1,000 cubic feet per second State certified water right. Such support shall be contingent upon demonstration by the United States that no injury to water rights shall occur as a result of the addition.

(4) Nothing in the agreement shall affect jurisdiction by the State or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service over wildlife resources management, including fishing, hunting and trapping, within the Refuge.

(5) If the State elects to bring suit against the United States challenging the validity of the deed issued pursuant to the agreement, and if such suit is successful in invalidating such deed, the State will—

(A) pay the United States for the fair market value of all real property improvements on the property at the time of invalidation, such as dikes, water control structures and buildings;

(B) repay any amounts paid by the United States because of ownership of the land by the United States from the date of establishment of the Refuge, such as payments in lieu of taxes; and

(C) repay any amounts paid to the State pursuant to the agreement.

(6) Subject to the availability of funds for this purpose, the Secretary shall agree to pay $15,000,000 to the State upon delivery by the State of a quitclaim deed that meets all applicable standards of the Department of Justice and covers all lands and interests in lands claimed by the State within the Refuge. Such payment shall be subject to the condition that the State use the payment for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in subsections (b) and (c).

(b) WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION PROGRAMS.—

(1) DEPOSIT.—The State shall deposit $10,000,000 of the amount paid pursuant to the agreement, as required by subsection (a)(6), in a restricted account, known as the Wetlands and Habitat Protection Account, to be used as provided in paragraph (2).

(2) AUTHORIZED USES.—The Executive Director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources may withdraw from the Wetlands and Habitat Protection Account, on an annual basis, amounts equal to the interest earned on the amount deposited under paragraph (1) for the following purposes:

(A) Wetland or open space protection in and near the Great Salt Lake.

(B) Enhancement and acquisition of wildlife habitat in and near the Great Salt Lake.

(c) RECREATIONAL TRAILS AND STREAMS DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION.—The Utah Department of Natural Resources shall use $5,000,000 of the amount paid pursuant to the agreement, as required by subsection (a)(6), for the following purposes:

(1) Development, improvement, and expansion of motorized and non-motorized recreational trails on public and private lands in the State, with priority given to providing trail access to the Great Salt Lake as part of the proposed Shoshone and Ogden-Weber trail systems.

(2) Preservation, reclamation, enhancement, and conservation of streams in the State.

(d) COORDINATION OF PROJECTS.—The Executive Director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources shall seek to maximize the use of funds under subsections (b) and (c) through coordination with nonprofit organizations, Federal agencies, other agencies of the State, and local governments, and shall give priority to those projects under such subsections that include Federal, State, or private matching funds.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $15,000,000 for the payment required by subsection (a)(6) to be included as a term of the agreement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

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

H.R. 3958 provides a mechanism for the settlement of claims between the U.S. Department of Interior and the State of Utah regarding portions of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge located on the north shore of the Great Salt Lake and authorizes a reimbursement to the State of $15 million for the lands, oil, gas and mineral rights within the refuge.

The Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge was created in 1928 by Congress. Today, the refuge consists of 74,000 acres. Of these acres, the State of Utah claims 18,000 acres below the meander line of the Great Salt Lake as State sovereign lands. For nearly 75 years, the State and Federal governments have disputed the ownership of these lands. A 1976 Supreme Court decision, Utah v. United States, quieted title to the bed of the Great Salt Lake up to and including the surveyed meander line, excepting the refuge from the decision.

On September 28, 2001, negotiations between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State resulted in a settlement agreement to be signed by the Secretary and by the Governor of the State. The settlement agreement is conditional upon congressional authorization and appropriation of required funds as well as State legislative approval. The 2002 Utah legislature approved the necessary measures. H.R. 3958 fulfills congressional action necessary for the Secretary of Interior to sign the final agreement.

To assure that reimbursement moneys from the settlement are used to benefit wildlife, this bill requires the State to place two-thirds of the funds in a permanent interest-bearing account to fund wetland and wildlife habitat projects in the State of Utah in perpetuity. The remaining one-third of the funds will be used for trail and stream enhancement. In return, the State will drop its claim to the disputed portion of the refuge. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3958.

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

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

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3958 would provide the framework for a quitclaim settlement between the Federal Government and the State of Utah concerning lands and other interests at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. This legislation is necessary to enable the Secretary of the Interior to sign the final agreement negotiated between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State regarding a 75-year-old dispute concerning ownership to the beds and waters of the Great Salt Lake within the refuge. This legislation would not codify the agreement. Rather, H.R. 3958 would simply specify the required terms of the settlement.

Additionally, H.R. 3958 would authorize $15 million subject to the availability of appropriations as reimbursement to the State to quiet title to the lands, oil, gas and mineral rights within the refuge. In exchange, the State will drop its claim to the 18,000 acres within the refuge that are subject to the dispute and receive valuable funding to support habitat conservation and outdoor recreation activities benefiting both the refuge and the State lands and waters.

Mr. Speaker, the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge is one of the oldest and most popular refuges within the entire National Wildlife Refuge System. This legislation should enhance future Federal management authority at the refuge. I commend Chairman HANSEN for bringing this bill before the House today. We are pleased to support it.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3958, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. HANSEN. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN PROTECTION ACT OF 2001

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3480) to promote Department of the Interior efforts to provide a scientific basis for the management of sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3480

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Upper Mississippi River Basin Protection Act of 2001''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.
Sec. 3. Reliance on sound science.

TITLE I—SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENT MONITORING NETWORK

Sec. 101. Establishment of monitoring network.

Sec. 102. Data collection and storage responsibilities.
Sec. 103. Relationship to existing sediment and nutrient monitoring.
Sec. 104. Collaboration with other public and private monitoring efforts.
Sec. 105. Cost share requirements.
Sec. 106. Reporting requirements.
Sec. 107. National Research Council assessment.
TITLE II—COMPUTER MODELING AND RESEARCH
Sec. 201. Computer modeling and research of sediment and nutrient sources.
Sec. 202. Use of electronic means to distribute information.
Sec. 203. Reporting requirements.
TITLE III—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS
Sec. 301. Authorization of appropriations.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) The terms ''Upper Mississippi River Basin'' and ''Basin'' mean the watershed portion of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois River basins, from Cairo, Illinois, to the headwaters of the Mississippi River, in the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. The designation includes the Kaskaskia watershed along the Illinois River and the Meramec watershed along the Missouri River.

(2) The terms ''Upper Mississippi River Stewardship Initiative'' and ''Initiative'' mean the activities authorized or required by this Act to monitor nutrient and sediment loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

(3) The term ''sound science'' means a scientific method that uses the best available technical and scientific information and techniques to identify and understand natural resource management needs and appropriate treatments, to implement conservation measures, and to assess the results of treatments on natural resource health and sustainability in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

SEC. 3. RELIANCE ON SOUND SCIENCE.

It is the policy of Congress that Federal investments in the Upper Mississippi River Basin must be guided by sound science.

TITLE I—SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENT MONITORING NETWORK

SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF MONITORING NETWORK.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—As part of the Upper Mississippi River Stewardship Initiative, the Secretary of the Interior shall establish a sediment and nutrient monitoring network for the Upper Mississippi River Basin for the purposes of—

(1) identifying and evaluating significant sources of sediment and nutrients in the Upper Mississippi River Basin;

(2) quantifying the processes affecting mobilization, transport, and fate of those sediments and nutrients on land and in water;

(3) quantifying the transport of those sediments and nutrients to and through the Upper Mississippi River Basin;

(4) recording changes to sediment and nutrient loss over time;

(5) providing coordinated data to be used in computer modeling of the Basin, pursuant to section 201; and

(6) identifying major sources of sediment and nutrients within the Basin for the purpose of targeting resources to reduce sediment and nutrient loss.

(b) ROLE OF UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall carry out this title acting through the office of the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

(c) HEADQUARTERS.—Sediment and nutrient monitoring information shall be headquartered at the Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

SEC. 102. DATA COLLECTION AND STORAGE RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) GUIDELINES FOR DATA COLLECTION AND STORAGE.—The Secretary of the Interior shall establish guidelines for the effective design of data collection activities regarding sediment and nutrient monitoring, for the use of suitable and consistent methods for data collection, and for consistent reporting, data storage, and archiving practices.

(b) RELEASE OF DATA.—Data resulting from sediment and nutrient monitoring in the Upper Mississippi River Basin shall be released to the public using generic station identifiers and hydrologic unit codes. In the case of a monitoring station located on private lands, information regarding the location of the station shall not be disseminated without the landowner's permission.

(c) PROTECTION OF PRIVACY.—Data resulting from sediment and nutrient monitoring in the Upper Mississippi River Basin is not subject to the mandatory disclosure provisions of section 552 of title V, United States Code, but may be released only as provided in subsection (b).

SEC. 103. RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENT MONITORING.

(a) INVENTORY.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary of the Interior shall inventory the sediment and nutrient monitoring efforts, in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act, of Federal, State, local, and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of creating a baseline understanding of overlap, data gaps and redundancies.

(b) INTEGRATION.—On the basis of the inventory, the Secretary of the Interior shall integrate the existing sediment and nutrient monitoring efforts, to the maximum extent practicable, into the sediment and nutrient monitoring network required by section 101.

(c) CONSULTATION AND USE OF EXISTING DATA.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall make maximum use of data in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act and of ongoing programs and efforts of Federal, State, tribal, local, and nongovernmental entities in developing the sediment and nutrient monitoring network required by section 101.

(d) COORDINATION WITH LOWER ESTUARY ASSESSMENT GROUP.—The Secretary of the Interior shall carry out this section in coordination with the Lower Estuary Assessment Group, as authorized by section 902 of the Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–457; 33 U.S.C. 2901 note).

SEC. 104. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MONITORING EFFORTS.

To establish the sediment and nutrient monitoring network, the Secretary of the Interior shall collaborate, to the maximum extent practicable, with other Federal, State, tribal, local and private sediment and nutrient monitoring programs that meet guidelines prescribed under section 102(a), as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 105. COST SHARE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REQUIRED COST SHARING.—The non-Federal sponsors of the sediment and nutrient monitoring network shall be responsible for not less than 25 percent of the costs of maintaining the network.

(b) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—Up to 80 percent of the non-Federal share may be provided through in-kind contributions.

(c) TREATMENT OF EXISTING EFFORTS.—A State or local monitoring effort, in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act, that the Secretary of the Interior finds adheres to the guidelines prescribed under section 102(a) shall be deemed to satisfy the cost share requirements of this section.

SEC. 106. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

The Secretary of the Interior shall report to Congress not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act on the development of the sediment and nutrient monitoring network.

SEC. 107. NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL ASSESSMENT.

The National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences shall conduct a comprehensive water resources assessment of the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

TITLE II—COMPUTER MODELING AND RESEARCH

SEC. 201. COMPUTER MODELING AND RESEARCH OF SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENT SOURCES.

(a) MODELING PROGRAM REQUIRED.—As part of the Upper Mississippi River Stewardship Initiative, the Director of the United States Geological Survey shall establish a modeling program to identify significant sources of sediment and nutrients in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

(b) ROLE.—Computer modeling shall be used to identify subwatersheds which are significant sources of sediment and nutrient loss and shall be made available for the purposes of targeting public and private sediment and nutrient reduction efforts.

(c) COMPONENTS.—Sediment and nutrient models for the Upper Mississippi River Basin shall include the following:

(1) Models to relate nutrient loss to landscape, land use, and land management practices.

(2) Models to relate sediment loss to landscape, land use, and land management practices.

(3) Models to define river channel nutrient transformation processes.

(d) COLLECTION OF ANCILLARY INFORMATION.—Ancillary information shall be collected in a GIS format to support modeling and management use of modeling results, including the following:

(1) Land use data.

(2) Soils data.

(3) Elevation data.

(4) Information on sediment and nutrient reduction improvement actions.

(5) Remotely sense data.

(e) HEADQUARTERS.—Information developed by computer modeling shall be headquartered at the Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

SEC. 202. USE OF ELECTRONIC MEANS TO DISTRIBUTEINFORMATION.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the United States Geological Survey shall establish a system that uses the telecommunications medium known as the Internet to provide information regarding the following:

(1) Public and private programs designed to reduce sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

(2) Information on sediment and nutrient levels in the Upper Mississippi River and its tributaries.

(3) Successful sediment and nutrient reduction projects.

SEC. 203. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) MONITORING ACTIVITIES.—Commencing one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the United States Geological Survey shall provide to Congress and make available to the public an annual report regarding monitoring activities conducted in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

(b) MODELING ACTIVITIES.—Every three years, the Director of the United States Geological Survey shall provide to Congress and make available to the public a progress report regarding modeling activities.

TITLE III—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 301. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior $6,250,000 each fiscal year to carry out this Act.

(b) WATER RESOURCE AND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT.—There is authorized to be appropriated $650,000 to allow the National Research Council to perform the assessment required by section 107.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

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

H.R. 3480, the Upper Mississippi River Basin Protection Act of 2001, provides for the Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey to supplement, coordinate and manage data collection on sediments and nutrients in the Upper Mississippi River Basin and use the data to perform computer modeling to provide the baseline data and modeling tools needed to make scientifically sound and cost-effective river management decisions. The legislation includes a provision requiring landowner permission prior to disseminating information from monitoring stations located on private lands to protect the privacy of individual landowners. Finally, it provides for the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive water resources assessment of the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

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

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

(Mr. KIND asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, this legislation offered today is meant to better preserve and protect one of the great national treasures that exist in this country, the Mississippi River Basin. I would like to thank, first of all, Chairman HANSEN of our committee and Chairman CALVERT of the subcommittee and their staffs for the assistance and the cooperation we received in putting this legislation together. I also want to thank Ranking Member RAHALL and also Ranking Member SMITH of the subcommittee and their staff for all the help and assistance that we have received.

This is simple legislation, Mr. Speaker. The intent of it is to authorize the U.S. Geological Survey to be able to put together the science and implement the science so we can better track and monitor the nutrients and sediments that flow into the Upper Mississippi River Basin. It would develop for the first time a public-private approach and coordination in order to develop a comprehensive monitoring and a state-of-the-art computer modeling program in order to track the sediment and nutrient flows into the river basin.

This legislation has been near and dear to my heart, Mr. Speaker. As a young boy growing up in western Wisconsin, I spent an inordinate amount of my time growing up on the Mississippi River. I guess you could refer to me as the ''Tom Sawyer'' of the United States Congress, but since we already have a TOM SAWYER from Ohio I guess I will just accept the label of Huck Finn. Huck was probably more colorful, anyway. But as a young kid growing up, I spent a lot of my time on the Mississippi enjoying the recreational activities, the swimming, the fishing, the hunting, but I still remember those days during the sixties and during the seventies when I would go down to my favorite swimming beaches and find that they were closed because of high bacteria count, or going down to my favorite fishing holes and finding notices that were posted around these popular fishing areas warning the fishermen not to eat the fish that they were catching because of the contamination and the effect on the quality of the fish supplies. I knew even then as a young boy that something was not quite right.

Since those days, a lot of progress has been made in regards to the health, viability and sustainability of the river basin. There is still much work that needs to be done. If you talk to the experts in the river system both in the north and the southern part, the one thing that has really been lacking or missing is a comprehensive scientific program so we can collect the baseline data at sub-basin level in order to understand more the effects of the sediment and nutrient flows going into this valuable ecosystem.

Why is this important? It is important on a number of fronts, not least of which is economic. This is a multiple-use river system, from commercial navigation to tourist activity to recreation activity. It has been in the past with the lock and dam system; it is today and it will continue to be so in the future. But there also is the need for balance and balanced use in regards to the river basin. There is a $1.2 billion recreation impact in the Upper Mississippi States alone and a $6.6 billion tourism impact. In fact, we have more visitors every year to the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge than they do in the Yellowstone National Park System. It is also the primary drinking supply source for over 22 million Americans. It is North America's largest migratory route, with over 40 percent of the waterfowl species using the river basin as its main corridor during its migratory pattern every year. It also provides us, as this picture demonstrates, the fertile farmland which makes the Midwest the breadbasket of the United States and the rest of the world.

But there are also some challenges with the system. Because of the sediment flows flowing into the river, it is costing us roughly $100 million every year just to maintain a 9-foot navigable channel with the dredging costs in order to keep the commercial navigation flowing along the river system. Our farmers are losing valuable topsoil. In fact, they are losing $300 million worth of applied nitrogen every year that ultimately flows into the rivers and streams and affects the ecosystem adversely.

This litigation has received wide bipartisan support, from the original cosponsors when I introduced the legislation to a variety of experts in the Upper Mississippi States. It is consistent with the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force that was formed over the last few years, studying the nutrient problems that are affecting especially the Gulf of Mexico and the dead zone that is being created there. The Upper Mississippi, although it supplies 22 percent of the water that ultimately flows into the Gulf of Mexico, nevertheless it is the source of 32 percent of the nutrients that are flowing into the Gulf of Mexico, and it is consistent with the recommendations that they are making for a public and private coordinated approach with Federal, State, local agencies, private entities and tribes to do a better job of collaborating and to standardize the data that is now being collected.

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At one point during the research of this legislation, I discovered there were 77 different private entities that were doing some form of water quality testing, but there was very little sharing of information because the data was not standardized. This legislation will address that problem.

But it also addresses a very important privacy protection concern that some groups that we worked with raised, and I feel the language that we have in here with regard to the protection of sharing personal data of private landowners meets the test that a lot of these groups were raising.

It is also consistent with what a number of States have talked about that is needed in regards to the River Basin and its protection. In fact, a number of States have also weighed in on the need to increase monitoring and modeling efforts throughout the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

In October of 2001, in a letter to a Bush administration official, six Governors of the States bordering the Mississippi wrote that, ''A monitoring effort conducted jointly by the U.S. Geological Survey and the States is required within the Basin to determine the water quality effects of the actions taken and to measure the success of efforts on a sub-basin and project level.''

H.R. 3480 does exactly what the Governors of those States were recommending, bringing in a variety of groups in order to have a more comprehensive monitoring and computer

modeling system so that the science will be able to demonstrate where the hot spots exist, where the problem areas are, so we are in a better position then of making policy choices of how better to direct the limited resources to get the optimal effect of the investment in land stewardship through , voluntary and incentive-based land conservation programs, and the benefit that is going to bring to the entire river basin area.

My district, Mr. Speaker, has more miles that border the Mississippi River than any other congressional district in the Nation, and therefore I felt a certain personal responsibility to keep an eye on the river and to promote good policy and legislation that will enhance the long-term sustainability of this great natural resource.

It is one of the reasons I was motivated to help form a bipartisan Mississippi River Task Force so that we can start working more effectively together between the upper Mississippi region and the southern Mississippi River region on issues of common ground and to better educate ourselves in regard to the different uses of this valuable river system.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I do want to thank a few individuals who have been very helpful in support of this legislation. I want to, of course, thank the original cosponsors of this legislation, including the other cochairs of the Upper Mississippi River Task Force, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT), the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO).

I also want to thank the congressional cochairs of the entire Mississippi River Caucus, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. HULSHOF) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BOSWELL) for their support and their staff's support for this legislation.

In addition, I want to thank Ms. Holly Stoerker of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association, Mr. Doug Daigle of the Mississippi River Basin Alliance, Dr. Jerry Schnoor of the University of Iowa, and Dr. Barry Drazkowski and the administration and staff at St. Mary's University in Minnesota for a lot of the ideas that are contained within this legislation. Their expertise and testimony during the hearings that we have had on this legislation was essential in crafting the bipartisan approach that this legislation takes.

Also greatly appreciated is the tireless work of a few individuals in my office, former Sea Grant fellow Allen Hance, who is now with the Northeast Midwest Institute, along with other Sea Grant fellows, Laura Cimo, Jeff Stein and Ed Buckner, who have worked in my office, worked specifically on this legislation dealing with a lot of the shareholders and groups interested in this legislation, as well as other issues affecting the Mississippi River Basin area.

I also want to thank a couple permanent members on my staff, Ben Proctor, who is with us on the floor today, and also Brad Pfaff, who has carried a lot of the weight with this legislation during the period of time we have been working on it. Their help has been greatly appreciated.

H.R. 3480 represents a commonsense move toward building the scientific foundation necessary to remedy nutrient and sediment problems throughout the Mississippi River Basin. I believe this is a needed, cost-effective step in preserving the Upper Mississippi River and its multiple-use heritage for future generations, and I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3480, the Upper Mississippi River Basin Protection Act.

For quite some time there have been several federal, state, and local programs designed to address the problem of sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin, but there has been little coordination between them. This bill will provide this much needed coordination and enable a more comprehensive approach to addressing this problem.

In Wisconsin, and particularly in my district, agriculture is a vital industry. The soil erosion suffered by farmers in the area reduces and threatens the long-term sustainability and income of my state's family farms.

Furthermore, the cost of dredging the sediment fills in the river's main shipping channel costs over $100 million each year. These fills also threaten the region's $1.2 billion recreation and $6.6 billion tourism industries.

While the Upper Mississippi River Basin contributes 22 percent of the water flowing into the Lower Mississippi, it contributes 31 percent of the nitrogen, threatening the water quality of that part of the river.

By designating the U.S. Geological Survey as the lead agency, this bill will provide the much needed coordination, monitoring, and scientific data collection to implement informed and effective conservation decisions for the river basin. I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, as a cochair of the Upper Mississippi River Task Force, I am proud that the House is considering the Upper Mississippi River Basin Protection Act today.

This bill is good for farmers, and it is good for the environment.

Every year, farmers collectively lose more than $300 million in applied nitrogen due to erosion. Not only does this hurt the Mississippi River ecosystem—it hurts farmers' checkbooks.

Soil erosion also causes sedimentation problems on the river. Dredging costs due to increased sedimentation run over $100 million each year, and removing the sediment is integral to keeping the river a viable transportation mechanism. Sediments also fill critical wetland areas in the Mississippi River basin, threatening the plants and wildlife.

Currently there is insufficient data on the amounts and sources of sediments and nutrients in the upper Mississippi River basin. Local, state, and federal water quality monitoring and modeling efforts are not coordinated or standardized. This legislation will develop a coordinated public-private approach to reducing nutrient and sediment losses in the upper Mississippi River basin, and will establish a water quality monitoring network and an integral computer modeling program.

This bill will provide the baseline data needed to make scientifically sound and cost-effective decisions that will benefit all who depend on the health of the upper Mississippi River basin for transportation, recreation, or whatever their needs may be.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3480.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3848, H.R. 2937, H.R. 3958 and H.R. 3480.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

CONGRATULATING PEOPLE OF UTAH, SALT LAKE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AND ATHLETES OF WORLD FOR SUCCESSFUL AND INSPIRING 2002 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 363) congratulating the people of Utah, the Salt Lake Organizing Committee and the athletes of the world for a successful and inspiring 2002 Olympic Winter Games, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 363

Whereas the State of Utah hosted the world during the largest and most successful Olympic Winter Games ever held;

Whereas the people of Utah opened their hearts and their homes to the athletes of the world and represented the Nation well to the world community;

Whereas the Salt Lake Organizing Committee, its president, Mitt Romney, and its chairman, Robert Garff did a spectacular job in staging a great Winter Olympics with class, dignity, and a proper focus on the athletic competition;