

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER). I would again stress what an extraordinary role he has played in this House on housing matters.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3834, 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. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3834, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

CHANDLER PUMPING PLANT WATER EXCHANGE FEASIBILITY STUDY

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3986) to provide for a study of the engineering feasibility of a water exchange in lieu of electrification of the Chandler Pumping Plant at Prosser Diversion Dam, Washington, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3986

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

SECTION 1. CHANDLER PUMPING PLANT AND POWERPLANT OPERATIONS AT PROSSER DIVERSION DAM, WASHINGTON.

Section 1208 of Public Law 103-434 (108 Stat. 4562) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting "OR WATER EXCHANGE" after "ELECTRIFICATION";

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(C) by striking "In order to" and inserting the following:

"(1) ELECTRIFICATION.—In order to"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) WATER EXCHANGE ALTERNATIVE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—As an alternative to the measures authorized under paragraph (1) for electrification, the Secretary is authorized to use not more than \$4,000,000 of sums appropriated under paragraph (1) to study the engineering feasibility of exchanging water from the Columbia River for water historically diverted from the Yakima River.

"(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Secretary, in coordination with the Kennewick Irrigation District and in

consultation with the Bonneville Power Administration, shall—

"(i) prepare a report that describes project benefits and contains feasibility level designs and cost estimates;

"(ii) secure the critical right-of-way areas for the pipeline alignment;

"(iii) prepare an environmental assessment; and

"(iv) conduct such other studies or investigations as are necessary to develop a water exchange.";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting "or water exchange" after "electrification"; and

(B) in the second sentence of paragraph (2)(A), by inserting "or the equivalent of the rate" before the period;

(3) in subsection (d), by striking "electrification," each place it appears and inserting "electrification or water exchange"; and

(4) in subsection (d), by striking "of the two" and inserting "thereof".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIMPSON. 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. 3986.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3986 authorizes a study of the feasibility of exchanging water diverted from the Yakima River for use by two irrigation districts for water from the Columbia River. The study would be conducted as part of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project. The legislation will promote salmon recovery in the Yakima River without reducing the amount of water available to irrigators.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS).

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3986. I thank the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, as Members know, the preservation of salmon in the Pacific Northwest is one of my top priorities in this Congress. I am convinced that we can save this national treasure while also preserving the jobs and quality of life of Pacific Northwest residents. My legislation is just one example of the benefits that could be attained for salmon by interested parties working together at the local level.

Very simply, Mr. Speaker, my legislation authorizes a study of the feasibility of exchanging water diverted

from the Yakima River for use by the Kennewick and Columbia Irrigation Districts for water from the Columbia River. The study would be conducted as part of the Bureau of Reclamation's Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, a series of projects authorized by Congress to improve water quality and quantity in the Yakima River. These two systems currently take their water from the lower Yakima River where flows have already been decreased because of upriver diversions. By taking water from the much larger volume of the Columbia River, the impact on threatened and endangered species would be significantly reduced.

Specifically, this project provides the opportunity to increase Yakima River flows at Prosser Dam during critical low flow periods by up to 750 cubic feet per second. This approach will provide over twice as much flow augmentation as the previously approved electrification project and could completely eliminate the Yakima River diversion for the Kennewick Irrigation District. A new pump station and pressure pipeline from the Columbia River will be the cornerstone of a more salmon-friendly Kennewick Irrigation District.

This project is a winner for both fish and water users. It balances the need to improve habitat for threatened species while protecting water rights. Preliminary results from a lower reach habitat study indicate that these increased flows would greatly help salmon and bull trout. In addition, this proposal would provide substantial water quality improvements in the Yakima River.

It is important to note that a change in the diversion for the Kennewick Irrigation District from the Yakima River to the Columbia River will completely change the current operational philosophy for the district. It will evolve from a relatively simple gravity system to one of significant complexity involving a major pump station and pressure pipeline to the major feeder canals. This remodeling will have a significant impact on the existing system and its users during construction, start-up and transition. That is why it is essential for the Kennewick Irrigation District to be in a position to develop these facilities in the way that best fits its current and future operational goals and causes the least disruption to district water users. That is why this legislation requires the Bureau of Reclamation to give the Kennewick Irrigation District substantial control over the planning and design work in this study with the Bureau having the final approval. This approach will ensure continued involvement and support which is vital to the success of this project.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, that this bill has been going through the process on both the Republican and Democrat side. When you talk about water issues in the Pacific Northwest, you tend to polarize people in different approaches.