stretches of coastline.

Mr. Speaker, programs like CELCP will help other coastal States to participate in these community-based conservation efforts. Given the importance of healthy, productive and accessible coastal areas, it's time to formally authorize CELCP. This legislation makes important improvements in the program. It provides a better framework for its administration, and it will ensure the consistent implementation throughout the country.

I know that we all would like to do something like this in honor and in the memory of our good friend in his days in Congress, Mr. SAXTON. So I want to thank the chairwoman and Mr. SAXTON for their leadership on this legislation. I look forward to working with them in the coming days to ensure its passage so that we can fill this vital need for coastal protection. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1907.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I will recognize Mrs. MUSGRAVE from Colorado for as much time as she may consume.

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, due to a traffic problem, I am a little bit late in getting into this Chamber to make comment on H.R. 3299, and I so much appreciate the opportunity.

That bill under consideration today provides for a boundary adjustment to the Roosevelt National Forest to correct an erroneous survey.

In May of 2006, a number of my constituents who live in the Crystal Lakes Subdivision in Larimer County, Colorado contacted my office after they received notice from the Forest Service that they were encroaching upon Federal property. You can imagine what a surprise this was to those folks. Many of those people who had purchased the land in the 1970s, improved it, built homes on it and had literally lived there for decades.

However, the Forest Service informed these homeowners that a survey that had been conducted in 2003 and in 2004 had found that the earlier survey that was conducted in 1975 was, indeed, inaccurate. This 1975 survey was privately commissioned and was used in the development of the Crystal Lakes Subdivision.

Thirty years after the property was originally developed, landowners have now been informed that the portions of the land they paid for and that they improved may actually be on Federal property. Even more, a number of these landowners were faced with the reality that their homes might be on Federal land.

□ 1400

The property owners bought this land and made the improvements all in good faith, and are now faced with an undue burden to deal with this mistake.

The only recourse for individuals whose homes are within the area of dispute is the Small Tracts Act. However, this requires homeowners to pay for this land a second time at current fair market value. Obviously, the land prices in this beautiful area have increased dramatically over the past three decades and this purchase would place an enormous financial burden on these homeowners. The uncertainty associated with this dispute has made it difficult for impacted property owners to sell their property. H.R. 3299 would remedy these problems by conveying without consideration the disputed areas to the impacted homeowners.

The 7 acres involved in this boundary dispute are a miniscule fraction of the 1.3 million acres of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest. Because this land has been cleared and it has been occupied, obviously, for a number of years, transferring it back to the Forest Service would not enhance the environment or the scenic attributes of

the area. Additionally, H.R. 3299 would not in any way impact the integrity or affect the operation of the forest.

The landowners impacted by this boundary dispute need resolution and certainty. H.R. 3299 did that by allowing them to keep the land they purchased and improved.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank Chairman RAHALL and Congressman YOUNG, as well as Chairman GRIJALVA and Mr. BISHOP for moving this legislation through the Natural Resources Committee. I am grateful for the support of my colleagues of H.R. 3299.

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

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to go on record as commending Mr. SAXTON for his long and distinguished career as a champion for the oceans. We will all miss him and his passion for protecting the marine environment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the bill before us today. In closing, I would like to thank the gentleman from Alaska, the distinguished ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee, Mr. YOUNG, for managing the bills with me today.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in supporting authorization of the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. H.R. 1907—the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Act authorizes a voluntary partnership program to provide badly needed Federal funds for the purchase and protection of sensitive coastal ecosystems with the goal of better ensuring the ecological and economic health of our coastal communities.

It is well known that more and more people are moving to the coast to enjoy its beauty and recreational opportunities. An estimated 60 percent of Americans will live along our coasts by 2010. Fourteen of our Nation's 20 largest cities are located on the coast. More than ever, the pressures of urbanization and pollution along our Nation's shores threaten to impair watersheds, impact wildlife habitat and cause irreparable damage to the fragile coastal ecology.

Created by Congress in fiscal year 2002, the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program—also known as CELP—was modeled after the successful Forest Legacy Program. To date, this program has invested nearly \$200 million towards 150 conservation projects in 26 of the Nation's 35 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories. This Federal investment has leveraged more than an equal amount of State, local and private funding, demonstrating the importance of coastal protection throughout the Nation and the critical role of Federal funding to its success.

More importantly, the program has helped to conserve lands and waters that will offer numerous benefits to local communities by preserving water quality, natural areas for wildlife and birds, and outdoor recreational opportunities—thereby protecting for the future the very

things we love about the coasts. Although the program has been in existence for six years, it has yet to be formally authorized. This legislation seeks to do just that.

This bill will formally authorize this Federal/State partnership program explicitly for conservation of coastal lands. CELP will award grants on a competitive basis to the 35 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories or National Estuarine Research Reserves for the purpose of protecting lands that are critical to the health of our coasts and estuaries. This legislation will allow coastal States to compete for 1 to 1 matching funds to acquire land or easements from willing sellers to protect coastal areas that have considerable conservation, recreation, ecological, historical or aesthetic values threatened by development or conversion.

By establishing a plan for the preservation of our coastal areas, the Act will build on the foundation laid down by the Coastal Zone Management Act, and will encourage voluntary land conservation partnerships among the Federal Government, State agencies, local governments, private landowners and non-profits. It will not only improve the quality of coastal areas and the marine life they support, but also sustain surrounding communities and their way of life.

I thank Representative CAPPS and all of our cosponsors for their support of H.R. 1907 and I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1907 the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation and Protection Act authored by my friend and fellow co-chair of the House Oceans Caucus from New Jersey, Mr. JIM SAXTON.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for all that Mr. SAXTON has done during his distinguished career in this House to help protect and promote the oceans. He has been a great ally in the fight to keep our oceans from harm and make sure that they will be healthy and productive for our grandchildren's grandchildren. Mr. SAXTON joined me in coauthoring a comprehensive ocean management bill, H.R. 21, known as Oceans-21, that would create a national ocean policy and create coordinated State and Federal management of our oceans. I will continue the fight for the oceans but I will miss having the leadership, friendship, and vision of JIM SAXTON next year.

The conservation of coastal habitat a necessary action identified in the final reports of both the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. Coastal areas are vitally important to our ocean health, since most of our use of the oceans, both recreational and commercial take place in the coastal zone. Estuaries provide even-more important services such as mitigating the impacts from runoff and are known to be the nurseries that support our country's fisheries.

This bill is necessary to authorize a coastal land conservation program and extend the utility of one of our best ocean management laws: the Coastal Zone Management Act. The Coastal Zone Management Act allows States and the Federal Government to cooperate in the management of the resources and environment of the coasts. States which have approved coastal management plans and Na-

tional Estuarine Research Reserves will be eligible for grants to conserve coastal lands and estuaries that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural, undeveloped, or recreational state to other uses or could be managed or restored to effectively conserve, enhance, or restore ecological function.

I also lend my support to this bill because I have seen the good that this program can do. The Elkhorn Slough, covering 1,330 acres in my district, is one of the relatively few coastal wetlands remaining in California. It became a part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System in 1979. The main channel of the slough, which winds inland nearly seven miles, is flanked by a broad salt marsh second in size in California only to San Francisco Bay.

Elkhorn Slough is home to more than 400 species of invertebrates, 80 species of fish and 200 species of birds. The channels and tidal creeks of the slough are nurseries for many species of fish and help support fishing off of the West Coast. At least six threatened or endangered species utilize the slough or its surrounding uplands, including peregrine falcons, Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders, California red-legged frogs, brown pelicans, least terns and Southern Sea Otters. The slough is also an important stop on the Pacific Flyway, providing feeding and resting ground for many types of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes a program that is necessary for the protection of our coasts and our oceans for future generations. I cannot emphasize enough the need for this Congress to provide for ocean stewardship now. I support the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation and Protection Act and I urge my colleagues to join me.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) Act, H.R. 1907.

CELCP is a wonderful example of a public/private partnership. I believe strongly in protecting lands currently threatened by the rapid development across the country and I am so pleased that CELCP is able to make such a valuable contribution to the protection of coastal and estuarine lands, which are considered important for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical and aesthetic value.

This program provides badly needed federal funds for the purchase and protection of sensitive coastal ecosystems with the goal of better ensuring the ecological and economic health of our coastal communities—this is critical in light of the fact that 60 percent of Americans will live along the coast by 2010.

I have been privileged to work with Representative Saxton and applaud his dedication to formally authorizing this program that Congress has funded since 2003. By establishing a plan for the preservation of our coastal areas, authorizing CELCP will build on the successful Coastal Zone Management Act, and it will continue to encourage partnership programs among federal government, state agencies, local governments, private landowners and non-profits.

CELCP has certainly provided the backbone for strong partnerships in Delaware, through

the Nature Conservancy, and DNREC, and NOAA—and I look forward to the continued success of the program.

As we all know too well, protecting open space is particularly important in Delaware, where rapid development is underway. Delaware's CELCP funding totals around \$10 million; most recently it has helped ensure that Blackbird Creek, with wetlands, forest, and important species, remains ecologically valuable today and in the future.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting H.R. 1907.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLISON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1907, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. 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.

GREAT LAKES—ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES COMPACT

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 45) expressing the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate compact regarding water resources in the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate joint resolution.

The text of the Senate joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 45

Whereas the interstate compact regarding water resources in the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin reads as follows:

“AGREEMENT

“**Section 1.** The states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby solemnly covenant and agree with each other, upon enactment of concurrent legislation by the respective state legislatures and consent by the Congress of the United States as follows:

“GREAT LAKES—ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES COMPACT

“ARTICLE 1

“SHORT TITLE, DEFINITIONS, PURPOSES AND DURATION

“**Section 1.1. Short Title.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.”

“**Section 1.2. Definitions.** For the purposes of this Compact, and of any supplemental or concurring legislation enacted pursuant thereto, except as may be otherwise required by the context: