

173 acres of land into trust for the Jamul Indian Village for the benefit of the Tribe.

I again thank Mr. ISSA for his hard work on behalf of his constituents. I urge 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, S. 3857.

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.

REVERSIONARY INTEREST CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8946) to convey the reversionary interest of the United States in certain land in Sacramento, California.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8946

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 "Reversionary Interest Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF UNITED STATES INTEREST IN CERTAIN LAND.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED LAND.—The term "covered land" means the approximately 8.43 acres of land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management in Sacramento, California, as generally depicted as "Proposed Easements to be Released" on the map titled "Lands Proposed for Release from Any and All Reversionary Interests of the United States, including interests under the Act of July 1, 1862 (12 Stat. 489)", dated November 7, 2022.

(2) BUYER.—(A) The term "buyer" means the owner of record of any of the parcels included in the covered land at the time of the requested conveyance.

(B) Buyer may only request and purchase the covered land's reversionary interest for the parcels of which the owner is the owner of record at the time of request.

(3) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—The term "reversionary interest" means all reversionary interests of the United States in the covered land.

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

(b) CONVEYANCE.—Not later than two years after the Secretary receives a request from the buyer, the Secretary shall offer to the buyer the applicable reversionary interest subject to the requirements in subsection (c), and shall convey the lands to buyer upon payment of the appraised value.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—Any conveyance under this section—

(1) shall be subject to valid existing rights; and

(2) shall be for not less than fair market value.

(d) PAYMENT OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The Secretary shall determine the fair market value of the applicable reversionary interest—

(1) in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(2) based on an appraisal that is conducted in accordance with—

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

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(e) COSTS.—In addition to the fair market value determined under subsection (d), the buyer shall pay all costs related to the applicable conveyance of the reversionary interest, including all surveys, appraisals, and other administrative costs.

(f) PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF LAND.—The proceeds from the sale of the applicable reversionary interest shall be—

(1) deposited in the Federal Land Disposal Account established by section 206(a) of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C. 2305(a)); and

(2) used in accordance with that Act.

SEC. 3. STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall—

(1) diminish the right-of-way associated with the covered land in section 2 to a width of less than 50 feet on each side of the center of the main track or tracks established and maintained by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company on the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) validate or confirm any right or title to, or interest in the land referred to in section 2 arising out of adverse possession, prescription, or abandonment, and not confirmed by conveyance made by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company before the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) 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. 8956, 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 MATSUI's bill, H.R. 8956, the Reversionary Interest Conveyance Act.

This bill will resolve a stubborn property law issue that has long afflicted a small parcel of land in California.

The private owners of an 8-acre property in Sacramento recently discovered a reversionary interest on their land, which was originally conveyed by a railroad company. The interest, which dates back to the days of the transcontinental railroad, technically requires the land to revert to the United States since it is no longer used for railroad purposes. With their land encumbered, the owners of this property

are limited in their ability to develop or sell the land.

The Bureau of Land Management, which would receive the property through the reversion, does not want to manage the land in question. Since the agency can't extinguish the reversionary interest unilaterally, the BLM has encouraged Congress to pursue a legislative solution.

H.R. 8946 would resolve this conflict by requiring the Bureau of Land Management to convey the reversionary interest to the private landowners for fair market value. In so doing, this bill will free up the land for economic development and prevent further Federal interference.

That is a good governance bill that supports a local community, encourages economic development, and reduces the burden on the Federal Government. I applaud Representative MATSUI for advancing this solution on behalf of her constituents.

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

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

I rise in support of the Reversionary Interest Conveyance Act, introduced by my colleague from the Sacramento area in California, Representative MATSUI.

Her bill would allow for the conveyance of certain Federal Government claims associated with approximately 8.43 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Sacramento.

It is currently encumbered by what is known as a reversionary interest, in this case dating back to the 19th century.

The original conveyance of the land from the Federal Government stipulated that it must be used for specific stated purposes or ownership would revert back to the United States.

Lands with reversionary interests like these have what is called a clouded title, which limits allowable uses and development.

In this case, the reversionary interests originate from the initial conveyance that provided public land for railroad purposes in the 19th century, but the land changed hands over the years, eventually without knowledge of this requirement.

The bill aims to clear up the land ownership issue by resolving the Federal Government's ownership claims on these parcels. Under the sale authorized by the bill, landowners would be given the opportunity to purchase the reversionary interests from the government so that they can pursue development or future conveyances of the land.

Importantly, this bill has standard conveyance language, including a requirement to sell the interest at fair market value, and the authorized conveyance is supported by the Department of the Interior.

This is a win-win for the government and the community in Sacramento. Mr.

Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this 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 reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), the author of this bill.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 8946, the Reversionary Interest Conveyance Act.

This bill provides a technical correction that will help unlock the innovative potential of Sacramento. It provides the BLM with the clear authority to convey 8½ acres of former railroad right-of-way in Sacramento.

This will allow the city of Sacramento, Sacramento State University, and their partners to continue moving forward on the Sacramento Center for Innovation, a research park that will allow Sacramento to retain and grow the level of talent the region needs to attract investment and business.

We support our innovators, our educators, and our businesses because we know that these economic drivers don't just support job and community growth today, they sustain them for generations. Because of this, I really support this bill. It is something that is very, very needed.

I thank the chair and ranking member for their support of this bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is a great bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is straightforward legislation that will extricate property owners and the Federal Government from a legal quagmire. I support this bill and note that it passed out of the Committee on Natural Resources by unanimous consent.

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. 8946.

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.

SARATOGA NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8931) to redesignate Saratoga National Historical Park as Saratoga National Battlefield Park.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8931

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

SECTION 1. SARATOGA NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—Saratoga National Historical Park shall hereafter be known and designated as "Saratoga National Battlefield Park".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to Saratoga National Historical Park shall be deemed to be a reference to Saratoga National Battlefield Park.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) 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. 8931, 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 Representative STEFANIK's bill, H.R. 8931, which will redesignate the Saratoga National Historic Park as the Saratoga National Battlefield Park.

On September 19, 1777, General Horatio Gates led the Continental Army troops against the British Empire in present-day Saratoga County, New York. In the ensuing Battles of Saratoga, American colonists would rout a British invasion force and create a turning point in the Revolutionary War.

Today, the site of these battles is conserved in the 3,400-acre Saratoga National Historical Park, a unit of the National Park System.

There, visitors can explore trails and tour routes to experience the historic battlefield, which includes landmarks, fortifications, and other important structures. The park also hosts artifacts, exhibits, historical reenactments, and guided tours.

While the current site was originally named "Saratoga Battlefield Park" by New York State, the "battlefield" nomenclature was dropped in 1938 when the area became part of the National Park System.

With the battles' upcoming 250th anniversary, however, residents of Saratoga County and New York State have called for renaming the park to clarify its place in the heroic struggle of American independence.

Accordingly, Representative STEFANIK's legislation would redesignate the site as the "Saratoga National Battlefield Park," thus identifying its importance as a historical battlefield

and emphasizing the sacrifices of soldiers who fought there.

I thank Representative STEFANIK for her leadership on this issue and for working tirelessly this Congress on behalf of her constituents. We will all miss Representative STEFANIK next Congress, but in the meantime, I am pleased to be working with her in advancing this important legislation through the House.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 8931. It is unclear to me why when this park changed from being a State park to part of the National Park Service the word "battlefield" was dropped, but, obviously, the Battles of Saratoga are a very important part of history. This is where American Revolutionary forces won decisive victory in 1777.

The change proposed in this legislation is appropriate, I support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK), the lead sponsor of the bill.

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Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair and ranking member.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bipartisan legislation, the Strengthening America's Turning Point Act.

I am always so proud to share with my colleagues in Congress and the American people that upstate New York and the North Country are known as the cradle of the American Revolution, home to numerous battlefields and historic sites that were critical in shaping our Nation's founding and history.

I grew up going to these historic sites like generations of upstaters and, for years, I have been proud to lead the charge in their preservation in Congress. Preserving and championing our battlefields and historic areas is one of my greatest privileges as the Representative of New York's 21st District and co-chair of the Congressional Battlefield Caucus.

The Battles of Saratoga were the most significant turning point and one of the most decisive American battles of the American Revolution. The American defeat of British forces at Saratoga marked a changing of the tide in the Revolutionary War, securing foreign support from France and bolstering domestic support for the American patriots and our righteous cause.

This bipartisan legislation would rename Saratoga National Historical Park to Saratoga National Battlefield Park to more accurately reflect the historical significance of the site and emphasize the crucial military engagements that took place there.

The historic site was originally named the Saratoga Battlefield Park.