

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.

□ 1715

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.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 7496 would require the National Park Service to install a plaque on the Ram Head Trail in the Virgin Islands National Park recognizing a slave rebellion that began on St. John in 1733. I applaud Delegate Plaskett for leading this effort along with the support of Congressman RESCHENTHALER.

In 1733, the island of St. John in Danish West Indies was occupied by roughly 200 European settlers and more than 1,000 African slaves, most of whom were starving following a major drought and a devastating hurricane.

To quell disorder amongst the slaves, strict mandates were imposed that inflicted severe punishments against rebelling slaves.

On November 23, 1733, a group of slaves took possession of a Danish fort while another group overtook plantations, resulting in rebel control of most of the island. Danish troops could not manage the revolt, and French troops came to aid, assisting in the capture and execution of the rebels. Rather than be captured, some rebels chose to instead commit collective suicide, involving 11 rebels whose bodies were found at the Ram Head rebel camp.

The plaque authorized by H.R. 7496 would include important facts about this rebellion. Information about the tragic suicide that occurred during the rebellion, and the significance of the slave rebellion to the history of this island.

The Ram Head Trail is a popular tourist destination, and the marker commemorating the 1733 slave rebellion will serve to educate the public about this heartbreaking event in world history and the freedom fighters who bravely took a stand against the evils of slavery.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of 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. 7496.

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.

VALLEY FORGE PARK REALIGNMENT PERMIT AND PROMISE ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7952) “to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue a right-of-way permit with respect to a natural gas distribution pipeline within Valley Forge National Historical Park, and for other purposes”, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7952

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 “Valley Forge Park Realignment Permit and Promise Act”.

SEC. 2. RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMIT FOR NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION MAIN SEGMENT AT VALLEY FORGE NHP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may issue a right-of-way permit pursuant to part 14 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act), for the covered main segment if the covered main segment is relocated to a proposed realignment of Valley Forge Park Road and North Gulph Road within the Park.

(b) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to grant a right-of-way permit under subsection (a) shall apply only to the covered main segment and shall not apply to any other part of the natural gas distribution main system or any other pipeline system within the Park.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED MAIN SEGMENT.—The term “covered main segment” means the portions of the natural gas distribution main (including all appurtenances used in the operation of such main) within the Park—

(A) existing on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) that are located under, along, or adjacent to the segments of North Gulph Road and Valley Forge Park Road (SR3039 and SR0023 respectively, as those roads were aligned on January 21, 2022) that are between—

(i) the intersection of North Gulph Road with Richards Road; and

(ii) a point on Valley Forge Park Road located 500 feet northwest of its intersection with County Line Road.

(2) PARK.—The term “Park” means Valley Forge National Historical Park.

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

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 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.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7952, introduced by my colleague

Representative MADELEINE DEAN. As part of a broader effort to develop and enhance the area around Valley Forge National Historical Park, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is working to realign and repave a road that runs through the park’s entrance.

This bill will allow the movement of a natural gas pipeline segment from its current position at the entrance of the park to a new roadbed being constructed east of the current road.

If the pipeline is not permitted to move, the project could be further delayed costing time and resources. Moving the pipeline will also allow for the creation of a new trail connection, which will better allow people to reach and enjoy Valley Forge.

I thank my colleague Representative DEAN for introducing this legislation on behalf of her constituents.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the bill, 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 H.R. 7952. This is a bipartisan bill that authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to issue a right-of-way permit to relocate a natural gas distribution pipeline segment in the Valley Forge Historical National Park located in Pennsylvania.

This bill is necessary to allow the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to realign a road at the park’s entrance to a new location within the park boundary, which will require moving the utilities in the existing roadbed to the new roadbed. This project is part of a larger effort by PennDOT to improve the area surrounding the park.

The Valley Forge Historical Park is the iconic location of the famous Revolutionary War encampment and contains numerous significant cultural and natural resources, including 40 historic monuments and memorials, as well as several diverse habitats.

This bill’s authorization of a responsible relocation of an integral natural gas pipeline demonstrates the important truth that we can effectively balance the energy needs of local communities with our equally important goal of conserving our treasured Federal lands for future generations.

Madam Speaker, I support this bill because it recognizes the necessity of energy infrastructure like natural gas pipelines, and the important role that they serve for communities to meet their needs for dependable, affordable energy.

It is very encouraging to me to see this bill brought to the House floor today, and it is my hope that my friends on the other side of the aisle will support additional legislation to facilitate the timely siting and approval of a pipeline infrastructure consistent with this bill which has been championed by my Democratic colleagues.