

H.R. 39 and support this important and successful program.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, as the sponsor of H.R. 39, I rise in strong support of this important conservation legislation to reauthorize the African Elephant Conservation Fund. I am pleased that I have been joined in this effort by Speaker NEWT GINGRICH and our colleague from California, DUKE CUNNINGHAM.

For the past 9 years, this fund has been the only continuous source of new money for elephant conservation efforts. While the act authorizes up to \$5 million per year, in reality the Congress has annually appropriated less than \$900,000 to save and conserve this flagship species of the African Continent.

This money has been used to finance some 50 conservation projects in 17 range states throughout Africa. These projects have been sponsored by a diverse group of conservation organizations including the African Wildlife Foundation, Safari Club International, Southern Africa Wildlife Trust, and the World Wildlife Fund. These funds have been used to purchase antipoaching equipment for wildlife rangers, to establish a database on elephants, to develop effective conservation plans, to undertake various elephant population surveys, and to move elephants from certain drought regions.

While the world community has been successful in halting the widespread slaughter of this magnificent animal, the fight to save the African elephant is far from over. It is essential that we extend the Secretary of the Interior's authority to allocate money for the African elephant beyond its statutory deadline, and that is the goal of H.R. 39. In fact, my bill would reauthorize the African Elephant Conservation Fund until September 30, 2002.

Last month, the subcommittee conducted a hearing on H.R. 39. Testimony was obtained from witnesses representing the administration, the Humane Society of the United States, Safari Club International, and the World Wildlife Fund. There was unanimous support for this bill, and the administration's representative accurately stated that "this is not a hand out, but a helping hand."

This is a sound piece of legislation, and this small investment will help to ensure that our largest land mammal, the African elephant, does not disappear from this planet. It will also allow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to fund a number of additional elephant conservation projects in the future.

I urge an "aye" vote on this important conservation measure.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 39 which continues funding for the African Elephant Conservation Act through the year 2002. Enacted in October 1988 in response to the alarming decline of African elephants, the act has made a significant contribution to the preservation of this threatened species. This legislation will allow these efforts to continue.

The African Elephant Conservation Act has funded effective programs throughout 17 different African countries. Efficiently using small, strategically important grants, the act: enhances elephant conservation management programs; supports antipoaching training and operations; and develops sound scientific data on elephant populations. The act promotes range-wide efforts, as well as cooperative projects that provide for matching funds from a variety of other sources. All of these pro-

grams work toward the act's purpose of perpetuating healthy populations of African elephants.

Despite the achievements seen so far, I am concerned about the coordination and management of U.S. funded elephant conservation efforts. Programs that impact African elephant populations are funded by both this act and the United States Agency for International Development, and it is not clear whether these efforts are mutually supportive. They should be. Furthermore, it is essential that innovative programs and management decisions are well grounded in science and sound management practices, and are effective in increasing elephant populations. We must ensure that all United States funded programs work toward the same ends—the conservation of African elephants.

I appreciate the importance the Speaker, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. SAXTON place on conserving African elephants, and I commend them for moving expeditiously to reauthorize the African Elephant Conservation Act. Their support of this legislation reflects the strong desire by the American public to preserve African elephants. By passing this legislation, and by continuing to monitor all U.S. efforts supporting elephant conservation, we can fulfill this desire.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 39.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 39, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

#### SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1997

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 449) to provide for the orderly disposal of certain Federal lands in Clark County, NV, and to provide for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands in the State of Nevada, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 449

*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 "Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1997".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Bureau of Land Management has extensive land ownership in small and large parcels interspersed with or adjacent to private land in the Las Vegas Valley, Nevada, making many of these parcels difficult to manage and more appropriate for disposal.

(2) In order to promote responsible and orderly development in the Las Vegas Valley, certain of those Federal lands should be sold by the Federal Government based on recommendations made by local government and the public.

(3) The Las Vegas metropolitan area is the fastest growing urban area in the United States, which is causing significant impacts upon the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, and the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, which surround the Las Vegas Valley.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide for the orderly disposal of certain Federal lands in Clark County, Nevada, and to provide for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands in the State of Nevada.

#### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act:

(1) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) The term "unit of local government" means Clark County, the City of Las Vegas, the City of North Las Vegas, or the City of Henderson; all in the State of Nevada.

(3) The term "Agreement" means the agreement entitled "The Interim Cooperative Management Agreement Between The United States Department of the Interior—Bureau of Land Management and Clark County", dated November 4, 1992.

(4) The term "special account" means the account in the Treasury of the United States established under section 4(e)(1)(C).

(5) The term "Recreation and Public Purposes Act" means the Act entitled "An Act to authorize acquisition or use of public lands by States, counties, or municipalities for recreational purposes", approved June 14, 1926 (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

(6) The term "regional governmental entity" means the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Regional Flood Control District, and the Clark County Sanitation District.

#### SEC. 4. DISPOSAL AND EXCHANGE.

(a) DISPOSAL.—Notwithstanding the land use planning requirements contained in sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1711 and 1712), the Secretary, in accordance with this Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law, and subject to valid existing rights, is authorized to dispose of lands within the boundary of the area under the jurisdiction of the Direction of the Bureau of Land Management in Clark County, Nevada, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Las Vegas Valley, Nevada, Land Disposal Map", dated April 10, 1997. Such map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the Director and the Las Vegas District of the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) RESERVATION FOR LOCAL PUBLIC PURPOSES.—

(1) RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSE ACT CONVEYANCES.—Not less than 30 days before the offering of lands for sale or exchange pursuant to subsection (a), the State of Nevada or the unit of local government in whose jurisdiction the lands are located may