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INDIAN BUFFALO MANAGEMENT ACT

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2074) to assist Tribal governments in the management of buffalo and buffalo habitat and for the reestablishment of buffalo on Indian lands, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2074

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 “Indian Buffalo Management Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) buffalo sustained a majority of Indian Tribes in North America for many centuries before buffalo were nearly exterminated by non-Indian hunters in the mid-1800s;

(2) the historical, cultural, and spiritual connection between buffalo and Indian Tribes has not diminished over time;

(3) Indian Tribes have long desired the reestablishment of buffalo throughout Indian country for cultural, spiritual, and subsistence purposes; and

(4) the successful restoration of buffalo would allow an Indian Tribe to benefit from—

(A) the reintroduction of buffalo into the diets of the members of the Indian Tribe;

(B) the rekindling of the spiritual and cultural relationship between buffalo and the Indian Tribe; and

(C) the use of buffalo for economic development, in the case of an Indian Tribe that chooses to use buffalo for economic development.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to fulfill the government-to-government relationship between Tribal governments and the United States in the management of buffalo and buffalo habitat;

(2) to promote and develop the capacity of Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations to manage buffalo and buffalo habitat;

(3) to protect, conserve, and enhance buffalo, which are important to the subsistence, culture, and economic development of many Indian Tribes;

(4) to promote the development and use of buffalo and buffalo habitat for the maximum practicable benefit of Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, through management of buffalo and buffalo habitats in accordance with integrated resource management plans developed by Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations;

(5) to develop buffalo herds and increase production of buffalo in order to meet Tribal subsistence, health, cultural, and economic development needs; and

(6) to promote the inclusion of Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations in Department of the Interior, local, regional, national, or international—

(A) decision-making processes; and

(B) forums.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **BUFFALO.**—The term “buffalo” means an animal of the subspecies *Bison bison*.

(2) **BUFFALO HABITAT.**—The term “buffalo habitat” means Indian land, as defined in paragraph (4) of this section, that is managed for buffalo.

(3) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of the Interior.

(4) **INDIAN LAND.**—The term “Indian land” has the meaning given the term in paragraph (2) of section 2601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501), except that, in that paragraph, the term “Indian reservation” shall be considered to have the meaning given the term “Indian reservation” in paragraph (3) of that section, without regard to the date specified in paragraph (3) of that section.

(5) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(7) **TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term “Tribal organization” means any legally established organization of Indians that—

(A) is chartered under section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934, (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”) (25 U.S.C. 5124), which is recognized by the governing body of any Indian Tribe or Tribes; or

(B) is a Tribal corporation federally chartered under section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act (25 U.S.C. 5203); and

(C) has demonstrable experience in the restoration of buffalo and buffalo habitat on Indian land.

SEC. 4. BUFFALO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.

(a) **PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.**—The Secretary shall establish a permanent program within the Department of the Interior for the purposes of—

(1) promoting and developing the capacity of Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations to manage buffalo and buffalo habitat;

(2) promoting the ability of Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations to protect, conserve, and enhance populations of buffalo that are owned by Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations;

(3) promoting the development and use of buffalo and buffalo habitat for the maximum practicable benefit of Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations; and

(4) promoting the inclusion of Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations in Department, international, national, regional, and local decision-making and forums regarding buffalo and buffalo habitat.

(b) **CONTRACTS AND GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with, and award grants to, Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations to enable the Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations—

(A) to plan, conduct, or implement a buffalo restoration or management program;

(B) to plan and execute commercial activities related to buffalo or buffalo products; or

(C) to carry out other activities relating to buffalo restoration and management.

(2) **NO DIMINISHMENT OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS.**—Nothing in this subsection diminishes any Federal or State law (including regulations) regarding diseased buffalo or buffalo that escape from Indian land.

(c) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance to an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization that enters into a contract or cooperative agreement or receives a grant under this section to assist an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization in—

(1) carrying out the activities of a buffalo or buffalo habitat restoration or management program; and

(2) implementing the activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of subsection (b)(1).

SEC. 5. CONSULTATION; COORDINATION.

(a) **CONSULTATION.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and on an ongoing basis thereafter, the Secretary

shall consult with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations on initiatives of the Department that affect buffalo or buffalo habitat, including efforts of the Department to contain or eradicate diseased buffalo.

(b) **COORDINATION.**—The Secretary shall develop a policy relating to buffalo and buffalo habitat management activities on Indian land, in accordance with—

(1) the goals and objectives described in buffalo management programs approved by Indian Tribes; and

(2) Tribal laws and ordinances.

SEC. 6. PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not disclose or cause to be disclosed any information provided to the Secretary by an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization that is identified by the Indian Tribe or Tribal organization as culturally sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential.

SEC. 7. BUFFALO FROM FEDERAL LAND.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may enter into an agreement with an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization to dispose of surplus buffalo on Federal land administered by the Department, as applicable, by transporting such buffalo onto Indian land.

(b) **APPLICATION.**—An Indian Tribe or Tribal organization may submit to the Secretary an application to receive buffalo described in subsection (a) at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(c) **WAIVER OF CHARGES.**—The Secretary may waive any charges for the buffalo described in subsection (a), including any deposit or payment for services as described in section 10.2 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

SEC. 8. TREATY RIGHTS RETAINED.

Nothing in this Act alters, modifies, diminishes, or extinguishes the treaty rights of any Indian Tribe.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this Act \$14,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2074, the Indian Buffalo Management Act is sponsored by the dean of the House, Representative DON YOUNG from Alaska, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill.

This bill will establish a permanent program within the Department of the Interior to develop and promote Tribal ownership and management of buffalo and buffalo habitat on Indian lands.

In the 1840s, the buffalo population in North America was estimated at 30 million, with approximately 60 million at its peak. Before colonization, about 7 million indigenous peoples populated the North American continent. Throughout this time, many indigenous peoples coexisted with buffalo, often through a sacred, spiritual relationship. The buffalo provided food, shelter, tools, clothing, and became an essential component of traditional beliefs and religion.

But in the 19th century, in an attempt to displace or eradicate indigenous peoples, the United States military slaughtered tens of millions of buffalo. At the turn of the century, fewer than 500 buffalo remained in this country. Similarly, the American Indian population was reduced to merely 250,000 in the early 1900s. What a loss. By the 20th century many buffalo conservation efforts were headed by President Teddy Roosevelt and frequently led to private ownership of buffalo herds.

In 1991, 10 Tribes committed to buffalo restoration efforts with 1,500 buffalo and organized the InterTribal Buffalo Council, or ITBC. The ITBC collaborates with several Federal agencies for buffalo management, and now includes 69 federally recognized Tribes in 19 States with 55 buffalo herds. I am here to report that many of the Tribes and pueblos within my district have thriving herds of their own.

The Indian Buffalo Management Act will allow Tribal nations to develop and maintain buffalo herds on Tribal lands to restore treaty obligations and the buffalo population itself. Additionally, this bill will enable the transportation of surplus buffalo from Federal lands into Tribal lands. The great Sioux Chief, Sitting Bull, summed up the atrocities surrounding the buffalo when he said, “a cold wind blew on the prairie on the day the last buffalo fell. A death wind for my people.”

Passage of the Indian Buffalo Management Act will begin the remediation of buffalo for indigenous peoples and restore religious and spiritual practices that were stripped after the founding of this country.

Madam Speaker, I urge the swift adoption of this bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2074, as amended, the Indian Buffalo Management Act, and I also thank my good friend and the sponsor of the legislation, the dean of the House, Congressman DON YOUNG, for his tireless advocacy on behalf of Indian Country.

Madam Speaker, it may come to a lot of people's surprise but in my home State of Arkansas, in my district, we actually had buffalo herds there at one time. And it lingers in many names around the State: The Buffalo National River, the Buffalo Gap. There is actually a history of buffalo in Arkansas

and many other States that no longer have herds.

H.R. 2074 would authorize the Department of the Interior to establish a permanent program to develop and promote the capacity of Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations to manage buffalo and buffalo habitat.

The American buffalo, or bison, has long held importance to the United States and was officially named the national mammal in 2016. Many American Indian and Alaska Natives have also had a longstanding cultural and spiritual relationship with buffalo, which continues to this day.

By the end of the 19th century, however, buffalo were near extinction. But as a result of conservation efforts, buffalo have slowly returned, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture has estimated that there are now 200,000 buffalo in the United States.

In 1991, several Tribes with buffalo herds joined together forming the InterTribal Buffalo Council. The council received a Federal charter to aid Tribes in the restoration of buffalo on Tribal lands in 2009.

Today, the InterTribal Buffalo Council is comprised of 68 member Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives with 55 buffalo herds in 19 States with the mission of restoring buffalo to Indian Country.

In 2019, the council received approximately \$1.4 million from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Unfortunately, this available funding is subject to the fluctuating appropriations and it is not dedicated to buffalo management on Tribal lands. The council estimates that unmet needs are in excess of \$12 million per year.

H.R. 2074 would dedicate \$14 million annually for the Department of the Interior to directly support the ability of Indian Tribes to protect, conserve, and enhance buffalo populations on their lands. The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into agreements with Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations to dispose of surplus buffalo on Federal land and transfer those buffalo to Indian lands.

The program is intended to help Tribes and Tribal organizations plan, conduct, or implement buffalo restoration programs, plan and execute commercial activities related to buffalo products, and carry out other activities related to buffalo restoration and management.

I again thank Congressman YOUNG for his leadership on American Indian and Alaska Native issues, and I urge support for this measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the dean of the House.

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, this is sort of a sweetheart time. I have the ranking member and I have the chair-

man, Chairman GRIJALVA, and of course, my chairman—thank you—supporting a bill, I think, that is long overdue.

I think some mentioned the fact that the demise of the buffalo was the demise of the American Indian, done deliberately. And now we are trying to restore it on Indian land. This is a bill that gives an opportunity for consumption of food that is good for the Tribe, but also economically.

The buffalo is a magnificent animal. We recognized it as a mission when we had the Buffalo nickel, and it is recognized in your State and my State. It is amazing that at one time—you may not realize it—we had tremendous herds of buffalo up there, but it wasn't man that diminished them, it was climate change that actually froze them out.

This is a bill that will give the opportunity to Tribes to reestablish the buffalo on Native lands, that history won't repeat itself, that no one will kill them like they did before, and will have a sustainable yield of a magnificent animal.

Madam Speaker, for those in this audience and this great Chamber who haven't eaten buffalo burgers, you better try it. It is one of the better meats. I am promoting this right now. I don't have a buffalo, but it is one of the better meats. It is good for the Nation. It is good for the Tribes. It is good for the buffalo. This bill is a good bill. It is a bill that should have been, frankly, passed a long time ago.

Madam Speaker, I believe what we are doing today is the right thing. I want us to recognize this act as an act that promoted my American Indian, Alaska Natives. We have three Tribes in Alaska that have buffalo already, and they are anxious for this bill to go forward.

If you haven't eaten buffalo jerky, try it. It is good, too.

Madam Speaker, I am suggesting respectfully that this is a good piece of legislation, bipartisan, working together for the first Americans, and I am proud to be the sponsor of it.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am so very lucky to have on the Subcommittee for indigenous peoples, the dean of the House, Representative DON YOUNG, as the ranking member. The amount of work that we do in that committee, that is bipartisan, that always looks at what is the issue that must be solved and works together to solve that issue, is exactly sort of epitomized by this bill.

We are recognizing that there was a tragedy in our history where we actually tried to eliminate the food source for the indigenous peoples of the Americas. And we did. We caused hunger. We caused the deprivation, but we are recognizing that today and we are going to be giving the assistance to all Tribes to be able to manage buffalo herds.

I have been very fortunate to eat bison. We love bison burgers at my

home; and I have been at Taos Pueblo when they have offered in their ceremonial way the buffalo meat and the cooking around the fire. It is indeed delicious. I completely agree with the dean of the House. But we also need to recognize that managing a buffalo herd is not simple. We need to make sure that there are no diseases that are passed between cattle or elk and buffalo. They need to make sure that there is the right genetics so that we don't interbreed so much.

So it does require a lot of work, and this bill provides the Tribes with the assistance so that they can both protect and manage these herds of these magnificent animals.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, in closing, I encourage passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, for all of the reasons that has been stated on the floor of this glorious House today, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2074, as amended.

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. PERRY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

WOMEN WHO WORKED ON THE HOME FRONT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL ACT

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3531) to authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3531

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 "Women Who Worked on the Home Front World War II Memorial Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation may establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to commemorate the commitment and service represented by women who worked on the home front during World War II.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS.—The establishment of the commemorative work under this section shall be in accordance with chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the "Commemorative Works Act").

(c) PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Federal funds may not be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the commemorative work under this section.

(2) RESPONSIBILITY OF WOMEN WHO WORKED ON THE HOME FRONT FOUNDATION.—The Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the commemorative work under this section.

(d) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If upon payment of all expenses for the establishment of the memorial (including the maintenance and preservation amount required by section 8906(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code), there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work, the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation shall transmit the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Interior for deposit in the account provided for in section 8906(b)(3) of title 40, United States Code.

(2) ON EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—If upon expiration of the authority for the commemorative work under section 8903(e) of title 40, United States Code, there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work, the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation shall transmit the amount of the balance to a separate account with the National Park Foundation for memorials, to be available to the Secretary of the Interior or Administrator (as appropriate) following the process provided in section 8906(b)(4) of title 40, United States Code, for accounts established under section 8906(b)(2) or (3) of title 40, United States Code.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3531, the Women Who Worked on the Home Front World War II Memorial Act, introduced by Representative ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON. And I thank Representative ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON for the work that she has done to make sure that all women are recognized and that we have a way of focusing that recognition through this memorial.

This bill would authorize the establishment of a memorial to commemorate the nearly 19 million women who worked on the home front during World War II. With mass male enlistment leaving significant vacancies in the industrial and defense agencies, women across the country filled thousands of jobs that were historically held by men to support the war effort and to keep America running.

As the men fought abroad, these women worked in defense plants, flew military aircraft, delivered mail, and performed countless other duties necessary to keep the home front running.

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In addition to the women working on the home front, nearly 350,000 women served in uniform, both at home and abroad—directly supporting the war effort as codebreakers, Airforce Service Pilots, and as volunteers for organizations such as the Army Nurse Corps.

The work carried out by women on the home front during World War II opened the door for women to hold more types of jobs than ever before, and it is long past time that Congress recognizes the contributions to our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague for introducing this important legislation. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Ms. Raya Kenney, who developed the idea for this memorial when she was in fifth grade, and for her tireless efforts to ensure that the millions of women who worked on the home front during World War II are recognized and celebrated.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 3531, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3531 offered by Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, authorizes the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the commitment and service of millions of women during World War II.

During World War II, roughly 12 million women worked in defense industries and support services across the Nation. Women served in critical professional roles in shipyards, steel mills, foundries, warehouses, offices, and hospitals.

Women worked as codebreakers, aircraft testing pilots, trainers, welders, riveters, telegraph operators, radio and electrical engineers, crane operators,