

to get out and actually experience them.

My home State of Oregon harbors five units of the National Park System: Crater Lake National Park, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, Nez Perce National Historical Park, and Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve. I look forward to at least the next century of visitors discovering Oregon's parks and everything Oregon has to offer.

In recent years the National Park Service has made a concerted effort to provide a more inclusive look at American history to ensure that our parks tell the stories of all Americans. I applaud the National Park Service for its effort to make all Americans feel welcome and included in our National Park System.

S. 270, the Brown v. Board of Education Historic Site Expansion Act, adds to the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site currently located in Topeka, Kansas, so that it would include additional sites in South Carolina, Virginia, Delaware, and the District of Columbia each as an affiliated area.

This bill will help to recognize and preserve sites associated with the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka case, which resulted in a landmark Supreme Court ruling that racial segregation of public schools is unconstitutional. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the students, parents, and lawyers whose extraordinary courage and vision led to the dismantling of the separate but equal doctrine.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of S. 270, and I look forward to its being signed into law. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN.)

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 270, the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site Expansion Act. I thank Senator CHRIS COONS for his leadership securing the Senate's unanimous support for passage of this important legislation earlier this month. I am proud to lead the legislation here in the House along with our bipartisan cosponsors, Congresswoman LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER, Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, and Congressman BOB GOOD.

As a former teacher of history and a student of history, I believe in the value of learning from our past. Many Americans don't know that the landmark Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision, that desegregated public schools in 1954, combined legal challenges from four States and the District of Columbia. I represent one of those States and was fortunate to know some of the petitioners from Clarendon County, South Caro-

lina, who challenged the separate but equal laws. Many of their photographs hang in my congressional office.

In 2004, I wrote, in cooperation with the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, the book "Uncommon Courage: The Story of Briggs v. Elliott, South Carolina's Unsung Civil Rights Battle." That same year, I was proud to lead the effort to present the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor to the leaders of that challenge—Harry and Eliza Briggs, Levi Pearson, and Reverend Joseph A. DeLaine.

Their case, Briggs v. Elliott, was the first of those cases that later became Brown v. Board. The subsequent cases were in Delaware, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and, of course, Topeka, Kansas.

Today there is a National Parks site that was created by Congress in 1992 in Topeka that tells the story of the ordinary people who took this extraordinary action to ensure their children had equal educational opportunities. However, the other communities involved in this historic effort have no National Park Service presence acknowledging their contributions.

This legislation will right that wrong. It expands the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site to include locations in each of the communities that were part of the lawsuit. When writing this legislation, I worked with the National Trust Fund for Historic Preservation who engaged with the communities that would be impacted to solicit their input.

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With the enactment of this legislation, the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site will become more than the Monroe School building in Topeka. It will add the Summerton School and Scott's Branch School in Summerton, South Carolina, to represent the Briggs v. Elliott case; the Hockessin Colored School No. 107 and Howard High School in Wilmington, Delaware, to represent Belton v. Gebhart; the former Robert Russa Moton High School, now a museum, in Farmville, Virginia, to represent Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County; and the John Philip Sousa Junior High School in the District of Columbia to represent Boiling v. Sharpe.

Each of these sites will tell the story of how these communities fought to overturn the 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson decision that established the separate but equal doctrine. When Brown v. Board of Education overturned that decision and ended generations of inadequate education for Black children, constitutional scholar Louis H. Pollak hailed it as "probably the most important American Government act of any kind since the Emancipation Proclamation."

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of this august body to follow the Senate's lead and vote in favor of expanding the Brown v. Board of Education National

Historic Site to ensure that all the communities that contributed to this landmark decision receive proper recognition.

Having geographically dispersed historic sites that tell this great story will enable more students to learn from the past and understand the importance of making America's greatness accessible and affordable to all.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, let me thank Representative CLYBURN for his comments and for reaffirming that our national identity is driven by our history and that history is something that all of us need to learn.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 270.

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.

HIGHLANDS CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2793) to reauthorize the Highlands Conservation Act, to authorize States to use funds from that Act for administrative purposes, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2793

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 "Highlands Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HIGHLANDS CONSERVATION ACT.

The Highlands Conservation Act (Public Law 108-421; 118 Stat. 2375) is amended—

(1) in section 3—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

"(1) HIGHLANDS REGION.—The term 'Highlands region' means—

"(A) the area depicted on the map entitled 'The Highlands Region', dated June 2004, updated after the date of enactment of the Highlands Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2022 to comprise each municipality included on the list of municipalities included in the Highlands region as of that date of enactment, and maintained in the headquarters of the Forest Service in Washington, District of Columbia; and

"(B) a municipality approved by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service under section 4(e).";

(B) in paragraph (3), by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

"(B) identified by a Highlands State as having high conservation value using the best available science and geographic information systems; and";

(C) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “; or” and inserting “, including a political subdivision thereof; or”; and

(D) by striking paragraphs (5) through (7); (2) in section 4—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “in the Study” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting “using the best available science and geographic information systems; and”;

(B) in subsection (c), by amending paragraph (5) to read as follows:

“(5) provides that land conservation partnership projects will be consistent with areas identified as having high conservation value in accordance with the purposes described in section 2 in the Highlands region.”;

(C) in subsection (e), by striking “fiscal years 2005 through 2021” and inserting “fiscal years 2023 through 2029”;

(D) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (g); and

(E) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL MUNICIPALITY.—The Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service may, at the request of a Highlands State, with the concurrence of the municipality, approve the inclusion of a municipality within the State as part of the Highlands region.

“(f) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

“(1) FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of the Interior may not expend more than \$300,000 for the administration of this Act in each fiscal year.

“(2) STATE ADMINISTRATION.—A State that receives funds under this section for a land conservation partnership project may not use more than 5 percent of the funds to administer the land conservation partnership project.”;

(3) in section 5—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “the Study, Update, and any future study that the Forest Service may undertake in”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “, including a Pennsylvania and Connecticut Update”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “the findings” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting “with stakeholders regarding implementation of the program; and”;

(C) in subsection (c), by striking “2005 through 2014” and inserting “2023 through 2029”;

(4) in section 6, by adding at the end the following:

“(f) APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to an appraisal related to a land acquisition carried out under this Act, a Highlands State shall use an appraisal methodology approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

“(2) ALTERNATIVE APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY.—A Highlands State may petition the Secretary of the Interior to consider an alternative appraisal methodology when there is a conflict, in any Highlands State, between—

“(A) an appraisal methodology approved by the Secretary of the Interior under paragraph (1); and

“(B) applicable State law.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. 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 gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2793, the Highlands Conservation Reauthorization Act, is led by my colleague, Representative SEAN PATRICK MALONEY. The bill reauthorizes funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service to protect and conserve the Highlands region.

The beautiful Highlands region spans 3.4 million acres across Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

This area has retained its splendor due in part to the passage of the Highlands Conservation Act of 2004, which authorized the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service to work with State and local governments and NGOs to conserve this ecosystem.

Since 2004, \$28 million in Federal funds, matched by \$53 million in non-Federal funds, have permanently protected almost 13,000 acres of land. These lands protect clean, safe drinking water; sustain healthy forests and wildlife populations; encourage productive agriculture; and provide quality recreation opportunities for the public.

I commend my colleague for his leadership on this bipartisan bill to reauthorize the Highlands Conservation Act and ensure the continued success of this program.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2793, a bipartisan bill sponsored by Congressman SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, to reauthorize the Highlands Conservation Act.

The stated purpose of the Highlands Conservation Act, which was signed into law in 2004, is “to recognize the importance of the water, forest, agricultural, wildlife, recreational, and cultural resources of the Highlands region,” which, as was indicated, spans some 3.4 million acres across Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, “and the national significance of the Highlands region to the United States.”

Under the current authorization, the Governors of these States identify conservation partnership projects in the region and submit a list annually to the Secretary of the Interior, who is tasked with working with the Secretary of Agriculture to submit a final list to Congress for approval and funding.

H.R. 2793 would reauthorize the Highlands Conservation Act and allow municipalities to enter into conservation agreements with the Department of the

Interior. This bill is the product of bipartisan negotiations with the Committee on Natural Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY) and thank him for being the driving force in bringing this legislation to this point.

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for all of his work.

I rise, Mr. Speaker, to support my bill, the Highlands Conservation Reauthorization Act, which would extend the Highlands Conservation Program for an additional 7 years, through 2029.

If you have hiked through any of the public lands in the Hudson Valley, chances are you have enjoyed the experience and benefited from the land conserved and protected by the Highlands Conservation Program. Even if you have looked upon the extraordinary works of art in the Hudson River School of painting, the most famous American school of painting, you will see these lands in the Hudson Highlands and wonder, as we who are lucky enough to live there do, at their beauty.

For nearly two decades, the Highlands Conservation Act has been a critical resource for the protection of these lands throughout a 5,500-square-mile area of the Highlands region covering New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.

It includes many of our great State parks in my district, including Hariman State Park, Bear Mountain State Park, Schunemunk Mountain State Park, Storm King State Park, Hudson Highlands State Park, and Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park, to name a few.

The bill funds vital projects to safeguard our water supplies, conserve our forests, protect wildlife, expand outdoor public recreation opportunities, and save agricultural resources.

Over the past 18 years, the Highlands Conservation Act has delivered on its promise. It facilitated the permanent protection of nearly 13,000 acres of land, land that contributes to clean drinking water, protection of wildlife, expansion of recreation opportunities, and, of course, the sustainable economic growth that we all want.

Since 2007, New York has received over \$14 million through the Highlands Conservation Act, funding that supported 18 specific projects conserving 4,000 acres throughout my district in the Hudson Valley.

For example, in 2015, the act helped incorporate over 230 acres of land into the Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park in Putnam County, right down the street from where I live. I spend a lot of time there. It is absolutely beautiful.

In 2016, funds from the Highlands Conservation Act helped conserve nearly 700 acres of land linking the western

Hudson Highlands to Schunemunk Mountain State Park in Orange County, and so much more.

It is also responsible for the addition of 1,200 acres that make up the Fishkill Ridge portion of the Hudson Highlands State Park.

More than 25 million Americans live within just an hour's drive of the Highlands region. By passing this bill today, we can ensure that the Highlands are protected and remain a beautiful natural resource for them and for our entire country for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, the Highlands Conservation Program has been an extremely effective program not just for my district but for the entire region and our country. The entire conservation community should congratulate itself today.

I want to mention a few local people: Mark Zakutansky with the Appalachian Mountain Club; Ned Sullivan and Andy Bicking with Scenic Hudson; Katrina Shindledecker and Michelle Smith with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust; and Tim Abbott with the Housatonic Valley Association. I thank them all for their extraordinary work.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, 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 gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2793, 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.

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3525) to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3525

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 "Commission To Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Commission to Study the Potential Creation

of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Commission").

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be composed of 8 members, of whom—

(1) 2 members shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

(2) 2 members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(3) 2 members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and

(4) 2 members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(c) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the Commission shall be appointed to the Commission from among individuals, or representatives of institutions or entities, who possess—

(1)(A) a demonstrated commitment to the research, study, or promotion of Asian Pacific American history, art, political or economic status, or culture; and

(B)(i) expertise in museum administration; (ii) expertise in fundraising for nonprofit or cultural institutions;

(iii) experience in the study and teaching of Asian Pacific American history;

(iv) experience in studying the issue of the representation of Asian Pacific Americans in art, life, history, and culture at the Smithsonian Institution; or

(v) extensive experience in public or elected service;

(2) experience in the administration of, or the planning for, the establishment of, museums; or

(3) experience in the planning, design, or construction of museum facilities.

(d) DEADLINE FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—The initial members of the Commission shall be appointed not later than the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission—

(1) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(2) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(f) CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall, by majority vote of all of the members, select 1 member of the Commission to serve as the Chairperson of the Commission.

(g) PROHIBITION.—No employee of the Federal Government may serve as a member of the Commission.

SEC. 3. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) REPORTS.—

(1) PLAN OF ACTION.—The Commission shall submit to the President and Congress a report containing the recommendations of the Commission with respect to a plan of action regarding the feasibility of establishing and maintaining a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture in Washington, DC, and its environs (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Museum").

(2) REPORT ON ISSUES.—The Commission shall submit to the President and Congress a report that addresses the following issues:

(A) The availability and cost of collections to be acquired and housed in the Museum.

(B) The impact of the Museum on existing Asian Pacific American history-related museums.

(C) In consultation with the Smithsonian Institution, develop criteria for evaluating possible locations for the Museum in Washington, DC, and its environs.

(D) The feasibility of the Museum becoming part of the Smithsonian Institution, taking into account the Museum's potential impact on the Smithsonian's existing facilities maintenance backlog, collections storage needs, and identified construction or renovation costs for new or existing museums.

(E) The governance and organizational structure from which the Museum should operate.

(F) Best practices for engaging Asian Pacific Americans in the development and design of the Museum.

(G) The cost of constructing, operating, and maintaining the Museum.

(3) DEADLINE.—The reports required under paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be submitted not later than the date that is 18 months after the date of the first meeting of the Commission.

(b) FUNDRAISING PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall develop a fundraising plan that will address the ability to support the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the Museum through contributions from the public.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the fundraising plan under paragraph (1), the Commission shall consider issues relating to funding the operations and maintenance of the Museum in perpetuity without reliance on appropriations of Federal funds.

(3) INDEPENDENT REVIEW.—The Commission shall obtain an independent review of the viability of the plan developed under paragraph (1) and such review shall include an analysis as to whether the plan is able to achieve the level of resources necessary to fund the construction of the Museum and the operations and maintenance of the Museum in perpetuity without reliance on appropriations of Federal funds.

(4) SUBMISSION.—The Commission shall submit the plan developed under paragraph (1) and the review conducted under paragraph (3) to the Committees on House Administration, Natural Resources, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Rules and Administration, Energy and Natural Resources, and Appropriations of the Senate.

(c) LEGISLATION TO CARRY OUT PLAN OF ACTION.—Based on the recommendations contained in the report submitted under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a), the Commission shall submit for consideration to the Committees on House Administration, Natural Resources, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Rules and Administration, Energy and Natural Resources, and Appropriations of the Senate recommendations for a legislative plan of action on the feasibility of establishing and constructing the Museum.

(d) NATIONAL CONFERENCE.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which the initial members of the Commission are appointed under section 2, the Commission may, in carrying out the duties of the Commission under this section, convene a national conference relating to the Museum, to be comprised of individuals committed to the advancement of the life, art, history, and culture of Asian Pacific Americans.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

(a) COMPENSATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Commission—

(A) shall not be considered to be a Federal employee for any purpose by reason of service on the Commission; and

(B) shall serve without pay.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed a per diem allowance for travel expenses, at rates consistent with those authorized under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.—The Commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of money, services, or real or personal property for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Commission.