

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, January 4, 2024.
Hon. VIRGINIA FOXX,
Chairwoman, Committee on Education and the
Workforce, House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN FOXX: I write regarding H.R. 2882, the "Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023." The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and additionally to the Committee on Natural Resources, and was ordered reported, as amended, by the Committee on Natural Resources on November 15, 2023.

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce and appreciate your willingness to forgo any further consideration of the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Education and the Workforce will not formally consider H.R. 2882 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

I am pleased to support your request to name members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce to any conference committee to consider such provisions. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill and will include such letters in the committee report on H.R. 2882. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WESTERMAN,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2882. This bill will reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund.

The Udall Foundation was established as an independent Federal agency in 1992 by Congress in honor of Mo Udall's contributions to our Nation's public lands and natural resources and his support for Tribal self-determination. In 2009, Congress honored Stewart Udall in the name of the Foundation alongside his brother.

The Udall Foundation's impact is monumental in supporting the next generation of environmental and Tribal policy leaders. From the John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution to the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy, the Foundation serves a critical role in shaping public policy.

In addition, the Foundation supports several educational programs, such as the Parks in Focus program, fellowships, scholarships, and congressional internships.

H.R. 2882 will ensure the Foundation remains an essential partner in Tribal and environmental education.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, once again, this is important legislation to reauthorize the Udall Foundation to continue supporting Native American congressional interns, as well as the research and study that goes along with that.

As I mentioned earlier, it also works with Alaska Native healthcare issues and Tribal public policy issues. This is a very important piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WESTERMAN, my good friend, for yielding me the time to speak in support of my bill, H.R. 2882, the Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023.

The Udall Foundation is a non-partisan agency established by Congress in 1992, committed to the values of civility, integrity, and consensus, which are emblematic of how Mo Udall approached his 30 years of public service in this House.

Since its creation, the Udall Foundation has done incredible work. They have awarded over 1,800 undergraduate scholarships to students pursuing careers in environmental public policy, Tribal public policy, or Native healthcare. They have placed over 300 Native American and Alaska Native students in summer internships on Capitol Hill and with Federal agencies. They have conducted over 800 environmental collaboration and conflict resolution assessments, and facilitated processes and trainings across all 50 States.

My bill, H.R. 2882, extends the Udall Foundation's authority for 5 additional fiscal years, through FY 2028. This reauthorization will allow the agency to promote public service through research, education, and service programs. Moreover, they will continue to foster leadership, education, collaboration, and conflict resolution in the areas of environment, public lands, Native Nations, and natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I again thank the gentleman from Arizona for sponsoring this important legislation. I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support 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 Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2882, 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 pro-

ceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK COMMISSION EXTENSION ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1727) to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1727

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 "Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission Extension Act".

SEC. 2. CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK COMMISSION.

Section 6(g) of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act (16 U.S.C. 410y-4(g)) is amended by striking "40" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting "on October 1, 2031."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) 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. 1727, 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 support the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission Extension Act. This bill reauthorizes the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission for 7 years beyond the Commission's current expiration date of September 2024.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, or C&O Canal, stretches over 184 miles from Georgetown in Washington, D.C., to Cumberland, Maryland. For nearly a century, the national historical park played a crucial role in the transportation of many agricultural products along the Potomac River.

Today, the park offers numerous outdoor recreation opportunities while continuing to serve as a source of economic growth through tourism and employment opportunities. In 2021, the park attracted over 5 million visitors, supported 1,360 jobs, and generated \$104 million in economic output in local gateway communities surrounding the park.

The park's commission is comprised of 19 members who serve on a volunteer basis. By including the voices and unique perspective of various local stakeholders, the commission provides a critical link between the National Park Service and local communities with no cost to the American taxpayer.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1727, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission Extension Act, introduced by my colleague from Maryland, Representative TRONE.

Once a transportation route from Maryland to Washington, D.C., the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park now serves as an area full of recreational opportunities, while maintaining the historical structures of the old transportation route.

The park is comprised of 184 miles along the Potomac River, hosting over 5 million visitors annually. The bill before us would reauthorize the park's advisory commission until 2031 to allow them to continue their leadership in working with their communities to enhance visitor experience and recreational opportunities.

The advisory commission is key to ensuring that local communities have a voice in the operation, maintenance, and restoration of the park.

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 have no further requests for time and continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE).

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and urge a "yes" vote on my bill, the C&O Canal National Historical Park Commission Extension Act.

Running from D.C. to Cumberland, Maryland, the park's 20,000 acres of land are home to history. George Washington himself spearheaded the efforts to navigate these waters and drive industry in our then-newly formed Republic. For nearly 100 years, the canal transported lumber, crops, and coal, crucial commerce for the many communities depending on it for their livelihoods.

Now a national park, the C&O Canal is home to thousands of native species, over 100 of which are listed as rare and threatened or endangered by the State of Maryland, all of which must be fiercely protected.

For more than 40 years, the advisory commission has served as a link between the surrounding communities and the National Park Service to manage and restore the park. The commission has a proven track record of ensuring the growth and maintenance of the land, as well as protection of the plants and animals living within it.

Every 10 years, Congress must reauthorize this commission for it to continue the vital work, which brings us here today. I am proud to lead this effort with my dear friend, Senator BEN CARDIN, to ensure Americans can enjoy, explore, and protect our park for generations to come.

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I am honored to represent so many Marylanders who get to appreciate the beauty and rich history of the C&O Canal every day.

By reauthorizing the commission, we are showing that Congress values the investments in our Nation's natural resources.

I thank all Members from the C&O Canal region who support this legislation: Representatives BEYER, CONNOLLY, HOLMES, NORTON, MOONEY, RASKIN, and WEXTON. I thank Natural Resources Committee Chair WESTERMAN for moving this bill through committee with unanimous support and Chairwoman DINGELL for her support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense bill that promotes collaboration between Federal agencies and local stakeholders. It achieves this without adding any burden on the American taxpayer.

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 gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1727, 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, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CLIFTON OPPORTUNITIES NOW FOR VIBRANT ECONOMIC YIELDS ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2997) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to Mesa County, Colorado, certain Federal land in Colorado, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2997

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 "Clifton Opportunities Now for Vibrant Economic Yields Act" or as the "CONVEY Act".

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL LAND TO MESA COUNTY, COLORADO.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CLIFTON PARCEL.—The term "Clifton parcel" means the approximately 31.1 acres of Federal land depicted as "31.1 Acres to be Conveyed to Mesa County" on the map titled "Clifton Opportunities Now for Vibrant Economic Yields (CONVEY) Act" and dated April 19, 2023.

(2) COUNTY.—The term "County" means Mesa County, Colorado.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the Secretarial Order dated August 26, 1902, and the Secretarial Order dated July 25, 1908, the Secretary shall convey to the County, as soon as practicable, all rights, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Clifton parcel.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The conveyance under this section shall be—

(1) subject to valid existing rights; and

(2) for not less than fair market value, as determined in accordance with subsection (d).

(d) APPRAISAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The fair market value of the Clifton parcel shall be determined by an independent appraisal obtained by the Secretary.

(2) APPRAISAL STANDARDS.—The appraisal required by paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with the—

(A) Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(B) Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(e) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—The County shall pay all costs associated with the conveyance required under subsection (b), including all costs associated with any survey conducted for the purpose of accomplishing such conveyance.

(f) PROCEEDS FROM CONVEYANCE.—The proceeds from the conveyance required under subsection (b) shall be—

(1) deposited into the Federal Land Disposal Account established by the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.); and

(2) available for expenditure under that Act.

(g) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize a map and a legal description of all land to be conveyed under this Act.

(2) CONTROLLING DOCUMENT.—In the case of a discrepancy between the map and the legal description created under paragraph (1), the map shall control.

(3) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary and the County, by mutual agreement, may correct any minor errors in the map or the legal description created under paragraph (1).

(4) MAP ON FILE.—The map and the legal description created under paragraph (1) shall be kept on file and available for public inspection in each appropriate office of the Bureau of Land Management.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) 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 in