

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

operates and maintains the existing facilities. The act would eliminate the Bureau of Reclamation's obligations to oversee the maintenance of the distribution system and to administer the associated lands.

The Strawberry Valley Reclamation Project is a great example of the important role the Federal Government has played in helping to spur the economy of local communities in the West. Without Reclamation's involvement years ago, it is very highly unlikely that we would be able to transfer these facilities to the local entities today. So I commend my friend and colleague, Congressman CHAFFETZ from Utah, for supporting this important piece of legislation that helps the area so well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ).

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I rise in support of H.R. 461, the South Utah Valley Electric Conveyance Act of 2011. I would first like to thank the chairman and the ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee for advancing this needed bill to the floor. It wouldn't have happened without good support and consideration on both sides of the aisle. For that I'm very grateful.

The South Utah Valley Electric Conveyance Act would clarify ownership of an electric distribution system that was built as part of the federally sponsored Strawberry Valley Project. Construction of the Strawberry Valley Project began in 1906 and currently includes the Strawberry Dam and Reservoir, diversion dams, canals, three power plants, and a 296-mile electric transmission and distribution system.

Since 1906, various Federal, State, local, and private partners have been involved in the construction, management, and ownership of the Strawberry Valley Project. Currently, the non-federal South Utah Valley Electric Special Service District owns, operates, and maintains the electric distribution system. Recently, the Bureau of Reclamation discovered that portions of the electric distribution system remain titled to the United States. This discrepancy exists due to the construction activities that occurred both before and after a 1940 repayment agreement. The Bureau has not yet quantified how much of the system it actually owns, but it has been predicted that an inventory would take multiple years and be very costly to taxpayers.

The South Utah Valley Electric Conveyance Act would authorize a title transfer to resolve this ownership uncertainty. By transferring title of the entire system to the district, the Bureau would divest itself of future Federal liability while also providing the district—the entity already operating and maintaining this system—with greater certainty and autonomy in day-to-day and long-term operations.

Title transfers are noncontroversial and common practice. Since 1996, por-

tions of 27 Bureau of Reclamation projects have been transferred to non-Federal partners. These transfers benefit both parties. When the Natural Resources Committee favorably forwarded the bill to the House of Representatives, the accompanying report stated, "In general, title transfers benefit both local communities and the Federal Government."

Further, the legislation is in line with the Bureau of Reclamation's 1995 framework for transfer of title. This policy outlined criteria needed for the title transfers in order to move forward: Number one, the Federal Treasury, and thereby the taxpayers' financial interest, must be protected; Number two, there must be compliance with all applicable State and Federal laws; Number three, interstate compacts and agreements must be protected; Number four, the Secretary's Native American trust responsibilities must be met; Number five, treaty obligations and international agreements must be fulfilled; and Number six, the public aspects of the project must be protected.

The South Utah Valley Electric Conveyance Act is in line with the Bureau's framework. And, again, I would like to thank Chairman HASTINGS and members of the Natural Resources Committee for advancing this bill to the floor, and help on both sides of the aisle.

The South Utah Valley Electric Conveyance Act is beneficial to both the Federal Government and localities in Utah's Third Congressional District, and I would encourage my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. 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. 461, 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.

ALLOWING PREPAYMENT OF FEDERAL CONTRACTS WITH THE UTAH WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 818) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to allow for prepayment of repayment contracts between the United States and the Uintah Water Conservancy District.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 818

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

SECTION 1. PREPAYMENT OF CERTAIN REPAYMENT CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UTAH WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT.

The Secretary of the Interior shall allow for prepayment of the repayment contract no. 6-05-01-00143 between the United States and the Uintah Water Conservancy District dated June 3, 1976, and supplemented and amended on November 1, 1985, and on December 30, 1992, providing for repayment of municipal and industrial water delivery facilities for which repayment is provided pursuant to such contract, under terms and conditions similar to those used in implementing section 210 of the Central Utah Project Completion Act (Public Law 102-575), as amended. The prepayment—

(1) shall result in the United States recovering the net present value of all repayment streams that would have been payable to the United States if this Act was not in effect;

(2) may be provided in several installments to reflect substantial completion of the delivery facilities being prepaid, and any increase in the repayment obligation resulting from delivery of water in addition to the water being delivered under this contract as of the date of enactment of this Act;

(3) shall be adjusted to conform to a final cost allocation including costs incurred by the Bureau of Reclamation, but unallocated as of the date of the enactment of this Act that are allocable to the water delivered under this contract;

(4) may not be adjusted on the basis of the type of prepayment financing used by the District; and

(5) shall be made such that total repayment is made not later than September 30, 2022.

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. 818 would allow a local water district in Utah to prepay its loan obligations to the Federal Government. Prepayment can benefit local water utilities because it relieves them of interest costs and some regulatory burdens.

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This concept is similar to giving a family an option to prepay its mortgage and to save compounded interest cost. It's also in the best interest of the American taxpayer since it will facilitate the revenues to the U.S. Treasury.

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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