

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.)

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 818, sponsored by our friend and colleague Congressman MATHESON, would allow the Uintah Water Conservancy District of Uintah County, Utah, to prepay—that means to pay ahead of time for anybody who really understands the prepay—the debt owed to the Federal Government for the construction of the Jensen Unit.

At a time when our country is watching our dollars and cents, H.R. 818 is legislation that does make very credible sense. The water district would have the option to pay its loan early—what a novel concept—and translate the interest savings into lower rates for its customers—again, quite an interesting concept. The Federal Government, in turn, would benefit from the accelerated repayment of the debt to the Treasury and be able to use that for debt reduction or whatever else is needed.

I do commend Congressman MATHESON of Utah for his efforts in moving this legislation. Identical legislation passed the House unanimously in the 111th Congress, so I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

With that, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON).

Mr. MATHESON. I rise in support of H.R. 818, which would direct the Secretary of the Interior to allow for the prepayment of repayment contracts between the United States and the Uintah Water Conservancy District.

I would very much like to thank Chairmen HASTINGS and MCCLINTOCK and Ranking Members MARKEY and NAPOLITANO for their support in moving this bill through the Natural Resources Committee.

This is a commonsense bill that encourages and promotes fiscal responsibility at all levels of government. Allowing the Uintah Water Conservancy District to pay its debt obligations back early and in a timely manner is what we like to call a “win-win” in that it’s finally beneficial to the local government and Federal Government alike.

It provides local government the ability to responsibly self-govern, giving it the flexibility to pay its loan off early and save hundreds of thousands of dollars in future interest payments. This savings will result in lower costs to the water users, which is very important as we continue to grow out of the current economic recession and look for additional ways to support much needed economic development in rural communities. Likewise, allowing for prepayment results in a significant payment to the Federal Treasury.

As Congress continues to look for ways to trim the Federal budget and encourage best practices and good government policies, allowing for prepayment is a good model to follow. In addition, I believe this legislation provides a good opportunity to help rural communities prioritize and implement best practices to utilize scarce resources in

an effort to meet rural water demands in a cost-effective and fiscally responsible manner.

I would also like to point out that there is precedence for allowing the prepayment of repayment contracts. H.R. 818 is similar to legislation used by the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, which allowed for the prepayment of the repayment contracts for the Bonneville Unit. This effort saved hundreds of thousands in taxpayer dollars and allowed for project managers to consider time and cost savings through a balanced approach to managing an important resource in my State.

H.R. 818 is the same bill that passed the House unanimously in the 111th Congress. It has also in this Congress been reintroduced in the Senate by my counterparts in the Utah delegation, Senators HATCH and LEE. I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this bill once again.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. As I have no further requests for time, I would urge my colleagues to vote for this very important piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, 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. 818.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS NATIONAL MEMORIAL ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 320) to designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 320

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 “Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial Act”.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS NATIONAL MEMORIAL IN RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The most reliable statistics regarding the number of members of the Armed Forces who have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross indicate that 126,318 members of the Armed Forces received the medal during World War II, approximately 21,000 members received the medal during the Korean conflict, and 21,647 members received the medal during the Vietnam War. Since the end of the Vietnam War, more than 203 Armed Forces members have received the medal in times of conflict.

(2) The National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, burned down in 1973, and thus many more recipients of the Distinguished Flying Cross may be undocumented. Currently, the Department of Defense continues to locate and identify members of the Armed Forces who have received the medal and are undocumented.

(3) The United States currently lacks a national memorial dedicated to the bravery and sacrifice of those members of the Armed Forces who have distinguished themselves by heroic deeds performed in aerial flight.

(4) An appropriate memorial to current and former members of the Armed Forces is under construction at March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California.

(5) This memorial will honor all those members of the Armed Forces who have distinguished themselves in aerial flight, whether documentation of such members who earned the Distinguished Flying Cross exists or not.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The memorial to members of the Armed Forces who have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, located at March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California, is hereby designated as the Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial.

(c) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.—The national memorial designated by this section is not a unit of the National Park System, and the designation of the national memorial shall not be construed to require or permit Federal funds to be expended for any purpose related to the national memorial.

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, I want to begin by thanking Congressman CALVERT for introducing this bill to designate a memorial in honor of the over 150,000 current and former members of the Armed Forces who have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

The new memorial was dedicated on October 27, 2010, at March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California. With the legislation, the memorial will be designated as the Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial. This designation honors these patriots and does not require or permit the expenditure of any Federal dollars.

I urge adoption of the 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.)

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, the recipients of the Distinguished Flying