

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.

(4) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Commission shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

(b) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the final versions of the reports required under section 3 are submitted.

(c) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the Commission.

(2) PROHIBITION.—No Federal funds may be obligated to carry out this Act.

(d) DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION.—

(1) DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may employ and compensate an executive director and any other additional personnel that are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(B) RATES OF PAY.—Rates of pay for persons employed under subparagraph (A) shall be consistent with the rates of pay allowed for employees of a temporary organization under section 3161 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) NOT FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT.—Any individual employed under this section shall not be considered a Federal employee for the purpose of any law governing Federal employment.

(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), on request of the Commission, the head of a Federal agency may provide technical assistance to the Commission.

(B) PROHIBITION.—No Federal employees may be detailed to the Commission.

SEC. 5. 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 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, I rise in support of H.R. 3525, the Commission To Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act, introduced by my friend and colleague, Representative GRACE MENG.

This legislation would establish a commission to study and report on the potential creation of a national mu-

seum of Asian Pacific American history and culture in the District of Columbia and its surrounding areas.

The establishment of this commission is a first step in acknowledging the long history, role, and contributions of Asian Americans in American culture.

I thank Representative MENG for championing this piece of legislation. I urge my colleagues to support its adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, March 30, 2022.

Hon. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRIJALVA: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 3525. There are certain provisions in the legislation which fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration, the Committee on House Administration agrees to forego action on the bill. This is done with the understanding that the Committee on House Administration's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered. In addition, the Committee reserves its right to seek conferees on any provisions within its jurisdiction which are considered in a House-Senate conference and requests your support if such a request is made.

I would appreciate your response confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 3525 and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in your committee report on the bill and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

ZOE LOFGREN,
Chairperson.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, April 5, 2022.

Hon. ZOE LOFGREN,
Chair, Committee on House Administration,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR LOFGREN, I write to you concerning H.R. 3525, the “Commission To Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act.”

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration. I acknowledge that your Committee will not formally consider H.R. 3525 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I am pleased to support your request to name members of the Committee on House Administration to any conference committee to consider such provisions.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Chair, House Natural Resources Committee.

□ 1530

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3525, offered by Representative MENG, to authorize a commission to study the potential creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture.

My home State of Oregon has a proud and growing Asian-American and Pacific-Islander population. Oregon is home to many cultural centers, museums, gardens, and historic sites related to Asian-American and Pacific-Islander heritage.

This commission would be tasked with preparing a report for Congress and the President providing recommendations regarding the feasibility of establishing and maintaining a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

The commission would be required to consider several factors, including the availability and cost of the collections to be acquired, the cost of constructing, operating, and maintaining the museum, and the feasibility of the museum becoming part of the Smithsonian Institution.

While I support this bill, I am concerned about the significant financial and operational challenges that adding an additional national museum to the Smithsonian's portfolio could pose.

Just 2 years ago, Congress authorized the establishment of the National Museum of the American Latino and American Women's History Museum. In addition to constructing two new museums, the Smithsonian is facing a facilities maintenance backlog approaching \$1 billion; identified collection storage needs; a \$900 million renovation of the National Air and Space Museum expected to conclude this year; and ongoing rehabilitation of other historic structures on the National Mall.

I appreciate Chair GRIJALVA's willingness to address Republican concerns about the Smithsonian's capacity. At markup, an amendment was adopted to require the commission to consider the potential impact on the Smithsonian's existing maintenance backlog and identified construction or renovation costs for new or existing museums.

Additionally, I appreciate an amendment adopted at markup to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the commission. These are good governance amendments that will strengthen the commission's work and eventual report.

I appreciate our friends on the other side of the aisle taking this bill through regular order and working with Republicans to address our concerns.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG), the sponsor of the legislation.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 3525, a bill I authored to establish a commission to study the potential creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture.

I want to first thank Chairman GRIJALVA and Ranking Member WESTERMAN of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Congressman BENTZ, and Chairman NEGUSE and Ranking Member FULCHER of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands for their work with me on bringing this bill to the floor.

Second, I thank Speaker PELOSI, Leader HOYER, and Whip CLYBURN for their support on this historic legislation. I also acknowledge and thank Chairperson LOFGREN of the Committee on House Administration for her support in moving this bill forward.

I first introduced this bill in the 114th Congress, and during that Congress, we witnessed the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture that our former colleague, the legendary John Lewis, spearheaded for decades.

Since then, we have seen legislation establishing the National Museum of the American Latino and the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum signed into law.

Our communities and caucuses have stood together in each of these efforts, and it is a joy to see this AAPI museum study bill arrive at this point today.

America is filled with diverse stories of achievement and moments of tragedy. Within our shared history, there are countless tales of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, or AAPIs, contributing to every facet of our Nation.

As far back as the 1700s, AAPIs have shaped American society. From the Chinese laborers who helped build the transcontinental railroad, a vital piece of U.S. infrastructure, to the thousands of AAPIs who fought for fair working conditions for agricultural workers during the Hawaii sugar strike of 1946, AAPIs have and continue to shape this Nation's history.

Yet, those contributions are often unheard of and simply forgotten. It is time to change that. A national museum dedicated to collecting, preserving, and displaying these tales is long overdue.

Museums provide a space to reflect on our past, assess our present, and dream of the future that we are working toward.

My bill is one step closer to the creation of a national museum dedicated to our AAPI American history. The commission established through this legislation will be comprised of experts in their respective fields who will be responsible for studying the feasibility of creating a national museum and providing recommendations to Congress on whether to, and how to establish a national museum.

Additionally, the commission will study logistical questions of exhibit

curation, fundraising capacity, cost of creating and maintaining such an institution, and whether or not this museum should be part of the Smithsonian Institution.

AAPIs are the fastest growing ethnic group in America, and the contributions of this community have shaped our Nation's infrastructure, economy, culture, and so much more. We must never forget that AAPI history is also American history.

Today's consideration of H.R. 3525 is a necessary step to ensure the full face of American diversity across our entire country is displayed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KIM).

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3525, the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act.

The contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to this great Nation have been enormous. The history of AAPIs is rich, but this history is rarely talked about, and the contributions often go unknown or unrecognized. I am often asked how someone can learn about AAPI history, and admittedly, I don't know as much as I should.

Now more than ever, with the rise in hate crimes like the Atlanta shootings and other acts of violence in New York City and throughout the country, we keep hearing this phrase, "You don't belong here."

I have heard that throughout my life and, sadly, my two little boys, 4 years old and 6 years old, have already heard hurtful words that have labeled them in ways they don't yet understand.

Like many, I don't want my kids to understand who they are through sources of hate and discrimination. I want them to feel pride, pride in who they are, pride in AAPIs, and pride in our place in this Nation.

Our story is not just an Asian-American story. It is an American story. The history is not just an Asian-American history, it is American history, and this history isn't just for AAPIs to learn, it is for all of us. Together, through learning, we can come together, creating greater understanding, a closer knit community, celebrating the richness of this Nation.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS).

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3525 to commission a study for the creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act.

Asian Americans have been contributing to the fabric of our United States

of America from its earliest days, helping to build, shape, and defend our great country.

This long-overdue museum will serve as a gateway for everyone to see, feel, and understand the countless true stories of Asian Americans, stories of perseverance, dedication, and beating the odds to achieve their dreams. Those from trailblazers like Larry Itliong, a Filipino-American labor leader who organized with Latino civil rights leaders like Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta.

My father worked in the fields, and I remember when I was a little boy, he told me once, "When I worked in the fields, I wanted to work harder than everyone else. The people who always worked as hard as me and challenged me were my Filipino colleagues working in the fields." I quoted him in English, although my father spoke to me in Spanish.

Or people like Constance Wu, Awkwafina, and Ali Wong, whose contributions to the arts have positively impacted millions of Americans. These stories and so many more deserve to be told and understood.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this bill. I can't wait to see the day this museum is on The Mall with the National Museum of the American Latino, the American Women's History Museum, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the National Museum of the American Indian.

I would also like to take a point of privilege to say thank you to GRACE MENG, who at one time was the only Asian-American legislator in the legislature in New York. Not the first one, but she was there by herself, and she was a caucus of one, and she is now in the United States Congress, serving our community proudly and representing her community proudly as well.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say how important this bill is, in part because of the incredibly valuable folks we have in my part of my State, including the Kitamuras, the Nagakis, the Maedas, the Nambas, the Saitos, the Itos, the Tanakas, the Teramuras, and many others, all of whom are absolutely wonderful parts of our community.

They are also incredibly conservative, and I am sure will be happy to see the portions of this bill that reflect the agreement to make sure that we are able to pay for whatever it is that we do. They are truly deserving of this recognition.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is important. It comes at the right time. It is an affirmation of the inclusiveness, diversity, and the equal status of all of us as Americans.

I am very proud to support this. I urge its adoption, 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. 3525, 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.

GREAT LAKES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5973) to reauthorize the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5973

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 “Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Reauthorization Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE GREAT LAKES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT OF 1990.

(a) REPORTS.—Section 1008 of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 941f) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting “and not later than December 31, 2027,” after “2021,”;

(B) by striking “Committee on Resources” and inserting “Committee on Natural Resources”; and

(C) by inserting “, with respect to the period covered by the report” after “describes”; and

(2) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2016 through 2020” and inserting “2023 through 2028”.

(b) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 1009(a) of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 941g(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2016 through 2021” and inserting “2023 through 2028”.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Section 1009(a)(1)(B) of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 941g(a)(1)(B)) is amended by striking “5” and inserting “3”.

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 today.

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.

H.R. 5973, the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Reauthorization Act, is sponsored by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL), my friend and colleague from the Natural Resources Committee.

□ 1545

This bill reauthorizes funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to combat pollution, invasive species, and habitat loss in the Great Lakes region.

The Great Lakes Basin is the largest body of fresh water on the planet, holding 18 percent of the world’s freshwater supply. Some 35 million people across 8 States and Canada depend on the basin for drinking water, jobs, and recreation.

The Great Lakes are also a habitat to more than 500 migratory bird species, more than 140 species of fish, and many endangered and threatened species.

However, agricultural and industrial waste pose a threat to the water quality in the basin. There are extensive populations of harmful invasive species. And wildlife species are at risk due to habitat loss.

Fortunately, since 1990, the Fish and Wildlife Service has worked with local communities and NGOs to restore the Great Lakes Basin by tackling pollution, removing invasive species, and restoring essential habitats.

Congress has reauthorized funding for this important program three times, and I urge them to do so again today so that the Fish and Wildlife Service can continue the excellent work that they are doing in protecting that extraordinary and necessary ecosystem.

I commend my colleague, Representative DINGELL, for her work on this important bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge its adoption, 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. 5973, a bill sponsored by our colleague, Representative DEBBIE DINGELL from Michigan, to reauthorize the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act.

Under the authorities provided by this law, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed six common Great Lakes fish and wildlife restoration goals in collaboration with State and local partners. To date, 81 fish and wildlife restoration grant projects have been funded through this cooperative effort.

This law has been reauthorized three times, most recently in 2016. The bill we are considering today would extend these authorities until 2027 without increasing funding authorization.

We appreciate Congresswoman DINGELL’s commitment not to move this bill until the Fish and Wildlife Service provided a mandatory report to Congress. In late March, we finally received this report, which allowed us to evaluate the current program and its progress toward meeting its goals.

I commend Congresswoman DINGELL for her leadership on this legislation, and I urge adoption of the measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his incredible support, and I thank my Republican colleague for his kind words and how we work together.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Reauthorization Act. This bipartisan legislation, which I am leading with my other colleagues, Congressman DARIN LAHOOD, Congressman PAUL TONKO, and Congressman DAVID JOYCE, supports fish and wildlife conservation efforts in the Great Lakes.

Since 1998, the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act has provided critical resources for coordinating conservation efforts across the Great Lakes ecosystem. This longstanding bipartisan backing underscores the efficacy of the proven conservation mechanisms in this legislation, including collaborative, private-public partnerships that maximize the impact of Federal funding to make landscape-level improvements to our fish and wildlife habitats.

A recently released report on the program by the Department of the Interior, found that as a result of the fish and wildlife grant program authorized by the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, that significant progress has been made in addressing the six Great Lakes’ restoration goals specified in the legislation.

This includes control of sea lamprey populations across the Great Lakes, progress on the restoration of lake trout in Lake Huron leading to reducing stocking targets, and other species recovery efforts vital to sustaining the very unique ecosystem of the Great Lakes Basin.

However, continued work is required to protect the Great Lakes for future generations given the environmental pressures that this region faces.

To this end, the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act would authorize funding for the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act for 5 years, from fiscal years 2022 through 2027, at the current funding levels.

This legislation has broad bipartisan support, as well as the backing of a variety of groups dedicated to safeguarding the Great Lakes, including Ducks Unlimited and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

These Great Lakes are 90 percent of the freshwater in the United States. We must protect them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation, which will ensure our Great Lakes are protected for many generations to come.

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