

Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

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 Education and Labor. I acknowledge that your Committee will not formally consider H.R. 5715 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 that the Speaker name members of the Committee on Education and Labor to any conference committee to consider such provisions.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the committee report on H.R. 5444 and 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.*

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5715. This bill would reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation through 2029. The bill does not increase the funding authorization level of this program, which received approximately \$5.1 million in funding last fiscal year.

In 1992, Congress passed the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation Act to award scholarships and select Native American congressional interns.

In 1998, Congress amended the Udall Foundation to create the United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution.

The institute provides mediation and related services to help resolve environmental, resources, and lands conflict involving the Federal Government. Congress has twice reauthorized the Udall Foundation, in 2009 and again in 2019.

I thank Chairman GRIJALVA for working with the Committee Republicans to include good government language we proposed in H.R. 5715 that would require the Department of the Interior's inspector general to conduct an audit 4 years after this reauthorization. Similar language was included in the Udall Foundation's 2019 reauthorization.

The Udall Foundation is making steady progress toward implementing recommendations previously raised by the inspector general to ensure they are fully complying with Federal requirements. Requiring another audit in 4 years gives the foundation time to implement the new standards and reforms they are working to put in place and advances this committee's role in conducting proper oversight of Federal funds and programs.

Republican amendments have been made to this legislation that would

help ensure continued oversight of the program and the implementation of good government practices prior to a future reauthorization.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), the chair of the subcommittee.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I thank Chair GRIJALVA for keeping the vision alive of educating our future leaders that will bring to us the solutions and resolutions of conflict issues around Native American self-determination and so much more.

We feel the Udall Foundation's impact across our country, and certainly in New Mexico, from the Halls of Congress to environmental conflict resolution to our universities and students. In fact, New Mexico's very own Congresswoman STANSBURY is a Udall Foundation alum, and over 255 American Indian and Alaska Native interns have worked in more than 60 congressional offices thanks to the foundation.

This bill from Chair GRIJALVA will ensure that the Udall Foundation can continue to implement its valuable mission and work for years to come. I thank Chairman GRIJALVA for keeping this vision alive.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues across the aisle for their bipartisan work on this bill. I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I, as well, would like to thank my colleagues across the aisle for their thoughtful and important suggestions to the legislation. I am happy to incorporate them. Their suggestions make the program healthier and stronger, and I appreciate that.

Madam Speaker, 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. 5715, 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.

#### RED RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE BOUNDARY MODIFICATION ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6427) to amend the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Act to modify the boundary of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6427

*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 "Red River National Wildlife Refuge Boundary Modification Act".

#### SEC. 2. RED RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.

Section 3(a)(1) of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Act (Public Law 106-300; 114 Stat. 1055) is amended by striking "map entitled 'Red River National Wildlife Refuge—Selection Area', dated September 5, 2000" and inserting "map entitled 'Red River National Wildlife Refuge Acquisition Boundary' and dated March 21, 2022".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 6427, the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Boundary Modification Act will amend the Red River National Wildlife Refuge acquisition boundary, which is the area from which more land can be added to the refuge.

This amendment will allow for 3,300 acres of land to be conveyed to the refuge system.

The Red River National Wildlife Refuge runs through parts of the Red River Valley in northwestern Louisiana. Each year, approximately 80,000 waterfowl visit the 50,000-acre refuge for feeding and resting. Over 200 species of neotropical migratory songbirds also stop at the refuge.

The expansion will support migratory birds throughout their annual life cycle of breeding, wintering, and migrating. It will also provide additional economic benefits to the region through partnerships with local farmers and increased public access for outdoor recreationists.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their work on this important legislation. I urge a "yes" vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Boundary Modification Act, a bill sponsored by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON).

H.R. 6427 would revise the boundary of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana and expand waterfowl conservation opportunities on a 3,300-acre tract. This parcel has been actively managed to provide increased habitat for migrating waterfowl in the Central Flyway of North America.

Although this legislation would authorize the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire these lands from a willing seller, this bill would not increase the refuge's 50,000-acre statutory cap.

I thank Mr. JOHNSON for introducing this measure and also thank Ducks Unlimited for its work on this bill and for its longstanding advocacy for waterfowl conservation and hunting access.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I have no requests for time. We are prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE), my friend, and Chairman GRIJALVA for helping us on this.

I rise in support of this bill, H.R. 6427, the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Boundary Modification Act. I urge my colleagues to support it, as well.

As has been explained here, it is a straightforward bill that addresses a very simple problem. For years, the Red River Wildlife Refuge in northwest Louisiana, my home turf, has been a boon for hunters and outdoorsmen and other recreationists. Just last year, it hosted over 209,000 visits. That is greater than the population of Shreveport, Louisiana, which is the largest city in my district.

Thousands of these visitors went to the refuge for the express purpose of hunting and fishing. The refuge truly has contributed to Louisiana's status as a sportsman's paradise. This is a sentiment that we in Louisiana hold so dear, we print it on every license plate.

The refuge's stated goal is to provide for the restoration and conservation of fish and wildlife habitat, including migratory birds, as has been explained here, that all come within the Red River Valley ecosystem. However, the refuge's current structure is insufficient to meet the goals set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, especially for migratory waterfowl.

As we stand here today, the refuge can only support about one-third of the birds it is intended to support. So my bill would help address this deficiency by modifying the refuge boundary to include a 3,300-acre tract of privately owned land for the purpose of eventually incorporating the tract into the refuge. This boundary modification would not alter the authorized acreage of the refuge, and it would still keep the refuge well within its current authorized use and size.

The Fish and Wildlife Service anticipates this tract would dramatically increase the number of migratory waterfowl the refuge is able to support. The bill will also benefit the local economy through partnerships with agricultural producers, greater access by the public to hunters and other recreationists, and greater waterfowl distribution throughout the region, as populations radiate from the refuge.

We spent a tremendous amount of time speaking with all the stakeholders on this issue and collecting their feedback. State and local support for this legislation includes all of the State senators and representatives who represent the area, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the Louisiana Forestry Association, several members of the local Caddo Parish Commission and nearby landowners.

This bill is pro-conservation, pro-hunting, pro-agriculture, and pro-outdoor recreation, so we believe it truly is a win-win-win.

I thank the chairman, the ranking member, the gentleman from California, and all the Natural Resources Committee for working with me on this bill. I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I join with my colleague in urging adoption of this good legislation. 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. 6427, 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.

#### INSTALLATION OF PLAQUE COMMEMORATING SLAVE REBELLION ON ST. JOHN

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7496) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install a plaque at the peak of Ram Head in the Virgin Islands National Park on St. John, United States Virgin Islands, to commemorate the slave rebellion that began on St. John in 1733.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7496

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. INSTALLATION OF PLAQUE COMMEMORATING SLAVE REBELLION ON ST. JOHN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Secretary of the Interior shall install, in an appropriate location in the area of the Ram Head trail at the peak of Ram Head in the Virgin Islands National Park on St. John, United States Virgin Islands, a suitable plaque to commemorate the slave rebellion that began on St. John on November 23, 1733.

(b) CONTENTS OF PLAQUE.—The plaque installed under subsection (a) shall include information regarding—

(1) important facts about the slave rebellion that began on St. John in 1733;

(2) the collective suicide that occurred during the slave rebellion in the vicinity of Ram Head on St. John in 1734; and

(3) the significance of the slave rebellion to the history of St. John, the United States Virgin Islands, and the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE) 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.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7496, introduced by my colleague, Representative STACEY PLASKETT.

This bill will direct the Secretary of the Interior to install a plaque at the peak of Ram Head in the Virgin Islands National Park to commemorate the slave rebellion that began in St. John in 1733.

The slave insurrection on St. John is the first time in which enslaved people successfully took control of a colony, and it served as a spark to later slave revolts that would take place. After half a year of fighting, opposition troops defeated the uprising in St. John.

As a last cry for freedom, the last remaining slave rebels died by suicide by drowning themselves at Ram Head in a collective act of defiance. Installing a commemorative plaque in the Virgin Islands National Park will honor the sacrifices of the rebels and ensure that visitors who hike to the top of Ram Head learn and reflect on this powerful history.

I thank my colleague, Representative PLASKETT, for introducing this legislation, championing this bill on behalf of her constituents.

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

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