

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 Washington?

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 944, introduced by our colleague from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) will remove an unused lighthouse reservation currently in place for certain rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California. The bill would add them to the California Coastal National Monument.

The lighthouse reservation has been in place since 1935 to provide locations for searchlights and other coastal defense equipment of that time. The bill will provide for the consistent management of geological features along the coast of Orange County.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Mr. LUJÁN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUJÁN. H.R. 944 would correct a situation in which two acts from the 1930s are inadvertently preventing certain rocks, pinnacles, reefs, small islands, and lighthouses off the coast of Orange County from being included in the California Coastal National Monument.

In 2000 President Clinton created the California Coastal National Monument, which spans the entire 1,100 miles of the California coast and encompasses more than 20,000 small islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles. However, the act designating the monument included only unreserved and unappropriated rocks and islands, and under the 1930s acts, these natural and cultural sites were reserved.

H.R. 944 would strike the reservation language in one act and repeal another act to provide that these areas finally be permanently protected as part of the California Coastal National Monument. Therefore, we support the passage of H.R. 944.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the author of this legislation, the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL).

Mr. CAMPBELL. I thank the gentleman from Washington for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the facts of the bill have been presented by both of the gentlemen speaking before me.

This bill actually passed the floor of this House by a vote of 397-4 in the last Congress. They simply ran out of time in the Senate; otherwise, I think it would be law today. So I appreciate everyone's indulgence with passing this bill off this floor again today, I hope.

It has been mentioned that this was from 1935. Of these rocks and small is-

lands, they originally thought, oh, we might put lighthouses there. Then they thought they might use them to help defend the California coast against Japanese submarines during World War II. Neither of those purposes is of much value anymore. So that's why, if we put this in the California Coastal National Monument, we will be able to preserve these rocks and islands and the sea life around them, and they will become a part of our environmental heritage going forward.

With that, I thank everyone for their assistance.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 944.

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. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

FORT PULASKI NATIONAL MONUMENT LEASE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 535) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands within Fort Pulaski National Monument, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 535

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 "Fort Pulaski National Monument Lease Authorization Act".

SEC. 2. LEASE AUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") may lease to the Savannah Bar Pilots Association, or a successor organization, no more than 30,000 square feet of land and improvements within Fort Pulaski National Monument (referred to in this section as the "Monument") at the location on Cockspur Island that has been used continuously by the Savannah Bar Pilots Association since 1940.

(b) RENTAL FEE AND PROCEEDS.—

(1) RENTAL FEE.—For the lease authorized by this Act, the Secretary shall require a rental fee based on fair market value adjusted, as the Secretary deems appropriate, for amounts to be expended by the lessee for

property preservation, maintenance, or repair and related expenses.

(2) PROCEEDS.—Disposition of the proceeds from the rental fee required pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with section 3(k)(5) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-2(k)(5)).

(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A lease entered into under this section—

(1) shall be for a term of no more than 10 years and, at the Secretary's discretion, for successive terms of no more than 10 years at a time; and

(2) shall include any terms and conditions the Secretary determines to be necessary to protect the resources of the Monument and the public interest.

(d) EXEMPTION FROM APPLICABLE LAW.—Except as provided in section 2(b)(2) of this Act, the lease authorized by this Act shall not be subject to section 3(k) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-2(k)) or section 321 of Act of June 30, 1932 (40 U.S.C. 1302).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. 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 Washington?

There was no objection.

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

S. 535 would allow the Savannah Bar Pilots Association to continue leasing a facility at Fort Pulaski National Monument as they have done since the 1940s.

Congressman JACK KINGSTON of Georgia is the author of the House version of this bill, H.R. 2687, that the Committee on Natural Resources heard in September. The National Park Service testified in support, and we are pleased that this is one piece of legislation that will not cost the taxpayers a dime.

So I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Mr. LUJÁN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUJÁN. Fort Pulaski was completed in 1812. The Savannah Bar Pilots were founded in 1864, and they have had a lease to use part of the fort since 1940. It would appear that Congress is a little late in getting around to formalizing this arrangement.

The Bar Pilots provide an invaluable service by protecting the people and the cargo entering the Port of Savannah. This has been a good use of part of the fort and should continue, so we support the passage of S. 535.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 535.

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. LUJAN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PROVIDING FOR OUR WORKFORCE AND ENERGY RESOURCES ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2360) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to extend the Constitution, laws, and jurisdiction of the United States to installations and devices attached to the seabed of the Outer Continental Shelf for the production and support of production of energy from sources other than oil and gas, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2360

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 "Providing for Our Workforce and Energy Resources Act" or the "POWER Act".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF CONSTITUTION, LAWS, AND JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENERGY FACILITIES AND DEVICES ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF.

Section 4(a)(1) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1333(a)(1)) is amended by—

(1) inserting "or producing or supporting production of energy from sources other than oil and gas" after "therefrom";

(2) inserting "or transmitting such energy" after "transporting such resources"; and

(3) inserting "and other energy" after "That mineral".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. 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 Washington?

There was no objection.

□ 1540

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

I appreciate the opportunity to bring to the floor the Providing for Our Workforce and Energy Resources or POWER Act, introduced by our colleague from Louisiana (Mr. LANDRY).

The House Natural Resources Committee is dedicated to creating domestic American jobs and protecting the safety of our workers. When we pass legislation that encourages safe and efficient energy development on Federal lands, not only are we decreasing domestic energy production, but we are also generating the millions of jobs that support those industries; and when I say that, I mean all energy jobs. Republicans in Congress are committed to an all-of-the-above energy strategy. We are committed to promoting jobs in wind, solar, oil, gas, hydro, and geothermal energy. Developing all of these resources to ensure reliable and affordable energy for the American people will benefit families and businesses across our country in the form of lower energy costs and greater job growth.

To help foster this private sector job growth, eliminating regulatory uncertainty can really clear the way to spur investment, protect American workers, and spur job creation. The bill under consideration does just that.

The POWER Act clarifies the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to ensure the full and fair application of our Nation's laws to all offshore energy development, including renewable energy, rather than waiting for various rulings and interpretations by Federal agencies. This simple, commonsense bill will provide greater certainty to those looking to invest and develop renewable energy projects and the infrastructure to support those projects off our shores.

I want everyone to be clear that this is not a major change in law. It is merely a technical clarification to ensure that Federal agencies have the important guidance they need to ensure that our Nation's laws are applied in the manner in which they were intended. Although not a major change, it is an important one, and Mr. LANDRY should get the credit for putting this bill forward. American companies are on the verge of investing hundreds of millions of dollars in developing renewable energy on our Outer Continental Shelf, and they need the certainty that our laws will be applied fairly to their activities.

Developing our Nation's energy resources benefits our economy, our people, and our national security. I believe this bill helps provide the certainty needed to help move America down the path. I applaud Mr. LANDRY for his work, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUJAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. (Mr. LUJAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUJAN. H.R. 2360 would clarify that U.S.-flagged vessels must be used for the transportation of merchandise, supplies, construction materials, and maintenance materials between the U.S. mainland and offshore wind farms. The American Wind Energy Association has indicated that their member companies already operate in conformance with Jones Act requirements for offshore wind farms. The Offshore Wind Development Coalition testified on H.R. 2360 that wind developers already accept the applicability of the Jones Act for offshore wind farms. The Department of the Interior has testified that the relevant statutes already apply to offshore renewable energy installations. In addition, the Interior Department has also testified that H.R. 2360 would not expand current law, but that it would simply clarify that section 4(a) of Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act applies to renewable energy production offshore to the extent that there is any uncertainty. Comments on this bill from Customs and Border Protection echo the Interior Department's interpretation that H.R. 2360 would simply clarify that the Jones Act applies to offshore wind farms. The Customs and Border Protection comments also reaffirm the interpretation that H.R. 2360 would not expand current law to cover vessels responsible for laying transmission lines or other vessels assisting in the construction process beyond what the current law already provides. We share these interpretations of H.R. 2360 and of the underlying statutes. However, to the extent that there may be any uncertainty that would be aided by clarification, we have no problem with the legislation. I reserve the balance of my time.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Mr. LUJAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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The Department of the Interior has testified that the relevant statutes already apply to offshore renewable energy installations. In addition, the Interior Department has also testified that H.R. 2360 would not expand current law, but that it would simply clarify that section 4(a) of Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act applies to renewable energy production offshore to the extent that there is any uncertainty.

Comments on this bill from Customs and Border Protection echo the Interior Department's interpretation that H.R. 2360 would simply clarify that the Jones Act applies to offshore wind farms. The Customs and Border Protection comments also reaffirm the interpretation that H.R. 2360 would not expand current law to cover vessels responsible for laying transmission lines or other vessels assisting in the construction process beyond what the current law already provides.

We share these interpretations of H.R. 2360 and of the underlying statutes. However, to the extent that there may be any uncertainty that would be aided by clarification, we have no problem with the legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the author of this legislation, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LANDRY).

Mr. LANDRY. Mr. Speaker, when I talk to business owners around the country, there are two things that I hear prevent them from putting Americans back to work, and that is regulatory uncertainty and inequity in government regulations.

Both the industry and the administration have confirmed the existence of ambiguity in the current law governing energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf. This is creating uncertainty and inequity, affecting job creation.

This bill corrects the problem and strengthens our renewable energy industry by giving our stakeholders the information needed to make the right business decisions and investments. It levels the playing field for all industries operating on the Outer Continental Shelf.