

SEC. 9. OLIVENHAIN WATER STORAGE PROJECT LOAN GUARANTEE.

(a) **LOAN GUARANTEE.**—The Secretary of the Interior may guarantee a loan made to either the Olivenhain Municipal Water District (in this section referred to as the "District") or to a nongovernmental developer selected by the District, for building and financing the Olivenhain Water Storage Project in northern San Diego County, California. The amount of a loan guaranteed under this subsection may not exceed \$70,000,000. Before making any such loan guarantee, the Secretary shall evaluate the design and justification for the proposed project. The Secretary may make such a loan guarantee only after the Secretary determines that the proposed project is economically feasible and the design for the proposed project is technically and environmentally adequate.

(b) **INTEREST RATE.**—Any loan guaranteed under subsection (a) shall bear interest at a rate agreed upon by the borrower and lender.

(c) **OBLIGATION OF UNITED STATES.**—Any loan guarantee under this section shall constitute an obligation, in accordance with the terms and conditions of such guarantee, of the United States Government, and the full faith and credit of the United States is hereby pledged to full performance of the obligation.

(d) **SECURITY.**—

(1) **RESERVE FUND AND COMMITMENT OF DISTRICT REVENUES.**—To ensure the repayment of any loan guaranteed under this section and as a condition of providing the guarantee, the Secretary of the Interior shall require that—

(A) the borrower establish and maintain, with a trustee designated by the Secretary, a reserve fund in the amount of 115 percent of the next year's principal and interest payments on the loan;

(B) the District agree to use its revenues to make all payments required under the terms of the loan prior to any payment by the United States under the guarantee, and to make those payments through the trustee designated under subparagraph (A); and

(C) the trustee designated under subparagraph (A) agree to use all amounts received for repayment of the loan to repay the loan.

(2) **RESERVE FUND REQUIREMENTS.**—The reserve fund under this subsection shall be established under terms that provide that—

(A) all moneys in the reserve fund shall constitute a trust fund for the repayment of the loan guaranteed under subsection (a); and

(B) the reserve fund shall be administered in accordance with and pursuant to provisions agreed upon by the borrower and lender for the loan guaranteed under subsection (a).

(3) **PAYMENT OF LOAN AMOUNTS.**—Proceeds from the loan guaranteed under subsection (a) shall—

(A) be deposited directly with the trustee designated by the Secretary of the Interior under paragraph (1)(A); and

(B) be disbursed by the trustee consistent with the terms of the loan.

(4) **QUALIFICATIONS OF TRUSTEE.**—Any trustee designated by the Secretary of the Interior under paragraph (1) must, at a minimum—

(A) be a trust company or a bank having the powers of a trust company;

(B) have a combined capital and surplus of at least \$100,000,000; and

(C) be otherwise subject to supervision or examination by a Federal agency.

SEC. 10. FISH PASSAGE AND PROTECTIVE FACILITIES, ROGUE RIVER BASIN, OREGON.

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to use otherwise available amounts to provide up to \$2,000,000 in financial assistance to the Medford Irrigation District and the

Rogue River Valley Irrigation District for the design and construction of fish passage and protective facilities at North Fork Little Butte Creek Diversion Dam and South Fork Little Butte Creek Diversion Dam in the Rogue River basin, Oregon, if the Secretary determines in writing that these facilities will enhance the fish recovery efforts currently underway at the Rogue River Basin Project, Oregon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. DOOLITTLE] will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. DOOLITTLE].

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

I rise in support of this legislation, the Water-Related Technical Corrections Act of 1997, and urge its adoption by the House of Representatives.

H.R. 2402 is a compilation of amendments to the Federal reclamation law designed to clarify authorities to the Bureau of Reclamation or existing provisions of law. This legislation was compiled after canvassing members of the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Resources, members of the Western Water Caucus, and the Bureau of Reclamation about any such needed changes.

Let me stress that most of these provisions are being sought to enhance water management capabilities at locations in several different states, such as Oregon, California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and move its adoption.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Chairman of the House Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power, Mr. DOOLITTLE, for his many efforts this year on behalf of Oregon farmers. For the past year, he was worked diligently to help further the cause of common-sense solutions to the complex water conflicts in the West. Today's bill exemplifies his commitment to advancing this cause. H.R. 2402, the Water-Related Technical Corrections Act, contains a provision for Oregon farmers that can only be described as a win-win. It helps farmers in southern Oregon by stabilizing their operations, protects endangered and threatened anadromous fish runs, and provides substantial benefits to the adjacent federal Bureau of Reclamation (the Bureau) project.

The bill will provide financial assistance to the Medford Irrigation District and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (the Districts), both located in the Rogue River basin in southwest Oregon, for the construction of fish passage and protective facilities. Despite the Bureau's desire to assist in this effort, the Interior Solicitor's Office provided a legal opinion in August stating that the Bureau does not have Congressional authority to provide financial assistance to the Districts. Without the authority granted by H.R. 2402, the Bureau will be able to provide technical assistance for the engineering designs of the improvements, but will not be able to assist with the implementation of the needed facilities. Several weeks ago, I was contacted by the Bureau's Boise field office to assist in granting this authority. With the help of Chairman DOOLITTLE, we are accomplishing this objective today.

The North Fork Little Butte Creek Diversion Dam is located in the North Fork Little Butte Creek about one mile upstream from the confluence with the South Fork and diverts water to the Medford Main Canal. The South Fork Little Butte Creek Diversion Dam is located on the South Fork Little Butte Creek about one mile upstream from the confluence with the North Fork, and diverts water from the South Fork Little Butte Creek to the Medford Main Canal. North and South Fork Little Butte Creeks are notable for runs of summer and winter steelhead, spring chinook salmon, and coho salmon as well as native cutthroat and rainbow trout, and have been identified as critical spawning and rearing areas for coho salmon and steelhead.

Both diversion dams are jointly owned and operated by the Districts. Fish passage and protective facilities associated with both diversions are old, have deteriorated, and do not meet current requirements for fish passage as established by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Since the Rogue River Basin Project (the Project), a Federal Reclamation project, is appurtenant to those diversion dams, providing this assistance will ensure that improvements already made at the Project will be fully realized.

Once again, I would like to thank Chairman DOOLITTLE for working to include this minor provision in H.R. 2402. It represents the type of assistance that the federal government ought to be providing to irrigation districts struggling to comply with new regulations that have been imposed upon them, and ensures that the public interest in protecting fish runs is fulfilled.

I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense legislation.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. 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 California [Mr. DOOLITTLE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2402, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the last two bills just passed.

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

There was no objection.

JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ACQUISITION

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 669) to provide for the acquisition of the Plains Railroad Depot at the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 669

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

SECTION 1. ACQUISITION OF PLAINS RAILROAD DEPOT.

Section 1(c)(2) of the Act entitled "An Act to establish the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site and Preservation District in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes", approved December 23, 1987 (16 U.S.C. 161 note; 101 Stat. 1435), is amended by striking ", the Plains Railroad Depot (described in subsection (b)(2)(B)).",

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] and the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. BISHOP] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN].

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 669, which provides for the acquisition of land under the Plains Railroad Depot at the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site in Georgia.

I commend my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. BISHOP], for his introduction of H.R. 714, the companion bill of 669, in the House of Representatives.

S. 669 amends Section 1(c)(2), Public Law 100-206, the establishment act for the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, to remove the restrictions that the Plains Railroad Depot be acquired only by donation for inclusion in the national historic site.

The bill is necessary to clear the title of the railroad right-of-way due to restrictions contained in the 1888 deed from Mr. M.L. Hudson, stipulating that if the railroad ceased operation of the rail line, the land would revert to his heirs. Since the establishment of the historic site in 1987, the National Park Service has spent over 10 years attempting to locate all of the heirs, without success.

This bill allows a friendly condemnation to clear title to the land. Once this action is finalized, the National Park Service will complete the development of this historic depot, which was the headquarters for former President Carter's 1976 Presidential campaign.

The Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands held hearings on this legislation, and there was unanimous support. Mr. Speaker, I urge support and passage of this legislation and urge my colleagues to pass S. 669.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues support S. 669, which would provide a legal fix needed by the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site in Plains, Georgia.

(Mr. BISHOP asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BISHOP. This Presidential site is located within my congressional dis-

trict and enjoys bipartisan support. The bill is identical to H.R. 1714, a bill I introduced in the House. I would like to thank the Speaker, the majority leader, minority leader, Committee on Resources, and all of those responsible for helping to bring this bill to the floor today.

Public law 100-206, which created the site at the old Plains Depot, requires that the Seaboard Railroad donated land under it. However, since Congress passed that law, it has been discovered that the CSX Railroad, which is the successor to the old Seaboard Railroad, does not have the legal capacity to donate the land under the depot, nor are there remaining heirs of the original land owners available to make the donation. With that being the case, the plan to work on the site cannot proceed.

Because of the confusion over identification of the heirs, the depot has not been developed to its full potential as an element of the historic site. For example, the small parking lot is muddy during the wet weather and dusty during the dry weather. The depot is currently served by a substandard septic tank because hookup with the town sewer system has not been possible without a clear title. As a result, the depot has been boarded up and unavailable for visitation despite the fact that, in 1990, close to 40,000 schoolchildren from across the country visited the depot.

This measure would amend the law to provide that the land under the depot can be acquired by purchase. This would be effected by the Park Service depositing the appraised value into a court escrow account so that if any heirs ever surfaced, they would receive just compensation.

The National Park Service, in its testimony to both the House and Senate Committees on Resources, testified that it supports this change, and the Congressional Budget Office reports that the budgetary impact of this legal fix is negligible. The Senate has acted favorably on this bill by unanimous consent. So I feel confident that swift action by the full House can help this change become law this year.

I would like to urge my colleagues to support this important bill, because this particular piece of property is a very, very important ingredient to the full development of the Carter Presidential site in Plains, Georgia.

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

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. DEFazio].

Mr. DEFazio. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] has meritorious suggestions before the House, and I would urge Members to support it.

But beyond that, at the moment, I would like to go to another issue which I will not be allowed to raise because of restricted rules of the House, and I would have raised it as a point of privi-

lege to the honor and integrity of the House.

It came to my attention and the attention of a number of other Members that directly below this chamber, in H-137, for a number of days that private-interest lobbyists, paid registered lobbyists, have been conducting what is called the war room right here on Capitol grounds using taxpayer-funded phones, lights, facilities, a beautiful room, something not made available to people who are opposing fast track, but only to a group of industries who are supporting the fast track legislation. I believe that this demeans the integrity of the House.

A number of my colleagues intend to put this question to the Speaker. My understanding is that, because of restricted rules of the House, at the moment we cannot raise it as a privilege on the floor. But this is certainly something that the public and other Members should be aware of.

We do not normally make facilities available to private outside interests and or the National Association of Manufacturers, Boeing Company, and other large corporations, at taxpayer expense, to lobby on behalf of legislation right here in the Capitol right beneath us, absolutely prime real estate. I think it is outrageous. And I think that Members should raise this question with the Speaker privately if we are not allowed to do it publicly.

I thank the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. BISHOP] for yielding me the time, and I wish him luck with the bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 669.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**ARCHES NATIONAL PARK
EXPANSION ACT OF 1997**

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2283) to expand the boundaries of Arches National Park in the State of Utah to include portions of the following drainages, Salt Wash, Lost Spring Canyon, Fish Sheep Draw, Clover Canyon, Cordova Canyon, Mine Draw, and Cottonwood Wash, which are currently under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and to include a portion of Fish Sheep Draw, which is currently owned by the State of Utah, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2283

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