the Committee would be required to recommend sites for stewardship and submit its findings to the EPA Administrator. The Administrator would then allocate funds to purchase relevant property rights or enter into binding legal arrangements that ensure the value of the sites is maintained in accordance with the Committee's recommendations.

In an effort to provide maximum transparency and accountability, the EPA Administrator would then be required to produce a biannual report that assesses the status of the Long Island Sound and that notifies the public of the program activities. To maintain the bistate partnership, the Committee would be required to exert due diligence to ensure that it recommends an equitable distribution of funds between Connecticut and New York.

Mr. Speaker, the use of Federal dollars requires careful scrutiny. My bill would authorize $25 million annually for 5 years to advance this important initiative. This figure represents a reduction from an initial draft of the bill during the 108th Congress, at the recommendation of Senate and House committee chairmen. And if we consider the precedent for Federal funds authorized and appropriated for estuarine ecosystem restoration programs elsewhere in the country, we'll find $25 million to be an appropriate amount. This is especially true when one considers the cost of real estate in the Long Island Sound region.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for bringing this legislation before the House. I am gratified to have the support of my colleagues in passing this bill.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor of th1s legislation, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5160, the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act. I recognize the vital role the Long Island Sound plays in the Fourth Congressional District as well as all of Connecticut.

The Long Island Sound contributes more than $5 billion annually to the regional economy and is one of the most populated and visited areas of our country. In fact, approximately 10 percent of the American population lives within the Long Island Sound watershed.

It is a source of livelihood, nourishment, and recreation for many in Connecticut and elsewhere, and it is critical that we treat it well.

This legislation would authorize $25 million to protect and preserve areas along the Sound's shorelines with significant ecological, recreational, or educational value. The Long Island Sound Stewardship Act gives those most familiar with the Sound's precious and diverse resources the tools necessary to continue their conservation efforts, and applies the most effective methods available to identify, protect, and enhance sites with ecological, educational, and recreation value in Connecticut and New York.

Protecting and preserving the environment is one of the most important jobs I have as a Member of Congress. We simply will not have a world to live in if we continue our neglectful ways.

The Long Island Sound is our Yellowstone. I urge passage of this legislation so that we may continue its conservation and protection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, which will help ensure that future generations of New Yorkers and all Americans will enjoy a clean, well-preserved Long Island Sound.

The Long Island Sound is critically important to our Nation and vital to the health and well-being of the communities I represent. As an Estuary of National Significance, the Sound provides habitat for a wide array of plant and animal life, and contributes an estimated $5.5 billion to the regional economy from boating, fishing and tourism-related commerce. Boating and fishing are deeply enmeshed in the culture and traditions of Long Island, and the Sound has long been our region's gateway to the seas.

Unfortunately, the effects of millions of people living adjacent to the Sound's shore have been profound. At the turn of the millennium, lobster catch rates plummeted by 90%, costing our local economy between $30 and $50 million. Dangerous levels of toxins continue to threaten the well-being of the Sound's diverse habitats and wildlife breeding areas, as well as the livelihoods of those who depend on these resources for their livelihood.

The Long Island Sound Stewardship Act supplements conservation and preservation efforts along the shoreline of Long Island and Connecticut, and authorizes $25 million in federal appropriations over the next 4 fiscal years.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is not perfect. I strongly support and will continue to advocate for funding at the original proposed level of $40 million annually. Properly conceived, the legislation should include wetlands and underwater lands within the authority of the Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative, which will be established by this legislation. Additionally, I strongly support fully funding conservation and preservation offshore via the Long Island Sound Restoration Act, which has fallen victim to the Majority's budget cuts.

The Long Island Sound, however, is a national treasure and I believe that any preservation efforts to conserve any part of the Sound should be embraced. I do support this legislation and I would like to thank my colleague from New York, the co-chair of the Long Island Sound Caucus, Mr. ISRAEL, for all of his efforts to bring this bill to the floor and to preserve the Long Island Sound.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, appreciating the bipartisan nature of this, 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 New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5160, 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UTAH RECREATIONAL LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2006

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2069) to authorize the exchange of certain land in Grand and Uintah Counties, Utah, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2069

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 ''Utah Recreational Land Exchange Act of 2006''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the area surrounding the Colorado River in Grand and San Juan Counties, Utah, and Dinosaur National Monument and the Book Cliffs in Uintah County, Utah, contains nationally recognized scenic vistas, significant archaeological and historic resources, valuable wildlife habitat, and outstanding opportunities for public recreation that are enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people annually;

(2) the State of Utah owns multiple parcels of land in the area that were granted to the State under the Act of July 16, 1894 (28 Stat. 107, chapter 138), to be held in trust for the benefit of the public school system and other public institutions of the State;

(3) the parcels of State trust land are largely scattered in checkerboard fashion amid the Federal land comprising the area of the Colorado River corridor, the Dinosaur National Monument, and the Book Cliffs;

(4) the State trust land in the area of the Colorado River corridor, Dinosaur National Monument, and the Book Cliffs includes significant natural and recreational features, including—

(A) portions of Westwater Canyon of the Colorado River;

(B) the nationally recognized Kokopelli and Slickrock trails;

(C) several of the largest natural rock arches in the United States;

(D) multiple wilderness study areas and proposed wilderness areas; and

(E) viewsheds for Arches National Park and Dinosaur National Monument;

(5) the large presence of State trust land located in the Colorado River corridor, Dinosaur National Monument, and the Book Cliffs area makes land and resource management in the area more difficult, costly, and controversial for the United States and the State of Utah;

(6) although the State trust land was granted to the State to generate financial support for public schools in the State through the sale or development of natural resources, development of those resources in the Colorado River corridor, Dinosaur National Monument, and the Book Cliffs area may be incompatible with managing the area for recreational, natural, and scenic resources;

(7) the United States owns land and interests in land in other parts of the State of Utah that can be transferred to the State in exchange for the State trust land without jeopardizing Federal management objectives or needs; and

(8) it is in the public interest to exchange federally owned land in the State for the Utah State trust land located in the Colorado River Corridor, Dinosaur National Monument, and the Book Cliffs area, on terms that are fair to the United States and the State of Utah.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to direct, facilitate, and expedite the exchange of certain Federal land and non-Federal land in the State to further the public interest by—

(1) exchanging Federal land that has limited recreational and conservation resources; and

(2) acquiring State trust land with important recreational, scenic, and conservation resources for permanent public management and use.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''Federal land'' means the land located in Grand, San

Juan, and Uintah Counties, Utah, that is identified on the maps as—

(A) ''BLM Subsurface only Proposed for Transfer to State Trust Lands'';

(B) ''BLM Surface only Proposed for Transfer to State Trust Lands''; and

(C) ''BLM Lands Proposed for Transfer to State Trust Lands''.

(2) GRAND COUNTY MAP.—The term ''Grand County Map'' means the map prepared by the Bureau of Land Management entitled ''Utah Recreational Land Exchange Act Grand County'' and dated September 22, 2006.

(3) MAPS.—The term ''maps'' means the Grand County Map and the Uintah County Map.

(4) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''non-Federal land'' means the land in Grand, San Juan, and Uintah Counties, Utah, that is identified on the maps as—

(A) ''State Trust Land Proposed for Transfer to BLM''; and

(B) ''State Trust Minerals Proposed for Transfer to BLM''.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Utah, as trustee under the Utah State School and Institutional Trust Lands Management Act (Utah Code Ann. 53C–1–101 et seq.).

(7) UINTAH COUNTY MAP.—The term ''Uintah County Map'' means the map prepared by the Bureau of Land Management entitled ''Utah Recreational Land Exchange Act Uintah County'' and dated September 22, 2006.

SEC. 4. EXCHANGE OF LAND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the State offers to convey to the United States title to the non-Federal land, the Secretary shall—

(1) accept the offer; and

(2) on receipt of acceptable title to the non-Federal land and subject to valid existing rights, convey to the State all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land.

(b) CONVEYANCE OF PARCELS IN PHASES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding that appraisals for all of the parcels of Federal land and non-Federal land may not have been completed under section 5, parcels of the Federal land and non-Federal land may be exchanged under subsection (a) in 3 phases beginning on the date on which the appraised values of the parcels included in the applicable phase are approved under section 5(b)(5).

(2) PHASES.—The 3 phases referred to in paragraph (1) are—

(A) phase 1, consisting of the non-Federal land identified as ''phase one'' land on the Grand County Map;

(B) phase 2, consisting of the non-Federal land identified as ''phase two'' land on the Grand County Map and the Uintah County Map; and

(C) phase 3, consisting of any remaining non-Federal land that is not identified as ''phase one'' land or ''phase two'' land on the Grand County Map or the Uintah County Map.

(3) NO AGREEMENT ON EXCHANGE.—If agreement has not been reached with respect to the exchange of an individual parcel of Federal land or non-Federal land, the Secretary and the State may agree to set aside the individual parcel to allow the exchange of the other parcels of Federal land and non-Federal land to proceed.

(c) APPURTENANT WATER RIGHTS.—Any conveyance of a parcel of Federal land or non-Federal land under this Act shall include the conveyance of water rights appurtenant to the parcel conveyed.

(d) TIMING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), the exchange of land authorized by subsection (a) shall be completed not later than 330 days after the date on which the State makes the Secretary an offer to convey the non-Federal land under that subsection.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The deadline established under paragraph (1) shall not apply to a parcel of land, the value of which is being determined under section 5(b)(6)(C).

(3) EXTENSION.—The Secretary and the State may mutually agree to extend the deadline specified in paragraph (1).

(e) COMPLIANCE.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the exchange of land shall be carried out in compliance with all laws and regulations applicable to the exchange of Federal land for non-Federal land.

SEC. 5. EXCHANGE VALUATION, APPRAISALS, AND EQUALIZATION.

(a) EQUAL VALUE EXCHANGE.—The value of the Federal land and non-Federal land to be exchanged under this Act—

(1) shall be equal; or

(2) shall be made equal in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) APPRAISALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The value of the Federal land and the non-Federal land shall be determined by appraisals conducted in accordance with—

(A) section 206(d) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716(d)); and

(B) section 2201.3 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(2) SELECTION OF APPRAISER.—The appraisals of the Federal land and non-Federal land shall be conducted by 1 or more independent third-party appraisers selected jointly by the Secretary and the State.

(3) COSTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the State shall share third-party appraisal costs equally.

(B) ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary and the State may agree to adjust the relative value of the Federal land and non-Federal land to be exchanged under this Act if the Secretary or the State has paid a disproportionate share of the third-party appraisal costs.

(4) VALUATION OF UNLEASED FEDERAL LAND; REVENUE SHARING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any parcel of Federal land that, as of the date of appraisal, is not leased under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), shall be appraised without regard to the presence of minerals subject to lease under that Act, if, after conveyance of the applicable parcel to the State, the State agrees to pay to the United States—

(i) 50 percent of any bonus or rental payments (in the form of money or other consideration) that the State receives for the disposition of any interest in the minerals after the date of conveyance; and

(ii) an amount equal to—

(I) the fraction of gross proceeds from mineral production (in the form of money or other consideration) to which the United States would have been entitled as a production royalty if the land had been—

(aa) retained by the United States; and

(bb) leased under the provisions of that Act in effect on the date of this Act; minus

(II) the portion of production royalties that would otherwise be payable to the State under section 35 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191).

(B) OBLIGATION AS COVENANT.—The obligation of the State to pay bonus, rental, and royalty revenues to the United States under subparagraph (A) shall be a permanent covenant running with the applicable parcel of Federal land conveyed to the State.

(C) SPECIAL ACCOUNT.—All revenues received by the United States under this paragraph shall be deposited in a special account in the Treasury of the United States and shall be available without further appropriation to the Secretary until expended for—

(i) the equalization of values as provided in subsection (c)(1);

(ii) the purchase of lands or interests therein within the State of Utah that are otherwise eligible for purchase under the Federal Lands Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C. 2301 et. seq.); or

(iii) the purchase of lands or interests therein owned by the State of Utah as trustee under the Utah State School and Institutional Trust Lands Management Act that are determined by the Secretary to have outstanding characteristics for outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, wilderness, or other natural resources.

(D) ACQUISITION.—Any land acquired under this section shall be—

(i) from a willing seller;

(ii) contingent on the conveyance of title acceptable to the Secretary, using title standards of the Attorney General;

(iii) at a price not to exceed fair market value consistent with applicable provisions of the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(iv) managed as part of the unit within which it is contained.

(5) REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the appraiser is selected under paragraph (2), the appraiser shall submit to the Secretary and the State a copy of the completed appraisals for review.

(B) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of an appraisal under subparagraph (A), the Secretary and the State shall independently approve or disapprove the appraisal.

(6) DETERMINATION OF VALUE.—

(A) DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY AND STATE.—If the Secretary and the State are unable to agree on the value of a parcel of land, the value of the parcel may be determined by the Secretary and the State in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (4) of section 206(d) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716(d)).

(B) VALUATION OF LEASED FEDERAL LAND.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If value is attributed to any parcel of Federal land because of the presence of minerals subject to leasing under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191 et seq.), and the parcel is subject to an existing lease under that Act, the value of the parcel shall be equal to the value of the parcel as determined under this section, as adjusted under clause (ii).

(ii) ADJUSTMENT.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The value of the parcel subject to a lease under clause (i) shall be reduced by the percentage of the Federal revenue sharing obligation under section 35(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191(a)).

(II) NO PROPERTY RIGHT.—An adjustment under subclause (I) shall not be considered to be a property right of the State.

(C) DETERMINATION BY COURT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the Secretary and the State have not agreed on the value of a parcel by the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, a Federal district court (including the United States District Court for the District of Utah, Central Division) shall have jurisdiction to determine the value of the parcel.

(ii) LIMITATION.—An action to determine the value of a parcel under clause (i) shall be brought not earlier than 1 year, but not more than 3 years, after the date of enactment of this Act.

(D) AVAILABILITY OF APPRAISALS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—All final appraisals, appraisal reviews, and determinations of value for land to be exchanged under this Act shall

be available for public review at the Utah State Office of the Bureau of Land Management at least 30 days before the conveyance of the applicable parcels.

(ii) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation in Salt Lake County, Utah, a notice that the appraisals are available for public inspection.

(c) EQUALIZATION OF VALUES.—

(1) SURPLUS OF NON-FEDERAL LAND.—If after completion of the appraisal and dispute resolution process under subsection (b), the value of the non-Federal land exceeds the value of the Federal land the Secretary shall, in partial exchange for the non-Federal land, provide for payment to the State of the amount necessary to equalize values from funds made available under the special account established by subsection (b)(4)(C). The State shall be entitled to receive a reasonable rate of interest at a rate equivalent to a five-year Treasury note on the balance of the value owed by the United States from the effective date of the exchange until full value is received by the State.

(2) SURPLUS OF FEDERAL LAND.—If after completion of the appraisal and dispute resolution process under subsection (b), the value of the Federal land exceeds the value of the non-Federal land, the value of the Federal land and non-Federal land may be equalized by—

(A) the Secretary, after consultation with the State, removing parcels of Federal land from the exchange until the value is equal; or

(B) the Secretary and the State adding additional State trust land to the non-Federal land, if—

(i) the additional land has been appraised in accordance with an ongoing Federal acquisition process or program; and

(ii) the appraised value (as determined under clause (i)) has been accepted by the Secretary.

(3) NOTICE AND PUBLIC INSPECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary and the State determine to add or remove land from the exchange, the Secretary shall—

(i) publish in a newspaper of general circulation in Salt Lake County, Utah, a notice that identifies when and where a revised exchange map will be available for public inspection; and

(ii) transmit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives a copy of the revised exchange map.

(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary and the State shall not add or remove land from the exchange until at least 20 days after the date on which the notice is published under subparagraph (A)(i) and the map is transmitted under subparagraph (A)(ii).

(d) RESOURCE REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each parcel of Federal land to be conveyed to the State, the Secretary shall prepare a report, based on land management plans, resource inventories, and surveys existing on the date on which the report is prepared, that identifies any significant resource values, issues, or management concerns associated with the parcel.

(2) NOTICE AND INSPECTION.—A report shall be subject to the public notice and inspection in accordance with subsection (b)(6)(D).

SEC. 6. STATUS AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND AFTER EXCHANGE.

(a) ADMINISTRATION OF NON-FEDERAL LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2) and in accordance with section 206(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716(c)), the non-Federal land acquired by the United States under this Act shall become part of, and be managed as part of, the Federal administrative unit or area in which the land is located.

(2) MINERAL LEASING AND OCCUPANCY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the non-Federal land acquired by the United States under this Act shall be withdrawn from the operation of the mineral leasing and mineral material disposal laws until the later of—

(i) the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(ii) the date on which the Record of Decision authorizing the implementation of the applicable resource management plans under section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) is signed.

(B) EXCEPTION.—Any land identified on the maps as ''Withdrawal Parcels'' is withdrawn from the operation of the mineral leasing and mineral material disposal laws.

(3) RECEIPTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any receipts derived from the non-Federal land acquired under this Act shall be paid into the general fund of the Treasury.

(B) APPLICABLE LAW.—Mineral receipts from the non-Federal land acquired under this Act shall not be subject to section 35 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191).

(b) WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LAND PRIOR TO EXCHANGE.—Subject to valid existing rights, during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the earlier of the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act or the date on which the Federal land is conveyed under this Act, the Federal land is withdrawn from—

(1) disposition (other than disposition under section 4) under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) the operation of—

(A) the mineral leasing laws;

(B) the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.); and

(C) the first section of the Act of July 31, 1947 (commonly known as the ''Materials Act of 1947'') (30 U.S.C. 601).

(c) GRAZING PERMITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If land acquired under this Act is subject to a lease, permit, or contract for the grazing of domestic livestock in effect on the date of acquisition, the person or entity acquiring the land shall allow the grazing to continue for the remainder of the term of the lease, permit, or contract, subject to the related terms and conditions of user agreements, including permitted stocking rates, grazing fee levels, access rights, and ownership and use of range improvements.

(2) RENEWAL.—To the extent allowed by Federal or State law, on expiration of any grazing lease, permit, or contract described in paragraph (1), the holder of the lease, permit, or contract shall be entitled to a preference right to renew the lease, permit, or contract.

(3) CANCELLATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act prevents the Secretary or the State from canceling or modifying a grazing permit, lease, or contract if the land subject to the permit, lease, or contract is sold, conveyed, transferred, or leased for nongrazing purposes by the party.

(B) LIMITATION.—Except to the extent reasonably necessary to accommodate surface operations in support of mineral development, the Secretary or the State shall not cancel or modify a grazing permit, lease, or contract because the land subject to the permit, lease, or contract has been leased for mineral development.

(4) BASE PROPERTIES.—If land conveyed by the State under this Act is used by a grazing permittee or lessee to meet the base property requirements for a Federal grazing permit or lease, the land shall continue to qualify as a base property for the remaining term of the lease or permit and the term of any renewal or extension of the lease or permit.

(d) HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and, as a condition of the exchange, the State shall make available for review and inspection any record relating to hazardous materials on the land to be exchanged under this Act.

(2) COSTS.—The costs of remedial actions relating to hazardous materials on land acquired under this Act shall be paid by those entities responsible for the costs under applicable law.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

□ 2300

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

Mr. Speaker, the Utah Regional Land Exchange Act is the culmination of years of analysis and negotiations among representatives of Utah's State School Trust Lands, the Department of the Interior, locally elected officials, environmental groups and Members of Congress.

Congressman CHRIS CANNON should be commended for crafting this bipartisan legislation that will convey and exchange of over 80,000 acres of State and Federal lands for recreation, scenic and development purposes. This creative and significant exchange will be of great benefit to Utah's schools, recreationists, communities, and to all Americans who care about the proper care and management of Federal lands and in protecting important natural and scenic areas.

I urge passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KIND. Madam 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. Madam Speaker, the chairman of the subcommittee has adequately explained the purpose of the legislation. I would just note, however, that the lands involved do lie within the Congressional district represented by my good friend and colleague, JIM MATHESON from Utah. I commend his leadership and involvement in the passage of this legislation.

I would encourage its adoption this evening.

Madam Speaker, the majority has already explained the purpose of H.R. 2069. I would note that the lands involved lie within the Congressional District represented by my colleague, JIM MATHESON. The gentleman from

Utah is to be commended for his advocacy of a land exchange that, as amended, is a win-win for all the involved parties.

Madam Speaker, we appreciate the cooperation shown by the majority, the State of Utah, the BLM, and others in addressing issues that originally existed with the legislation. We support H.R. 2069, as amended, and have no objection to the adoption of the legislation by the House today.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 2069, the Utah Recreational Land Exchange Act of 2005.

Since statehood, Utah has held lands in trust to generate funds for public schools. But they are scattered throughout the State in a checkerboard pattern, isolated within federal land holdings. That has made it difficult for either the federal land agencies, or the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, to manage them according to their different objectives. Many of the State school trust lands have valuable habitat, watershed, and scenic features that shouldn't be commercially developed.

The Bureau of Land Management, meanwhile, owns land in other parts of my State that are not as environmentally sensitive and could be responsibly developed for the benefit of public schools.

This legislation proposes a land exchange—State school trust lands for BLM lands—that consolidates acreage for ease of management by federal land managers, increases the school trust fund balance, and preserves sensitive land along the world-renowned Colorado River corridor, using an equitable valuation.

Anyone who has rafted the Colorado River, or taken a mountain-biking trip to Moab, understands why these lands need to be open to future generations of Americans to enjoy. This legislation would transfer to the BLM parcels of State land in Westwater Canyon, the nationally-recognized Kokopelli and Slickrock trails, multiple wilderness study areas, and some of the largest natural rock arches in the U.S.

This bill is the result of a truly collaborative process with all stakeholders at the table. It is supported by the counties, by the State of Utah, by the environmental and recreational communities and it has evolved with the Department of the Interior's participation.

I would like to thank Congressman CANNON, all the stakeholders and the Resources Committee for working over the past 2 years to develop the bipartisan, consensus legislation that we have before us today.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to protect our treasured public lands and at the same time support public education in Utah.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2069, the Utah Recreational Land Exchange Act of 2006, which is also cosponsored by Congressman MATHESON and Congressman BISHOP.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is the culmination of years of hard work, compromise, and determination involving the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, the Counties, the environmental community, the recreation community, the Department of the Interior and of course the Resources Committee staff.

H.R. 2069 authorizes the exchange of approximately 45,000 acres of Utah State school trust lands within and near Utah's Colorado River corridor for approximately 40,000 acres of Federal lands in eastern Utah. This is an equal value exchange that guarantees that the school children of Utah will finally benefit from lands they own.

The Colorado River Corridor is a uniquely scenic area that includes such treasures as the Corona and Morning Glory arches, the Westwater wilderness study area, the Kokopelli and Slickrock trails, the watershed for Castle Valley, the Sand Wash rafting site, and thousands of other acres of red rock beauty. H.R. 2069 will transfer these lands, which are owned by Utah's school children, to the Bureau of Land Management.

Congress established Utah's school trust lands upon statehood for the specific purpose of generating income for Utah's school system. Therefore, in exchange for these beautiful areas, Utah's school children will receive mineral development lands in eastern Utah to provide a much needed revenue stream for the Utah school system.

H.R. 2069 is a balanced piece of legislation that will allow the Bureau of Land Management to fulfill its management mandates along the Colorado River as well as benefit Utah's school children. Revenue from Utah school trust lands—whether from grazing, surface leasing, mineral development or sale—will be placed in the State School Fund, which is a permanent income-producing endowment for the support of Utah's public education system.

H.R. 2069 is an equal value exchange that sets out a transparent and fair appraisal process. Appraisals will be conducted by jointly selected independent appraisers and pursuant to established law and regulations. The Federal Government will retain its current interest in the minerals conveyed to the State and those revenues will be utilized to purchase lands in Utah in the future. The bill also includes public notice provisions to insure that the public is aware of the status of the exchange process.

Madam Speaker, as you are aware, Utah has a long history of working hard to consolidate our school trust lands in a way that allows us to fund our public education system. We are confident and hopeful that H.R. 2069 acts as a blueprint for future exchanges so the people of Utah can continue to receive the revenue they were promised upon becoming a state.

I would like to take a moment to thank the staff that worked on this bill. Personally, I would like to thank from the Committee on Resources: Doug Crandall, Matt Miller and Todd Willens of Chairman POMBO's staff, and Jim Zoia and Rick Healy of Mr. RAHALL's staff; from the Leader's office Anne Thorsen, Greg Maurer and Jay Cranford; and from my staff Rachel Dresen for all their work on this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support this exchange which is a win for America's Federal lands and is a win for Utah's school system.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers, and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2069, 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PUEBLO OF ISLETA SETTLEMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES RESTORATION ACT OF 2006

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5842) to compromise and settle all claims in the case of Pueblo of Isleta v. United States, to restore, improve, and develop the valuable on-reservation land and natural resources of the Pueblo, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5842

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 ''Pueblo of Isleta Settlement and Natural Resources Restoration Act of 2006''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) there is pending before the United States Court of Federal Claims a civil action filed by the Pueblo against the United States in which the Pueblo seeks to recover damages pursuant to the Isleta Jurisdictional Act;

(2) the Pueblo and the United States, after a diligent investigation of the Pueblo claims, have negotiated a Settlement Agreement, the validity and effectiveness of which is contingent on the enactment of enabling legislation;

(3) certain land of the Pueblo is waterlogged, and it would be to the benefit of the Pueblo and other water users to drain the land and return water to the Rio Grande River; and

(4) there is Pueblo forest land in need of remediation in order to improve timber yields, reduce the threat of fire, reduce erosion, and improve grazing conditions.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to improve the drainage of the irrigated land, the health of the forest land, and other natural resources of the Pueblo; and

(2) to settle all claims that were raised or could have been raised by the Pueblo against the United States under the Isleta Jurisdictional Act in accordance with section 5.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ISLETA JURISDICTIONAL ACT.—The term ''Isleta Jurisdictional Act'' means Public Law 104–198 (110 Stat. 2418).

(2) PUEBLO.—The term ''Pueblo'' means the Pueblo of Isleta, a federally recognized Indian tribe.

(3) RESTORATION FUND.—The term ''Restoration Fund'' means the Pueblo of Isleta Natural Resources Restoration Fund established by section 4(a).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—The term ''Settlement Agreement'' means the Agreement of Compromise and Settlement entered into between the United States and the Pueblo, dated July 12, 2005, as modified by the Extension and Modification Agreement executed by the United States and the Pueblo on June 22, 2006, to settle the claims of the Pueblo in Docket No. 98–166L, a case pending in the United States Court of Federal Claims.