

and long-term water supply needs. Agricultural irrigators benefit because the risk of saltwater contamination is reduced. Without this natural barrier, an elevated water level in the aquifer, the water would eventually become contaminated to the point where it would not be suitable even for use on crops. Irrigators should see reduced costs associated with pumping, since the water levels of the aquifer will rise.

The Little Arkansas River and its ecosystem will also benefit. During the times of drought, a natural discharge from Equus Beds' aquifer into the river will occur, creating a more stable base flow.

Under S. 1025 the city of Wichita will be required to maintain and operate the recharge project, which ensures the Federal Government will not bear the cost associated with this ongoing operation.

Recharging the Equus Beds is the most cost-efficient means to provide water for the communities in south central Kansas. And it is the best option available to keep salt and oil field brine out of its critical water supply without greatly restricting water usage. So I urge my colleagues to join me today in supporting S. 1025.

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1025.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TYLERSVILLE FISH HATCHERY CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4957) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Tylersville division of the Lamar National Fish Hatchery and Fish Technology Center to the State of Pennsylvania, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4957

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

TITLE I—TYLERSVILLE FISH HATCHERY CONVEYANCE

SECTION 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Tylersville Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act".

SEC. 102. CONVEYANCE OF TYLERSVILLE NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY TO THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIREMENT.—Within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall con-

vey to the State of Pennsylvania without reimbursement all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in subsection (b) for use by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission as part of the State of Pennsylvania fish culture program.

(b) PROPERTY DESCRIBED.—The property referred to in subsection (a) consists of—

(1) the Tylersville division of the Lamar National Fish Hatchery and Fish Technology Center comprised of approximately 40 acres leased to the State of Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, located on 43 Hatchery Lane in Loganton, Pennsylvania, as described in the 1984 Cooperative Agreement between the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Pennsylvania;

(2) all improvements and related personal property under the control of the Secretary that is located on that property, including buildings, structures, equipment, and all easements and leases relating to that property; and

(3) all water rights relating to that property.

(c) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—If any of the property conveyed to the State of Pennsylvania under this section is used for any purpose other than the use authorized under subsection (a), all right, title, and interest in and to all property conveyed under this section shall revert to the United States. The State of Pennsylvania shall ensure that all property reverting to the United States under this subsection is in substantially the same or better condition as at the time of transfer to the State.

TITLE II—NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2006".

SEC. 202. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 10(a)(1) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3709(a)(1)) is amended by striking "fiscal years 2001 through 2005" and inserting "fiscal years 2006 through 2010".

SEC. 203. APPLICATION OF NOTICE REQUIREMENT LIMITED TO GRANTS MADE WITH FEDERAL FUNDS.

Section 4(i) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3703(i)) is amended by striking "grant of funds" and inserting "grant of Federal funds in an amount greater than \$10,000".

SEC. 204. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO USE FEDERAL FUNDS TO MATCH CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO RECIPIENTS OF NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION GRANTS.

Section 10(a)(3) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3709(a)(3)) is amended by inserting "or to a recipient of a grant provided by the Foundation," after "made to the Foundation".

TITLE III—NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act of 2006".

SEC. 302. AMENDMENTS TO NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 2(1) of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6101(1)) is amended by inserting "but breed in Canada and the United States" after "the Caribbean".

(b) PURPOSES.—Section 3(2) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 6102(2)) is amended by inserting "Canada," after "United States".

(c) DEFINITION OF CARIBBEAN.—Section 4 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 6103) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (5), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

"(2) CARIBBEAN.—The term 'Caribbean' includes Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands."; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3), as so redesignated, the following:

"(4) FUND.—The term 'Fund' means the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund established by section 9(a)."

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF PROJECTS TO ENHANCE CONSERVATION IN CANADA.—Section 5(c)(2) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 6104(c)(2)) is amended by inserting "Canada," after "the United States".

(e) COST SHARING.—Section 5(e)(2)(B) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 6104(e)(2)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

"(B) FORM OF PAYMENT.—

"(i) PROJECTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.—The non-Federal share required to be paid for a project carried out in the United States or Canada shall be paid in cash.

"(ii) PROJECTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.—The non-Federal share required to be paid for a project carried out in Latin America or the Caribbean may be paid in cash or in kind."

(f) ADVISORY GROUP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—Section 7(b)(1) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 6106(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following: "The advisory group as a whole shall have expertise in the methods and procedures set forth in section 4(2) in each country and region of the Western Hemisphere".

(2) ENCOURAGEMENT TO CONVENE.—The Secretary of the Interior is encouraged to convene an advisory group under section 7(b)(1) of such Act by not later than 6 months after the effective date of this Act. This paragraph shall not be considered to authorize delay of the schedule previously established by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the submission, judging, and awarding of grants.

(g) REPORT.—Section 8 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 6107) is amended by striking "October 1, 2002," and inserting "2 years after the date of the enactment of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act of 2006".

(h) NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 9 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 6108) is amended by striking so much as precedes subsection (c) and inserting the following:

"SEC. 9. NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION FUND.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury a separate account, which shall be known as the 'Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund'. The Fund shall consist of amounts deposited into the Fund by the Secretary of the Treasury under subsection (b).

"(b) DEPOSITS INTO THE FUND.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit into the Fund—

"(1) all amounts received by the Secretary in the form of donations under subsection (d); and

"(2) other amounts appropriated to the Fund."

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Section 9(c)(2) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 6108(c)(2)) is amended by striking "\$80,000" and inserting "\$100,000".

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such Act is amended further as follows:

(A) In section 4 (16 U.S.C. 6103), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) FUND.—The term 'Fund' means the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund established by section 9(a)."

(B) In section 9(d) (16 U.S.C. 6108(d)), by striking “Account” and inserting “Fund”.

(4) TRANSFER.—The Secretary of the Treasury may transfer to the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund amounts that were in the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Account immediately before the enactment of this Act.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 10 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 6109) is amended to read as follows:

(1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before the first sentence;

(2) by striking “\$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2005” and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010 the amount specified for that fiscal year in subsection (b)”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) AUTHORIZED AMOUNT.—The amount referred to in subsection (a) is—

“(1) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 and 2007;

“(2) \$5,500,000 for fiscal year 2008;

“(3) \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; and

“(4) \$6,500,000 for fiscal year 2010.

“(c) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated under this section may remain available until expended.

“(d) ALLOCATION.—Of amounts appropriated under this section for each fiscal year, not less than 75 percent shall be expended for projects carried out outside the United States.”.

TITLE IV—ED FOUNTAIN PARK EXPANSION ACT

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Ed Fountain Park Expansion Act”.

SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ADMINISTRATIVE SITE.—The term “administrative site” means the parcel of real property identified as “Lands to be Conveyed to the City of Las Vegas; approximately, 7.89 acres” on the map entitled “Ed Fountain Park Expansion” and dated November 1, 2005.

(2) CITY.—The term “City” means the city of Las Vegas, Nevada.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

SEC. 403. CONVEYANCE OF UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE SITE, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall convey to the City, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the administrative site for use by the City—

(1) as a park; or

(2) for any other recreation or nonprofit-related purpose.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (a), the Secretary shall require that the City pay the administrative costs of the conveyance, including survey costs and any other costs associated with the conveyance.

(c) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines that the City is not using the administrative site for a purpose described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a), all right, title, and interest of the City in and to the administrative site (including any improvements to the administrative site) shall revert, at the option of the Secretary, to the United States.

(2) HEARING.—Any determination of the Secretary with respect to a reversion under paragraph (1) shall be made—

(A) on the record; and

(B) after an opportunity for a hearing.

TITLE V—CAHABA RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE EXPANSION

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act”.

SEC. 502. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) REFUGE.—The term “Refuge” means the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge and the lands and waters in such refuge in Bibb County, Alabama, as established by the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge Establishment Act (Public Law 106-331).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 503. EXPANSION OF BOUNDARIES.

(a) EXPANSION.—The boundaries of the Refuge are expanded to include land and water in Bibb County, Alabama, depicted as “Proposed National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Boundary” on the map entitled “Cahaba River NWR Expansion” and dated March 14, 2006.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Secretary shall make the map referred to in subsection (a) available for inspection in appropriate offices of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

SEC. 504. ACQUISITION OF LAND AND WATER IN EXPANDED BOUNDARIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary may acquire by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange the land and water, and interests in land and water (including conservation easements), within the boundaries of the Refuge as expanded by this title.

(b) MANNER OF ACQUISITION.—All acquisitions of land or waters under this section shall be made in a voluntary manner and shall not be the result of forced takings.

(c) INCLUSION IN REFUGE; ADMINISTRATION.—Any land, water, or interest acquired by the Secretary under this section—

(1) shall be part of the Refuge; and

(2) shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with—

(A) the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.);

(B) the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge Establishment Act; and

(C) this Act.

TITLE VI—CHERRY VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge Study Act”.

SEC. 602. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The scenic Cherry Valley area of Northeastern Pennsylvania is blessed with more than 80 special-concern animal and plant species and natural habitats.

(2) In a preliminary assessment of Cherry Valley, United States Fish and Wildlife Service biologists ranked Cherry Valley very high as a potential national wildlife refuge.

(3) Six species that are listed as endangered species or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) have been documented within or near Cherry Valley: The bog turtle (possibly the most significant population of the listed subspecies), the dwarf wedge mussel, the northeastern bulrush, the small whorled pogonia, the bald eagle, and the Indiana bat (a historic resident, with efforts under way to re-establish favorable conditions).

(4) Cherry Valley provides habitat for at least 79 species of national or regional concern, which either nest in Cherry Valley or migrate through the area during critical times in their life cycle, including—

(A) neo-tropical migratory birds such as the Cerulean Warbler, the Worm-eating War-

bler, and the Wood Thrush, all of which nest in Cherry Valley;

(B) waterfowl such as the American Black Duck;

(C) several globally rare plants, such as the spreading globeflower; and

(D) anadromous fish species.

(5) The Cherry Valley watershed encompasses a large segment of the Kittatinny Ridge, an important migration route for birds of prey throughout the Northeastern United States. Every migratory raptor species in the Northeast is regularly observed along the Kittatinny Ridge during the autumnal migration, including the bald eagle, the golden eagle, and the broad-winged hawk.

(6) The Kittatinny Ridge also includes a long segment of the Appalachian Trail, a nationally significant natural-cultural-recreational feature.

(7) Many of the significant wildlife habitats found in the Cherry Valley, especially the rare calcareous wetlands, have disappeared from other localities in their range.

(8) Ongoing studies have documented the high water quality of Cherry Creek.

(9) Public meetings over several years have demonstrated strong, deep, and growing local support for a Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, as demonstrated by the following:

(A) Area landowners, business and community leaders, media, and elected officials have consistently voiced their enthusiasm for a Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

(B) Numerous local communities and public and private conservation entities share complementary goals for protecting Cherry Valley and are energetically conserving wildlife habitat and farmland. Along with State land-management agencies and the National Park Service, these local entities represent potential strong partners for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and view a Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge as a complement to existing private, county, municipal, and State efforts.

(C) A number of local landowners have already put their land into conservation easements or other conservation arrangements.

(D) A voter-approved Monroe County Open Space Fund and a voter-approved Stroud Township municipal land conservation fund have contributed to many of these projects.

(10) Two federally owned parcels of land are contiguous to the area to be studied under this title as for acquisition and inclusion in a future Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge: The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and a 700-acre segment of the Appalachian Trail owned by the National Park Service.

SEC. 603. STUDY OF REFUGE POTENTIAL AND FUTURE REFUGE LAND ACQUISITION.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary shall initiate within 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act a study to evaluate the fish and wildlife habitat and aquatic and terrestrial communities located in Northeastern Pennsylvania and identified on the map entitled, “Proposed Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge—Authorization Boundary”, dated February 24, 2005, for their potential acquisition by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service through donation, exchange, or willing seller purchase and subsequent inclusion in a future Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary, while conducting the study required under this section, shall consult appropriate State and local officials, private conservation organizations, major landowners and other interested persons, regarding the identification of eligible lands, waters, and interests therein that are appropriate for acquisition for a national wildlife refuge and the determination

of boundaries within which such acquisitions should be made.

(c) **COMPONENTS OF STUDY.**—As part of the study under this section the Secretary shall do the following:

(1) Determine if the fish and wildlife habitat and aquatic and terrestrial communities to be evaluated are suitable for inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge System and management under the policies of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.).

(2) Assess the conservation benefits to be gained from the establishment of a Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge including—

(A) preservation and maintenance of diverse populations of fish, wildlife, and plants, including species listed as threatened species or endangered species;

(B) protection and enhancement of aquatic and wetland habitats;

(C) opportunities for compatible wildlife-dependent recreation, scientific research, and environmental education and interpretation; and

(D) fulfillment of international obligations of the United States with respect to fish, wildlife, and their habitats.

(3) Provide an opportunity for public participation and give special consideration to views expressed by local public and private entities regarding lands, waters, and interests therein for potential future acquisition for refuge purposes.

(4) The total area of lands, water, and interests therein that may be acquired shall not in the aggregate exceed 30,000 acres.

(d) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall, within 12 months after date of the enactment of this Act, complete the study required by this section and submit a report containing the results thereof to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate. The report shall include—

(1) a map that identifies and prioritizes specific lands, waters, and interests therein for future acquisition, and that delineates an acquisition boundary, for a potential Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge;

(2) a cost estimate for the acquisition of all lands, waters, and interests therein that are appropriate for refuge status; and

(3) an estimate of potentially available acquisition and management funds from non-Federal sources.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$200,000 to carry out the study.

SEC. 604. DEFINITIONS.

In this title the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

TITLE VII—GREAT APE CONSERVATION

SEC. 701. GREAT APE CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.

Section 4 of the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6303) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (4)(C), by striking “or” after the semicolon at the end;

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) address root causes of threats to great apes in range states, including illegal bushmeat trade, diseases, lack of regional or local capacity for conservation, and habitat loss due to natural disasters.”; and

(2) in subsection (i)—

(A) by striking “Every” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Every”;

(B) in paragraph (1) (as designated by subparagraph (A)), by striking “shall” and inserting “may”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **APPLICABILITY OF FACA.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 App. U.S.C.) shall not apply to a panel convened under paragraph (1).”.

SEC. 702. GREAT APE CONSERVATION FUND.

Section 5(b)(2) of the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6304(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “expand” and inserting “expand”;

(2) by striking “\$80,000” and inserting “\$100,000”.

SEC. 703. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 6 of the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6305) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2001 through 2005” and inserting “fiscal years 2006 through 2010”.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore.** Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. 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 the bill under consideration.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore.** Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4957 contains several important conservation titles. It would first convey the Tylersville National Fish Hatchery to the State of Pennsylvania, a provision authored by Congressman JOHN PETERSON and Senator RICK SANTORUM.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has been operating this facility under a long-term lease agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Service. By all accounts they have operated this hatchery in a highly effective manner, producing adult trout for thousands of recreational fishermen and investing nearly \$4 million in improvements. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has testified that this facility is not considered an active component of the Federal Fish Hatchery System.

Title II of this bill is based on the text of H.R. 1428, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reauthorization Act, as passed by the House. It will simply extend the existing authorization levels for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The foundation has funded more than 6,500 conservation projects and involved more than 1,800 conservation organizations.

The goal of those projects has been to increase resources for fish and wildlife conservation and develop innovative conservation solutions while respecting private property rights and sustaining healthy ecosystems.

Title III of the legislation will extend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 2000, legislation which has already been passed by the House.

This will allow the Secretary of the Interior to continue to approve grants for the conservation of the more than 800 species of neotropical birds that migrate and reside throughout North America.

Title IV incorporates the text of the Ed Fountain Park Expansion Act, approved by the other body on July 11. Under this provision, about 8 acres of Federal land would be conveyed from the Fish and Wildlife Service to the city of Las Vegas, Nevada. There, land was once used as the headquarters for the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, but the only remaining structure on the property is an abandoned storage building.

The city of Las Vegas would pay administrative transfer costs and the property would revert back to the Federal Government if not used for a park.

Title V incorporates the House-passed language of H.R. 4947, the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act. The Cahaba River is the longest free-flowing river in the State of Alabama, and it may have the greatest fish biodiversity per mile of any river in the United States. This measure will modestly expand the boundaries of the existing refuge.

Title VI incorporates the House-passed text of H.R. 5232, the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge Study Act. This legislation requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to evaluate the potential of creating a new national wildlife refuge in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Finally, there is an extension of existing authorization of appropriation levels for the Great Ape Conservation Act taken from S. 1250 which passed the Senate earlier this month.

For the past 6 years, about \$1 million per year has been spent to stop great ape species from sliding toward extinction. The Fish and Wildlife Service has assisted endangered chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans through 155 projects in dozens of range States and leveraged an additional \$7.7 million in private matching funds.

Mr. Speaker, I urge an “aye” vote on this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4957, an omnibus package of fish, wildlife and conservation legislation. I thank Chairman POMBO and Ranking Member NICK RAHALL of the Committee on Resources for bringing this legislation to the House floor.

Title I of H.R. 4957 is noncontroversial legislation sponsored by Representative JOHN PETERSON. It will direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Tylersville National Fish Hatchery to the State of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, also included in the omnibus legislation before us today are a number of other important conservation measures, all of which have previously passed either the House or the Senate.

Title II contains the text of H.R. 1428, legislation sponsored by Chairman POMBO. It will reauthorize the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation which has been a valuable resource in fostering private-public conservation partnerships.

Title III includes H.R. 158, legislation sponsored by Congressman RON KIND, that would reauthorize and enhance the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Since 2000, \$17.2 million of Federal funding under this act has supported 186 conservation projects in 42 U.S. States and 30 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

This investment has leveraged an additional \$89.1 million in total partner contributions to conserve some 3.2 million acres of bird habitat. I applaud Congressman KIND for his dedication and leadership on this critical conservation issue.

Title IV includes H.R. 4345, legislation sponsored by our colleague from Nevada, Representative SHELLEY BERKLEY, which would transfer abandoned Federal property to the city of Las Vegas to enhance popular park and recreational programs. Both Representative BERKLEY and Senator HARRY REID of Nevada deserve credit for this initiative.

Title V includes H.R. 4947, a bill sponsored by Representative BACHUS which would expand the Cahaba National Wildlife Refuge in Alabama.

Title VI includes H.R. 5232, a bill sponsored by Representative KANJORSKI, which directs the Fish and Wildlife Service to complete its study for a new refuge in the Cherry Valley region of northeast Pennsylvania.

Representative KANJORSKI has worked throughout the process to address the concerns of all stakeholders, and this study would be the catalyst towards achieving the long-term protection of this area.

Mr. Speaker, last but certainly not least, Title VII contains S. 1250, legislation sponsored by Senator JEFFORDS, that would reauthorize funding for the Great Ape Conservation Act.

I commend the sponsor of the House companion bill, H.R. 2693, and the author of the original act, Representative GEORGE MILLER of California, for his continued leadership in international wildlife conservation, for raising awareness of the dire plight of great apes in Africa.

In closing, the fish and wildlife and conservation titles in this legislation are all worthy of our support. I urge adoption of H.R. 4957.

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY).

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for being so gracious with this legislation that is so important to my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation. My primary interest in this bill, although all of it is very laudatory, is title IV, which incorporates the language of legislation I introduced earlier this year, the Ed Fountain Park Expansion Act.

This language, which, as has been previously mentioned, has already been approved by the Senate and would transfer a vacant 8-acre parcel of land from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the city of Las Vegas for the expansion of the Ed Fountain Park. The city of Las Vegas intends to build a new community center on the site to complement the existing recreational elements of the park, which include lighted soccer fields, outdoor basketball courts, an artificial turf football field, a bicycle track, and picnic areas.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has no further use for this property, which had previously housed the headquarters of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge at a time when this location was on the outskirts of Las Vegas. Due to the phenomenal growth we have experienced in southern Nevada, the site is very much now in the middle of town, and I cannot think of a better use for it than expanding a popular and valuable community resource.

□ 1700

Again, I would like to thank Chairman GILCHREST and Ranking Member PALLONE from the Fisheries Subcommittee for their assistance in moving this issue forward. I urge all the Members to support the underlying bill, and again thank the chairman and the ranking member for their extraordinary support.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislative package, which will reauthorize important international fish and wildlife conservation programs and will expand national parks and wildlife refuges.

In particular, I want to draw special attention to the Great Ape Conservation Act. The reauthorization that's before us today was introduced by Senator JEFFORDS last June, following a bill that I introduced in May 2005 with Rep. BAIRD.

It has now been more than 5 years since the Great Ape Conservation Act was signed into law. In that time, this program has helped protect threatened primates, including chimpanzees, gorillas, bonobos, orangutans, and gibbons. I'm very pleased that the House is now poised to pass this reauthorization, which is needed to continue progress in this important field.

As the Fish and Wildlife Service testified in the Resources Committee last June, "Much of the success of the Great Ape Conservation Act has been a direct result of the unique small project focus on on-the-ground conservation projects in Africa and Asia." The funds provided by the Great Ape Conservation Act have gone to such diverse projects as: protecting chimpanzee habitat from logging operations; establishing anti-poaching enforcement units; starting conservation education programs; coordinating gibbon population surveys and threat assessments; and implementing ape health monitoring programs.

Like the other Multinational Species programs, Federal funds under the Great Ape Conservation Act are distributed as matching grants, meaning that the expense for these projects is shared between the Federal government and project partners. This match requirement has leveraged over \$7.7 million in non-federal contributions over the period of 2001-2005 and has more than doubled the actual funding for conservation projects.

But despite the ongoing successes of the Act, the threats to these noble primates continue, and time is not on our side. Press accounts and reports from the field indicate that these species continue to be placed in jeopardy by habitat loss, poaching, logging, and the bush meat trade. The bill before us today specifically authorizes funding to address these root causes of threats to great apes.

The contributions of the Great Ape Conservation Act have been very important in the international efforts to protect and conserve the great apes of Africa and Asia, but there is much work yet to be done. Accordingly, today's bill extends the program's authorization through the year 2010.

As I said when I introduced the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000, the task ahead is daunting. But the ecological consequences of not acting are far more tragic if it means that great apes will cease to exist in the wild.

I want to thank the Resources Committee staff, especially Dave Jansen, for their work in shepherding this bill through the House, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4957, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Tylersville division of the Lamar National Fish Hatchery and Fish Technology Center to the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE ACT

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 260) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore, enhance, and manage private land to improve fish and wildlife habitats through the Partners For Fish and Wildlife Program.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 260

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 "Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act".