

She was known for being a comforting presence for many families in their darkest moments. She was a steady hand in times of crisis, saving many lives during her career.

Devonnia's life was meaningful, yet tragically too short. It is difficult to imagine women can die during childbirth in the United States today, but they do.

It is in her memory that I commit to pursuing legislation to ensure we are doing everything we can to protect the lives of mothers and their babies. That is why I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 3838, the Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act of 2023. I won't stop fighting for solutions to prevent maternal deaths.

Devonnia left behind incredible loved ones like her husband, Michael, also a public servant with the fire department, and three beautiful children, Chase, Katie, and Maverick.

We will never forget Devonnia and the example that she was and still is to us all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 6, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, I hereby reappoint as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress the following person: Ms. Danna Bell, Washington, D.C.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BENTZ) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX, the House will resume proceedings on the postponed questions at a later time.

CLARIFYING JURISDICTION WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN BUREAU OF RECLAMATION PUMPED STORAGE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1607) to clarify jurisdiction with respect to certain Bureau of Reclamation pumped storage development, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1607

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

SECTION 1. LAND WITHDRAWAL AND RESERVATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGREEMENT.—The term "Agreement" means the agreement between the United States and the Association dated September 6, 1917, as amended.

(2) ASSOCIATION.—The term "Association" means the Salt River Valley Water Users' Association.

(3) COVERED LAND.—The term "covered land" means the portion of the National Forest System land located on the south side of the Salt River from the March 9, 1903, 1-mile withdrawal area for the Bureau of Reclamation purposes extending an additional 2 miles from the Salt River at Roosevelt Dam to 18.25 river miles downstream, in the State of Arizona, not including the Superstition Mountain Wilderness Area and the Tonto National Monument, as depicted on the Map.

(4) DISTRICT.—The term "District" means the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District.

(5) MAP.—The term "Map" means the map prepared under subsection (e)(1).

(6) SRP.—The term "SRP" means—

(A) the District; and

(B) the Association.

(b) RESERVATION OF COVERED LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, the covered land is reserved to the United States, through the Secretary of the Interior, for the exclusive right to use the covered land and interests in the covered land for the development, generation, and transmission of electrical power and energy for the use and benefit of the Salt River Federal Reclamation Project pursuant to the Agreement.

(c) WITHDRAWAL OF COVERED LAND.—The covered land is permanently withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(d) FACILITIES.—With respect to facilities constructed by SRP on the covered land for the development, generation, and transmission of electrical power and energy—

(1) the design and specifications shall conform to Bureau of Reclamation standards, and final designs shall be subject to review and approval by the Secretary of the Interior;

(2) all construction work shall be subject to inspection and approval by the Secretary of the Interior;

(3) upon a determination of substantial completion of such facilities, the Secretary of the Interior shall accept title on behalf of the United States as part of the Salt River Federal Reclamation Project pursuant to—

(A) section 6 of the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 389, chapter 1093; 43 U.S.C. 498); and

(B) the Agreement; and

(4) SRP shall be responsible for the care, operation, and maintenance pursuant to the Agreement.

(e) MAP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall prepare a map depicting the boundary of the covered land.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—The Map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Reclamation.

(f) MANAGEMENT OF COVERED LAND.—Management of the covered lands shall be in accordance with the Management Memorandum among the District, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation, dated April 27, 1979, as amended.

(g) RELATION TO OTHER LAW.—

(1) COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—The Secretary of the Interior is directed to carry out all necessary environmental compliance under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.), and all other applicable environmental laws and regulations, prior to construction of facilities on the covered land for the development, generation, and transmission of electrical power and energy.

(2) LEAD AGENCY.—The Bureau of Reclamation shall be the lead agency with respect to environmental compliance.

(3) WITHDRAWAL NOT MAJOR FEDERAL ACTION.—The withdrawal of the covered land shall not constitute a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.).

(4) ANTIDEFICIENCY.—The United States shall not be liable for failure to carry out any obligation or activity authorized to be carried out under this title (including any such obligation or activity under the Agreement) if adequate appropriations are not provided by Congress expressly to carry out the purposes of this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1607, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my colleague, Mr. SCHWEIKERT's bill which enables the Bureau of Reclamation and Salt River Project to move forward with developing pumped storage hydropower facilities in the Salt River reservoir system in Arizona.

Pumped storage is an efficient means to store energy when supply exceeds demand and has been shown to be one of the most useful methods for regulating intermittent renewable generation resources, such as wind and solar.

Based on initial work done by the Bureau of Reclamation in 2014, the Salt River Project developed two possible locations for the construction of a pumped storage hydropower project.

H.R. 1607 would withdraw approximately 17,000 acres of Federal lands

from the National Forest System and transfer it to the Bureau of Reclamation for the development of pumped storage hydropower and the development, generation, and transmission of electrical power and energy.

Through the transfer of this land, the proposed pumped storage project to be developed will be entirely within the authorities and footprint of the Federal reclamation project—streamlining development and maximizing Federal reclamation project benefits. Without it, the project would need to be permitted by both the Bureau of Reclamation and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Mr. Speaker, for those reasons, I support and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1607, introduced by my colleague from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) and co-led by Representative GREG STANTON, also from Arizona.

This bill would reserve certain lands in Arizona to the United States for use as part of the Salt River Federal Reclamation Project. The Salt River Project was first authorized in 1903 and provides water and power to over 2 million people in central Arizona today.

Under this legislation, the reserved lands will be used for development, generation, and transmission of electrical power and energy to assist the Salt River Project in expanding pumped storage hydropower facilities to meet increasing energy demands.

I thank my colleagues from Arizona, Representatives SCHWEIKERT and STANTON for introducing and promoting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, this is fun to have one of these where we all sort of agree on it.

Let me put in a little character—you heard some of the basic mechanisms. The Salt River Project is a waterpower quasi-municipality. It is very unique. It actually predates statehood for us. Think about that. It actually was put together before we actually became a State.

What is unique in Arizona is—many of you have heard the discussion of the thing called the duck curve. In the late afternoon you get lots of photovoltaic power and then the sun goes down, and you don't get lots of photovoltaic power, but we still run our air conditioners.

We need some ginormous batteries for those of us that live in the desert Southwest, hence, comes the concept of pumped storage. Where this is at is actually where I live. I live probably 25 minutes away from this. It is the lake I grew up on.

To try to get this visually, picture a series of lakes that are our water reservoirs for the Phoenix area, and then these cliffs that are just tremendously high—it is a very impressive area—and the concept of using gravity as a battery.

I appreciate everyone from our delegation who has been very, very helpful on this, but this is one of those occasions where it makes sense. It is environmentally sound. It actually allows us to take care of something that is somewhat unique for us in the Southwest; and that is the solar power we produce.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is, I do hope all of our brothers and sisters here, later on, vote “yes” in suspension.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today does streamline the permitting process for a project that is intended to keep energy costs low, help stabilize the electric grid during peak demand, and boost affordable and reliable energy.

As Mr. SCHWEIKERT explained, this is one of the oldest forms of batteries that we have to pump water uphill when we have excess energy and then to use it to generate energy on the off-hours.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join in supporting 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 Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1607, 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. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GRAND RONDE RESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT OF 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1722) to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1722

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 “Grand Ronde Reservation Act Amendment of 2023”.

SEC. 2. GRAND RONDE RESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Section 1(d) of Public Law 100-425 (commonly known as the “Grand Ronde Reserva-

tion Act”; 102 Stat. 1594; 108 Stat. 4566) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “lands within the State of Oregon” and inserting “the 84 acres known as the Thompson Strip”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) GAMING PROHIBITION.—Any real property obtained by the Tribes as part of a land claim settlement approved by the United States, including any real property purchased with funds granted as part of any land claim settlement, shall not be eligible, or used, for any class II gaming or class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) (as those terms are defined in section 4 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).”

SEC. 3. TREATY RIGHTS OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES.

Nothing in this Act, or an amendment made by this Act, shall be construed to enlarge, confirm, adjudicate, affect, or modify any treaty right of an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1722, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1722, the Grand Ronde Reservation Act Amendment of 2023, would amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to reflect that the Grand Ronde Tribe's extinguishment of land claims against the United States only applies to an 84-acre parcel of land known as the Thompson Strip.

Alongside many Tribes in western Oregon, the Grand Ronde Tribe entered into treaties with the United States in the 1850s. President James Buchanan established the Grand Ronde Reservation in 1857, which consisted of more than 60,000 acres. This solidified the Federal Government's treatment of the Grand Ronde as a single Tribe for Federal services and benefits.

However, in 1954, the Western Oregon Indian Termination Act was signed into law which severed the trust relationship between the Federal Government and the Tribe.

In 1983, the Tribe was successful in obtaining a restoration of Federal recognition through enactment of the Grand Ronde Reservation Act. This legislation also reestablished a reservation for the Tribe in Yamhill County, Oregon.

On October 31, 1988, the Bureau of Land Management discovered several