

Rongelapese to near lethal high level radiation during the U.S. nuclear testing program, given the fact that some of their people were used for epidemiological research and testing not related to medical treatment and without the knowledge or consent of the test subjects, given the fact that they were returned to their island in 1957 and told by the AEC that it was safe, and given the determination by the National Academy of Sciences in 1993 that they should not inhabit that island until it has been made safe through a scientifically monitored program of radiological rehabilitation, I think 10 years of predictability in U.S. policy regarding their radiological clean up of their islands and resettlement of the community if and when their homeland is safe is not too much to ask. DOI has a successful program, and this bill will make sure it continues.

Thank you for your continued support and allow this important opportunity to share the RMI Government's position on H.R. 2970. Sincerely,

BANNY DEBRUM,  
Ambassador.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from America Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Guam for yielding me such time to express my support for this legislation. I also want to express my appreciation to the gentleman from New Jersey (Chairman SAXTON) for his leadership in managing this bill before the Members of the chamber.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Rongelap Atoll, like those from Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands, have been suffering for decades because of the nuclear testing activities of the United States Government earlier.

Through the efforts of this committee, Congress passed legislation in 1996 which is assisting the people of Rongelap in establishing a resettlement plan. From the trust fund established in 1992, 50 percent of the annual income is dedicated to island rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement programs. The other half of the trust income is available to continue the resettlement program through the local government. This is working well, and I certainly hope that my colleagues will support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Rongelap Atoll were victims of the most powerful nuclear explosion ever known to man at that time, the first hydrogen bomb explosion in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific in 1954, a 15 megaton explosion that was approximately 1,000 times more powerful, 1,000 times more power than the atom bombs we dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II.

The people of Rongelap did not even know what had happened, other than the fact that they first observed a terrifying brilliant flash of light over 100 miles away, then the shifting winds that brought them a powder-like substance that they innocently washed themselves with, only to result in severe burns and rashes. The color of the

ocean turned yellow. Severe vomiting and illnesses of all sorts soon followed; and as a result of this wrong our government had committed against the people of Rongelap, the health of these people has never been the same.

Mr. Speaker, the records indicate our government did commit a grave wrong against the people of Rongelap. The U.S. officials responsible for this hydrogen bomb explosion knew, knew, that the winds had shifted at least 3 to 4 hours before the nuclear hydrogen explosion would take place.

Mr. Speaker, our military officials knew that with the shifting winds, the nuclear fallout would be going directly towards the island of Rongelap and all the men, women, and children living in Rongelap were subjected to radioactive contamination. So now our government is making an effort to at least compensate in some fashion the residents of Rongelap Atoll.

Mr. Speaker, no amount of money will ever restore these people back to normal health, but I do submit that I want to thank sincerely the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the chairman of the Committee on Resources, and the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER), the ranking member, and thank again the gentleman from New Jersey (Chairman SAXTON) for their leadership and efforts which are bringing this legislation forward to, at least with some sense of conscience, make available some kind of assistance to these people that were subjected to this serious nuclear explosion that our government made in 1954.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. SAXTON. 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 New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2970.

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.

#### PERKINS COUNTY RURAL WATER SYSTEM ACT OF 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 970) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the Perkins County Rural Water System, Inc., for the construction of water supply facilities in Perkins County, South Dakota, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 970

*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 "Perkins County Rural Water System Act of 1999".*

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

*The Congress finds that—*

(1) in 1977, the North Dakota State Legislature authorized and directed the State Water Commission to conduct the Southwest Area Water Supply Study, which included water service to a portion of Perkins County, South Dakota;

(2) amendments made by the Garrison Diversion Unit Reformulation Act of 1986 (Public Law 101-294) authorized the Southwest Pipeline project as an eligible project for Federal cost share participation; and

(3) the Perkins County Rural Water System has continued to be recognized by the State of North Dakota, the Southwest Water Authority, the North Dakota Water Commission, the Department of the Interior, and Congress as a component of the Southwest Pipeline Project.

#### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

*In this Act:*

(1) **CORPORATION.**—The term "Corporation" means the Perkins County Rural Water System, Inc., a nonprofit corporation established and operated under the laws of the State of South Dakota substantially in accordance with the feasibility study.

(2) **FEASIBILITY STUDY.**—The term "feasibility study" means the study entitled "Feasibility Study for Rural Water System for Perkins County Rural Water System, Inc.", as amended in March 1995.

(3) **PROJECT CONSTRUCTION BUDGET.**—The term "project construction budget" means the description of the total amount of funds that are needed for the construction of the water supply system, as described in the feasibility study.

(4) **PUMPING AND INCIDENTAL OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—The term "pumping and incidental operational requirements" means all power requirements that are incidental to the operation of the water supply system by the Corporation.

(5) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation.

(6) **WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM.**—The term "water supply system" means intake facilities, pumping stations, water treatment facilities, cooling facilities, reservoirs, and pipelines operated by the Perkins County Rural Water System, Inc., to the point of delivery of water to each entity that distributes water at retail to individual users.

#### SEC. 4. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall make grants to the Corporation for the Federal share of the costs of—

(1) the planning and construction of the water supply system; and

(2) repairs to existing public water distribution systems to ensure conservation of the resources and to make the systems functional under the new water supply system.

(b) **LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF CONSTRUCTION FUNDS.**—The Secretary shall not obligate funds for the construction of the water supply system until—

(1) the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) are met with respect to the water supply system; and

(2) a final engineering report and a plan for a water conservation program have been prepared and submitted to Congress for a period of not less than 90 days before the commencement of construction of the system.

#### SEC. 5. MITIGATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE LOSSES.

*Mitigation of fish and wildlife losses incurred as a result of the construction and operation of the water supply system shall be on an acre-for-acre basis, based on ecological equivalency, concurrent with project construction, as provided in the feasibility study.*

#### SEC. 6. USE OF PICK-SLOAN POWER.

*For operation during the period beginning May 1 and ending October 31 of each year, portions of the water supply system constructed*

with assistance under this Act shall be eligible to utilize power from the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program established by section 9 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (Chapter 665; 58 Stat. 887), popularly known as the Flood Control Act of 1944.

**SEC. 7. FEDERAL SHARE.**

The Federal share under section 4 shall be 75 percent of—

(1) the amount allocated in the total project construction budget for the planning and construction of the water supply system under section 4; and

(2) such sums as are necessary to defray increases in development costs reflected in appropriate engineering cost indices after March 1, 1995.

**SEC. 8. NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**

The non-Federal share under section 4 shall be 25 percent of—

(1) the amount allocated in the total project construction budget for the planning and construction of the water supply system under section 4; and

(2) such sums as are necessary to defray increases in development costs reflected in appropriate engineering cost indices after March 1, 1995.

**SEC. 9. CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT.**

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—At the request of the Corporation, the Secretary may provide to the Corporation assistance in overseeing matters relating to construction of the water supply system.

(b) **PROJECT OVERSIGHT ADMINISTRATION.**—The amount of funds used by the Secretary for planning and construction of the water supply system may not exceed an amount equal to 3 percent of the amount provided in the total project construction budget for the portion of the project to be constructed in Perkins County, South Dakota.

**SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary—

(1) \$15,000,000 for the planning and construction of the water supply system under section 4; and

(2) such sums as are necessary to defray increases in development costs reflected in appropriate engineering cost indices after March 1, 1995.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, Perkins County is located in northwest South Dakota on the border with North Dakota. Like many areas in the high plains, there are insufficient water supplies, and much of what is available does not meet minimum health and safety standards.

In the early 1930s, South Dakota and Perkins County funded a water supply feasibility study which was completed in 1994. The study concluded that obtaining water from the Southwest Water Authority, a nearby water system located in North Dakota, was the most feasible option, and that the necessary water supply system would cost approximately \$20 million. This bill provides for a 75/25 Federal-local cost

share, with a total authorization of \$15 million for the water supply project costs.

A similar bill passed the House and Senate last year, but due to time constraints was never sent to the President for signature. This bill simplifies the Pick-Sloan power provision of the previous bill, and makes power available to the project at the firm power rate schedule of the Pick-Sloan Eastern Division, within the Western Power Administration, rather than at pumping power rates. This is more equitable to other power users, and consistent with other municipal and industrial water projects.

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

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

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 970. Similar legislation was passed by both the House and Senate in the 105th Congress.

The committee has received extensive testimony regarding the poor quality of domestic water supplies in this area. Farmsteads in this part of South Dakota are often miles apart, and residents must depend on wells that produce water with high levels of sodium.

Engineering studies have shown that centralized treatment facilities using groundwater would not be cost-effective. It makes much more sense to assist Perkins County residents by allowing them to hook up to the Southwest Pipeline project, a rural water supply now under construction just over the border in North Dakota.

I congratulate the Chair and the ranking member, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 970.

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

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the author of this legislation.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I stand to speak in favor of H.R. 970, the Perkins County Rural Water System Act of 1999.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a long and winding road that this important project has taken to get to this point today. I am extremely pleased that we are nearing the point of enactment.

I would like to thank the gentleman from California, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Water and Power, and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the chairman of the full Committee on Resources, as well as the ranking members, the gentlemen from California, Mr. MILLER and Mr. DOOLEY, for their assistance and cooperation in helping advance this bill. Their leadership and cooperation throughout this process have been very

instrumental and will continue to be instrumental as we work with the other body to see that this bill becomes law.

The reason I say H.R. 970 has been on a legislative journey of sorts is because this body in the last session of Congress passed a measure similar to H.R. 970, and in the waning days of the 105th Congress, a bill very similar to the one before us today met the approval of the full House.

However, when considered by the other body, the bill was amended and differences between the two bodies could not be settled. As a result, I reintroduced this legislation, and I hope the House will see fit to approve it today.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would provide the authorization that is necessary for the Perkins County rural water system to qualify for Federal assistance for construction. When completed, the system will provide water to over 3,500 people in an area covering 2,866 square miles.

In order to give my colleagues in the House some perspective of that area, that area is larger than either the State of Delaware or Rhode Island. But unlike either of these two States, this area of South Dakota lacks this very important lifeline resource of water.

Not unlike some other areas of South Dakota, Perkins County frequently experiences problems in terms of quality and quantity of water. The present water supply all too frequently fails to meet Environmental Protection Agency standards for total dissolved solids and sulfates. In addition, the sodium and fluoride levels have surpassed acceptable limits. While water clearly is a factor in the quality of life, it is also a factor of good health.

The people of Perkins County have waited for some time to address these concerns. In fact, the project's origins date back to 1982, when sponsors of the Southwest Pipeline project in North Dakota contacted a group of farmers and ranchers in Perkins County to gauge their interest in receiving water from a better, healthier source. While interest was there, the Southwest Pipeline project did not develop to the point that it could have been included in engineering design until 1992.

However, the Southwest Pipeline authorization does not explicitly authorize construction of the Perkins County rural water system. Despite this strong historical connection, there still was not the legal authority necessary for the system, which is why I am on the floor of the House today.

The legislation before us now would help address a vital need to any and every community: that is, water suitable for human consumption. Many areas of this Nation are blessed with vast quantities of quality drinking water. It is a resource that helps ensure growth and prosperity. Other areas, like Perkins County, South Dakota, however, suffer from lack of access to a dependable water supply.

Though this may be a sparsely populated area of this Nation, the communities in Perkins County such as Bison, Lemmon, and Prairie City, all are important to supporting the social fabric of the magnificent rangeland that surrounds. Likewise, there is potential for growth, but only if the basic resources are in place.

H.R. 970 would help this region continue to thrive into the next century. The bill also will allow us to move past simply examining the symptoms of poor drinking water and move forward with the cure to the deficiencies in the current water supply.

On behalf of the residents of Perkins County, South Dakota, I ask all the Members on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation today. Again, I thank the leadership of this committee for moving this bill forward.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I urge an aye vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONILLA). 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. 970, 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.

#### NATIONAL GEOLOGIC MAPPING REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1528) to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1528

*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 "National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1999".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Section 2(a) of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31a(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (10);

(3) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

"(8) geologic map information is required for the sustainable and balanced development of natural resources of all types, including energy, minerals, land, water, and biological resources;

"(9) advances in digital technology and geographical information system science have made geologic map databases increasingly important as decision support tools for land and resource management; and"; and

(4) in paragraph (10) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)), by inserting "of surficial and bedrock deposits" after "geologic mapping".

#### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 3 of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31b) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), (8), and (10), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

"(4) EDUCATION COMPONENT.—The term 'education component' means the education component of the geologic mapping program described in section 6(d)(3).

"(5) FEDERAL COMPONENT.—The term 'Federal component' means the Federal component of the geologic mapping program described in section 6(d)(1)."; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (8) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

"(9) STATE COMPONENT.—The term 'State component' means the State component of the geologic mapping program described in section 6(d)(2).".

#### SEC. 4. GEOLOGIC MAPPING PROGRAM.

Section 4 of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking "priorities" and inserting "national priorities and standards for";

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking "develop a geologic mapping program implementation plan" and inserting "develop a 5-year strategic plan for the geologic mapping program"; and

(ii) by striking "within 300 days after the date of enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1997" and inserting "not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1999";

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking "within 90 days after the date of enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1997" and inserting "not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1999"; and

(D) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "within 210 days after the date of enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1997" and inserting "not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1999, and biennially thereafter";

(ii) in clause (i), by striking "will coordinate" and inserting "are coordinating";

(iii) in clause (ii), by striking "will establish" and inserting "establish"; and

(iv) in clause (iii), by striking "will lead to" and inserting "affect"; and

(2) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

"(d) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

"(1) FEDERAL COMPONENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The geologic mapping program shall include a Federal geologic mapping component, the objective of which shall be to determine the geologic framework of areas determined to be vital to the economic, social, environmental, or scientific welfare of the United States.

"(B) MAPPING PRIORITIES.—For the Federal component, mapping priorities—

"(i) shall be described in the 5-year plan under section 6; and

"(ii) shall be based on—

"(I) national requirements for geologic map information in areas of multiple-issue need or areas of compelling single-issue need; and

"(II) national requirements for geologic map information in areas where mapping is required to solve critical earth science problems.

"(C) INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Federal component shall include interdisciplinary studies that add value to geologic mapping.

"(ii) REPRESENTATIVE CATEGORIES.—Interdisciplinary studies under clause (i) may include—

"(I) establishment of a national geologic map database under section 7;

"(II) studies that lead to the implementation of cost-effective digital methods for the acquisition, compilation, analysis, cartographic production, and dissemination of geologic map information;

"(III) paleontologic, geochronologic, and isotopic investigations that provide information critical to understanding the age and history of geologic map units;

"(IV) geophysical investigations that assist in delineating and mapping the physical characteristics and 3-dimensional distribution of geologic materials and geologic structures; and

"(V) geochemical investigations and analytical operations that characterize the composition of geologic map units.

"(iii) USE OF RESULTS.—The results of investigations under clause (ii) shall be contributed to national databases.

"(2) STATE COMPONENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The geologic mapping program shall include a State geologic mapping component, the objective of which shall be to establish the geologic framework of areas determined to be vital to the economic, social, environmental, or scientific welfare of individual States.

"(B) MAPPING PRIORITIES.—For the State component, mapping priorities—

"(i) shall be determined by State panels representing a broad range of users of geologic maps; and

"(ii) shall be based on—

"(I) State requirements for geologic map information in areas of multiple-issue need or areas of compelling single-issue need; and

"(II) State requirements for geologic map information in areas where mapping is required to solve critical earth science problems.

"(C) INTEGRATION OF FEDERAL AND STATE PRIORITIES.—A national panel including representatives of the Survey shall integrate the State mapping priorities under this paragraph with the Federal mapping priorities under paragraph (1).

"(D) USE OF FUNDS.—The Survey and recipients of grants under the State component shall not use more than 15.25 percent of the Federal funds made available under the State component for any fiscal year to pay indirect, servicing, or program management charges.

"(E) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of activities under the State component for any fiscal year shall not exceed 50 percent.

"(3) EDUCATION COMPONENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The geologic mapping program shall include a geologic mapping education component for the training of geologic mappers, the objectives of which shall be—

"(i) to provide for broad education in geologic mapping and field analysis through support of field studies; and

"(ii) to develop academic programs that teach students of earth science the fundamental principles of geologic mapping and field analysis.

"(B) INVESTIGATIONS.—The education component may include the conduct of investigations, which—

"(i) shall be integrated with the Federal component and the State component; and

"(ii) shall respond to mapping priorities identified for the Federal component and the State component.

"(C) USE OF FUNDS.—The Survey and recipients of grants under the education component shall not use more than 15.25 percent of the Federal funds made available under