

This bill, as amended, simply repeals language that some have interpreted as potentially infringing on private property rights. Passing this bill would not have an impact on how oil and gas operations are conducted in the Allegheny National Forest or in any national forest nationwide.

I thank the sponsor of this bill for working with the Democrats on the committee to craft a workable response that hopefully will pass by unanimous consent. I ask my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his support of this piece of legislation, and I urge passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3881, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1700

BOLTS DITCH ACCESS AND USE ACT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4510) to insure adequate use and access to the existing Bolts Ditch headgate and ditch segment within the Holy Cross Wilderness in Eagle County, Colorado, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4510

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 “Bolts Ditch Access and Use Act”.

SEC. 2. BOLTS DITCH ACCESS.

(a) ACCESS GRANTED.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall permit by special use authorization nonmotorized access and use, in accordance with section 293.6 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, of the Bolts Ditch headgate and the Bolts Ditch within the Holy Cross Wilderness, Colorado, as designated by Public Law 96-560, for the purposes of the diversion of water and use, maintenance, and repair of such ditch and headgate by the Town of Minturn, Colorado, a Colorado Home Rule Municipality.

(b) LOCATION OF FACILITIES.—The Bolts Ditch headgate and ditch segment referenced in subsection (a) are as generally depicted on the map entitled “Bolts Ditch headgate and Ditch Segment”, dated November 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Since 1882, the town of Minturn, Colorado, has used Bolts Ditch to fill Bolts Lake, a place of recreation for the town and an important source of water for the surrounding community. When Congress passed the Colorado Wilderness Act in 1980, 450 feet of Bolts Ditch was inadvertently included in the Holy Cross Wilderness area, which led to questions about the town's ability to access this important infrastructure. After a discussion amongst stakeholders, the town agreed to seek a legislative solution to address this access issue.

This bipartisan bill simply allows the Forest Service to issue a special use permit to the town of Minturn to allow nonmotorized access to maintain a headgate and water ditch in the Holy Cross Wilderness. This bill ensures the town will have access to Bolts Ditch for basic maintenance needs. H.R. 4510 was developed in consultation with the community and the Forest Service, and it enjoys support from a wide range of groups in the region.

I urge the adoption of the bill.

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

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

I thank Chairman BISHOP for bringing H.R. 4510, the Bolts Ditch Access and Use Act, to the floor today.

I introduced this simple but very important piece of legislation at the request of the local community of Minturn, in Eagle County, because it improves public land, water, and communities in my district.

This bill has bipartisan support from the Colorado delegation. I thank Mr. TIPTON and Mr. LAMBORN for partnering with me on this bill here in the House. In the Senate, Senator GARDNER and Senator BENNET have partnered to pass this bill as well. I am also thankful to the town of Minturn, to the conservation community, and to water utilities for working together for a commonsense solution that we can all support. This is an example of how we can solve a problem when everybody comes together.

The need for this legislation is to solve a vital local problem for the peo-

ple of Minturn, Colorado, a town of about 1,000 people in Eagle County, which is in our Rocky Mountains in Colorado. The problem it fixes results from a mistake in the 1980 Wilderness Act, which inadvertently left Bolts Ditch off of the list of existing water facilities which it should have been included on. This legislation would authorize a special use of the Bolts Ditch headgate and the segment of the Bolts Ditch within the Holy Cross Wilderness area, allowing Minturn to use its existing water right to fill Bolts Lake.

The residents of Minturn who brought this bill to me, as well as Coloradans across the central mountains, have long relied on water infrastructure like Bolts Ditch to access clean and affordable drinking water. This bill will ensure that the town of Minturn is able to utilize a crucial resource and to do so without compromising the sanctity of the surrounding wilderness areas.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers on this piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority and minority staffs of the committee for working with us on this bill. It is very important to the people of Minturn and to our central mountain region in Colorado, so I urge its passage.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this is important infrastructure for this community in Colorado.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4510, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FORT FREDERICA NATIONAL MONUMENT BOUNDARY EXPANSION ACT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3480) to expand the boundary of Fort Frederica National Monument in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is 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.

This Act may be cited as the “Fort Frederica National Monument Boundary Expansion Act”.

SEC. 2. FORT FREDERICA NATIONAL MONUMENT, GEORGIA.

(a) **MAXIMUM ACREAGE.**—The first section of the Act of May 26, 1936 (16 U.S.C. 433g), is amended by striking “two hundred and fifty acres” and inserting “305 acres”.

(b) **BOUNDARY EXPANSION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The boundary of the Fort Frederica National Monument in the State of Georgia is modified to include the land generally depicted as “Proposed Acquisition Areas” on the map entitled “Fort Frederica National Monument Proposed Boundary Expansion”, numbered 369/132,469, and dated April 2016.

(2) **AVAILABILITY OF MAP.**—The map described in paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(3) **ACQUISITION OF LAND.**—The Secretary of the Interior may acquire the land and interests in land described in paragraph (1) by donation or purchase with donated or appropriated funds from willing sellers only.

(4) **WRITTEN CONSENT OF OWNER.**—No non-Federal property may be included in the Fort Frederica National Monument without the written consent of the owner.

(5) **NO USE OF CONDEMNATION OR EMINENT DOMAIN.**—The Secretary of the Interior may not acquire by condemnation or eminent domain any land or interests in land under this Act or for the purposes of this Act.

(6) **NO BUFFER ZONE CREATED.**—Nothing in this Act, the establishment of the Fort Frederica National Monument, or the management plan for the Fort Frederica National Monument shall be construed to create buffer zones outside of the Monument. That activities or uses can be seen, heard, or detected from areas within the Fort Frederica National Monument shall not preclude, limit, control, regulate, or determine the conduct or management of activities or uses outside of the Monument.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Fort Frederica National Monument, located on St. Simons Island, Georgia, preserves the archaeological remnants of a fort established in 1736 by James Oglethorpe. Oglethorpe constructed the fort to protect the colony of Georgia from attack from the Spanish. The fort successfully fended off a Spanish attack in 1742 and confirmed Georgia as a British territory.

H.R. 3480, introduced by Congressman BUDDY CARTER of Georgia, expands Fort Frederica by 21 acres. The St. Simons Land Trust currently owns the additional acreage and will steward the land until the National Park Service can acquire the property. This bipartisan bill is cosponsored by the entire

Georgia delegation, and Congressman CARTER worked closely with Chairman BISHOP to modify the bill before markup.

I urge the adoption of the bill.

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

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

As the chairman has said, this bill expands the Fort Frederica National Monument to include a 20-acre property, known as the North Marsh, which is currently owned by the St. Simons Land Trust. The National Park Service evaluated the property in a 2014 study and determined that its acquisition would provide additional opportunities to protect and interpret resources that are associated with the site.

Fort Frederica, located on St. Simons Island, Georgia, was built by James Oglethorpe in 1736 to protect the colony of Georgia from Spanish Florida. The fort has been managed by the National Park Service since 1936, when President Franklin Roosevelt used the Antiquities Act to designate the site as a national monument.

As a quick aside, I climbed Mount Katahdin last week, which is Maine's highest mountain, and I was in Maine when Secretary Jewell arrived to celebrate President Obama's use of the Antiquities Act to accept a gift of 87,000 acres in order to create the new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument—some of the most beautiful country I have ever seen.

This bill is an important reminder of how a decision to protect and elevate our shared heritage resonates for generations. Eighty years after President Roosevelt made the decision to establish a national monument, we are looking at opportunities to expand it and increase the resources it protects. By using money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund—a Federal program that was not around in FDR's time but that is one, I am sure, he would have supported—we can continue this important legacy.

I thank the majority and my friend from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for advancing this bill. I look forward to working with them to advance similar legislation that is designed to expand and enhance our public lands.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), the author of bill.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the First Congressional District of Georgia is home to many natural and historic treasures, including the Fort Frederica National Monument. Fort Frederica was built on St. Simons Island in 1736 by James Oglethorpe, the founder of Georgia, to protect the new British colony from the Spanish. The fort's strategic location ensured a decisive victory for Oglethorpe in 1742 at the Battle of

Bloody Marsh, which ended further Spanish attempts to claim Georgia as their own.

Today, the Fort Frederica National Monument is a popular destination in Glynn County that features portions of the original fort, a museum, and extensive hiking trails. H.R. 3480 would authorize the National Park Service to obtain adjacent land that likely contains artifacts from prehistoric human settlements, adding more to the rich history of this site.

I thank the chairman for his consideration of this bill as well as to thank the entire Georgia delegation for supporting and cosponsoring this legislation. I also thank the Natural Resources Committee staff for their work and dedication to this bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3480, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FORT ONTARIO STUDY ACT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4202) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Fort Ontario in the State of New York, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4202

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 “Fort Ontario Study Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) From 1755 until 1814, Fort Ontario and three previous fortifications built on the site of the Fort in Oswego, New York, on the shore of Lake Ontario were used as military installations during the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, and the War of 1812.

(2) The original fort, erected by the British in 1755, was destroyed by French forces in 1756. The fort was rebuilt and subsequently destroyed during both the American Revolution and the War of 1812. The star-shaped fort was constructed on the site of the original fortifications in the 1840s, with improvements made from 1863 through 1872.

(3) The United States Armed Forces began expanding Fort Ontario in the early 20th century and by 1941, approximately 125 buildings stood at the fort.

(4) On June 9, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced that Fort Ontario would serve as the Nation's only Emergency