

Since the year 2000, the Colorado River Basin and the State of Utah have been in severe drought. We don't know whether this drought will continue or, due to climate change, may permanently alter the river as a source of water. In the meantime, demand for water continues to rise.

Both Lake Powell and Lake Mead appear to be operating as designed, but both are at uncomfortably low levels. Congress must act promptly on this legislation so that the new agreement can be implemented and water conservation efforts can get underway.

The Upper Basin Drought Contingency Plan is aimed at protecting upper basin water supplies by keeping Lake Powell from falling below a specified critical elevation. Taking steps now to avoid that just makes sense and helps ensure that hydropower needs, water delivery, and protections for endangered species continue in compliance with the Colorado River Compact.

I strongly support this bipartisan, collaborative measure that builds on past efforts to decrease stress on basin water supplies and lets States and water users drive the decision, rather than have the Federal Government make unilateral water delivery cutbacks.

I thank Chairman GRIJALVA and Ranking Member ROB BISHOP, my Utah colleague, for bringing this legislation to the floor promptly. It has the backing of Utah's four House Members, and it is supported by the State of Utah.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing it signed into law.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to another gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), who is one of the great members of this committee and this House.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman said another one from Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, I want to sort of echo what you have heard, and that is a certain happiness that we were all able to move this forward together. I appreciate the chairman, but I also want to be someone who adds a little bit of a caveat that we understand the work isn't done, particularly for those of us in Arizona.

I hate to admit how old I am, but in the early nineties, I was one of those who worked on what we called our groundwater recharge district in Maricopa County. When we had excess water, particularly from the Central Arizona Project in those years, we stored it. As we look back, now 25-some years, that was somewhat revolutionary and visionary.

We will have to do things like that to meet our requirements that are part of this legislation. This legislation does not lay out every last step that those of us in Arizona must do. We are going to have to step up and meet our obligations. I think it is important that we understand there is still much more work to be done.

As that moves forward, I am going to ask that all of us, particularly those

who are supporting this drought contingency plan, think creatively. Are there technologies, and are there encouragements of farming techniques, as we are doing urban construction and types of plants in our communities?

We need to now go to the next step and think what this brings our communities, particularly for those of us in the Phoenix metropolitan area who live in the desert Southwest.

I hope we get a resounding vote of approval a little while from now, and I also hope that this is the right direction. We have to keep focused. Just because we have had a big hydrological year doesn't mean that we are not going to be back having this conversation a year or 2 years from now.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate everyone who has spoken on behalf of this particular bill. It is a significant piece of legislation.

As Mr. SCHWEIKERT said, hopefully, we will never have to use it. Even in April of this year, the flow into Lake Powell is 133 percent of average. The snowpack is 138 percent of the 30-year average. Hopefully, we will never have to implement it, but at some time, it may, indeed, happen. Having this in place now provides for the future necessity, if and when that negative time has to take place.

I am proud the States came together. They have come up with a plan that is going to be successful, a solution to it, because if this thing does not pass, Utah is going to keep all the water and the rest of you can suck under.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, as another one from Arizona, let me close by thanking the ranking member and also noting that 2026 is around the corner. The work that was being done today with this drought contingency plan is a very important door into what needs to be done in the future, the cooperation, the collaboration, and the urgency going forward.

As Mr. SCHWEIKERT said, the job is not complete yet. There is much still to do.

I hope that the stakeholders and everyone involved in getting the plan to this point continue, with earnestness and with purpose, to address the issue of water availability in the Southwest. As our areas become more and more arid, understand that this is not an infinite resource we have in water. It is a finite resource, and we need to treat it that way.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2030.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motions to suspend the rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 19; and Pass H.R. 1331; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion of the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. CRAIG) to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 19) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. CRAIG) that House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 386, nays 0, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 157]

YEAS—386

Adams	Axne	Bass
Aderholt	Babin	Beatty
Aguilar	Bacon	Bera
Allen	Baird	Bergman
Allred	Balderson	Beyer
Amash	Banks	Biggs
Armstrong	Barragán	Bilirakis