

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 441, the Kantishna Hills Renewable Energy Act, would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue permits for a microhydro project within a nonwilderness area of Denali National Park. Additionally, it will facilitate a small land exchange between the National Park Service and Doyon, Ltd., which owns and operates the facilities that will take advantage of the proposed microhydro project. Finally, at the request of the National Park Service, this bill will allow the Park Service to permit similar projects that exist or may exist in the future. Roughly only six acres of land would be affected.

Doyon is one of 13 Alaska Native Regional Corporations formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Currently, the facilities at Kantishna, which are located at the end of a 90-mile park road, operate exclusively off diesel fuel. Not being connected to any grid system, the roadhouse must produce all its energy onsite. This means trucking thousands of gallons of diesel fuel over the long and treacherous park road. Energy created by this microhydro project could cut the roadhouse's diesel usage in half and drastically reduce the need of these trips.

Down the road at the new Eielson Visitor Center, the National Park Service operates a similar microhydro project to great success, and the Kantishna Roadhouse seeks to take advantage of similar technology that could help rid their reliance on costly diesel fuel.

Working with both the National Park Service and Doyon, we have before us a bill that was crafted in a truly collaborative fashion that is a win-win that lowers the fossil fuel use in the park, lowers costs for the lodge operators, and protects park resources.

I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Mrs. NAPOLITANO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. I really must commend my colleague and my friend, Mr. YOUNG, on the introduction of this piece of legislation as we're looking for more individual entities to go to green energy and save fossil fuel. Besides, it saves many other things that we've talked about in our committees and subcommittees, so I'm glad to see this, Mr. YOUNG.

We fully support projects designated to reduce the pollution caused by the use of fossil fuels. In this instance, a small hydroelectric project will be used to supply some of the power currently being generated by a diesel generator for a backcountry lodge.

□ 1620

The project will also reduce the number of trips needed to haul diesel fuel into the park. Hopefully, the National Park Service can find many other units where cleaner energy technology can be employed and thus save everybody some heartache.

I commend, again, my colleague and my friend for introduction of this piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I again urge the passage of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 441, "The Kantishna Hills Renewable Energy Act of 2011," which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to issue permits for microhydro projects in the Kantishna Hills area within the Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska. These projects will harness the power of water to create up to 100 kilowatts of electricity that will be used to serve much of the area.

As the Representative from the 18th Congressional District in Houston, TX, our nation's energy capital, I firmly believe in supporting viable renewable energy projects. In my home state the energy industry and its supporting businesses has created thousands of jobs and has fostered economic growth. It is imperative that we find ways to meet our nation's grown appetite for energy.

According to the National Hydropower Association, in the United States hydropower projects are responsible for providing 81 percent of the nation's renewable electricity generation and about 10 percent of the nation's total electricity. In terms of everyday use, this is enough to power 37.8 million homes.

The average Americans consumes 10,896 kilowatts of electricity each year. In Texas, alone, over 9 million residences are using electricity, at a rate of about 1,000 kilowatts a month. This costs Texans an estimated \$141.23 a month in electric bills. At a time when we are all tightening our belts. If one of our solutions can be found by simply harnessing water, then it deserves more than a second glance.

Water has been used as a power source for centuries, from Africa to Asia to Europe. As of today, there are 85,000 small-scale hydro power plants in China alone. We are not talking about large-scale projects that have an impact on wildlife habitats.

A large-scale hydro project often requires a sizeable dam. These large-scale dams have raised numerous environmental concerns. Micro projects have significantly less impact on the environment because they use the natural flow of a river and make only minute modifications to the stream channel and flow of water in order to generate power.

Before us, today, are renewable energy projects that will have a marginal impact on the environment (when compared to large-scale plants); a project that will create jobs; and a project that will create much needed energy. On balance this project appears to find symmetry between protecting the environment, creating jobs and meeting our nation's energy needs.

I believe that finding ways to address and meet our growing energy needs is vital to the economic success of our nation. We should

allow the expansion of renewable energy projects that have a limited impact on the environment, will create jobs, and will meet our energy needs. I believe working with the energy community to bolster creative industry approaches and protecting our environment will result in job creation. I believe that sound energy policies not only will protect our environment but are important to the long term health and wellbeing of our citizens.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 441, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue permits for microhydro projects in nonwilderness areas within the boundaries of Denali National Park and Preserve, to acquire land for Denali National Park and Preserve from Doyon Tourism, Inc., and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AUTHORIZATION OF HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES SPECIFIC TO THE ARCTIC.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 295) to amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 to authorize funds to acquire hydrographic data and provide hydrographic services specific to the Arctic for safe navigation, delineating the United States extended continental shelf, and the monitoring and description of coastal changes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 295

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 306 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892d) is amended—

(1) by inserting before the text the following: "(a) IN GENERAL.—"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) ARCTIC PROGRAMS.—Of the amount authorized by this section for fiscal year 2012—

"(1) \$5,000,000 is authorized for use to acquire hydrographic data, provide hydrographic services, conduct coastal change analyses necessary to ensure safe navigation, and improve the management of coastal change in the Arctic; and

"(2) \$2,000,000 is authorized for use to acquire hydrographic data and provide hydrographic services in the Arctic necessary to delineate the United States extended Continental Shelf."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 295 would use existing authorized appropriations in the Hydrographic Survey Improvement Act of 1998 for fiscal year 2012 to fund surveys and mapping activities in the Arctic.

Currently, base hydrographic data in the Arctic is woefully inadequate and not sufficient to support current, let alone future, marine activity. With the last major hydrographic survey activity having occurred more than 60 years ago, after World War II, and with other areas not having been surveyed since the 1800s, there's a lot of work to do.

As we all know, the Arctic has become the focus of many of its surrounding nations to determine ownership of the sea bed and any potential energy sources in the area. In addition, the lack of sea ice is opening up shipping routes to commercial and recreational vessels.

H.R. 295 is an effort to move this process forward, and this bill is necessary to emphasize the need for the agency to collect hydrographic data and provide hydrographic services in the Arctic region. Last Congress, similar legislation passed out of the House by a roll call vote of 420-0.

I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Mrs. NAPOLITANO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. I rise in support of H.R. 295, as amended, which would amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations specifically for the acquisition of hydrographic data and coastal change analysis in the Arctic Ocean.

Again, I commend my colleague for this forward-looking piece of legislation. We sometimes ignore scientific evidence that will help us be able to gauge where the rest of the world is going to be in regard to changes in the atmosphere, et cetera.

And as scientific evidence does show, melting Arctic sea ice is drastically changing the Arctic landscape. The collection of data authorized by this bill would help NOAA delineate the U.S.-extended Continental Shelf, monitor coastal and ice pack changes, and also provide information so critical to international commerce, to our national defense, and to our natural resource management in that area.

I again commend and thank my colleague, Congressman YOUNG from Alaska, for introducing the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 295, "the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 to authorize funds to acquire hydrographic data and provide hydrographic services specific to the Arctic for safe navigation, delineating the United States extended continental shelf, and the monitoring and description of coastal changes" which amends the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 to provide the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with the funds necessary to accurately map the U.S. Arctic.

Thomas Jefferson signed into law legislation that would result in a complete survey of our coast. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has been honoring this mandate by charting our waters for over 200 years. NOAA develops and supplies a variety of products which enables vessels to safely navigate our waterways. These products include nautical charts, tide, current and weather information. These projects are vital to safe navigation of our coast.

I represent the 18th District of Texas, which contains one of the world's leading ports, the Port of Houston. I understand the importance of providing pilots and captains with precise and accurate maps. Having a detailed representation of our nation's terrain ensures the safety of ships, their crew and their cargo. We must remember that every single day, thousands of vessels enter America's ports. These ports are vital to our economy.

The Port of Houston, which consists of the uppermost 26 miles of the Houston Ship Channel, is a significant economic engine locally, regionally and nationally. Each year, the port is responsible for nearly \$285 billion in economic activity, supports more than 1.5 million direct and indirect jobs and generates \$16.2 billion in tax revenue annually nationwide. Ships that enter ports like the Port of Houston carry cargo that is going to enter our stream of commerce and boost our economy. Across our nation this is a one trillion dollar industry that supports more than 13 million jobs in the United States. It is important to note that over 98 percent of the tonnage and more than 59 percent of the value of our foreign trade is conveyed via the maritime transportation system.

By expanding our map to include the Arctic, we expand the ability of ships and airplanes to safely maneuver through those waters, thereby expanding commerce and creating jobs. In addition, having a detailed map of the Arctic is vital to our national security and can aid in the detection of climate change in the region.

As the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection and Member of the Border and Maritime Subcommittee, I know that it is imperative that we protect our borders by land, air and by sea. As any Commander would agree, it is difficult to mount a defense without having a map to clearly navigate the terrain. The services provided by NOAA would allow us to map terrain that has not been adequately mapped in decades.

Over the last five years there has been a dramatic change in sea ice extents. They have

decreased in thickness by 35 percent. This may be a significant sign for environmental change. The decrease in sea ice means that more ships may have access to the area, thereby opening additional trade routes. To be clear, the erosion of sea ice has a serious impact on the livelihoods of people living in the region. The only way to begin to find an answer to the issues posed in the Arctic is to have a studied and detailed analysis of its current structure and how that structure has changed and may continue to change. These maps will help to generate commerce, which will create jobs and help our economy. At the same time these maps will be vital to noting any significant changes to our environment. Lastly, knowing our waters ensures that we will be able to defend ourselves against all enemies. If indeed the erosion of the sea ice extends, it will provide additional access to trade routes. It also provides additional access to our nation. These maps will be an invaluable aid to protecting our borders.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 295, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MCKINNEY LAKE NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1160) to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey the McKinney Lake National Fish Hatchery to the State of North Carolina, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1160

*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 "McKinney Lake National Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act".

#### SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF MCKINNEY LAKE NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of North Carolina.

(b) CONVEYANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey to the State, without reimbursement, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in subsection (c), for use by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission as a component of the fish and wildlife management program of the State.

(c) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The property referred to in subsection (b) is comprised of the property known as the "McKinney Lake National Fish Hatchery", which—

(1) is located at 220 McKinney Lake Road, Hoffman (between Southern Pines and Rockingham), in Richmond County, North Carolina;

(2) is a warmwater facility consisting of approximately 422 acres; and