

room and board, then let us do a deduction because they are getting that free room and board for that time where they are in a government facility. It makes no sense, though, in terms of public policy, when that facility is a hospital; and we all know that when we have someone in a hospital. We all know that when we have someone in a hospital, the family incurs additional expenses from phone calls and travel and transportation and running to the pharmacy to pick up shampoo that they forgot and all those kinds of things; and for these folks in the future that we are going to prevent this from happening to, they do not need that kind of hassle.

So I applaud the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) for bringing this bill forward today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) for yielding me this time.

I rise today also to express my deepest gratitude to our military personnel, but I am frustrated by the way our government and our country treats our military personnel, as was pointed out by the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) and the extraordinary work that he and his wife have done, and I want to thank him and commend him for the great bill that he has here on the House floor.

No factory worker or teacher is required to pay for any part of the recovery should they be injured on the job. However, if a serviceman is injured while defending our country in combat, in service to our country, they are forced to pay a part of their hospital stay, as reflected in the gentleman from Florida's (Chairman YOUNG) bill, and this should be corrected immediately. I am glad to see broad bipartisan support for this legislation, and I hope that our House passes this as quickly as possible.

I also want to bring one more, I think, concern to the attention of the people and our Congress, and that is what I introduced, House Resolution 387, a bipartisan House resolution to support our military personnel by covering their travel costs to return our troops home to their families and loved ones. People who have been in Afghanistan and Iraq and who have 2 weeks R&R, rest and recuperation, to visit with their families and loved ones are brought to the ports, to the borders of our country, and then from there, Mr. Speaker, they are forced, if they want to go on home, to pay their own way. I think this should be corrected, and we have 98 co-sponsors on this House resolution which would aim to correct this.

Our current policy leaves troops stranded or forced to pay their way for connecting flights, and I think we can and should correct this. Our government should pay all travel and transportation costs, and we should honor our troops who defend and protect us by seeing this is done.

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

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to a gentleman from the great State of Nevada (Mr. PORTER), who has the opportunity to represent the hero that I mentioned that the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) and his wife encountered, a brave young man now struggling with his recovery.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding me this time, and I thank the gentleman Florida (Mr. YOUNG) for introducing this legislation.

Staff Sergeant Murwin, whose plight inspired the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) to introduce this bill, is a fellow Nevanadan and wounded combat veteran. His courage in serving his country and looking out for the interests of his fellow combat wounded veterans is commendable. I must say it is absolutely shameful that Sergeant Murwin and soldiers like him were forced to pay for the privilege of trying to recover while their lives were in turmoil or in a hospital.

A few months ago, I joined with other Members of Congress as we visited Walter Reed Army Hospital and Bethesda Naval Hospital and had a chance to see firsthand the honor, the pride, and the pain of our fellow men and women in uniform. These men and women had limbs missing. One gentleman was run over by a tank. But, also, one young man had a flag attached to his lapel, a tattered small American flag that he wore to remember his fellow soldiers that were still at war.

Mr. Speaker, these men and women have given enough in the name of freedom and democracy. It is shameful that they were forced to pay on top of all that they had given of their lives. I am glad today that we have righted something that was very, very wrong.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KLECZKA).

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in strong support of the legislation. To charge these veterans for meals I think is quite absurd; and I want to congratulate the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations for bringing this product forward. But I have to point out to my colleagues that we are not finishing the job today with this bill, and I would hope the chairman would help us in bringing to the floor before we adjourn another piece of legislation to correct an inequity. That is, when we bring our Iraqi veterans home for leave, we dump them in Baltimore.

I was flying out of National Airport about a week ago, and two veterans were there waiting for a plane. So I went to talk to them, and one was a regular Army personnel and the other was an Air Guard personnel, and I questioned them. I said, "Are you flying home on leave?"

They said, "Yes."

I said, "Did they fly you into National and you are taking your connection flight?"

They said, "No, we took a bus up from Baltimore so, on our own dime, we could fly home for a short period of time to be reunited with the families."

I think if we have billions of dollars to rebuild Iraq, to provide for zip codes there and garbage trucks and uniforms for their army, I think we can have the American taxpayers send these young men and women back home to the loving arms of their families in their hometowns, not in Baltimore.

So, hopefully, we can have that product come before us before we adjourn and make sure these folks are flown right home so they can spend their time with their families and not waiting for buses and other airplanes on their own dime.

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

I once again want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) for their work on this bill. I look forward to seeing this become a permanent portion of the law and deal with this problem once and for all.

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

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

Once again, let me thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER), my partner on the Total Force Subcommittee, for his leadership and assistance but most of all again the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) for his leadership, his insight, and his continuing concern.

This is something that we need to fix; and, fortunately, because of the efforts of the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG), we have the opportunity to do it today. I certainly urge all of our colleagues to join us in supporting this very worthy measure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2998, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR EXPANSION OF SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 408) to provide for expansion of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 408

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

**SECTION 1. EXPANSION OF SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—When title to the land described in subsection (b) has vested in the United States in fee simple, the boundary of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is revised to include such land in that park.

(b) *LAND DESCRIBED.*—The land referred to in subsection (a) consists of approximately 104.45 acres of unimproved lands generally depicted on National Park Service map number 634/80078, entitled "Bayberry Mills, Inc. Crystal River, MI Proposed Expansion Unit to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore". The Secretary of the Interior shall keep such map on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(c) *PURCHASE OF LANDS AUTHORIZED.*—The Secretary of the Interior may acquire the land described in subsection (b), only by purchase from a willing seller.

(d) *LIMITATION ON ACQUISITION BY EXCHANGE OR CONVEYANCE.*—The Secretary of the Interior may not acquire any of the land described in subsection (b) through any exchange or conveyance of lands that are within the boundary of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON).

□ 1430

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 408 introduced by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) of Michigan and amended by the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands, would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to expand the boundaries of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore by acquiring from a willing seller approximately 104.5 acres of land adjacent to the Lakeshore along the Crystal River.

H.R. 408, as amended, is supported by the majority and minority of the subcommittee. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

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

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore includes 64 miles of shoreline along the northeastern edge of Lake Michigan. I want to commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) for their great work bringing before us H.R. 408, working on this preservation, to acquire 100 acres for eventual addition to the Sleeping Bear Dunes.

I look forward to the passage of this legislation.

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

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP), the sponsor of this legislation.

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

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 408, a bill to provide for the expansion of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, located in Empire, Michigan, and along the coast of Michigan. I introduced this bill in January with my colleague the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK). This legislation represents a culmination of years of debate on the issue of whether or how to include certain acreage into the Park Service system.

H.R. 408 would authorize the National Park Service to purchase approximately 104 acres of property now owned by a private resort community and include it within the boundaries of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

In the mid-eighties, The Homestead, a resort community located in Glen Arbor, Michigan, purchased property that included frontage on the Crystal River. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service described the property as "globally rare." Since the purchase of the Crystal River property, the owners of The Homestead have sought to build a golf course and over 30 single-family homes. The resort's desire to build on the pristine acreage caused concern among a number of community residents and local environmental groups who opposed development of the property.

To resolve the dispute, The Homestead and the Park Service began discussions to exchange the environmentally sensitive riverfront property for acreage already included in the Lakeshore. Residents and area environmental organizations rejected the idea of an exchange. Opponents argued that it would unfairly give land from one private landowner to another.

In the 1970s, the Federal Government condemned private land and included it in the Lakeshore, one of the first cases where the Federal Government condemned property that was already inhabited. At the time, the Federal Government told the private property owners that their land would be protected for the public to enjoy. The idea of trading that land to be developed into a golf course and homes was not a policy local residents and environmental groups could endorse.

After much negotiation and compromise, a solution has been reached that aims to benefit all stakeholders and is supported by all stakeholders. The agreement is embodied in H.R. 408. The bill stipulates that the purchase of this land be made on a "willing seller" basis. This stipulation was included intentionally to provide assurances to The Homestead that their property will not be taken or withheld from them for any reason without their express consent. The bill also prohibits the Park

Service from acquiring the property by an exchange.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the House Committee on Resources, particularly the gentleman from California (Chairman POMBO); the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH); and members of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER), for their outstanding support.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this noncontroversial but important measure.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), who has been doing stalwart work for 11 years on this matter.

Mr. STUPAK. I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 408 would accomplish the goal of allowing the National Park Service to acquire nearly 105 acres of land along the Crystal River adjacent to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

This legislation would facilitate the preservation of this rare and valuable land by allowing the National Park Service to add this property to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, and, at the same time, would fairly compensate Bayberry Mills, Inc., a company affiliated with The Homestead, a large, well-known resort, for their property.

I have a particular interest in and a high degree of familiarity with the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and Bayberry Mills' property because for the last 10 years, it was located in my congressional district. It is a land of majestic beauty, and is a valuable environmental contribution to the area which lies along the pristine Crystal River.

For more than 17 years, there has been controversy about development along the Crystal River. Several proposals for development by the property owners have met with bitter opposition by environmentalists and some in the local community. There have been plans to build a golf course and develop homesites on the property. There is also a proposal to swap the property for lands within Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. That, too, aroused controversy.

We must be grateful to Bayberry Mills and The Homestead for not developing this acreage and for their willingness to work with the National Park Service and our committees to preserve this land. However, now it is time to purchase this land and allow The Homestead to move on.

Last year, I introduced legislation to allow the Federal Government to purchase the land for inclusion into the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. This year, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP), who has worked hard on this and who now represents

the area, and Senator LEVIN in the other body, have introduced similar legislation, which I fully support and have cosponsored.

This legislation has garnered the support of Bayberry Mills, the Park Service, the local community and many of those in the environmental community who opposed previous development plans for the property.

Mr. Bob Kuras, President of Bayberry Mills, is to be commended for his willingness to complete this sale, and Congress needs to act quickly to take advantage of this opportunity. I truly believe that this legislation is the only solution to a 17-year-old dispute, and it is extremely important that the House and Senate act now, so we can have closure on this issue.

The Park Service will benefit greatly by having the property included in the Lakeshore, the local communities will support this purchase, and Bayberry Mills will be fairly compensated for their property.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my staff for their work on this issue over the past 10 years. I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and his staff for their diligent work on this legislation we are voting on today. None of this could happen without the support of the Committee on Resources, and we certainly appreciate their help and support in this effort. This is a win-win-win situation, and I strongly urge my colleagues to join us in the passage of H.R. 408.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 408, to provide for the expansion of the Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes National Lakeshore, of course in my home State, the great State of Michigan. I also want to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) for offering this legislation.

As an avid Great Lakes sailor, I have been privileged to enjoy the natural beauty of our shoreline of my home State from both the land as well as the water. I am committed to preserving and protecting our lakeshore so that others can come to see the breathtaking splendor that we know as Michigan.

No part of our lakeshore is more spectacular than the Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes. Congress established the Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes National Lakeshore in 1970 to preserve this national treasure along the shores of Lake Michigan for all time.

For generations, Michigan citizens and tourists from around the Nation and the world have come to the Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes to enjoy the spectacular beauty of our shoreline and to enjoy the forest and the wildlife that this area does have to offer.

The Sleeping Bear Dunes were actually created by the retreat of the gla-

ciers from the area, and they rise 400 feet above Lake Michigan. They offer an incredible view of this wonderful lake, and it is difficult, I think, to imagine a more beautiful view anywhere in the Nation.

In addition to the view offered atop the dunes, families can also explore beech and maple forests, beautiful meadows, wetlands lakes and streams. Wildlife is bountiful all over the park there. We have over 160 different species of birds nesting in the area, as well as red fox, coyotes, and our Michigan white-tailed deer.

The expansion of this park, I believe, is needed to preserve even more of the surrounding beach front for future generations to enjoy. Most people do not know that in Michigan, actually, we have 2,242 miles of shoreline and another 879 miles, if the islands are included as well. We actually have the longest shoreline, outside of Alaska. This actually equals the length of the Atlantic coast, if you think about it, from Maine to Florida. So the Great Lakes shoreline is an important part of our identity.

I just want to demonstrate how important the Sleeping Bear Dunes actually are to the State of Michigan. This is a children's book. At one time it was the best-selling children's book in the entire State of Michigan. It tells the old Indian legend of the Sleeping Bear Dunes, where the mother bear and her two cubs were swimming across Lake Michigan, and the mother bear made it to the Sleeping Bear Dunes area, and the two cubs did not. They became North and South Manitou. But this is a wonder, wonderful children's book. It is the kind of children's story that we talk to our children about in Michigan when we put them to sleep at night.

So, really, the Sleeping Bear Dunes is such a critical part of our identity in Michigan. I certainly urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is indeed a treasure. Located on Michigan's western shoreline of Lake Michigan, it is a splendor unto itself. This is why I strongly support H.R. 408, introduced by my colleague and friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP).

This bill would authorize the acquisition of approximately 105 acres of pristine land for addition to the Lakeshore.

Since its establishment by Congress in 1970, Sleeping Bear Dunes has been enjoyed by many in Michigan and people from around the world. Thousands visit every year to experience its wonderful beaches, see its many wildflowers, birds and animals, and hike its trails.

Through the hard work of former Representative James O'Hara and former Senator Phil Hart, we protected

this beautiful land. Now, through the hard work of a bipartisan group of Members, including the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) and myself, as well as Senators LEVIN and STABENOW over in the Senate, we have an opportunity to protect further these magnificent lands.

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore comprises roughly 64 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and a combined 72,000 acres of Federal and non-Federal land. I have visited Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore many times and can testify to its majesty and uniqueness.

Acquiring this land along the Crystal River, adjacent to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, has been an ongoing struggle to help preserve the scenic beauty of this area. H.R. 408 represents a hard-worked compromise between the private landowners, the National Park Service and many others who were involved. Its passage will be a large step forward in bringing this issue to a close.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER).

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, first let me make it clear that I strongly support this legislation and also the necessary appropriations to follow through on the authorizing, and I think it is important we do it as soon as possible.

I would first like to express on the record a concern here, and that is that while it is a win-win situation for all the stakeholders involved, I personally believe there should have been a land swap. I believe the land swap was a reasonable request. What this is going to do is cost the taxpayers money that could have been used in other environmental projects in other parks around the country where we are still trying to buy out inholdings, to pay back people who, in fact, are restricted in their land use.

That said, for 17 years that has not happened. The owner is continuing to be deprived of his ability to use his property, and we do not want him to develop condominiums or housing developments along the beautiful Crystal River. It would destroy a very scenic area. So we have little choice in this area about what to do, and I believe this legislation will indeed compensate the owner, protect all the national park lands and expand the Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore.

I do not have any constituents in this area. I am not from the State of Michigan. I have many people from northern Indiana, including myself, who go up to Sleeping Bear. But I want to make a couple other general comments for the other Members of our body.

As you have heard from obviously the people from Michigan, just because

they are pro-Michigan does not mean it is not true. This fresh water coast has the best dunes and the best beaches in the United States. I serve on the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands. I have traveled around this country for multiple years. The dunes are more spectacular, more wild and more scenic than what you see in Oregon, than what you see in Kitty Hawk. The beaches are more private and rural in ability to enjoy than you see on any of our other coasts, as someone who visits those coasts as well.

This is incredibly scenic country in a very populace State. This is not like the Indiana Dunes Lakeshore, where we preserved an ecosystem right at the edge of Chicago where other cities are. This is one, however, that still has a number of inholdings, small towns, and, as we work this through, what used to be largely a series of State parks, like DH Day and Platte River and other State parks, has now been joined together, not only where the spectacular dunes are, but the ecosystem that is dependent on the dunes' survival, one of which is the Crystal River.

This beautiful, scenic area comes in through the town of Glen Arbor and out by Glen Haven, as well as the Platte River coming in another part, and the ability for canoeists to enjoy this, the ability to keep the watershed and the trees preserved, so that not only do we have those moving dunes, the largest moving dunes in the world preserved, but the ecosystem that people, like I did when I was in college every spring, we went up and camped at Sleeping Bear, and my parents took me up there when I was young, so that other families can enjoy a wilderness in a fairly populous area of America.

□ 1445

We do not have enough, unlike the speaker from Idaho and others, we do not have a lot of public lands in the Midwest. We do not have a lot of public lands, like many of my colleagues on the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands, like the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON), who are looking often at districts that range anywhere from 30 to 90 percent Federal public lands. In the Midwest we have a shortage. This is helping fill an important gap in an important ecosystem with animal and bird diversity, with sand dunes, with rivers; and it is a rare opportunity to purchase this. So I hope we not only authorize this, but move the appropriations soon.

I commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER), and all of the others who have been involved. It has been a pleasure in preserving this important part of our natural and cultural heritage in the Midwest.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, we are just glad that the sponsors

of this have not allowed Sleeping Bear Dunes to lie. We appreciate their work.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 408, 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.

#### AMENDING THE MINERAL LEASING ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO ISSUE COMBINED HYDROCARBON LEASING

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3062) to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue separately, for the same area, a lease for tar sand and a lease for oil and gas, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3062

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

#### SECTION 1. COMBINED HYDROCARBON LEASING.

(a) SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING LEASING.—Section 17(b)(2) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(2)) is amended—

- (1) by inserting "(A)" after "(2)"; and
- (2) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) The Secretary may issue under this Act for the same area, separately—

- "(i) a lease for exploration for and extraction of tar sand; and
- "(ii) a lease for exploration for and development of oil and gas.

"(C) A lease issued under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall not be further subject to the Combined Hydrocarbon Leasing Act of 1981 (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).

"(D) A lease issued for tar sand shall be issued using the same bidding process, annual rental, and posting period as a lease issued for oil and gas, except that the minimum acceptable bid required for a lease issued for tar sand shall be \$2 per acre.

"(E) The Secretary may waive, suspend, or alter any requirement under section 26 that a permittee under a permit authorizing prospecting for tar sand must exercise due diligence, to promote any resource covered by a combined hydrocarbon lease."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 17(b)(1)(B) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)(B)) is amended in the second sentence by inserting ", subject to paragraph (2)(B)," after "the Secretary".

(c) REGULATIONS.—Within 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall issue final regulations to implement this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON).

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

Mr. Speaker, on November 16, 1981, Congress passed the Combined Hydrocarbon Leasing Act. This act was in direct response to the energy crisis of the late 1970s and a policy of the Carter administration to promote alternative energy sources. This law has not only failed to accomplish its primary objective, which was to stimulate the development of tar sands as an alternative fuel to imported oil, it has restricted conventional oil and gas development in over a million acres of land that is highly productive. The vast majority of this land is located in the Uinta Basin in my State of Utah.

The reality is that extraction and processing of tar sands is an uneconomic venture in the United States. Even if these designated tar sands were designated for lease, the industry would be reluctant to acquire the leases since recovery and processing of the tar sands is so costly. Only one lease sale has occurred on the tar sands since 1981, totaling 1.34 percent of the lands. This fact clearly illustrates the shortcomings of the act.

The potential reserves of conventional natural gas and oil under the tar sands areas is huge. This is a tremendous resource that is not currently available to the citizens of Utah or to the citizens of the United States who, in the recent past have and in the near future, will suffer from extremely high natural gas prices to heat their homes during the coming winter months.

In addition to the valuable oil and gas resources that are being lost, the Federal Government and the citizens of Utah are losing hundreds of millions of dollars in potential royalty and tax revenues from producers who are willing to process the oil and gas deposits in the tar sands areas. The Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management would still administer these lands.

Producers attempting to lease these lands will be subject to every existing environmental stipulation as well as any new regulation that may be placed on these lands. Protections are already in place to prevent any degradation of existing wilderness areas and wilderness study areas.

The goal of my bill is to not circumvent or change any environmental regulations, but simply to make available for lease over 1 million acres of land that contain tremendous potential for natural gas and oil development by allowing the Secretary of the Interior to issue separately for the same area, a lease for tar sand and a lease for oil and gas development.

Action is in the public interest and would help increase the Nation's energy independence.

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

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