

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER  
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1472

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1472.

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

There was no objection.

SENSE OF CONGRESS SUPPORTING  
THE EFFORTS OF THE PEACE  
PARKS FOUNDATION IN THE RE-  
PUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 80) expressing the sense of Congress relating to efforts of the Peace Parks Foundation in the Republic of South Africa to facilitate the establishment and development of transfrontier conservation efforts in southern Africa.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 80

Whereas on February 1, 1997, the Peace Parks Foundation was established in the Republic of South Africa as a non-profit company to facilitate the establishment of transfrontier conservation areas in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries;

Whereas the overall purpose of the Peace Parks Foundation is to facilitate the establishment and development of transfrontier areas involving two or more countries without compromising national sovereignty, and allowing the free movement of humankind and animals across international borders within the peace park and thereby contributing to economic development, job creation, and peace and understanding between the countries concerned;

Whereas former South African President Nelson Mandela is a patron emeritus of the Peace Parks Foundation and the heads of state of the SADC countries are honorary patrons of the Foundation;

Whereas the Peace Parks Foundation has received the full support and endorsement for its efforts and activities from the heads of state of the SADC countries;

Whereas eight transfrontier conservation areas totaling approximately 232,000 square miles are supported by the Peace Parks Foundation in the SADC countries; and

Whereas the United States values peace and stability in the global community, and in particular Africa, and has long recognized the significance of sustainable economic development and the conservation of biodiversity: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),* That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should support efforts to facilitate the establishment and development of transfrontier conservation areas in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries; and

(2) nongovernmental organizations and foundations in the United States should be encouraged to support and promote sustainable economic development and benefits through the preservation of wildlife in peace parks on an expanded and inclusive basis to the benefit of the countries concerned and their people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. 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 the concurrent resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

The gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), with the support of several members of the Subcommittee on Africa, including the vice chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) and myself, introduced House Concurrent Resolution 80 supporting the efforts of the Peace Parks Foundation in the Republic of South Africa.

The Peace Parks Foundation, a non-profit organization, helps with the establishment and development of transfrontier conservation areas among two or more of the southern African development community countries. The idea for the Peace Parks Foundation came about when it was realized that ecotourism has benefited South Africa but has not benefited its neighboring countries, including Mozambique.

The purpose of the Peace Parks Foundation is to better allow wildlife to move freely across national borders, which wildlife is wont to do, which will promote biodiversity, economic development, and peaceful cooperation between all countries involved. By giving local populations an economic incentive to protect the environment, wildlife poaching and other unsustainable practices should decrease.

The Peace Parks Foundation enjoys the full support of all SADC countries and all of their heads of state and is currently developing 232,000 square miles of conservation area between them. This resolution expresses U.S. support for these efforts and encourages nongovernmental organizations and foundations in the United States to do the same.

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 80.

Mr. Speaker, House Con. Res. 80 calls on the U.S. to support the Peace Parks Foundation of Southern Africa. The Peace Parks will support the establishment of a transfrontier conservation area involving several countries in southern Africa to boost tourism and to help alleviate poverty. The effort by the Southern African Development Community, SADC, will allow the free movement of humans and animals across international borders. It represents a major advance in conservation efforts worldwide.

The Peace Parks will not only contribute to conservation but also to eco-

nomics development, job creation, and peace and understanding between the countries involved. This is a big step forward.

Animals have no borders. They move throughout. However, borders that have been written by countries sort of presented a problem, and for the countries in the SADC region to come together to say that you can cross our borders, for the people to be able to cross the borders so that the animals could be protected is very important.

As a matter of fact, a tragedy has happened recently in Kenya because of the lack of rain in the game parks right outside Nairobi. There are tremendous numbers of game there, including lions and tigers. But the Masai people have cattle, a tremendous amount of cattle. Cattle is a way to express wealth. During the past 4 or 5 months, because of the drought, the wildlife has moved outside of the park grounds seeking water. As the wildlife, the zebras and other animals go out, the lions must follow them, and they have gotten near Nairobi. There have been killings of Masai cattle. Unfortunately, the Masai people have said that they need to have some protection and, actually, during the past month or so, have killed 10 lions in the area around Nairobi. They are saying we should be compensated for the last of our cattle.

So there is a very important aspect to wildlife, and I hope that the new government of Kenya will be able to have some program to compensate for the tremendous loss to the Masai people.

But this is an example where countries are coming together, creating jobs, and living with the wildlife can serve as an economic engine.

So I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 80.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), the prime sponsor of this legislation.

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

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring to the House floor House Concurrent Resolution 80, which encourages support for the Peace Parks Foundation of South Africa in helping to establish and develop transfrontier conservation areas or peace parks in sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2001, I had the opportunity to visit South Africa with the Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT). We saw firsthand the positive achievements of the Peace Parks Foundation, a nonprofit organization headed by conservationist Dr. Anton Rupert.

In general terms, peace parks are very large, ecologically significant natural areas that straddle the borders of two or more countries and that are attractive to visitors.