

which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). Pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXI all points of order against provisions of the bill are reserved.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1598

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 1598.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 732

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 732.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on the remaining motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken tomorrow.

EXTENDING DEADLINE UNDER
FEDERAL POWER ACT FOR MT.
HOPE WATERPOWER PROJECT

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 459) to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act for FERC Project No. 9401, the Mt. Hope Waterpower Project.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 459

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR FERC PROJECT.

Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, upon the request of the licensee for FERC Project No. 9401 (and after reasonable notice), is authorized, in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of such section 13 and the Commission's procedures under such section, to extend the time required for commencement of construction of such project until August 3, 2002.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 459.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 459 extends the construction period for a hydroelectric project in the State of New Jersey. Under section 13 of the Federal Power Act, project construction must begin within 4 years of issuance of the license. If construction is not begun by that time, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission cannot extend the deadline and must terminate the license.

H.R. 459 grants the project developer until August 3, 2002, to commence construction if it pursues the commencement of construction in good faith and with due diligence.

These types of bills have not been controversial in the past. The bill does not change the license requirement in any way. It does not change environmental standards but merely extends the construction deadline.

There is a need to act, Mr. Speaker, since the construction deadline for the Mt. Hope Pumped Storage Project expires in August of this year. If Congress does not act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will terminate the license, the project sponsor will lose \$28 million that they have already invested in the project, and the local community will lose the prospect of significant job creation and added revenues. Construction of the Mt. Hope project will create 1,300 jobs during construction and generate \$254 million for the local economy. If the Congress does not act, the local community will lose these jobs and these revenues.

These extension bills have not proved controversial in the past. H.R. 459 was approved by the Subcommittee on Energy and Power of the Committee on Commerce by unanimous voice vote. The bill was introduced jointly by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

I support H.R. 459, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will be brief, Mr. Speaker. I thank the chairman of the committee; and I want to congratulate my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), for his very hard and successful bipartisan work on this bill.

He has worked closely with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANK PALLONE), who is an active member of our subcommittee, as well as the original cosponsor of this legislation. These two men together have done such an excellent job of building bipartisan support that, as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) has pointed out, it was reported out unanimously by both the Subcommittee on Energy and Power and the full Committee on Commerce.

I know of no objection to this project; and I am, therefore, pleased to add our support to the legislation that would authorize FERC to extend the license for the Mt. Hope hydroelectric project for an additional 2 years.

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), one of the original cosponsors whose district the project is located in.

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time; and I rise in strong support of H.R. 459, legislation I introduced earlier this year to extend the FERC license for the Mt. Hope hydroelectric project by a period of 3 years.

First, let me thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Power, and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), chairman of the full Committee on Commerce, as well as the ranking member of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), and my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANK PALLONE), for moving so expeditiously on this bill.

Mt. Hope received its original FERC license in August of 1992. The license has been extended for 2 years by FERC and once by Congress in 1995. H.R. 459 would simply ensure that there is additional time for Mt. Hope to secure the energy supply contracts to begin the construction of the proposed facility.

This project is an advanced pumped-storage hydroelectric plant located in my district, Morris County, New Jersey. Far from a conventional hydro plant, this facility will be a closed cycle system in which water will be continuously circulated between two man-made reservoirs.

The project has the strong support of local government officials and organizations where the project will be built, namely the New Jersey Business and Industry Association and the Sierra Club of New Jersey. This \$2 billion project will be financed entirely by the private sector with no taxpayers' dollars used for its construction.

As the chairman has mentioned, the project will bring approximately 1,300