

has assessed more than \$8.8 million in fines.

It is important to note, before the program began, an average of 21 percent of campaign finance reports were filed late. Since the Administrative Fine Program has been in place, that number has been reduced to less than 10 percent.

The FEC has made it clear to Congress that this program is one of the most effective tools it currently has to combat campaign finance violations, and the extension of the program, which expires at the end of this year, is indeed vital.

Extending the Administrative Fine Program is the Commission's top-priority, bipartisan legislative recommendation, and the Commissioners reiterated the need to extend the program during a hearing in front of the Committee on House Administration in September.

Further, this extension has wide bipartisan support. A version of this extension, I will just note parenthetically, was included in both the Democrats' Freedom to Vote Act and the Republicans' ACE Act. It is interesting when we can get an agreement on two bills which vary pretty dramatically. I was grateful to partner with Chairman STEIL on the House version of this extension.

Transparency and accountability in campaign finance are crucial to ensuring a healthy democracy. More than a century ago, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court Louis Brandeis declared that: "Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants." This counsel, encouraging transparency and promoting good governance, remains vitally important to any strong civil society today.

Transparency about who is seeking to influence Federal elections is crucial to democratic self-governance. This is the purpose of the FEC, and this bipartisan act, S. 2747, will ensure that the FEC can continue to use one of its most effective tools to carry out its vital mission.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support S. 2747 to help preserve a crucial program and key tool enforcing our Nation's transparency and accountability laws.

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE), the chair of the Subcommittee on Elections of the Committee on House Administration and the former Florida Secretary of State.

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing support of S. 2747, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend the Administrative Fine Program for certain reporting violations.

As the expiration deadline of December 31, 2023, approaches rather quickly, we, the Members of the House of Representatives, have an opportunity to

continue the trend of bipartisan oversight of the Federal Election Commission.

If passed, S. 2747 will mark the seventh time that lawmakers have recognized the administrative importance and financially beneficial structure of the Administrative Fine Program.

As the former Florida Secretary of State, I know firsthand that voters will always seek transparency from political candidates and political campaigns.

Elections officials have a saying: Elections are partisan. Elections administration is not.

This bill is an example of that very principle. It is an example of the transparency and the confidence that Americans want to see in their elections. These same themes can be found in the American Confidence in Elections Act, which passed out of the Committee on House Administration in mid-July and is an example of the types of procedures and principles and laws that can be guidance for every State in America.

Today, we have the opportunity to showcase the cooperation, the diligence, and the work completed by members and staff on the Committee on House Administration and the Senate Rules Committee. This bill reflects our shared values, bipartisanship, transparency, and good governance.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 2747 so the Federal Election Commission can continue to ensure confidence and transparency in our elections process.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I thank my colleague, Mr. MORELLE, the ranking member on the Committee on House Administration, for his work in this regard.

As noted by my colleague, sometimes we disagree on elections administration. We have had those debates in our committee. This piece of legislation is a true nonpartisan opportunity for us to come together to provide more transparency for the American people, in particular, to make sure that this important program continues in place at the Federal Election Commission.

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to be here with my colleagues. It is interesting to me, as I went home over the weekend, there were a number of public events. One of the things people are concerned about in Congress, when they watch us, is that we often seem to have the inability to agree on anything.

Well, I remind people that is not always true. There are things that we do agree on. There are things that are important to this government and important to our democracy. I think this is a great example of people coming together on both sides to support an important tool that can be used to ensure our elections have the confidence of the American people and make sure

that candidates who seek office are providing the kind of information necessary for transparency and accountability, as my good friend from Wisconsin has said.

I thank the chairman and the members of the committee. It is a privilege to be here, and I encourage all colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for speaking in support of this important measure. By passing the bill today, we can ensure FEC enforcement operations continue to run smoothly. I am urging my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join in supporting this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2747.

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.

#### SILETZ RESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2839) to amend the Siletz Reservation Act to address the hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2839

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

#### SECTION 1. SILETZ RESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Section 4 of Public Law 96-340 (commonly known as the "Siletz Reservation Act") (94 Stat. 1074) is amended to read as follows:

#### "SEC. 4. HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, AND ANIMAL GATHERING.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) CONSENT DECREE.—The term 'Consent Decree' means the final judgment and decree of the United States District Court for the District of Oregon, in the action entitled 'Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon against State of Oregon', entered on May 2, 1980.

"(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian Tribe' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

"(3) SILETZ AGREEMENT.—The term 'Siletz Agreement' means the agreement entitled 'Agreement Among the State of Oregon, the United States of America and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon to Permanently Define Tribal Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, and Gathering Rights of the Siletz Tribe and its Members' and entered into by the United States on April 22, 1980.

"(b) HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, AND ANIMAL GATHERING AGREEMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Siletz Agreement shall remain in effect until and unless repealed, amended, or otherwise modified by 1

or more successor government-to-government agreements between the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the State of Oregon relating to the hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

“(2) AMENDMENTS.—The Siletz Agreement or any successor agreement entered into under paragraph (1) may be amended from time to time by mutual consent of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the State of Oregon.

“(3) CONTENTS OF NEW AGREEMENT OR AMENDMENTS.—The Siletz Agreement or any successor agreement entered into under paragraph (1) shall not provide for exclusive or primary Siletz take opportunity outside the exterior boundaries of the 1855 Executive Order Siletz Coast Reservation (as described in section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Siletz Tribe Indian Restoration Act (Public Law 95-195; 91 Stat. 1418; 130 Stat. 1364)) relative to any other federally recognized Indian Tribe, and shall not provide for new or expanded take of fishery resources in the Columbia River or in the Willamette River from its mouth to the top of Willamette Falls.

“(c) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—In any action brought in the United States District Court for the District of Oregon to rescind, overturn, modify, or provide relief under Federal law from the Consent Decree, the United States District Court for the District of Oregon shall review the application of the parties on the merits without regard to the defense of res judicata or collateral estoppel.

“(d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section enlarges, confirms, adjudicates, affects, or modifies any treaty or other right of an Indian Tribe.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) 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 may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2839, 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. 2839 will amend the Siletz Reservation Act to provide a process by which the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians and the State of Oregon may negotiate to amend or replace the 1980 agreement that currently serves as the final determination of the Tribe's hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights.

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians is a confederation of more than 27 different Tribes and bands of Indians who, beginning in 1856, were removed throughout western Oregon and placed on the Siletz Coast Reservation.

The Siletz Coast Reservation was repeatedly diminished by Federal action until the Siletz Tribe's Federal recognition was terminated by an act of Congress in 1954.

In 1977, Congress enacted a bill to restore the Tribe's Federal recognition. This restoration was not without conditions. The Siletz Tribe's hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights were limited through an agreement made with the State of Oregon.

This agreement was finalized on May 2, 1980, by the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon as a consent decree. The 1980 consent decree was then incorporated into the Siletz Reservation Act of 1980.

The agreement provided limited allocations for salmon fishing and deer and elk hunting while otherwise prohibiting Tribal hunting, fishing, gathering, and trapping, except as authorized under Oregon State law.

H.R. 2839 would allow the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon to negotiate to amend, replace, or terminate the 1980 consent decree. That consent decree remains in place until there is mutual agreement for a new agreement between both the Tribe and the State.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon would also be required to adjudicate any change in the consent decree on the merits of the case. This prevents the modification from being dismissed by the court because the matter had already been decided.

Additionally, the legislation includes language preserving all other hunting and fishing treaty rights held by other treaty Tribes.

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

□ 1430

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 2839, which would amend the Siletz Reservation Act to address the hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights of the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians.

The Siletz Tribe should be able to freely hunt, fish, and gather on their ancestral lands, just like every other Tribe in Oregon, except one, and in this country.

Today, the Siletz have over 5,000 enrolled members, and they are concentrated in Oregon's Fourth Congressional District, which I am honored to represent.

The Siletz Tribe was stripped of its land and status in 1954 through the Western Oregon Termination Act.

In 1980, the Siletz Tribe was forced to give up their rights to hunting and fishing on Tribal lands in order to have their reservation restored. This restriction is called a consent decree. It is an unjust and racist policy that should have never happened, and it needs to be changed immediately.

This is a bipartisan bill, and I thank my colleagues for their support. It provides the legal ability for the Siletz Tribe to renegotiate a hunting and fishing agreement with the State of Oregon.

While the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission recently approved a his-

toric new hunting and fishing agreement with the Siletz Tribe, the State can choose or be forced by litigation to return to the previous unconscionable agreement at any time. That is why this bill is greatly needed.

The bill is necessary to invalidate the consent decree, and it does not impact the treaty rights of any other Tribe.

The Siletz Tribe has worked in good faith with other Tribes in the region to avoid contested areas, which is reflected in my bill. There was a lot of hard work that went into making this happen and making this right.

I am proud that H.R. 2839 passed out of committee with strong bipartisan support. In fact, it was unanimous. That is pretty strong bipartisan support.

I thank my colleagues in the Oregon delegation for their support of this bipartisan bill. I particularly thank Senator MERKLEY, who has a companion bill in the Senate and who has worked tirelessly to right this historic wrong.

The Siletz is one of only two Tribes in the entire country that was forced to give up their sovereign rights in order to have Federal status renewed. The other Tribe is the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon. I support similar legislation to allow them to renegotiate fishing and hunting rights with the State of Oregon, as well. I hope to see this legislation move forward.

H.R. 2839 is about fairness. Siletz members should be able to hunt, fish, trap, and gather on their ancestral lands as they have traditionally done. They should be treated as other Tribes are.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this important legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this legislation would amend the Siletz Reservation Act to allow the State of Oregon and the Siletz Tribe to negotiate to amend, replace, or terminate the Tribe's 1980s hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal consent decree.

The current consent decree would remain in place until there is a new agreement that is mutually decided on, allowing all parties to reach an agreement before changes are made.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsor of the legislation for her work on behalf of her constituents. I urge adoption of this bill, 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. 2839.

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.

# DUCK STAMP MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 788) to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue fully electronic stamps under that Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 788

*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 “Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023”.

## SEC. 2. AUTHORIZING FULLY ELECTRONIC STAMPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5 of the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 (16 U.S.C. 718r) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “ACTUAL STAMP” and inserting “ELECTRONIC STAMP”;

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “an actual stamp” and inserting “the electronic stamp”; and

(C) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) on the date of purchase of the electronic stamp; and”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “actual stamps” and inserting “actual stamps under subsection (e)”;

(3) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

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

“(e) DELIVERY OF ACTUAL STAMPS.—The Secretary shall issue an actual stamp after March 10 of each year to each individual that purchased an electronic stamp for the preceding waterfowl season.”.

(b) CONTENTS OF ELECTRONIC STAMP.—Section 2 of the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 (16 U.S.C. 718o) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Federal” and all that follows through “that is printed” and inserting “Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp required under the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718a et seq.) that is printed”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) may contain an image of the actual stamp.”.

(c) STAMP VALID THROUGH CLOSE OF HUNTING SEASON.—Section 6 of the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 (16 U.S.C. 718s) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “shall, during the effective period of the electronic stamp—” and inserting “shall—”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “for a period agreed to by the State and the Secretary, which shall not exceed 45 days” and inserting “through the first June 30 that occurs after the date of issuance of the electronic stamp by the State”.

(d) ELECTRONIC STAMPS AS PERMIT.—Section 1(a)(1) of the Migratory Bird Hunting

and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718a(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “as an electronic stamp (as defined in section 2 of the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 (16 U.S.C. 718o)) or” after “Conservation Stamp,”; and

(2) by striking “face of the stamp” and inserting “face of the actual stamp (as defined in that section)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) 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 in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 788, 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, I rise in support of S. 788, sponsored by my friend and fellow Razorback, Senator JOHN BOOZMAN from Arkansas. This bill makes commonsense improvements to wildlife regulations by modernizing how waterfowl hunters across the country can purchase a Federal duck stamp.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), who had a companion bill in the House that went through our committee.

The Federal duck stamp was first created when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act into law in 1934. The law required waterfowl and other migratory bird hunters, ages 16 and over, to purchase and possess a valid duck stamp prior to taking migratory waterfowl.

Current law requires hunters to physically possess a signed duck stamp while hunting for any migratory waterfowl. Even in States where electronic licensing is used, a signed physical duck stamp is required.

Mr. Speaker, on my mobile phone, I have the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission hunting app. Right here, front and center, I have my Federal duck stamp electronically. Technically, I would be breaking the law if a game warden approached me when I was hunting and this is all that I had. I still have to carry my little duck stamps in my pocket that are signed, both the State and Federal duck stamps.

This bill would modernize that program so that these electronic duck stamps would suffice if you were approached by a game warden.

S. 788 modernizes the program by removing the 45-day requirement to have a physical duck stamp and allowing States the option to sell electronic duck stamps for the entirety of the hunting season.

Under this bill, purchasers would still receive the physical stamp at the end of their State waterfowl season, therefore preserving the long legacy of the Federal duck stamp for generations to come.

This is a good governance approach that will continue the unmatched American tradition of wildlife conservation through sportsmen participation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman GARRET GRAVES of Louisiana for his tireless work on this issue. He sponsored the House companion to S. 788. After today, this legislation is one step closer to becoming law.

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the duck stamp, or Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, is the only Federal conservation revenue stamp. This means that 98 percent of the sale price is used to purchase conservation easements and to acquire wetland habitats for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The duck stamp also provides an opportunity to showcase wildlife art, with the Fish and Wildlife Service hosting an art competition each year and the winning piece selected for next year's design.

Sportsmen and women, artists, and conservationists purchase duck stamps as a collectible to cover entry fees to any National Wildlife Refuge System unit, as a hunting license, or as a donation to conservation.

Millions of stamps have been sold in recent years, contributing tens of millions of dollars toward conservation each year. This bipartisan bill would modernize government services by allowing online access to the Federal duck stamp. It would save applicants and agency officials time and money and make it more accessible for hunters, conservationists, and collectors to purchase duck stamps and to support wetland conservation.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), where I understand that if you can't get to a hunt in Arkansas, it is not a bad place to go as a consolation.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas and the gentlewoman from Oregon for their cooperation on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I note that my friend from Arkansas, whether he has the electronic stamp or the physical stamp, I feel that the ducks in Arkansas are safe. I have seen him shoot and am confident that those ducks are safe.

Seriously, Mr. Speaker, oftentimes, when Congress acts, I think the American people need to be very concerned.