

Everglades serves as a critical natural habitat for birds migrating and is one of the top bird-watching spots in the country, including for ibis, egrets, and herons.

In 2022, more than 96 million people across this country participated in bird-watching, generating more than \$100 billion in economic benefits for the country. If we protect these migratory birds, we are protecting the Everglades and we are protecting the ecosystem. If we are the ecosystem, we are bolstering our economy. It is a clear bipartisan win for everybody.

I thank Chairman BRUCE WESTERMAN, Congressman RICK LARSEN, Congressman DAVID JOYCE, and Congresswoman MARY PELTOLA for co-leading this bill with me.

As a champion of animal welfare and strong protector of the Everglades, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4389.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I really do commend the sponsor of the bill. As she noted, this bill is supported on a bipartisan basis by some of our most illustrious colleagues. I remember this bill when it was introduced last session as well, and the work that Representative SALAZAR and Ranking Member LARSEN have done on this bill is commendable.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4389, the Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act.

For more than two decades, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act has been an essential tool to protect migratory bird habitat in the Pacific Northwest and across the Western Hemisphere.

Since 2002, the NMBCA has awarded more than \$89 million in grants to over 700 conservation projects in the U.S., Canada, Central and South America, and the Caribbean, protecting more than 5 million acres of bird habitat.

The law has also been a critical tool in the fight to reverse the downward global trend in bird population over the past 50 years, which can be attributed to challenges like pesticide use, deforestation, and the lack of adequate environmental protection abroad.

This bipartisan bill reauthorizes the only Federal grant initiative for migratory birds through fiscal year 2028.

It also gives smaller organizations greater access to grants by lowering the cost-sharing requirement for grant recipients from 3 to 1 to 2 to 1, meaning for every \$2 organizations contribute, the Federal Government matches with \$1. That is great news for the organizations in the North Puget Sound, where I am from, doing important work to protect bird habitat and Washington State's environment.

More than 350 migratory bird species rely on the Pacific Northwest as their flyway, including: the western tanager, the violet-green swallow, Swainson's

thrush, rufous hummingbird, western sandpiper, and the osprey; All of which but one I have had an opportunity to take photos of.

These migratory birds pollinate plants, control pests, and add to the diversity of local ecosystems. They also attract millions of birders to places like Skagit Bay, Padilla Bay, Port Susan Bay, Spencer Island, Wiser Lake, Deception Pass, and the San Juan Islands, just to name a few places in my district.

I have had the opportunity to meet with birders and go birding with them, folks from the Audubon Societies of Washington, Pilchuck, Skagit, North Cascades, Whidbey, and San Juan Islands in my district. These dedicated birders provide a boost to local and regional economies. They are ambassadors to the great outdoors. They sponsor great events, like the Snow Goose and Birding Festival in February every year in Stanwood, Washington, where thousands of people come from all over the country to go birding.

Success has many parents. I thank Representative MARIA ELVIRA SALAZAR for leading the charge to reintroduce this bill, as well as Representatives MARY PELTOLA and DAVID JOYCE for co-leading the bill.

I thank the many partner organizations that made this happen, like the National Audubon Society, the American Bird Conservancy, and the aforementioned local organizations. I thank the taxpayers who are providing the critical funding needed to protect migratory birds.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to keep bipartisan momentum going to protect migratory birds.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

As noted, this bill is bipartisan. It brings such joy as well as economic vibrancy to our communities. Listening to the lists of birds that have benefited from this bill, I cannot help but think about those amazing rufous hummingbirds that fly around and pollinate our flowers and bring smiles and joy to all of our lives in our small gardens.

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

Many of us in this Chamber come from communities where being outdoors is part of our way of life and communities with vibrant ecosystems, particularly in places that serve as a home for migratory species.

We know that habitat conservation is critical to their long-term health. H.R. 4389 will help further conservation efforts by providing resources to those who are dedicated to advancing habitat restoration efforts and encouraging collaborative research efforts.

I thank Ms. SALAZAR once again for her leadership in reauthorizing this

program, and I ask my colleagues to support this effort. I urge adoption of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4389, 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.

FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBE LEASING AUTHORITY

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1246) to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for federally recognized Indian Tribes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1246

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

SECTION 1. FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBE LEASING AUTHORITY.

Subsection (a) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 25 U.S.C. 415(a)), is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting “, land held in trust for any other Indian tribe included on the list published by the Secretary pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131)” after “Chehalis Reservation”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1246, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wyoming?

There was no objection.

□ 1530

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

Mr. Speaker, my bill, H.R. 1246, would amend the Long-Term Leasing Act to authorize any federally recognized Indian Tribe to lease land held in trust for the Tribe's benefit for up to and including 99 years, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

In 1955, Congress passed the Long-Term Leasing Act, which authorized the Tribal owners to lease any lands held in trust for the benefit of the Tribes for nongrazing purposes, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the

Interior, for only up to 25 years. Any nongrazing lease could be renewed up to one additional term of 25 years for a total of 50 years.

The restriction on the length of time a Tribe can lease their land can have a negative impact on a Tribe's ability to negotiate long-term commercial leases and, subsequently, a Tribe's economic development opportunities.

Congress has amended the Long-Term Leasing Act more than 50 times to adjust the terms and conditions of leases of Tribal lands and authorize specific Tribes or Tribal lands to lease for a term of up to 99 years, subject to approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

This legislation would put a stop to Tribes having to rely on Congress to pass specific legislation so that they can enter into long-term leases should they choose to do so.

H.R. 1246 would proactively extend leasing authority to all federally recognized Tribes while providing a more expedited path forward for economic development. This is commonsense legislation that will benefit Tribes long into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage adoption of the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be a cosponsor of H.R. 1246, which would amend the Long-Term Leasing Act to authorize federally recognized Tribes to enter into lease agreements on their lands for periods of up to 99 years.

As noted, currently under the Long-Term Leasing Act, Tribes are generally limited to lease agreement terms that are no more than 25 years with an option to renew for an additional 25 years. This has led so many Tribes to enter into very complex leasing agreements of 25 plus 25 when all of that puts a constraint on the economic development opportunities that Tribes must be taking advantage of and that they want to take advantage of.

As you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, these limits are challenging, and they are not needed.

For that reason, though, historically, Congress has passed noncontroversial bills to allow certain Tribes that come before them to have longer leases under the act. We have done this in a piecemeal fashion. In fact, as noted, since the passage of the Long-Term Leasing Act in 1955, some additional 60 Tribes have been added to the growing list of exceptions to the act.

Last Congress, we authorized long-term leasing authority for the Seminole Tribe, and on the floor of the House, I called for legislation to make this applicable to all Tribes so we didn't have to do it one at a time. I am pleased today that, under the leadership of Chair HAGEMAN, we are moving to make that a reality.

Today's bill, H.R. 1246, would strengthen Tribal sovereignty by al-

lowing all federally recognized Tribes to enter into lease agreements for periods up to 99 years, providing Tribes the ability to pursue economic development activities for the benefit of their communities that have been typically limited under the Long-Term Leasing Act.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, as noted, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill and, in this manner, to support Tribal sovereignty and, once again, bipartisan legislation, which we often see coming out of the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs. This is the way that we need to encourage to have work coming out of our committees in a bipartisan fashion that increases Tribal sovereignty and that leads us to honor our trust responsibility to our Tribes.

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation would promote economic development for Tribes by ensuring that they are on the same playing field as other landowners who can enter into long-term leases on their land.

This legislation is a proactive step to support Tribes and their ability to create and pursue economic opportunity.

As the chairman of the Indian and Insular Affairs Subcommittee, I do and will continue to advocate for commonsense solutions for our Indian Tribes.

Mr. Speaker, 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 gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1246.

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.

JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE LAND TRANSFER ACT

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6443) to take certain land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California Tribe, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6443

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 "Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act".

SEC. 2. LAND TO BE TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR THE JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE OF CALIFORNIA TRIBE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The approximately 172.1 acres of land owned in fee by the Jamul In-

dian Village of California located in San Diego, California, and described in subsection (b) are hereby taken into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California.

(b) LAND DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) PARCEL 1.—Those parcels of land totaling approximately 161.23 acres, located in San Diego County, California, that are held in fee by the Jamul Indian Village of California, as legally described in Document No. 2022-0010260 in the Official Records of the Office of the Recorder, San Diego County, California, and recorded January 7, 2022.

(2) PARCEL 2.—That parcel of land totaling approximately 6 acres, located in San Diego County, California, that is held in fee by the Jamul Indian Village of California, as legally described in Document No. 2021-0540770 in the Official Records of the Office of the Recorder, San Diego County, California, and recorded July 29, 2021.

(3) PARCEL 3.—That parcel of land totaling approximately 4.03 acres, located in San Diego County, California, that is held in fee by the Jamul Indian Village of California, as legally described in Document No. 1998-0020339 in the Official Records of the Office of the Recorder, San Diego County, California, and recorded January 15, 1998.

(4) PARCEL 4.—That parcel of land comprised of approximately 0.84 acres, located in San Diego County, California, that is held in fee by the Jamul Indian Village of California, as legally described in Document No. 2017-0410384 in the Official Records of the Office of the Recorder, San Diego County, California, and recorded September 7, 2017.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) part of the reservation of the Jamul Indian Village of California; and

(2) administered in accordance with the laws and regulations generally applicable to property held in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian Tribe.

(d) GAMING PROHIBITED.—Land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall not be used for any class II gaming or class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (as those terms are defined in section 4 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 6443, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wyoming?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6443, the Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act, would place 172.1 acres of land owned in fee simple by the Jamul Indian Village into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe.

The Jamul Indian Village is located in San Diego County and is part of the Kumeyaay people of southern California, otherwise known as the Mission