

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 255, introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. COOK), authorizes a locally supported equal value land exchange between the Forest Service and San Bernardino County. The county has proposed to convey an inland parcel within the San Bernardino National Forest to the Forest Service in exchange for land further north to be conveyed by the county.

The land conveyed by the county will allow needed forest management infrastructure to be located closer to the forest and promote road safety by reducing the need to drive forest products down narrow, winding roads.

H.R. 255 also authorizes cooperation between the county and the Forest Service to relocate a portion of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, if needed, and requires that the trail relocation be completed before the exchange is consummated.

This legislation is the result of a Congressman who has listened to the voices of his community, an administration sympathetic to the plight of our forest communities, and community members and their local representatives putting forward a reasonable and workable plan that is fair to all parties.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from southern California (Mr. AGUILAR).

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from California offering me some time, and I want to thank Representative COOK, as well, for his efforts.

I rise in support of the Big Bear Land Exchange Act.

My community in San Bernardino County experiences some of the highest levels of air pollution anywhere in the country, and, in order to combat this pollution, we must find ways to reduce emissions in our region. This bill will help us do just that.

This land exchange between the county and the Federal Government will allow the establishment of a recycling and recovery center in my neighboring district. This facility would decrease the long distances that trucks have to travel to dispose of waste and will allow us to divert this waste by repurposing recyclable materials.

This legislation is good for our communities and is a smart way to help mitigate pollution and combat climate change.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, Representative COOK, for his work in championing this bill and for his bipartisan collaboration. I have worked with Mr. COOK on a number of issues representing San Bernardino County. Nobody is more thoughtful when it comes to what our future direction holds. I know his heart is in San Bernardino County, as well, and no one will ever doubt that about his intent.

Just because he doesn't want to hang out here with us in this facility oftentimes doesn't mean that he isn't publicly driven and publicly minded in order to deliver for his constituents. This bill is one of those examples.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleague the remainder of the next 12 months and in the years ahead, and I want to thank him for his efforts in this regard.

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

I share my colleague's high words of praise and warmth for our colleague, Mr. COOK, the author of this measure, and I am also somewhat annoyed with him for his decision to leave the Congress at the end of this session for the county board of supervisors.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. COOK).

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. McCLINTOCK for yielding his time.

I had my speech all prepared, but I am not sure whether it is a San Bernardino lovefest or a beat up on PAUL COOK because he is leaving this institution.

This is an example. Everybody knows that you can work together; you can put your differences aside and get things done. I pride myself on that. I am very, very passionate about certain things.

This bill sounds simple, the pollution going up and down that hill; but, more so, anyone who has lived in a mountain community knows how dangerous it is, particularly in the winter, and more so with a truck with timber on it, the number of accidents that we have on those roads up there—just the deaths—every year. We have always had problems, and it is something I am very, very concerned about.

I do want to commend working with the Pacific Crest Trail Association, working together so we could iron out some of these things.

The relocation, as I think was already mentioned, will include environmental review and will take care before the exchange takes place.

And we have got a lot of people on this: the city of Big Bear Lake, the Friends of Big Bear Valley, Big Bear Fire Department.

By the way, there are big bears up there. If you haven't met one there, stay off the highways.

Anyway, the Big Bear City Community Services Department, the water district, the community healthcare, the chamber of commerce, and the local Big Bear chapter of the Sierra Club—and they have been great on this.

It passed out of the House Natural Resources Committee on a unanimous, bipartisan vote. Last December, nearly identical language passed out of the House as H.R. 5513 with overwhelming bipartisan support.

I appreciate the comments—even the sarcastic comments—of my colleagues,

and I truly am going to miss this institution.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I assure my friend, they are not sarcastic. He will be sorely missed in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this measure and urge my colleague to change his mind and come back next session, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I want to associate myself with the other comments about how much we are going to miss Colonel Cook. We respect him. We admire him. We are amused by him.

Let the record show he just called the Sierra Club great. I want that to be noted.

And although he has found a way, through this bill, to create an equal value exchange, something tells me that in the exchange of Colonel Cook, because we are losing him, the County of San Bernardino is making out a lot better than this institution. So I wish him well and urge a "yes" vote on his good bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KEATING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 255, 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 OYSTER BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 263) to rename the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge as the Congressman Lester Wolff Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 263

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.

(4) Many visitors are unaware that were it not for the tireless work and advocacy of then-freshman Congressman Lester Wolff, this area would today be an 8.5-mile causeway and bridge across Long Island Sound between Oyster Bay and Rye, New York, connecting Nassau and Westchester Counties.

(5) The bridge was first proposed by Robert Moses, the well-known New York City Planner, to divert traffic from New York City. Former Governor Nelson Rockefeller signed into law legislation creating the bridge authorized by the New York State Legislature in 1967.

(6) Congressman Wolff, elected in 1964, quickly decided the bridge would be an intrusion in a pristine area, and that Long Island Sound was a very precious resource that was despoiled. The conservation threats in the mid-1960s were suburban development, wetland filling, and industrial pollution. The fight to preserve this land became an enormous political fight and is considered to be a turning point in New York State's environmental legacy.

(7) With State and local political and community leaders, and especially the North Shore leaders and the Committee to Save the Long Island Sound, Congressman Wolff arranged a meeting with Department of the Interior representatives and local leaders where the idea of creating a wildlife refuge from municipal and privately owned wetlands was created.

(8) The Town of Oyster Bay, in which one end of the bridge was to be located, deeded 5,000 acres of wetlands to the United States to be maintained as a Federal wildlife preserve. It was stipulated that if the Department of the Interior agreed to an intrusion of the property, it would revert to the town. Creating a Federal wildlife preserve provided the land with Federal protection.

(9) Because of the vision, dedication, and perseverance of Congressman Lester Wolff, all of us and future generations can enjoy the beauty and magnificence of this refuge.

SEC. 2. RENAMING THE OYSTER BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AS THE CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF OYSTER BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

(a) **RENAMING.**—The unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System known as the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge and located near Oyster Bay, New York, shall be known as the "Congressman Lester Wolff Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge".

(b) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System known as the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge is deemed to be a reference to the "Congressman Lester Wolff Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill would rename the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge in New York as the Congressman Lester Wolff Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

A long-time Congressman from Long Island, Congressman Wolff was instrumental in creating this refuge and protecting it from unnecessary development. Thanks to his hard work and vision, the Oyster Bay refuge is an important stopover for wintering waterfowl, and it is also a popular destination for outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

At 100 years old, Congressman Wolff is the oldest living Member of Congress. This bill is a fitting tribute to him for his years of conservation leadership, and I urge its adoption.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as my friend said, this bill renames the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge in honor of Congressman Lester Wolff, former Long Island-North Shore Congressman.

It is certainly appropriate to recognize and honor Congressman Wolff's distinguished eight-term career representing the people of New York by adding his name to the wildlife refuge that he fought so hard to create.

This refuge has become a popular destination for many Americans to enjoy the wildlife and beauty of our outdoor spaces, and, at 100 years of age, Congressman Wolff has the distinction of being the oldest living former Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is most fitting we honor a man so dedicated and who has put so much of his life into fighting to protect and conserve this place and fighting for his constituency. I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI), who is the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HUFFMAN for allowing me this time.

I rise today in support of this bill that I have sponsored, a bipartisan bill, H.R. 263, which, as has been mentioned, would rename the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge as the Congressman Lester Wolff Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman GRIJALVA. I want to thank, again, Congressman HUFFMAN and my colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee for their work on this bill, as well as the members of the New York delegation, all of whom are cosponsors of and support this legislation.

Congressman Lester Wolff, who represented my district for 16 years, is our Nation's oldest living former Congressman, and, in January, he will turn 101 years old.

The renaming of the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge in his honor is in recognition of his monumental contributions to the preservation and protection of our environment.

These precious wetlands, at Congressman Lester Wolff's urging, were protected in 1968. It was in 1967 that the New York State Legislature, at the insistence of then-Governor Nelson Rockefeller and the master planner, Robert Moses, authorized a bridge across the Long Island Sound.

Lester immediately saw the bridge would despoil this pristine and precious resource of the Long Island Sound and soon found himself at the center of an enormous political fight. Lester eventually won this fight, and the Oyster Bay Wildlife Refuge was born. Today, it covers over 3,200 acres of one of the most important areas for natural refuge anywhere on the north shore of Long Island and is home to many endangered species.

Not only was Lester a champion for our environment, he also served our Nation honorably in our military. Lester served in the Civil Air Patrol during World War II and commanded the Congressional Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, rising to the rank of colonel.

In 2014, Wolff received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to also support this legislation so we may honor this great Congressman whose efforts were an important part of our Nation's environmental history.

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Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask for adoption of the measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will close by commending Representative SUOZZI for his bipartisan initiative to honor the legacy of Congressman Lester Wolff. I urge a "yes" vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 263.

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.

SHARK FIN SALES ELIMINATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 737) to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes, as amended.