

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

(3) includes all improvements and related personal property under the jurisdiction of the Secretary that are located on the property (including buildings, structures, and equipment).

(d) USE BY STATE.—

(1) USE.—The property conveyed to the State under this section shall be used by the State for purposes relating to fishery and wildlife resources management.

(2) REVERSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the property conveyed to the State under this section is used for any purpose other than the purpose described in paragraph (1), all right, title, and interest in and to the property shall revert to the United States.

(B) CONDITION OF PROPERTY.—If the property described in subparagraph (A) reverts to the United States under this paragraph, the State shall ensure that the property is in substantially the same or better condition as the condition of the property as of the date of the conveyance of the property under this section.

(C) EXCEPTION.—This paragraph shall not apply with respect to use of the property under subsection (e).

(e) USE BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall require, as a condition and term of the conveyance of property under this section, that the State shall, upon the request of the Secretary, allow the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to use the property in cooperation with the Commission for propagation of any critically important aquatic resources held in public trust to address specific restoration or recovery needs of such resource.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentlewoman 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 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. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill would transfer title to 422 acres of land from the Fish and Wildlife Service to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. The commission has been effectively managing this property since 1998 under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Service, and they have been providing anglers with 150,000 channel catfish each year. Both the State and the Obama administration testified in support of this conveyance, and I note that Congress has previously conveyed 10 national fish hatcheries to various States and municipalities.

I urge the adoption of this 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. 1160, as amended, which would convey the McKinney Lake National Fish Hatchery to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for the purposes of fish and wildlife management. This would allow for the continued operation of the hatchery and the important role it plays in the State's urban fishing program and in addressing the restoration or recovery needs of aquatic resources held in public trust.

As we've heard before, with the warming of the oceans, we are in critical need of helping conserve our fishing industry. So to me this is really a critical piece of legislation.

I do commend my colleague, Congressman KISSELL from North Carolina, for introducing his bill, which is supported by his State and the administration, and would yield to the gentleman for such time as he may consume.

Mr. KISSELL. I would like to thank my colleague for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I do rise in strong support of H.R. 1160, the McKinney National Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act. I'd like to thank the chairman, ranking member, and staff of the Natural Resources Committee for helping us put this bill together. I also want to thank those from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and those from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that also helped my staff in putting this together.

As said, the McKinley Fish Hatchery is 422 acres located in south central North Carolina, near Hoffman, North Carolina. It consists of 23 ponds with the main lake being McKinley. The water resources there cover 18 acres. This effort was first started in the mid-1990s; but due to structural problems on the dam of McKinley Lake itself, the conveyance was unable to be completed.

And as also mentioned, there's been a series of MOAs between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the North Carolina Wildlife Commission.

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In the meantime, those structural problems have been satisfied. They're no longer an issue, and we're ready to proceed with this. There has been bipartisan support, with 10 of our colleagues in North Carolina cosponsoring this bill, and both Senators from North Carolina have signed off on similar legislation in the Senate.

The prime purpose and use of the fish hatchery now is in the community fishing program that's sponsored by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission taking fingerling-size channel catfish that are grown here in the hatchery throughout North Carolina to ponds and lakes in communities and allowing people from North Carolina who may not have access otherwise to come in and enjoy the pleasures of fishing. I'm especially proud of the efforts that are made for those that might have trouble with a handicap. It

allows them access to fishing. And there are also programs designed to get our children involved and to grow up knowing the pleasures of fishing.

Once again, this is a win-win situation for all involved. I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" and to make this conveyance complete.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Chairman, Ranking Member, and the Majority, and Minority Staff of the Natural Resources Committee for helping bring this bill to the floor today. I rise in support of H.R. 1160 the "McKinney Lake National Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act," a bill I have introduced in both the 111th and 112th Congress.

Located in Hoffman, North Carolina the McKinney Lake Fish Hatchery is a warm water hatchery, and contains 23 ponds covering more than 18 acres of water. This primary use of the hatchery is growing fingerling-sized (3–4 inches) channel catfish to harvestable size (8–12 inches) for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's Community Fishing Program.

The Commission's Community Fishing Program provides angling opportunities to thousands of citizens, including children and disabled individuals, throughout the year. These Community Fishing Program sites are intensively managed bodies of water that receive monthly stockings of catchable-sized channel catfish from April–September. The McKinney Lake hatchery in conjunction with the Watha State Fish Hatchery near Wilmington provides the channel catfish for these monthly stockings. Many of these Community Fishing Program sites feature handicap-accessible fishing piers and solar-powered fish feeders helping to provide an enjoyable angling experience for citizens of all ages.

The "McKinney Lake National Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act," while first introduced in the 111th Congress as H.R. 6115 and this congress as H.R. 1160 actually has its beginnings in 1995. At that time the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offered to transfer ownership and operation of this hatchery to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission to help meet the state's fisheries management objectives. However, due to the structural deficiencies of the lake's dam, the transfer was never completed. Since then, the dam issues have been corrected, and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission has had full management of the hatchery under a memorandum of agreement, MOA, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USFWS. The State of North Carolina and the USFWS have entered into 5 subsequent MOA's since 1995, with the most current being signed on November 10, 2009 and continuing until September 30, 2012.

H.R. 1160 was drafted by my staff with the cooperation, and consultation, of both the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and the USFWS. The product of this cooperation is a bill that has garnered the support of 9 bi-partisan original co-sponsors from the North Carolina House delegation, as well as companion legislation (S. 651) in the Senate. The Senate version is co-sponsored by both North Carolina Senators.

In conclusion, H.R. 1160 would complete a land conveyance that by all accounts should have occurred in the late 1990's. In addition the state of North Carolina would be able to continue producing catfish for the popular and important Community Fishing Program, on land and facilities that they would have ownership of. The State ownership of this land

would incentivize them to make long term improvements and investments in the property, keeping it a viable fish hatchery. I appreciate the opportunity to stand in support of H.R. 1160 today, and would urge my colleagues to support the passage of this legislation.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back 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.

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. 1160, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

SOUTH UTAH VALLEY ELECTRIC CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 461) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal features of the electric distribution system to the South Utah Valley Electric Service District, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 461

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 "South Utah Valley Electric Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **DISTRICT.**—The term "District" means the South Utah Valley Electric Service District, organized under the laws of the State of Utah.

(2) **ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.**—The term "Electric Distribution System" means fixtures, irrigation, or power facilities lands, distribution fixture lands, and shared power poles.

(3) **FIXTURES.**—The term "fixtures" means all power poles, cross-members, wires, insulators and associated fixtures, including substations, that—

(A) comprise those portions of the Strawberry Valley Project power distribution system that are rated at a voltage of 12.5 kilovolts and were constructed with Strawberry Valley Project revenues; and

(B) any such fixtures that are located on Federal lands and interests in lands.

(4) **IRRIGATION OR POWER FACILITIES LANDS.**—The term "irrigation or power facilities lands" means all Federal lands and interests in lands where the fixtures are located on the date of the enactment of this Act and which are encumbered by other Strawberry Valley Project irrigation or power features, including lands underlying the Strawberry Substation.

(5) **DISTRIBUTION FIXTURE LANDS.**—The term "distribution fixture lands" means all Federal lands and interests in lands where the fixtures

are located on the date of the enactment of this Act and which are unencumbered by other Strawberry Valley Project features, to a maximum corridor width of 30 feet on each side of the centerline of the fixtures' power lines as those lines exist on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(6) **SHARED POWER POLES.**—The term "shared power poles" means poles that comprise those portions of the Strawberry Valley Project Power Transmission System, that are rated at a voltage of 46.0 kilovolts, are owned by the United States, and support fixtures of the Electric Distribution System.

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

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Inasmuch as the Strawberry Water Users Association conveyed its interest, if any, in the Electric Distribution System to the District by a contract dated April 7, 1986, and in consideration of the District assuming from the United States all liability for administration, operation, maintenance, and replacement of the Electric Distribution System, the Secretary shall, as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act and in accordance with all applicable law convey and assign to the District without charge or further consideration—

(1) all of the United States right, title, and interest in and to—

(A) all fixtures owned by the United States as part of the Electric Distribution System; and

(B) the distribution fixture land;

(2) license for use in perpetuity of the shared power poles to continue to own, operate, maintain, and replace Electric Distribution Fixtures attached to the shared power poles; and

(3) licenses for use and for access in perpetuity for purposes of operation, maintenance, and replacement across, over, and along—

(A) all project lands and interests in irrigation and power facilities lands where the Electric Distribution System is located on the date of the enactment of this Act that are necessary for other Strawberry Valley Project facilities (the ownership of such underlying lands or interests in lands shall remain with the United States), including lands underlying the Strawberry Substation; and

(B) such corridors where Federal lands and interests in lands—

(i) are abutting public streets and roads; and

(ii) can provide access that will facilitate operation, maintenance, and replacement of facilities.

(b) **COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Before conveying lands, interest in lands, and fixtures under subsection (a), the Secretary shall comply with all applicable requirements under—

(A) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(C) any other law applicable to the land and facilities.

(2) **EFFECT.**—Nothing in this Act modifies or alters any obligations under—

(A) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); or

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(c) **POWER GENERATION AND 46KV TRANSMISSION FACILITIES EXCLUDED.**—Except for the uses as granted by license in Shared Power Poles under section 3(a)(2), nothing in this Act shall be construed to grant or convey to the District or any other party, any interest in any facilities shared or otherwise that comprise a portion of the Strawberry Valley Project power generation system or the federally owned portions of the 46 kilovolt transmission system which ownership shall remain in the United States.

SEC. 4. EFFECT OF CONVEYANCE.

On conveyance of any land or facility under section 3(a)(1)—

(1) the conveyed and assigned land and facilities shall no longer be part of a Federal reclamation project;

(2) the District shall not be entitled to receive any future Bureau or Reclamation benefits with respect to the conveyed and assigned land and facilities, except for benefits that would be available to other non-Bureau of Reclamation facilities; and

(3) the United States shall not be liable for damages arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to the land and facilities, including the transaction of April 7, 1986, between the Strawberry Water Users Association and Strawberry Electric Service District.

SEC. 5. REPORT.

If a conveyance required under section 3 is not completed by the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, not later than 30 days after that date, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) describes the status of the conveyance;

(2) describes any obstacles to completing the conveyance; and

(3) specifies an anticipated date for completion of the conveyance.

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

H.R. 461, sponsored by Congressman JASON CHAFFETZ of Utah, conveys the federal title of electricity distribution lines to a local entity. This transfer resolves ownership confusion caused by lack of proper federal paperwork and will lead to more efficient management of the project. The general concept of so-called title transfers is a promising one: they place projects under local control; they reduce federal paperwork; and they provide instant ownership equity for a local entity to leverage private financing dollars. These benefits will all be achieved without a cost to the American taxpayer. This bill is an excellent example of a win-win scenario.

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. H.R. 461, as the majority mentioned, would transfer title of an electric distribution system from the Bureau of Reclamation to the South Utah Valley Electric Distribution system. The South Utah Valley Electrical Distribution system already