

(2) to the public notice and an opportunity to comment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ) 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 which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2468, 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 today in support of Representative OWENS' bill, the Mountain View Corridor Completion Act.

This legislation would expedite the completion of the Mountain View Corridor by transferring roughly 200 acres from the Bureau of Land Management to the State of Utah to complete the final segment of this large and urgently needed transportation project in Utah.

Finishing the Mountain View Corridor will improve road safety and reduce traffic congestion, results that Utah residents will readily welcome.

Over 60 percent of Utah's land is federally owned. Without these types of conveyances, Western States have limited land they can develop into the homes, schools, and roads that growing communities demand.

H.R. 2468 is an example of Federal agencies, local stakeholders, and Congress successfully collaborating productively to address the problems of a growing population.

I hope this kind of collaboration will continue with all Federal land management issues in Utah and across the West.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Representative OWENS for leading this effort, which will finally deliver the Mountain View Corridor to the growing populations of Salt Lake and Utah Counties. He worked with local communities and stakeholders, including the Utah Department of Transportation, to address this need.

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

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2468, the Mountain View Corridor Completion Act, would authorize the Bureau of Land Management, or BLM, to convey specified BLM lands south of Salt Lake City to the State of Utah to develop new roadways and meet the increasing travel demands of the surrounding area.

The parcels of BLM land under this legislation are currently within the

boundaries of Camp Williams, a military training center for the Utah National Guard, but they are not being actively used or managed by the BLM or the National Guard.

Following the transfer, the Utah Department of Transportation will use the parcels to complete the Mountain View Corridor, a 35-mile highway between the State's most populous counties, Salt Lake County and Utah County. With these parcels, the State will develop new roadways to connect frontage roads and upgrade interchanges. The transfer of these parcels is expected to improve traffic and public safety for the general public and Camp Williams.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS), the lead sponsor of the bill.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2468, the Mountain View Corridor Completion Act.

I was pleased to introduce this legislation last year with the support of Utah's entire congressional delegation.

As the Representative of the fastest growing district in the fastest growing State in the Union, I can tell you firsthand that our transportation infrastructure is under significant stress.

Rapid growth brings with it a host of challenges, particularly in the Intermountain West, where over two-thirds of Utah is owned or controlled by various Federal agencies.

This bill addresses one of those challenges, the need to connect our communities with federally owned land.

The Utah Department of Transportation, UDOT, has anticipated significant population growth for decades, and over 15 years ago, they initiated the Mountain View Corridor project. This crucial corridor connects eastern Utah County with southwestern Salt Lake County and passes through Camp Williams, an important military training installation managed by the U.S. Army National Guard.

The existing road is vital, serving as the only public access to the headquarters of the Utah National Guard complex and providing essential access to the National Security Agency's datacenter.

While two-thirds of Mountain View Corridor has been completed, the final third requires UDOT to acquire three separate, irregular parcels of Federal land to link 36 acres currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

However, because these parcels are situated within the boundaries of an active military reservation established by a 1914 executive order, the BLM lacks the authority to transfer this land. That is why we are here today.

I am proud to report that the Utah National Guard fully supports this project and has collaborated exten-

sively with UDOT and BLM to determine the most effective alignment for the corridor.

This bill has already gone through a hearing and a markup in the House Natural Resources Committee. I am grateful for the support of my friend, Chairman WESTERMAN.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation to help Utah complete this vital transportation project 15 years in the making.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is straightforward, commonsense legislation done correctly by prioritizing engagement with local stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage adoption of the 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. 2468, 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.

#### HOLCOMBE RUCKER PARK NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE SITE ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6852) to designate Holcombe Rucker Park, in Harlem, New York, as a National Commemorative Site, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6852

*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 "Holcombe Rucker Park National Commemorative Site Act".*

#### SEC. 2. NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE SITE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Holcombe Rucker Park, in Harlem, New York, is hereby designated as the "Holcombe Rucker Park National Commemorative Site" (referred to in this section as the "Commemorative Site").

#### (b) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of the Interior may enter into cooperative agreements with appropriate public or private entities, including the Mayor of New York City or the Mayor's designee, for interpretive and educational purposes related to the Commemorative Site, including installing a plaque, interpretive exhibit, or other marker, as appropriate, at the Commemorative Site, with the written consent of the owner of the Commemorative Site, to memorialize the achievements of Holcombe Rucker and to provide recognition of the historic role of Holcombe Rucker Park in the development of the game of basketball and of many of its most talented players.

(2) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.—The Commemorative Site shall not be a unit of the National Park System.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—*Nothing in this Act—*

(A) *authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to interfere with the rights of any person with respect to private property or any local zoning ordinance or land use plan of the State of New York or any political subdivision thereof, including prohibiting any actions that may otherwise be taken by a property owner (including any owner of the Commemorative Site) with respect to the property of the owner;*

(B) *affects the administration of the Commemorative Site by New York City or the State of New York; or*

(C) *authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land or interests in land through condemnation or otherwise.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ) 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 which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6852, 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, Representative ESPAILLAT's bill, the Holcombe Rucker Park National Commemorative Site Act, will designate the historic Holcombe Rucker Park in New York City as a National Commemorative Site.

Located in the heart of New York City's Harlem neighborhood, Holcombe Rucker Park is a historically significant basketball destination that has hosted legendary basketball players such as Wilt Chamberlain, Kobe Bryant, and LeBron James.

Once described as the Mecca of Basketball, the park has appeared in many documentaries as the birthplace of streetball, a unique form of basketball that emphasizes creativity.

The park's namesake, Holcombe Rucker, was a highly influential figure in his community, and he helped over 700 children receive college scholarships for athletics.

The legislation before us today, H.R. 6852, would designate Holcombe Rucker Park as a National Commemorative Site. This designation would not affect private property rights, alter the local governance of the park, or make the park a unit of the National Park System. Instead, this bill presents a creative way to honor an important site that has offered generations of Harlem youth a positive outlet for sports, team building, and promoting racial equality.

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

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6852, the Holcombe Rucker Park National Commemorative Site Act, introduced by my colleague from New York City, Representative ESPAILLAT.

Holcombe Rucker Park in Harlem is named in honor of Holcombe Rucker, who dedicated his life to uplifting his community in Harlem through compassion.

A World War II veteran and graduate of the City College of New York, Mr. Rucker returned home from his military service and continued a life in public service as a junior high school teacher and as the playground director for New York City Parks at several parks in Harlem, including the one that now bears his name.

During his tenure at the park, Mr. Rucker not only served as a mentor for the community's youth but was actively engaged in empowering them. He established a youth basketball league to help kids build life skills and to keep them out of trouble in the summer, back at a time when naysayers told him it would never work because basketball was supposedly just a winter sport.

□ 1915

The program was a success. Mr. Rucker held popular, now-legendary tournaments at the park which became the Rucker Tournament. His efforts turned this neighborhood site into what The New York Times has called a "Street Basketball Mecca."

Using the increased visibility, Mr. Rucker went even further and worked to help secure hundreds of college scholarships for the youths he mentored.

Through the establishment of the Rucker Tournament, Mr. Rucker paved the way for future generations of basketball players to grow and build their skills in Harlem and Washington Heights. Many of the players who participated in his tournaments went on to play in the NBA and became legendary players in their own right. The park was renamed in his honor in 1974 and is often affectionately called just "the Rucker."

My friend Mr. ESPAILLAT's bill would recognize the iconic Holcombe Rucker Park and its historical significance in Harlem and around the world by designating it as the Holcombe Rucker Park National Commemorative Site.

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, I am prepared to close, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT), the sponsor of the bill and my friend, colleague, and fellow New Yorker.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I begin by thanking Chairman BRUCE WESTERMAN, Ranking Member RAÚL

GRIJALVA, and of course, the gentlewoman from New York, my colleague, Congresswoman OCASIO-CORTEZ, subcommittee Chairman TOM TIFFANY, and subcommittee Ranking Member JOE NEGUSE for their leadership on this important matter.

Assistant Minority Leader JOE NEGUSE went to Rucker Park, and he shot a mean three-pointer. In fact, he earned the name "Let It Fly," JOE NEGUSE, over the summer.

I also acknowledge the families and community leaders who have championed this cause: the Rucker family, the Marius family, the McCullough family, Bobby Hunter, who was here in one of the hearings, a Harlem Globetrotter, Freddie Crawford, 155 Entertainers LLC, and so many from Harlem, including Manhattan Community Board 10 Parks Chair Horry. I thank them for their unwavering support and dedication in preserving Holcombe Rucker Park's legacy.

Today, I rise in support of H.R. 6852, the Holcombe Rucker Park National Commemorative Site Act. This legislation is more than just a symbolic gesture. It is a commitment to recognizing the historical and cultural significance of one of Harlem's most cherished landmarks.

In the 1950s, Holcombe Rucker, a World War II veteran and a scholar, had a vision for Harlem's youth. He sought to create a space where children of the Harlem community could find refuge from the street, a space that could not only showcase their athletic talents but also push young people toward higher education and economic mobility.

The Rucker Pro League was not just about basketball. It was about giving back and about mentorship, about lifting each other up.

The "Each One Teach One" program was Rucker's mantra, a motto that resulted in over 700 scholarships for young athletes.

Through his leadership, Rucker transformed the lives of hundreds, instilling in them the importance of academic achievement and community service.

This park has become a cultural institution where the worlds of sports, music, and education converge.

A generation of athletes like Julius "Dr. J" Erving, Kobe Bryant, and LeBron James have graced the court.

Beyond the fame, the real legacy of Rucker Park is in the scholarships, the mentorship, and the opportunities of upward mobility it has created for Harlem's youth.

The bill we are considering tonight will grant Federal recognition to Holcombe Rucker Park, helping to preserve this sacred space for future generations.

It ensures that Rucker's commitment to academic excellence, mentorship, and community empowerment is enshrined in our Nation's history. The recognition will highlight its historical significance and ensure its legacy is preserved.

In closing, let me emphasize that this bill isn't just about a historical basketball court. It is about honoring a man who used basketball as a tool for social change, for empowering young people, and for building a brighter future for his community. It is about continuing the legacy of resilience and empowerment that Holcombe Rucker started decades ago.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 6852. Let's honor the history, the culture, and the transformative impact of Holcombe Rucker Park.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to thank Representative ESPAILLAT for his work on this bill, which honors an important landmark without adding to the Federal estate or using taxpayer resources.

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 Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6852, 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.

#### CONTINUED RAPID OHIA DEATH RESPONSE ACT OF 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1726) to require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1726

*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 "Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act of 2023".*

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

*In this Act:*

(1) **RAPID OHIA DEATH.**—The term "Rapid Ohia Death" means the disease caused by the fungal pathogen known as *Ceratocystis fimbriata* that affects the tree of the species *Metrosideros polymorpha*.

(2) **STATE.**—The term "State" means the State of Hawaii.

#### SEC. 3. COLLABORATION.

*The Secretary of the Interior shall partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State to address Rapid Ohia Death.*

#### SEC. 4. SUSTAINED EFFORTS.

(a) **TRANSMISSION.**—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey, and the Chief of the Forest Service, acting through the Forest Service Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, shall con-

*tinue to conduct research on Rapid Ohia Death vectors and transmission.*

(b) **UNGULATE MANAGEMENT.**—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall continue to partner with the Secretary of Agriculture, the State, and with local stakeholders to manage ungulates in Rapid Ohia Death control areas on Federal, State, and private land, with the consent of private landowners.

(c) **RESTORATION AND RESEARCH.**—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall continue to provide—

(1) financial assistance, including through agreements with the Secretary of the Interior—

(A) to prevent the spread of Rapid Ohia Death; and

(B) to restore the native forests of the State; and

(2) staff and necessary infrastructure funding to the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry to conduct research on Rapid Ohia Death.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ) 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 which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1726, 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, Representative TOKUDA's legislation, the Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act, directs the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address rapid ohia death.

Rapid ohia death is a fungal disease that has devastated Hawaii's ohia tree population. The ohia tree is important ecologically and culturally to Hawaii. Ohias regulate water flow and help prevent soil erosion. The continued loss of ohia trees can have significant economic impacts, including the loss of tourism revenue and increased water treatment and erosion control cost. Unfortunately, there is currently no cure that can help the affected trees.

H.R. 1726 would help address rapid ohia death by focusing Federal and State agencies' efforts on detection, prevention, and restoration efforts for combating this disease.

I recognize Representative TOKUDA for her work on this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, September 15, 2023.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,  
Washington, DC,

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 1726, the "Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act of 2023". Thank you for collabora-

rating with the Committee on Agriculture on the matters within our jurisdiction.

The Committee on Agriculture will forego any further consideration of this bill. However, by foregoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over any subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. The Committee on Agriculture also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees should it become necessary and ask that you support such a request.

We would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 1726 and request a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,  
GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,  
Washington, DC, September 18, 2023.

Hon. GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,  
Washington, DC,

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write regarding H.R. 1726, the "Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act of 2023," which was ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on June 21, 2023.

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture and appreciate your willingness to forgo any further consideration of the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Agriculture will not formally consider H.R. 1726 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 Agriculture 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. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,  
BRUCE WESTERMAN,  
Chairman,  
Committee on Natural Resources.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1726, the Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act of 2023, introduced by my colleague from Hawaii, Representative JILL TOKUDA.

This vital legislation addresses the urgent need to combat rapid ohia death, or ROD, which has already led to the loss of over 1 million native ohia lehua trees in Hawaii since its discovery in 2014.

The significance of these trees cannot be overstated. They are Hawaii's most abundant native trees and play a crucial role in preserving the State's unique biodiversity and protecting its ecosystems.

It is essential that we take immediate action to prevent further devastation and ensure the survival of this iconic species.

This bill emphasizes the need for research and aid to enhance our understanding of this deadly fungus and explore innovative solutions to combat its impact.

Furthermore, the bill fosters collaboration between Federal agencies, the State of Hawaii, and local stakeholders.