

This is good legislation and I urge the House to support it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in supporting the passage of H.R. 3445, the Oceans Act. As the world celebrates the International Year of the Ocean, we have an excellent opportunity to initiate a major review of ocean policies in this Nation and to take actions to improve our understanding of ocean systems and the ocean environment as a whole.

As a coastal member and co-chair of the Coastal Caucus, I've always been supportive of protecting our oceans and coasts and realize the tremendous benefits they offer all Americans. Our oceans provide us with jobs, food, recreational as well as education opportunities, medicine, and transportation. Each year an estimated 180 million Americans visit the coast and nearly one third of our nation's Gross National Product is produced in coastal areas. Our oceans also play an important role in determining climate.

But all is not well with our oceans. Today, more than half of all 265 million Americans live within 50 miles of our shores. This has put tremendous pressure on our estuaries, coastal zone, and near and offshore areas. In 1996, nearly 2,200 health advisories were issued against the consumption of contaminated fish. In 1997, over 4,000 beach closings or warnings were issued due to pollution. Harmful algal blooms, like red tides and pfiesteria, have been responsible for over \$1 billion in economic damages over the last decade. A 1997 National Marine Fisheries Service report to Congress stated that of the federally managed species for which sufficient data was available, 31% are "overfished." The list goes on and on.

H.R. 3445 attempts to rectify some of these problems by establishing a Commission on Ocean Policy. This Commission, which is similar to the original Stratton Commission of the late 1960's, will report to Congress and the President policy recommendations for how to do better with respect to our oceans, ultimately resulting in a coordinated National Ocean Policy.

While I support H.R. 3445, I am deeply disappointed that the bill before us today is much weaker than what was passed unanimously by the Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans subcommittee. Nevertheless, I applaud the efforts of Mr. FARR, Mr. SAXTON, and others for working so hard to bring this bill to the floor today.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote in favor of this legislation so that we can go to conference and have it signed into law before the end of the session. Cast a vote for the oceans! Vote yes on the Oceans Act!

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3445, the Oceans Act of 1998. In my capacity as chairman of the National Security R&D subcommittee, I have spent the last several years working to promote ocean protection. I have continued to address the issue of the protection of our seas at the international level through my work as the Chairman of the Global Legislators for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE) Task Force on Oceans, and as the U.S. Vice President for the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas.

1998 has been declared the International Year of the Ocean in recognition of the importance of our ocean resources—the ocean's

fundamental importance to our economic well being, safety, health, and quality of life. We must continue to work to discover and to learn more about our oceans in order to achieve the long-term goals of fostering an increased awareness of the criticality of the ocean environment and assuring the sustainable use of the ocean for our continued national vitality.

It is clear that we need to get smarter about the ocean. For more than half of the American population, it is truly in our back yards. For the military, it is the primary platform for defense. For the economy, it produces one out of every three dollars of the Gross National Product. We can track the spread of cholera by understanding ocean circulation and we may find a cure for cancer in the biology of the sea. The seabed may be the next place for large-scale mining of precious ores.

We are surrounded by a medium about which we know less than we know about the moon! It is time to change this, and to enlarge our view of the ocean. We have mapped the entire sphere of the moon at resolutions sufficient to reveal geographic characteristics the size of a football field, as well as objects the size of bicycles within those fields. Yet, we have mapped less than seven percent of the ocean floor. Such mapping has been done at resolutions as much as ten thousand times poorer than the precision used for the Moon and Mars. We have yet to image at any resolution vast mountain chains, earthquake faults, shipwrecks, and a multitude of other features that would help us understand major features of the 197 million square miles of planet on which we live.

Clearly, the ocean is more than a beautiful vista for recreation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3445 to establish a Commission on Ocean Policy. In this way, we can be more committed to better understanding and protecting our interests in this incredible resource.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). 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. 3445, 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. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3445, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

COLLECTION OF FEES FOR MAKING OF MOTION PICTURES, TELEVISION PRODUCTIONS, AND SOUND TRACKS IN NATIONAL PARK AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2993) to provide for the collection of fees for the making of motion pictures, television productions, and sound tracks in the National Park System and National Wildlife Refuge System units, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2993

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

SECTION 1. FEE AUTHORITY AND REPEAL OF PROHIBITION.

(a) AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") may permit, under terms and conditions considered necessary by the Secretary, the use of lands and facilities administered by the Secretary for the making of any motion picture, television production, soundtrack, or similar project, if the Secretary determines that such use is appropriate and will not impair the values and resources of the lands and facilities.

(2) FEES.—(A) Any permit under this section shall require the payment of fees to the Secretary in an amount determined to be appropriate by the Secretary sufficient to provide a fair return to the government in accordance with subparagraph (B), except as provided in subparagraph (C). The amount of the fee shall be not less than the direct and indirect costs to the Government for processing the application for the permit and the use of lands and facilities under the permit, including any necessary costs of cleanup and restoration, except as provided in subparagraph (C).

(B) The authority of the Secretary to establish fees under this paragraph shall include, but not be limited to, authority to issue regulations that establish a schedule of rates for fees under this paragraph based on such factors as—

(i) the number of people on site under a permit;

(ii) the duration of activities under a permit;

(iii) the conduct of activities under a permit in areas designated by statute or regulations as special use areas, including wilderness and research natural areas; and

(iv) surface disturbances authorized under a permit.

(C) The Secretary may, under the terms of the regulations promulgated under paragraph (4), charge a fee below the amount referred to in subparagraph (A) if the activity for which the fee is charged provides clear educational or interpretive benefits for the Department of the Interior.

(3) BONDING AND INSURANCE.—The Secretary may require a bond, insurance, or such other means as may be necessary to protect the interests of the United States in activities arising under such a permit.

(4) REGULATIONS.—(A) The Secretary shall issue regulations implementing this subsection by not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) Within 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall review and, as appropriate, revise regulations issued under this paragraph. After that time, the

Secretary shall periodically review the regulations and make necessary changes.

(b) COLLECTION OF FEES.—Fees shall be collected under subsection (a) whenever the proposed filming, videotaping, sound recording, or still photography involves product or service advertisements, or the use of models, actors, sets, or props, or when such filming, videotaping, sound recording, or still photography could result in damage to resources or significant disruption of normal visitor uses. Filming, videotaping, sound recording or still photography, including bona fide newsreel or news television film gathering, which does not involve the activities or impacts identified herein, shall be permitted without fee.

(c) EXISTING REGULATIONS.—The prohibition on fees set forth in paragraph (l) of section 5.1(b) of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, shall cease to apply upon the effective date of regulations under subsection (a). Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the regulations set forth in part 5 of such title, other than paragraph (l) thereof.

(d) PROCEEDS.—Amounts collected as fees under this section shall be available for expenditure without further appropriation and shall be distributed and used, without fiscal year limitation, in accordance with the formula and purposes established for the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program under section 315 of Public Law 104-134.

(e) PENALTY.—A person convicted of violating any regulation issued under subsection (a) shall be fined in accordance with title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned for not more than 6 months, or both, and shall be ordered to pay all costs of the proceedings.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the regulations issued under this section shall become effective 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, except that this subsection and the authority of the Secretary to issue regulations under this section shall be effective on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) 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, H.R. 2993 is a bill introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. JOEL HEFLEY). The gentleman from Colorado deserves credit for the work he has put in to develop a bill that provides a new way for the National Park Service and other Federal agencies to collect fees from the motion picture industry who use Park Service and other Federal lands in the making of their movies.

H.R. 2993 repeals the existing Department of the Interior regulatory prohibition on collecting fees at units of the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System for the use of these areas for commercial film productions. H.R. 2993 authorizes the Secretary to establish a fee schedule using a number of relevant factors, such as the number of people on site and the duration of the filming activities. However, this bill would not affect newsreel or television news activities. Proceeds from these location fees would remain in the unit where the

filming occurs, as per the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program established in the 1997 Interior Appropriation Act.

Mr. Speaker, American public lands, especially National Parks, have been serving as the backdrop for many of Hollywood's most famous and profitable productions, including such films as "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," "Forrest Gump," "Star Wars" and "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid." Neither the National Park Service nor the Fish and Wildlife Service collected a dime from any of these movies because they are prohibited from establishing fair and reasonable fees from commercial film companies for the use of these lands. H.R. 2993 would remedy this problem while also making the commercial filming fee available directly to the unit involved in the film production.

Mr. Speaker, this is a much needed bill which returns a fair profit to the Federal Government for the use of many of our national treasures. I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2993.

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

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

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah, the chairman of our Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the Committee on Resources for his management of this legislation, and in particular I want to commend the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) for his sponsorship of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides for the collection of fees for the making of motion pictures, television productions and sound tracks in the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System. We should be charging appropriate commercial fees for the use of national parks and refuges, especially when such fees have a long established use on public lands and national forests. The regulation prohibiting movie and television fees for parks and refuges appears to have long outlived any usefulness it may have ever had.

Subsequent to our hearing, several meetings and discussions have been held among our staffs, the representatives of the Department of the Interior, the film industry, and other interested parties. I believe these talks were very fruitful and productive.

As a result of these discussions, Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Resources approved the amendment in the nature of a substitute to 2993 and made several significant changes in this legislation. I believe those changes improve the bill, and I will also note that the bill we are sending to the floor today includes one additional change requested by the administration that is consist-

ent with what we are trying to achieve by the provisions of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, everyone agrees that there should be fair and reasonable fees for the use of public resources for filming. I am greatly encouraged by the bipartisan manner in which legislative agreement was reached on this important issue. I support this bill and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. HEFLEY), the author of the bill, who has done great work on this particular legislation.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I would suspect that most Americans got their first taste of the West through the classic westerns of John Ford, and most of those films were made on public land. Mr. Ford paid a standard fee for the use of those lands, but for the past 50 years, for reasons that no one can really explain, the Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service have been forbidden from collecting fees for commercial filming. The bill before us attempts to correct this inequity.

H.R. 2993 directs the Secretary of the Interior to develop a uniform policy to collect fees for most commercial filming on lands administered by the Interior Department agencies.

The bill directs that the Secretary require that these fees provide a fair return to the government, and that said fees shall not be less than the direct and indirect costs to the government for processing fee applications and for the use of the land and facilities.

The bill also directs development of a fee schedule to be based on such factors as the number of people on the site, duration of their stay, surface disturbances and the use of special areas.

The policy exempts from fees bona fide newsreel or news television productions, and most still photographers, save for those who use models and actors and sets and props, and those that would result in either damage to resources or a significant disruption to normal visitor uses.

The language before us addresses concerns raised by the Justice Department and has been cleared with the minority.

Finally, the bill directs the revenues from this policy to be used in accordance with the existing fee demo program.

This bill is the product of a great deal of cooperation between both sides of the aisle on the Committee on Resources. In fact, I think it is an example of how most of the bills that we have in the Committee on Resources should come out. We worked very hard to make this bipartisan. We worked with the Department of the Interior and we worked with the motion picture industry.

We tried to balance the film industry's need for certainty with the Interior's need for flexibility, and I think we have struck that balance. The film industry wants a certainty. They do not want an arbitrary kind of thing where they never know. And, in fact, if there is an arbitrary approach to it, more and more they will go offshore somewhere. They will go to Australia. They will go other places. There are other pretty places in the world they can go to film movies. They will go somewhere else to do it if they do not have a degree of certainty.

I will not pretend this bill is a cure-all for all of our public land needs but it is a start. It will help. It is an equity thing. Even the film industry thinks that it should pay a reasonable fee for using the public lands.

So this is one of those rare bills where I think everyone has the chance to come out a winner and, therefore, I urge its adoption. I do not believe there is any objection to this. I think we have worked out the kinks and I think it will work very well for us. Again, I would repeat, Mr. Speaker, I urge its adoption.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I 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 bill, H.R. 2993, 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. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2933, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

SALE, LEASE OR EXCHANGE OF IDAHO SCHOOL LAND

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4166) to amend the Idaho Admissions Act regarding the sale or lease of school land.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4166

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

SECTION 1. SALE, LEASE, OR EXCHANGE OF IDAHO SCHOOL LAND.

The Act of July 3, 1890 (commonly known as the "Idaho Admission Act") (26 Stat. 215,

chapter 656), is amended by striking section 5 and inserting the following:

"SEC. 5. SALE, LEASE, OR EXCHANGE OF SCHOOL LAND.

"(a) SALE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (c), all land granted under this Act for educational purposes shall be sold only at public sale.

"(2) USE OF PROCEEDS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Proceeds of the sale of school land—

"(i) except as provided in clause (ii), shall be deposited in the public school permanent endowment fund and expended only for the support of public schools; and

"(ii) (I) may be deposited in a land bank fund to be used to acquire, in accordance with State law, other land in the State for the benefit of the beneficiaries of the public school permanent endowment fund; or

"(II) if the proceeds are not used to acquire other land in the State within a period specified by State law, shall be transferred to the public school permanent endowment fund.

"(B) EARNINGS RESERVE FUND.—Earnings on amounts in the public school permanent endowment fund shall be deposited in an earnings reserve fund to be used for the support of public schools of the State in accordance with State law.

"(b) LEASE.—Land granted under this Act for educational purposes may be leased in accordance with State law.

"(c) EXCHANGE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Land granted for educational purposes under this Act may be exchanged for other public or private land.

"(2) VALUATION.—The values of exchanged lands shall be approximately equal, or, if the values are not approximately equal, the values shall be equalized by the payment of funds by the appropriate party.

"(3) EXCHANGES WITH THE UNITED STATES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A land exchange with the United States shall be limited to Federal land within the State that is subject to exchange under the law governing the administration of the Federal land.

"(B) PREVIOUS EXCHANGES.—All land exchanges made with the United States before the date of enactment of this paragraph are approved.

"(d) RESERVATION FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES.—Land granted for educational purposes, whether surveyed or unsurveyed, shall not be subject to preemption, homestead entry, or any other form of entry under the land laws of the United States, but shall be reserved for school purposes only."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) 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 today in support of legislation that is very important to the State of Idaho. H.R. 4166, introduced by my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), would amend the Idaho Admissions Act regarding the sale or lease of school land.

Mr. Speaker, when Idaho was granted statehood back in 1890, the U.S. Government designated millions of acres of land within the State as an endowment to Idaho's schoolchildren. This was a common practice at the time, and

many other western States, including my own State of Utah, has similar provisions in their statehood act.

These State school lands are, by law, to be managed to provide revenue for the schools. When the lands are sold or leased or whatever, the money goes into a trust fund that produces a stream of income for the schools. This money is very important to the schoolchildren of Idaho.

The people of the State of Idaho have been working on ways to get more revenue from these lands and have found ways to ensure that their trust funds provide a better stream of income. Some of these reforms have been implemented. However, some cannot be implemented until we amend the Idaho Admissions Act to give them the authority to make these changes.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4166 would amend the Idaho Admissions Act to give the State of Idaho the flexibility they need to make these changes. The legislation is in everyone's best interest and is in particularly the best interest of Idaho's schoolchildren. I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

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

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Utah, the chairman of our Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the Committee on Resources, for his management of this legislation, and certainly the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) for his sponsorship of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, as introduced by the gentleman from Idaho, would amend the Idaho Admissions Act to make certain changes regarding the sale and exchange or lease of lands granted to the State of Idaho for the benefit of schools.

The purpose of the exchanges, as I understand them, is to generate additional income for Idaho's permanent endowment fund. The State of Idaho has already modified State law in order to implement these changes; however, the Idaho Admissions Act must also be amended in order to conform to these changes.

Simple as that, Mr. Speaker. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the author of the bill.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important bill for Idaho, as has already been said, but it is an interesting opportunity. This is an opportunity for us to generate increased revenues for Idaho public schools, with no tax increase and