

the Tribe's existing reservation, which consists largely of hillsides, wetlands, and streambeds unsuitable for housing.

To address the housing shortage, the Chumash used their own resources to purchase the Camp 4 parcel, with the intent of constructing homes for their members. They applied to take Camp 4 into trust administratively, and after conducting a thorough public process, the Bureau of Indian Affairs issued a decision in December of 2014.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from California an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. The Department of the Interior then completed the fee-to-trust process in January of 2017. Indeed, this is ongoing.

On October 31, the county ratified an agreement with the Chumash, ensuring that any impacts of Camp 4 housing on local infrastructure and other resources would be addressed, and the Department of the Interior approved this agreement on the same day.

In order to enable the Chumash to address their housing crisis and ensure any impacts to local governments are addressed, H.R. 1491 takes the following actions:

It affirms and ratifies the action of the Department of the Interior to take the Camp 4 parcel into trust on January 19, 2017.

It codifies references to the Chumash-county agreement ratified by Santa Barbara County on October 31, 2017, addressing impacts to local infrastructure and services.

By request of the Chumash, it prohibits the operation of gaming facilities on the Camp 4 parcel.

It protects and respects rights-of-way also held by local stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, this bill represents, again, the culmination of years of effort on the part of the Chumash, the county, the committee, and Congress to ensure that the concerns of all stakeholders were addressed fairly through a local process and reaching a consensus with the Tribe and the county that we sought from the beginning. Indeed, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs, I believe this agreement is the outcome of good faith negotiations by all parties and should be considered a model for maintaining positive working relationships between tribal and local governments.

I urge all Members to support this bipartisan, noncontroversial measure.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, as the Member of Congress representing the "Camp 4" property addressed in H.R. 1491, which would reaffirm the action of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sup-

port for the amended version of the bill under consideration today which incorporates the recently completed local agreement between Santa Barbara County and the Chumash Tribe.

I have a unique perspective on this issue, having previously served as a Santa Barbara County Supervisor for twelve years. During my tenure, the issue of Camp 4 was deliberated before the Board of Supervisors on several occasions. During those discussions, I was one of the first elected officials to consistently call for direct government-to-government discussions between the Chumash Tribe and the County. I am pleased to see that those ensuing negotiations have now resulted in an agreement that addresses the Tribe's well documented need for tribal housing while providing for important mitigations to address potential impacts on public views, traffic, local tax revenues, and the natural environment.

I believe that the locally negotiated agreement concerning Camp 4 between the Tribe and the County, which is incorporated in today's amended version of H.R. 1491, is in the best interest of my constituents and is an important step toward establishing a long-term collaborative relationship between all parties involved.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1491, 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.

SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2017

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3115) to provide for a land exchange involving Federal land in the Superior National Forest in Minnesota acquired by the Secretary of Agriculture through the Weeks Law, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3115

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 "Superior National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2017".

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Purpose and need for NorthMet Land Exchange.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

Sec. 4. NorthMet Land Exchange.

Sec. 5. Valuation of NorthMet Land Exchange.

Sec. 6. Maps and legal descriptions.

Sec. 7. Post-exchange land management.

Sec. 8. Miscellaneous provisions.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR NORTHMET LAND EXCHANGE.

(a) *PURPOSE.*—It is the purpose of this Act to further the public interest by consummating the NorthMet Land Exchange as specifically set forth in this Act.

(b) *NEED.*—According to the Final Record of Decision, the NorthMet Land Exchange is advisable and needed because the NorthMet Land Exchange will—

(1) result in a 40-acre net gain in National Forest System lands;

(2) improve the spatial arrangement of National Forest System lands by reducing the amount of ownership boundaries to be managed by 33 miles;

(3) improve management effectiveness by exchanging isolated Federal lands with no public overland access for non-Federal lands that will have public overland access and be accessible and open to public use and enjoyment;

(4) result in Federal cost savings by eliminating certain easements and their associated administration costs;

(5) meet several of the priorities identified in the land and resource management plan for Superior National Forest to protect and manage administratively or congressionally designated, unique, proposed, or recommended areas, including acquisition of 307 acres of land to the administratively proposed candidate Research Natural Areas, which are managed by preserving and maintaining areas for ecological research, observation, genetic conservation, monitoring, and educational activities;

(6) promote more effective land management that would meet specific National Forest needs for management, including acquisition of over 6,500 acres of land for new public access, watershed protection, ecologically rare habitats, wetlands, water frontage, and improved ownership patterns;

(7) convey Federal land generally not needed for other Forest resource management objectives, because such land is adjacent to intensively developed private land including ferrous mining areas, where abundant mining infrastructure and transportation are already in place, including—

(A) a large, intensively developed open pit mine lying directly to the north of the Federal land;

(B) a private mine railroad, powerlines, and roads lying directly to the south of the Federal land; and

(C) already existing ore processing, milling, and tailings facilities located approximately 5 miles to the west of the Federal land; and

(8) provide a practical resolution to complex issues pertaining to the development of private mineral rights underlying the Federal land surface, and thereby avoid potential litigation which could adversely impact the status and management of the Federal land and other National Forest System land acquired under the authority of section 6 of the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the Weeks Law; 16 U.S.C. 515).

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) *COLLECTION AGREEMENTS.*—The term "Collection Agreements" means the following agreements between the Secretary and Poly Met pertaining to the NorthMet Land Exchange:

(A) The agreement dated August 25, 2015.

(B) The agreement dated January 15, 2016.

(2) *FEDERAL LAND PARCEL.*—The term "Federal land parcel" means all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to approximately 6,650 acres of National Forest System land, as identified in the Final Record of Decision, within the Superior National Forest in St. Louis County, Minnesota, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Federal Land Parcel—NorthMet Land Exchange", and dated June 2017.

(3) *NON-FEDERAL LAND.*—The term "non-Federal land" means all right, title, and interest of Poly Met in and to approximately 6,690 acres of land in four separate tracts (comprising 10 separate land parcels in total) within the Superior National Forest to be conveyed to the United States by Poly Met in the land exchange as generally depicted on an overview map entitled

“Non-Federal Land Parcels—NorthMet Land Exchange” and dated June 2017, and further depicted on separate tract maps as follows:

(A) TRACT 1.—Approximately 4,650 acres of land in St. Louis County, Minnesota, generally depicted on the map entitled “Non-Federal Land Parcels—NorthMet Land Exchange—Hay Lake Tract”, and dated June 2017.

(B) TRACT 2.—Approximately 320 acres of land in 4 separate parcels in Lake County, Minnesota, generally depicted on the map entitled “Non-Federal Land Parcels—NorthMet Land Exchange—Lake County Lands”, and dated June 2017.

(C) TRACT 3.—Approximately 1,560 acres of land in 4 separate parcels in Lake County, Minnesota, generally depicted on the map entitled “Non-Federal Land Parcels—NorthMet Land Exchange—Wolf Lands”, and dated June 2017.

(D) TRACT 4.—Approximately 160 acres of land in St. Louis County, Minnesota, generally depicted on the map entitled “Non-Federal Land Parcel—NorthMet Land Exchange—Hunting Club Lands”, dated June 2017.

(4) NORTHMET LAND EXCHANGE.—The term “NorthMet Land Exchange” means the land exchange specifically authorized and directed by section 4 of this Act.

(5) POLY MET.—The term “Poly Met” means Poly Met Mining Corporation, Inc., a Minnesota Corporation with executive offices in St. Paul, Minnesota, and headquarters in Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota.

(6) RECORD OF DECISION.—The term “Record of Decision” means the Final Record of Decision of the Forest Service issued on January 9, 2017, approving the NorthMet Land exchange between the United States and PolyMet Mining, Inc., a Minnesota Corporation, involving National Forest System land in the Superior National Forest in Minnesota.

(7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(8) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Minnesota.

SEC. 4. NORTHMET LAND EXCHANGE.

(a) EXCHANGE AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 5(c)(1) and other conditions imposed by this Act, if Poly Met offers to convey to the United States all right, title, and interest of Poly Met in and to the non-Federal land, the Secretary shall accept the offer and convey to Poly Met all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land parcel.

(2) LAND EXCHANGE EXPEDITED.—Subject to the conditions imposed by this Act, the NorthMet Land Exchange directed by this Act shall be consummated not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) FORM OF CONVEYANCE.—

(1) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—Title to the non-Federal land conveyed by Poly Met to the United States shall be by general warranty deed subject to existing rights of record, and otherwise conform to the title approval regulations of the Attorney General of the United States.

(2) FEDERAL LAND PARCEL.—The Federal land parcel shall be quitclaimed by the Secretary to Poly Met by an exchange deed.

(c) EXCHANGE COSTS.—

(1) REIMBURSEMENT REQUIRED.—Poly Met shall pay or reimburse the Secretary, either directly or through the Collection Agreements, for all land survey, appraisal, land title, deed preparation, and other costs incurred by the Secretary in processing and consummating the NorthMet Land Exchange. The Collection Agreements, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, may be modified through the mutual consent of the parties.

(2) DEPOSIT OF FUNDS.—All funds paid or reimbursed to the Secretary under paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be deposited and credited to the accounts in accordance with the Collection Agreements;

(B) shall be used for the purposes specified for the accounts; and

(C) shall remain available to the Secretary until expended without further appropriation.

(d) CONDITIONS ON LAND EXCHANGE.—

(1) RESERVATION OF CERTAIN MINERAL RIGHTS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the United States shall reserve the mineral rights on approximately 181 acres of the Federal land parcel as generally identified on the map entitled “Federal Land Parcel—NorthMet Land Exchange”, and dated June 2017.

(2) THIRD-PARTY AUTHORIZATIONS.—As set forth in the Final Record of Decision, Poly Met shall honor existing road and transmission line authorizations on the Federal land parcel. Upon relinquishment of the authorizations by the holders or upon revocation of the authorizations by the Forest Service, Poly Met shall offer replacement authorizations to the holders on at least equivalent terms.

SEC. 5. VALUATION OF NORTHMET LAND EXCHANGE.

(a) APPRAISALS.—The Congress makes the following new findings:

(1) Appraisals of the Federal and non-Federal lands to be exchanged in the NorthMet Land Exchange were formally prepared in accordance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions, and were approved by the Secretary in conjunction with preparation of the November 2015 Draft Record of Decision on the NorthMet Land Exchange.

(2) The appraisals referred to in paragraph (1) determined that the value of the non-Federal lands exceeded the value of the Federal land parcel by approximately \$425,000.

(3) Based on the appraisals referred to in paragraph (1), the United States would ordinarily be required to make a \$425,000 cash equalization payment to Poly Met to equalize exchange values under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), unless such an equalization payment is waived by Poly Met.

(b) VALUES FOR CONSUMMATION OF LAND EXCHANGE.—The appraised values of the Federal and non-Federal land determined and approved by the Secretary in November 2015, and referenced in subsection (a)—

(1) shall be the values utilized to consummate the NorthMet Land Exchange; and

(2) shall not be subject to reappraisal.

(c) WAIVER OF EQUALIZATION PAYMENT.—

(1) CONDITION ON LAND EXCHANGE.—Notwithstanding section 206(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1716(b)), and as part of its offer to exchange the non-Federal lands as provided in section 4(a)(1) of this Act, Poly Met shall waive any payment to it of any monies owed by the United States to equalize land values.

(2) TREATMENT OF WAIVER.—A waiver of the equalization payment under paragraph (1) shall be considered as a voluntary donation to the United States by Poly Met for all purposes of law.

SEC. 6. MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.

(a) MINOR ADJUSTMENTS.—By mutual agreement, the Secretary and Poly Met may correct minor or typographical errors in any map, acreage estimate, or description of the Federal land parcel or non-Federal land to be exchanged in the NorthMet Land Exchange.

(b) CONFLICT.—If there is a conflict between a map, an acreage estimate, or a description of land under this Act, the map shall control unless the Secretary and Poly Met mutually agree otherwise.

(c) EXCHANGE MAPS.—The maps referred to in section 3 depicting the Federal and non-Federal lands to be exchanged in the NorthMet Land Exchange, and dated June 2017, depict the identical lands identified in the Final Record of Decision, which are on file in the Office of the Supervisor, Superior National Forest.

SEC. 7. POST-EXCHANGE LAND MANAGEMENT.

(a) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—Upon conveyance of the non-Federal land to the United States in the

NorthMet Land Exchange, the non-Federal land shall become part of the Superior National Forest and be managed in accordance with—

(1) the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the Weeks Law; 16 U.S.C. 500 et seq.); and

(2) the laws and regulations applicable to the Superior National Forest and the National Forest System.

(b) PLANNING.—Upon acquisition by the United States in the NorthMet Land Exchange, the non-Federal lands shall be managed in a manner consistent with the land and resource management plan applicable to adjacent federally owned lands in the Superior National Forest. An amendment or supplement to the land and resource management plan shall not be required solely because of the acquisition of the non-Federal lands.

(c) FEDERAL LAND.—Upon conveyance of the Federal land parcel to Poly Met in the NorthMet Land Exchange, the Federal land parcel shall become private land and available for any lawful use in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations pertaining to mining and other uses of land in private ownership.

SEC. 8. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(a) WITHDRAWAL OF ACQUIRED NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The non-Federal lands acquired by the United States in the NorthMet Land Exchange shall be withdrawn, without further action by the Secretary, from appropriation and disposal under public land laws and under laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

(b) WITHDRAWAL REVOCATION.—Any public land order that withdraws the Federal land parcel from appropriation or disposal under a public land law shall be revoked without further action by the Secretary to the extent necessary to permit conveyance of the Federal land parcel to Poly Met.

(c) WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LAND PENDING CONVEYANCE.—The Federal land parcel to be conveyed to Poly Met in the NorthMet Land Exchange, if not already withdrawn or segregated from appropriation or disposal under the mineral leasing and geothermal or other public land laws upon enactment of this Act, is hereby so withdrawn, subject to valid existing rights, until the date of conveyance of the Federal land parcel to Poly Met.

(d) ACT CONTROLS.—In the event any provision of the Record of Decision conflicts with a provision of this Act, the provision of this Act shall control.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TIPTON. 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 Colorado?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3115, authored by Congressman RICHARD NOLAN, is a bipartisan bill that implements a land exchange to facilitate the exercise of certain mineral rights in the Superior National Forest in Minnesota to create economic growth for the area.

Congressman NOLAN will certainly provide the history of this exchange,

but I do want to take note that this bill has greater impacts than just a single forest in Minnesota.

Across the United States, people hold mineral estates underlying lands that were acquired by the National Forest under the Weeks Act. Without an agreement such as the one authorized by this bill, their ability to exercise those valid preexisting rights is in jeopardy.

I note that the land exchange authorized in this bill has undergone extensive environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and was supported by the Obama administration.

This is an equal-value land exchange, but the holder of the mineral estate forgoes any equalization under the bill if the private land being swapped for the Federal land is worth more.

Finally, the bill provides a net increase in the size of the Superior National Forest of 40 acres. It is no wonder that this bill was supported by the ranking members of the Subcommittee on Federal Lands and the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources when it was considered by the Natural Resources Committee in July.

I commend Congressman NOLAN, Congressman COLLIN PETERSON, Congressman TOM EMMER, and Congressman JASON LEWIS for working together to craft this commonsense solution bill to help Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3115 authorizes a land exchange between the Forest Service and PolyMet Mining. PolyMet will acquire land within Minnesota's Superior National Forest to pursue the development of an open pit mine.

While the Forest Service already approved the exchange, I understand several groups of concerned Minnesotans have expressed concerns about the proposed development, including the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, a federally recognized Tribe whose reservation is downstream from the proposed mine. The area to be exchanged is part of the Tribe's ancestral homeland, and they have concerns that the conveyance could impact rights to hunt, fish, and gather. Federal ownership protects these rights.

As ranking member of the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs, I think it is important that we listen to the concerns of tribal communities. That said, I understand this bill is a priority for Representative NOLAN, and I look forward to hearing his perspectives.

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

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

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3115, the land exchange between PolyMet Mining Corporation and the Superior National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service.

Let me begin by saying that what the exchange involves is PolyMet giving up approximately 6,550 acres of forestland that is surrounded by old mining sites, with no public access. In return, they are giving us 6,690 acres, or an additional 40 acres, which is a wonderfully good deal for the taxpayers and the concerns of the environment, if people just look at the exchange.

At the end of the day, the taxpayers get more land and more value—\$425,000, to be exact. There is no cost to the taxpayers. The public gets more access to the land. They get more lakeshore property, more timberland, more wild rice land, and more wetlands.

If approved and if the PolyMet Mining project should ultimately go forward—by the way, it has received the highest marks that any mining project has ever received from the EPA, after almost 12 years of review—the simple truth is that this is a good bill for the public.

Let me say it is important to note that there are some things that this bill does not do. I need to say that because there is some terrible misinformation floating around out there.

Number one, it does not authorize a mining project. Let's make that very clear.

Number two, it does not interfere with the State and Federal environmental review processes, procedures, and permitting process.

Most importantly, the preponderance of the information coming into my office is concern for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, and rightfully so. I was an original sponsor of that legislation back in the day before I took my little 32-year hiatus. There is no more precious, pristine area in this country—perhaps, the world—that needs to be protected.

Let me show you something. For those of you who weren't paying attention in science class, there is the Continental Divide. The water north of that flows north and water to the south of that flows south.

This project is south of the Continental Divide, so there is physically no way possible, short of a nuclear bomb or getting hit by a planet or something, that that water can flow into and in any way harm or damage the Boundary Waters.

To be specific, right here, there already is a 60-year-old mining project, Northshore Mining. They have been mining there 60 years.

And by the way, there is sulfur in that soil, as well. It has never caused any damage to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

This is a good bill for the environment, good for jobs, and it is good for the community. In no way can it harm or damage the Boundary Waters or I wouldn't be standing here today advocating for its purchase.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this important piece of legislation. I remind them that it has good bipartisan support from our Minnesota Senators and the Governor, bipartisan support from our congressional delegation, chambers of commerce, and the trade unions.

It is a good bill, and I urge its adoption.

□ 1700

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

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3115, the Superior National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2017. This bill mandates an exchange of more than 6,600 acres in the Superior National Forest for the construction of a massive open pit sulfide-ore copper and nickel mine.

This project is controversial with the majority of Minnesotans who oppose the toxic sulfide-ore mining because it is a threat to our water quality, public lands, and outdoor recreation in our State.

This legislation also raises serious due process concerns. There are four pending lawsuits challenging the land exchange based on existing environmental laws and concerns about the appropriate appraisal values.

Federal courts are still considering these suits, but this legislation undermines the proper judicial review to expedite the construction of the PolyMet mine.

Finally, this bill ignores the treaty rights of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, a federally recognized Tribal nation. The Fond du Lac Reservation is downstream from the proposed mine site, and the Tribal chairman has told Congress this mine will, and I quote the Tribal chairman, "pose a direct threat to the water and the fish, the game, and the wild rice on which the Tribe depends."

The National Congress of American Indians also strongly opposes this legislation. H.R. 3115 undermines legal due process, environmental safeguards, and the treaty rights of our Native American brothers and sisters, and I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 3115.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3115, 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.

Mrs. TORRES. 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.

21ST CENTURY RESPECT ACT

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 995) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to amend regulations for racial appropriateness, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 995

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 "21st Century Respect Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS REQUIRED.

(a) SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall amend section 1901.202 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, for purposes of—

(1) replacing the reference to the term "Negro or Black" with "Black or African American";

(2) replacing the reference to the term "Spanish Surname" with "Hispanic"; and

(3) replacing the reference to the term "Oriental" with "Asian American or Pacific Islander".

(b) SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—The Secretary of the Interior shall amend section 906.2 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, for purposes of—

(1) replacing the references to the term "Negro" with "Black or African American";

(2) replacing the definition of "Negro" with the definition of "Black or African American" as "a person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa";

(3) replacing the references to the term "Oriental" with "Asian American or Pacific Islander"; and

(4) replacing the references to the terms "Eskimo" and "Aleut" with "Alaska Native".

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments required by this Act, shall be construed to affect Federal law, except with respect to the use of terms by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, respectively, to the regulations affected by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 Colorado?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the United States is 241 years old. In that time, the country has seen an immense amount of change and growth. Over the course of history,

laws and policies have been updated to be able to reflect this growth. However, some decades-old statutes and regulations still contain antiquated terms.

Enacted in 2016, Public Law 114-157 modernized antiquated ethnic terms related to minorities found in the Office of Minority Economic Impact of the Department of Energy and section 106 of the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 for racial appropriateness.

H.R. 995 would make similar changes to terms found in certain regulations of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsor of this bill, Mr. JEFFRIES, and I urge adoption of the measure.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, November 20, 2017.

Hon. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: We thank you for agreeing to discharge the Committee on Agriculture from further consideration of H.R. 995, the 21st Century Respect Act, that the Committee on Natural Resources ordered favorably reported, as amended, on November 8, 2017.

This concession in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Agriculture represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and your response in the bill report and in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for the extraordinary cooperation shown by you and your staff over matters of shared jurisdiction. I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman,
Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, November 20, 2017.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to review H.R. 995, 21st Century Respect Act. As you are aware, the bill was primarily referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, while the Agriculture Committee received an additional referral.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I agree to discharge H.R. 995 from further consideration by the Committee on Agriculture. I do so with the understanding that by discharging the bill, the Committee on Agriculture does not waive any future jurisdictional claim on this or similar matters. Further, the Committee on Agriculture reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees, if it should become necessary.

I ask that you insert a copy of our exchange of letters into the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill could not be more straightforward. H.R. 995 would require the USDA and the Department of the Interior to change the terminology used to describe the racial background or place of origin of people.

These very outdated and offensive racial terms have no place in our Federal regulations. Modernizing these terms should be a continuous effort across all agencies. I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for his leadership on this issue by pushing this legislation forward.

Mr. Speaker, I want to include in the RECORD the phrases that this bill would change: replacing the references to the term "Negro" with "Black or African American;" replacing the definition of "Negro" with the definition of "African American" as "a person having origins;" replacing the references of the term "Oriental" with "Asian American;" and replacing the references to the terms "Eskimo" and "Aleut" with "Alaska Native."

I think it is only fair that we move to pass this bill and finally address people as we should. I also want to bring attention to the title of the bill, which is the 21st Century Respect Act.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to add that the bill was reported out of committee by unanimous vote.

I want to read into the RECORD Representative JEFFRIES' remarks on H.R. 995, the 21st Century Respect Act, a bipartisan bill that will remove outdated and offensive racial labels from the Code of Federal Regulations:

I thank Ranking Member Grijalva and Mrs. Torres and Chairman Bishop and Mr. LaMalfa for working with me to move this important bill expeditiously through committee. I also want to thank Congressman CHABOT for his support and partnership.

Words matter. They can cause great harm by making people feel lesser or other, and when words are rooted in bigotry in our Nation's laws, it signals that we, as a country, are legitimizing and normalizing bigotry.

Unfortunately, there are still laws on the books that use old offensive racial terms to refer to our fellow Americans. These terms come from areas where intolerance was acceptable, and they have no place in modern society.

For example, title 36 of this CFR still uses the term "Eskimo" to refer to certain indigenous Americans from Alaska. People in many parts of the arctic consider "Eskimo" a derogatory term because it was widely used to connote barbarism and violence. The 21st Century Respect Act replaces "Eskimo" with "Alaska Native," a modern term embraced by the people that it describes.

Title 7 also includes the terms "Oriental" and "Negro," which are terms that are disparaging today. H.R. 995 replaces those old labels with "Asian American" or "Pacific Islander" and "Black" or "African American," respectively. These new terms reflect America's growth and progress.

Now, more than ever, we need to be conscious of the signals and messages that our