

USGS agency in regards to the Methow Valley.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's kind words, and recognize his support for the projects in the legislation.

I assure the gentleman that the subcommittee will work to address his concerns regarding these projects in conference.

Mr. HASTINGS. Again, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the chairman for his efforts on this in his very first Interior appropriations bill. I will certainly provide any assistance I can give and additional information necessary to help him in conference on these two projects.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill and rule.

I want to say to my colleague, the gentleman from Washington, I will help him in the conference on the measures that he just mentioned.

I also want to say that I want to applaud the chairman of this committee and the majority and the minority for working to keep the commitment last year in our substitute for CARA. This bill carries with it \$1,320 million in conservation spending. I think it is a dramatic step in the right direction.

If Members will remember, last year over 300 House Members voted for CARA, which would have been a 15-year \$3 billion program. I offered an amendment with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) that was accepted by the majority that would keep this within the purview of the Committee on Appropriations, and to create a trust fund to make sure that they important programs were funded. The majority is working with the minority. We have funded it in the Interior bill, and we hope it will be also funded in the State, Justice, and Commerce bill.

I agree with the gentleman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) that we would have hoped that the Committee on Rules might have helped us on a couple of these amendments, but I want to say to my colleagues, we are going to offer an amendment to increase funding for the cultural institutions, \$10 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, \$3 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and \$2 million for museum services.

We are taking the money out of administrative expenses. I am confident that if the amendment is approved, we will be able to protect that in conference. So I am enthusiastically supporting this bill. I think we should move ahead and pass the rule on a voice vote and get to the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule providing for consideration of the Fiscal Year 2002 Appropriations bill for the Department of Interior and Related Agencies, despite a denied request to make two amendments in order that were proposed yesterday to the Committee on Rules.

The Minority has been consulted throughout the process of developing this legislation and we believe our views are reflected in many aspects of the bill. While we do not agree with every recommendation and continue to work for improvements in several areas, in balance we believe that this Interior bill is one which Members from both parties can support.

The Minority is particularly pleased with the recommendation for funding of the new Conservation Trust Fund created last year. By including the full \$1,320 million authorized for conservation, Congress has kept faith with last year's commitment to significantly expand funding for land acquisition, wildlife protection and other preservation and conservation programs. We are also pleased by the Committee's inclusion of a \$120 million increase for weatherization and State energy programs to insulate homes, schools and hospitals. These funds are critical to low income families.

We applaud the Committee's decision to restore many of the unwise cuts proposed by the President in a number of critical areas. This includes approximately \$300 million to the Energy Conservation and Fossil Energy research accounts. These funds can significantly ameliorate the energy crisis identified in the President's National Energy Policy. It made no sense to cut these programs when current gasoline prices and electricity problems remind us daily of the need for energy conservation and alternative energy programs.

Although the Committee did not make in order the amendment proposed yesterday, Congresswoman SLAUGHTER and I plan to offer a new amendment today to increase funding for our cultural agencies. The amendment would provide \$10 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, \$3 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and \$2 million for the Institute for Museum and Library Services offset by small reductions in administrative costs at the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. We had originally planned to offset these amounts through a deferral of excess clean coal funds as we did last year. Unfortunately the Rules Committee did not waive the rule to allow this. Instead this amendment makes a very small reduction of less than .3 percent in administrative costs.

Mr. Speaker, I support the rule protecting the bill as reported. It is a clean bill which I intend to support.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SKEEN. 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. 2217, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 174 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2217.

The Chair designates the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) as chairman of the Committee of the Whole, and requests the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) to assume the chair temporarily.

□ 1021

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2217) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN).

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the Interior bill that was reported out of the committee provides a total of \$18.9 billion, \$86 million above fiscal year 2001. The increase is less than one-half of 1 percent above 2001.

I want to say a few things about this bill. This is a good, bipartisan bill. The committee members worked to put together a good bill for this Congress, and this is a good bill for our States and counties and our programs, with money that will help States, counties, and cities to solve their problems.

This is a good bill for our parks. The bill fulfills President Bush's commitment to our parks, and continues efforts of my good friend and former chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Regula, to the parks.

This is a good bill for wildlife stock and endangered species. There is money for President Bush's landowner incentive program, there is money for critters in this bill. This is a good bill for Indian schools and Indian medical facilities. New hospitals, new clinics, and new schools are funded in this bill.