

taxpayers and the environment since its enactment in 1982, saving the taxpayers billions of dollars by avoiding Federal investment in undeveloped storm- and flood-prone areas. H.R. 5787 will strengthen and update this system and allow its success to continue.

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5787 and I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER), my colleague.

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 5787, the Strengthening Coastal Communities Act of 2018.

Mr. Speaker, I want to start by thanking Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA for working with myself and Congressman DUNN to quickly pass this important piece of legislation.

In my home State of Delaware and in communities all over the country, our beaches and coastlines are critical not only for their contributions to our economy, but also for their natural beauty. For too long, those communities were encroached upon by overly ambitious development. That development was, in part, aided by programs that were put in place by the Federal Government.

In the 1980s, Congress recognized the burden that development was placing on local communities and passed the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. The act ensured that certain coastal areas were removed from the Federal programs that incentivized increased development.

Through the creation of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System, coastal communities across the United States were able to ensure that their cherished natural heritage was protected and preserved for generations to come.

As the years passed, the coastal communities across America evolved. The Coastal Barrier Resources Act should have evolved as well. Unfortunately, that didn't happen, and it has been far too long since the maps designating areas belonging to the Coastal Barrier Resources System were updated. It was through the efforts of the Members of those coastal communities that this problem was identified.

We are the people's House, and the Strengthening Coastal Communities Act of 2018 emanated from the thoughts and concerns of everyday citizens. It was the voice of a Member of my home State of Delaware that brought the issue to my attention, and I would be remiss if I didn't recognize him.

Tom D'Amico, the president of the South Shore Homeowners Association, shared with me just how badly outdated the maps were. Tom and other coastal Delawareans told me that the only way in which the Coastal Barrier

Resources Act could truly be effective is if the maps designating the exempt areas were kept up-to-date.

I should also recognize the efforts of my State's senior Senator and ranking member on the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, TOM CARPER. I know that Senator CARPER has been paying very close attention to this issue, as it has impacted our shorelines for many years.

Finally, I recognize my friend and gentleman from Florida (Mr. DUNN). While, initially, Members from many States had introduced legislation updating maps for their individual States, it became clear that one bill that would update all the maps across the country would be the most effective and efficient way to accomplish our goals. When I came to Congress, I made a promise to the people of Delaware to work with other Members not based on the letter that was next to their name, but rather by finding Members with common interests, common challenges, and those who were willing to work to find common solutions. I am proud to have found a partner for this bill in Mr. DUNN.

From the coasts of Delaware to Florida, to Louisiana, to Hawaii, and to the Virgin Islands, we all have a common interest in maintaining the natural beauty of our great country. While development is crucial to the continued economic growth in our country, we recognize that not every place is appropriate for development. We should not only acknowledge the wisdom of the 97th United States Congress in passing the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, but do everything possible to uphold its legacy by ensuring that the maps are updated and modernized, as this bill has done.

Mr. Speaker, I also recognize Congressman Tom Evans, who was an original cosponsor from the State of Delaware.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DUNN), who introduced the bill.

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to be here today for the opportunity to speak on this bipartisan, commonsense bill to provide much-needed modernization and updates of the Coastal Barrier Resources System maps. I thank Chairman BISHOP for his work throughout this process, as well as my colleague on the other side of the aisle, my friend, Representative BLUNT ROCHESTER, for her work on this issue as well.

The Coastal Barrier Resources Act, signed into law in 1982, is meant to preserve our Nation's barrier islands by barring Federal funds and financial assistance from being used there, which therefore disincentivizes development. This bill maintains these protections for our Nation's barrier islands while

simply providing for more precise digital maps to distinguish the CBRA zones.

For decades, some of my constituents throughout the Second District of Florida have been burdened by being erroneously included in the CBRA zones. In some cases, this is due to the width of the pencil marks outlining the boundaries on the original outdated, hand-drawn maps. This was unacceptable in 1982, and it is outrageous in 2018.

Now, more than ever, in the wake of one of the most devastating hurricanes in American history, a lack of access to Federal resources is particularly debilitating for residents in coastal communities across the Florida panhandle. This means no flood insurance, no FEMA assistance, or no SBA loans. Being included in the CBRA zones actually precludes the use of the funds from the BP oil spill in 2010.

I am grateful that this bill will provide a remedy for some people who are dealing with these unnecessary burdens.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I encourage the Senate to take it up before the end of Congress.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I commend Congressman DUNN and Congresswoman BLUNT ROCHESTER for their leadership on this bipartisan bill to codify a series of updated Coastal Barrier Resources System pilot project maps.

This legislation, much like the underlying act, demonstrates that good environmental stewardship, conservation, and coastal resiliency go hand in hand with responsible taxpayer protections.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. 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 Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5787, 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. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

FLATSIDE WILDERNESS ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 5636) to designate additions to the Flatside Wilderness on the Ouachita National Forest, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5636

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 "Flatside Wilderness Enhancement Act".

SEC. 2. ADDITIONS TO FLATSIDE WILDERNESS.

Section 3(d) of Arkansas Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-508; 98 Stat. 2349) is amended by inserting "and certain land in the Ouachita National Forest, which comprise approximately 640 acres, as generally depicted as 'Recommended Wilderness Area' on the map titled 'Flatside Wilderness, Recommended Wilderness Area', dated September 6, 2018" after "1984".

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS ADDITION.

The wilderness addition created under section 2 shall be known as the Bethune Woods-Flatside Wilderness. Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to such portion of the Flatside Wilderness shall be deemed to be a reference to the Bethune Woods-Flatside Wilderness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5636 adds approximately 640 acres to the 9,500-acre Flatside Wilderness in the Ouachita National Forest.

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This land has been studied and recommended as an addition to the wilderness by the U.S. Forest Service.

The bill also names the addition after Congressman Ed Bethune, who served the people of Arkansas from 1979 to 1985.

This relatively minor change will establish more manageable wilderness boundaries, allowing the Forest Service to take better care of the land. Most importantly, this new wilderness designation has local support and support from the Arkansas delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Congressman FRENCH HILL, for introducing this legislation to benefit his district. I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

This bill amends the Arkansas Wilderness Act of 1984 to designate 640

acres in the Ouachita National Forest. We are pleased to work with our colleagues across the aisle to identify areas that deserve wilderness designation and to increase conservation opportunities for our most wild and serene places.

This bill adds to a conservation legacy signed into law by President Reagan and demonstrates that protection of public lands can be a bipartisan priority. We look forward to continuing this work as we wrap up the year and move into the next Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), who introduced the bill.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Colorado for the time, and I appreciate the opportunity today to be on the House floor to talk about H.R. 5636, the Flatside Wilderness Enhancement Act, to preserve the wilderness areas for future generations of Arkansans.

On October 19, 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Arkansas Wilderness Act, which set aside the first wilderness areas in the State of Arkansas. One of those wilderness areas created by this act was Flatside, which is located in both Perry County and Saline County, both of which are in my district.

In 2005, the U.S. Forest Service recommended that these 640 acres be included in the national wilderness program, stating that adding these lands to the wilderness program would establish a more logical and manageable boundary for these areas and is consistent with the forest management plan.

This measure is a first step in enhancing Flatside. Additional measures are being considered to study other U.S. forest lands that are suitable for addition to the area adjacent to Flatside. We are also working to restore certain adjacent areas that were in former private ownership to native species.

Perry County offers something very special for Arkansans, visitors young and old alike, seeking a unique, authentic outdoor recreation experience. This tourism has had a positive effect on Arkansas' economy, especially in these largely rural counties. By increasing the wilderness area and promoting it, Arkansas, especially in Perry County, can attract more people to enjoy these natural resources and continue the trend of tourism's positive impact on Arkansas' economy.

It is important to note that this bill is narrowly tailored to only place lands carefully selected by the U.S. Forest Service into the wilderness area. It will not affect any private property.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, this bill is of particular importance to me because, as a young Senate staffer working on the Hill in 1984, I was able

to work with then-Senator Dale Bumpers' office from Arkansas and Representative Ed Bethune's office and helped to secure the passage of the Arkansas Wilderness Act in the Senate. What a treat, three decades later, for me now to represent the Second District of Arkansas and see this good work continue, while also being able to recognize my predecessor, former Congressman of Arkansas' Second District, Ed Bethune.

I believe naming this tract for Congressman Bethune is a proper way to recognize him for his dedicated service for conservation causes important to The Natural State. This enthusiasm is shared by the entire Arkansas delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friends, Chairman BISHOP and Representative WESTERMAN, for their help in advocating for this bill that is so important to my district, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. LAMBORN. 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 Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5636, 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.

CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6064) to rename the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge as the Congressman Lester Wolff National Wildlife Refuge.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6064

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge was created in 1968. It is located on the north shore of Long Island in eastern Nassau County, is the largest refuge in the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and receives the most public use of all the refuges in the Complex.

(2) The State of New York designated Oyster Bay a significant coastal fish and wildlife habitat. It is especially important for wintering waterfowl such as black duck, greater scaup, bufflehead, canvasback and long-tailed ducks. Management activities include wetland restoration and protection of the natural shoreline and vegetation.

(3) The refuge is unique in consisting solely of bay bottom and adjacent shoreline up to the mean high-tide mark. Ninety percent of New York's commercial oyster harvest comes from the refuge. Visitors enjoy fishing, wildlife observation, photography and environmental education. The refuge is truly a national treasure.