

However, I am pleased to report that all the concerns people had have been resolved at this point. The Senate has already deemed this bill to have passed once the House acts on it. So, with our passage today, I think this bill is going fast into becoming an actual piece of legislation.

I want to thank Representative GRIJALVA and his staff. Mr. GRIJALVA is not here today. The gentleman from New Jersey is in his place, and a much better dresser, I might add, and I thank him. I thank them for their efforts to continue on with this program that was part of the original package. We had hiccups that we had to solve in some particular way, so Mr. GRIJALVA and his staff worked very hard on this particular piece of legislation.

This is something that has been long sought by the sports community. The Pittman-Robertson fund, which is a great fund that relies on excise taxes paid on purchases that are made by hunters and fishers and recreational shooters, that goes into this fund, which has been around for almost 80 years and has already contributed about \$10 billion.

It has been important to start hunter education programs. It has been important also for the construction and the maintenance of our public shooting ranges. The long-term viability is significant.

As this Nation becomes more urbanized, the ability of people having a safe place where they can go, and they can do practice, target practice, it becomes even more significant that these ranges have to be maintained. These ranges have to be improved in some particular way.

What this bill does is the perfect solution. It takes this fund of money, but then allows the States to have greater flexibility of how it is going to be administered. By allowing them to even match with just 10 percent, it gives the States the ability to move forward and to use the Pittman-Robertson fund for 5 years to fund shooting ranges and expand existing shooting ranges.

It empowers States—that is what we should be doing more—but it empowers States that will actually now encourage responsible hunting, responsible recreational shooting, as well as ensuring the wildlife conservation system, which is, once again, a responsibility of States.

What we are doing here is, I think, taking the right approach with a fund that already exists, giving States flexibility, and encouraging the sporting community. That is why the sportsmen of our country have long sought for this particular provision. They look at this as a major and important win.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this 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 New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1222.

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.

COLUMBIA RIVER IN-LIEU AND TREATY FISHING ACCESS SITES IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 91) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide affected Columbia River Treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 91

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 “Columbia River In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites Improvement Act”.

SEC. 2. SANITATION AND SAFETY CONDITIONS AT CERTAIN BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS FACILITIES.

(a) ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, in consultation with the affected Columbia River Treaty tribes, may assess current sanitation and safety conditions on lands held by the United States for the benefit of the affected Columbia River Treaty tribes, including all permanent Federal structures and improvements on those lands, that were set aside to provide affected Columbia River Treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds—

(1) in accordance with the Act of March 2, 1945 (59 Stat. 10, chapter 19) (commonly known as the “River and Harbor Act of 1945”); or

(2) in accordance with title IV of Public Law 100–581 (102 Stat. 2944).

(b) EXCLUSIVE AUTHORIZATION; CONTRACTS.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Indian Affairs—

(1) subject to paragraph (2)(B), shall be the only Federal agency authorized to carry out the activities described in this section; and

(2) may delegate the authority to carry out activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (d)—

(A) through one or more contracts entered into with an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.); or

(B) to include other Federal agencies that have relevant expertise.

(c) DEFINITION OF AFFECTED COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY TRIBES.—In this section, the term “affected Columbia River Treaty tribes” means the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to

the Secretary of the Interior such sums as are necessary, to remain available until expended—

(1) for improvements to existing structures and infrastructure to improve sanitation and safety conditions assessed under subsection (a); and

(2) to improve access to electricity, sewer, and water infrastructure, where feasible, to reflect needs for sanitary and safe use of facilities referred to in subsection (a).

SEC. 3. STUDY OF ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES.

The Comptroller General of the United States, in consultation with the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, shall—

(1) conduct a study to evaluate whether the sanitation and safety conditions on lands held by the United States for the benefit of the affected Columbia River Treaty tribes (as defined in section 2(c)) have improved as a result of the activities authorized in section 2; and

(2) prepare and submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report containing the results of that study.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 91 authorizes the Bureau of Indian Affairs to assess sanitation and safety conditions on land set aside to provide Columbia River Treaty Tribes access to traditional fishing grounds, and to enter into contracts with Tribes or Tribal organizations to improve the identified conditions.

The Columbia River Treaty Tribes, through a series of treaties in 1855, established access to “usual and accustomed fishing areas” and ancillary fishing facilities on the Columbia River.

Starting in the 1930s, construction of the dams of the Columbia River Power System resulted in flooding and destruction of Tribal villages, homes, and traditional fishing sites, severely impacting the Tribal members’ ability to exercise these treaty rights. The tribes and their citizens have never been fully compensated for their losses.

In a series of agreements and laws starting in 1939, the Federal Government acquired and developed small parcels of land to serve as “in-lieu” and treaty fishing access sites, providing members of the Columbia River Treaty Tribes access to exercise their rights to fish in the Columbia and reside at their traditional fishing places and fishing stations.

Additionally, Congress enacted the Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites project in 1988, which authorized improvements for the existing ancillary fishing facilities and directed the Army Corps of Engineers to acquire new lands to provide unencumbered river access for Tribal members.

Today, there are 31 Tribal fishing sites located along the Columbia River, 27 of which are managed by the BIA. The sites were intended to be used primarily for in-season fishing and some temporary camping.

However, out of both a need for housing and a desire to be closer to traditional fishing areas, many Tribal members now use these areas as permanent residences.

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These sites were not designed for and cannot sustain this accommodated use. In fact, many people at these sites are living in extremely distressed, unsafe, and unsanitary conditions as a direct result of decades of unmet obligations by the BIA.

Passage of H.R. 91 will result in vast improvements to the conditions of these sites. As such, I urge the quick adoption of this legislation.

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, even though H.R. 91 is a new bill, we have seen it before. The last time we were here, it was a Senate bill that came over and passed our committee but did not pass the floor itself. We did talk about it as part of a package we did earlier this year, that it could have gone in that. For some reason, it was not allowed to go in there.

It does deal with four of the Columbia River Treaty Tribes and the conditions on their traditional fishing areas that are basically unsanitary and simply unsafe. What this bill does is authorize the Department of the Interior to upgrade these areas, to make them acceptable to safety and sanitary standards, and to do that in consultation with the Tribes.

This bill is, in my estimation, a reasonable approach. I have no objection to passing this measure today.

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in yielding to me and the presentation that he made outlining the situation, along with Ranking Member BISHOP, under whose leadership this legislation moved forward in the last Congress.

It is long overdue. It is jarring to visit these in-lieu treaty sites. The notion that it is unsanitary and unsafe really understates the case.

Along the Columbia River, I have passed one of these sites for years,

never knowing that what may be a Tiger Woods three-iron shot off the freeway revealed these conditions.

These are sites that have been used by the Tribes for millennia, and sadly, they were a casualty of the Columbia River dam construction. Those dams have produced significant economic prosperity in our region with jobs and agricultural activities, but the Native people have been left behind.

There was a pledge that we would be able to accommodate their sites that were flooded, but that has been observed mainly in the breach. It has reached the point now where we have on each of these sites people who naturally want to gravitate to what is part of their tradition. There is, as was referenced, a need for Tribal housing, but the fishing experience, the proximity to the river, and this being part of their historic heritage draws them there.

In many cases, they do have sites where people are living on a year-round basis in conditions that really should not exist anywhere in America.

It is interesting, when we started this saga two centuries ago, Native people had almost 2 billion acres that was theirs to hunt, to fish, to live, and there was some cultivation. The Federal Government, over a series of years and a series of treaties, narrowed that range. In fact, the Federal Government started giving away Native American people's land before there was even a treaty to White settlers.

The history is checkered and disturbing. There have been acts that can only be described as genocide—disease, attacks on Native people, forced marches. We had our own Trail of Tears in the Pacific Northwest. And, consistently, we have not met our obligations to more recent treaties.

I am pleased that the committee has brought this forward on a bipartisan basis. I am pleased that the administration is aligned with us in, it looks like, being able to move forward to deal with what needs to happen with some of these sites.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we have a partnership in the Senate with my friend and colleague, Senator JEFF MERKLEY, and Senator PATTY MURRAY, who has been deeply involved with this, so that we are positioned to take action that is long overdue, keeping faith with the Tribal people, keeping faith with our commitment through history, being able to make sure that the progress that we have been working on here for 4 years is poised to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I deeply appreciate the work that has been done with the committee on a bipartisan basis to get us to this position. I look forward to its passage in the House and the Senate and being executed by the executive.

It is going to make a big difference to people who are worthy and deserving of our best efforts.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, if I could inquire of the gentleman from

New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) if he has any more speakers. I don't have any other speakers.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

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

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Columbia River In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites Improvement Act. This bill takes important steps to address an injustice that four Columbia River Tribes have faced for decades.

Beginning in the 1930s, the construction of the Bonneville, John Day, and Dalles dams on the lower Columbia River flooded many homes and traditional fishing sites. The flooding displaced members of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. The Army Corps of Engineers designed 31 Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites and "in-lieu" sites along the banks of the Columbia River to be used primarily for in-season fishing and temporary camping, but conditions have been extremely unsafe and unsanitary.

This bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess and update electricity, water, and sewer infrastructure at existing Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide treaty Tribes access to traditional fishing grounds. These Tribes have treaty rights to fishing access sites on the Columbia River and we must uphold our obligations to provide safe and sanitary housing and infrastructure. I thank Congressman BLUMENAUER and Senator MERKLEY for their leadership, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 91.

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. VAN DREW. 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.

SANTA YNEZ BAND OF CHUMASH INDIANS LAND AFFIRMATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 317) to reaffirm the action of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the benefit of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows: