

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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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.)

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.

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.

We agree that to effectively rid ourselves of foreign oil we need an all-of-the-above approach to energy development, and our laws should follow suit as this industry develops.

Both sides of the aisle don't often agree on ways to strengthen our energy independence and on ways to create jobs; however, this bill affords us the opportunity to do just that.

I'm proud to have bipartisan support for this bill and want to thank both the distinguished chairman from the State of Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), who helped us on this bill.

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

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

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. 2360.

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.

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMPLEX FISH STOCKING ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2351) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 2351

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 "North Cascades National Park Service Complex Fish Stocking Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMPLEX.—The term "North Cascades National Park Service Complex" means collectively the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

(2) PLAN.—The term "plan" means the document entitled "North Cascades National Park Service Complex Mountain Lakes Fishery Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement" and dated June 2008.

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

SEC. 3. STOCKING OF CERTAIN LAKES IN THE NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMPLEX.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary shall authorize the stocking of fish in lakes in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex.

(b) CONDITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to allow stocking of fish in not more than 42 of the 91 lakes in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex that have historically been stocked with fish.

(2) NATIVE NONREPRODUCING FISH.—The Secretary shall only stock fish that are—

(A) native to the slope of the Cascade Range on which the lake to be stocked is located; and

(B) nonreproducing, as identified in management alternative B of the plan.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making fish stocking decisions under this Act, the Secretary shall consider relevant scientific information, including the plan and information gathered under subsection (c).

(4) REQUIRED COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate the stocking of fish under this Act with the State of Washington.

(c) RESEARCH AND MONITORING.—The Secretary shall—

(1) continue a program of research and monitoring of the impacts of fish stocking on the resources of the applicable unit of the North Cascades National Park Service Complex; and

(2) beginning on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act and every 5 years thereafter, submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes the results of the research and monitoring under paragraph (1).

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.

I am the author of H.R. 2351, the North Cascades National Park Service Complex Fish Stocking Act.

This bill has enjoyed broad bipartisan support for some time. It passed the House under suspension of the rules in the last Congress and was favorably reported from the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee by voice vote.

H.R. 2351 is necessary to ensure the National Park Service, in coordination with the State of Washington, has the authority to continue stocking fish in certain alpine lakes in the North Cascades National Park Complex. This complex includes the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

In 2008, the park service prepared an environmental impact statement regarding the management of the fisheries in these mountain lakes. The preferred alternative was to allow continued fish stocking in 42 of those lakes. The park service also requested explicit authority to allow fish stocking to continue within the park complex. And this is exactly what H.R. 2351 does.

Many tourists visit the park for its scenic beauty as well as fishing opportunities, making fish stocking an important component of the central Washington economy.

I urge support of this legislation.

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. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the chairman as well and his work on this legislation and the importance of it. And as a general matter, the introduction of nonnative species into wilderness designated within a national park should be prohibited.

But in this instance, however, the National Park Service has found that fish stocking can continue within the Mather Wilderness without harm to other national park resources. Importantly, the legislation contains significant protections for those resources.

We worked closely with Chairman HASTINGS last Congress to secure House passage of this legislation and are pleased to do so again today. The chairman is to be commended for his efforts on behalf of the North Cascades National Park Complex.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I, again, urge my colleagues to support this legislation, 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. 2351.

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.

□ 1550

ALLOWING YSLETA DEL SUR PUEBLO TRIBE TO DETERMINE MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1560) to amend