

by my colleague, Representative DEGETTE. I greatly appreciate her support.

The purpose of this bill is to remove any possible conflict between a decision of the people of Colorado and that original federal legislation under which some 3 million acres of federal lands were granted to our state.

In granting the lands to Colorado, Congress provided that they were to be used as a source of revenue for the public schools—and for many years they were managed for that purpose.

However, over the years the revenue derived from these lands has become a less and less significant part of the funding for Colorado's schools, while there has been an increasing appreciation of the other values of these lands.

As a result, in 1996 the people of Colorado voted to amend our state constitution to permit part of these school trust lands to be set aside in a "stewardship trust" and managed to preserve their open space, wildlife and other natural qualities.

To assure that this decision of the voters can be implemented, my bill would amend the original Colorado Enabling Act to eliminate the requirement that the state must raise revenue from the school-trust lands that are set aside for their natural resource values and qualities.

Similar legislation has been introduced by other Members of Colorado's delegation in the Congress. However, those bills include a specific limit on the acreage that could be placed in the stewardship trust.

The 1996 state legislation does set such a limit. I supported that part of the state legislation. However, I think that whether that limit should be retained or revised should be decided solely by the people of Colorado, and not determined by Congress. So, the bill I am introducing today does not include a specific acreage limit. That would be left to Colorado law to control.

Mr. Speaker, Colorado is experiencing rapid population growth. That is putting increasing pressure on all our undeveloped lands. In response, the people of Colorado have voted to allow some of these school-grant lands to remain as open spaces to be managed for their wildlife and other natural resources and values. This bill will keep faith with that decision by our votes by removing any conflict with federal law. I will do all I can to press for its speedy enactment.

For the information of our colleagues, I submit a recent newspaper editorial on this subject:

[From the Denver Post, May 28, 2001]

ENABLE LAND-BOARD FIXES

Disputes over State Land Board deals arise partly because the board's narrow mandate may no longer fit Colorado's needs. But altering the board's focus literally may take an act of Congress.

As Uncle Sam welcomed new states into the union, the federal government set aside entire sections of land to raise money for public education through grazing leases, mineral rights, etc. The federal law that granted Colorado statehood in 1876, called the Enabling Act, included a similar provision.

But during the past 125 years, Colorado has found other ways to fund public education. Colorado's school acres now supply less than 2 percent of the state's annual K-12 budget.

Today, some school sections offer tremendous public value as open space or rec-

reational land. Emerald Mountain forms the scenic backdrop to Steamboat Springs.

In 1996, Colorado voters put Amendment 16 in the state Constitution, aiming to give the State Land Board, which manages the school lands, flexibility to preserve open space and wildlife habitat, as well as support public education. The amendment told the land board to set aside 300,000 acres of the 3 million school acres as a Stewardship Trust. Note that 90 percent of the school acres still raise money for education.

But soon after the amendment's passage, a federal court firmly said the land board is obligated always to fund schools first, under the federal law that granted Colorado statehood. That means the State Land Board might have to accept profitable offers even on lands now in the Stewardship Trust.

Clearly, public school funding is of utmost importance. But taken together, the court decision and statehood act mean the Stewardship Trust that voters thought they were putting in place might prove ephemeral. Instead of preserving the cherished 300,000 acres, Amendment 16 simply may have run up their ultimate real estate development value.

To solve the problem, Colorado must ask Congress to amend our statehood act. The 10 percent of state lands held in the Stewardship Trust then could be permanently set aside.

However, the state could only ask the federal government to do so if the legislature guaranteed an equally secure funding source for public education.

Moreover, the Stewardship Trust will work in the long run only if the legislature also patches an obvious and troubling gap in Amendment 16, which we'll discuss tomorrow.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
AUTHORIZING CONGRESS TO
PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION
OF THE FLAG OF THE
UNITED STATES**

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2001

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Joint Resolution 36, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the United States flag. I urge all Members to support this resolution. This is a positive step toward finally taking necessary accountability in protecting the integrity and sanctity of our most precious national symbol.

I understand that this issue has experienced years of contentious debate involving constitutional challenges. Rather than focus on these arguments, I would rather take this time to share parts of a story written in my local newspaper, the El Paso Times. The story concerns a local shopping center that proudly flies a 30-by-30 foot American flag that has recently been taken from its flag pole for the first time in several years in order to have its wind-torn, tethered appearance repaired so that it may return with a new and fully restored appearance. Since its removal, motorists and pedestrians, inhabitants of the neighborhood of where the flag resides, tourists and travelers, every single person that has come in contact

with this flag have missed its presence. As one person stated, "People love it when they notice it, and they notice when it's gone."

And the people who love this symbol, not just the people in my district who give directions to their homes based on the shopping center flag, but people all over the country will notice when their symbol is destroyed. We have traditional codes and customs that encourage utmost respect for the American flag, yet we have never protected this symbol with the strength of our laws. We have sent soldiers to wars who fought and sometimes died in defense of the flag, carrying it honorably and proudly into battle. We have erected monuments all over this country and around the world that fly the American flag. We have placed the American flag on places where Americans have claimed victory in battle and scientific achievement, including one place that is not even on this Earth. I ask the Members to consider what protest would be profound, what speech should be protected and what principle is to be defended if the American flag flying over the Iwo Jima memorial is burned, or the flag flying over the Memorial at Normandy, or the flag that adorns the casket of a fallen soldier, or the flags that fly proudly over our international embassies, or the flag that flies in a shopping center in my district of El Paso, Texas. People will certainly notice it when it is gone.

Mr. Speaker, the brilliance of our constitutional laws is that they are amendable, they can change with the will of the people. And I believe and encourage that the will of Congress is to finally protect the symbol that flies over this House.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE EXPORT
ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 2001**

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 20, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have today introduced the "Export Administration Act of 2001", H.R. 2581.

This bill is identical to counterpart legislation that has been reported by the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, S. 149, except that it includes two additional sections relating to nuclear transfers to North Korea. These additional sections are substantively identical to legislation that Congressman ED MARKEY and I introduced last year, H.R. 4251 (106th Congress), the "Congressional Oversight of Nuclear Transfers to North Korea Act of 2000".

H.R. 4251 was intended to ensure that congress will be fully involved in the decision our nation may have to make in several years to either permit or delay the transfer to North Korea of key components for the two light water nuclear reactors that are being built in North Korea pursuant to the 1994 Agreed Framework with North Korea. H.R. 4251 commanded broad bipartisan support in the House of Representatives and was approved on May 15, 2000, by a vote of 374-6. Regrettably, the Senate did not approve H.R. 4251 before final adjournment of the 106th Congress last year.

Last year's vote demonstrates that the two additional sections I have added to the text of S. 149 are essentially non-controversial. I