

County Schools legislation. More importantly, if the committee's term is not extended, it will not have the opportunity to examine the potential effect that the implementation of the National Fire Plan or the Healthy Forests Initiative will have on America's forested counties. The Chairman of this committee, Mark Evans, stated in a letter to Chairman POMBO, ". . . the Committee did not have adequate time to consider ways to integrate the Healthy Forests Initiative and National Fire Plan with future payment options. The timing of development of these two programs along with a 18-month timeframe imposed on the Committee to produce a final report precluded full consideration of possible options."

Madam Speaker, I agree wholeheartedly with the remarks of Chairman EVANS. We need to pass this legislation to allow the Payments Committee to continue its good work. It goes without saying that its future findings will lay the foundation as we move towards the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.

I'd like to once again thank the efforts of Chairman POMBO and Chairman GOODLATTE in getting this legislation to the floor in an expeditious fashion. I urge the House to adopt this extension and yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3249.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JUNIOR,
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE LAND
EXCHANGE ACT**

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1616) to authorize the exchange of certain lands within the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site for lands owned by the City of Atlanta, Georgia, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1616

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site Land Exchange Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Public Law 96-438 established the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site, and allows acquisition, by donation only, of lands owned by the State.

(2) The National Park Service owns a vacant lot that has no historic significance. The City of Atlanta has expressed interest in acquiring this property to encourage commercial development along Edgewood Avenue.

(3) The National Historic Site Visitor Center and Museum is land-locked and has no emergency ingress or egress, making it virtually impossible for firefighting equipment to reach.

(4) The acquisition of city-owned property would enable the National Park Service to establish easy street access to the National Historic Site Visitor Center and Museum, and would benefit the City by exchanging a piece of property that the City could develop.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to authorize the exchange of certain lands within the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site for lands owned by the City of Atlanta, Georgia.

SEC. 3. LAND EXCHANGE.

Section 2(b)(1) of the Act of October 10, 1980 (Public Law 96-428; 94 Stat. 1839; 16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended by striking the period and inserting "or exchange."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Madam 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1616, introduced by my great friend, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to exchange certain disposable lands within the boundaries of the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site in the City of Atlanta, Georgia for land owned by the City of Atlanta.

The acquisition of the city-owned property would accomplish two things: first, to enable the National Park Service to establish easy street access to the Historic Site Visitor Center; and, second, to provide emergency equipment and personnel easy access to the visitor center.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1616 is supported by the administration and the majority and minority of the committee. I urge adoption of this bill and add my congratulations to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for bringing this legislation forward.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1616, introduced by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), authorizes the exchange of land between the National Park Service and the City of Atlanta at the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site.

The national historic site was established in 1980 to preserve and interpret the birthplace, church, and grave of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Part of the site also includes a vacant lot that is not historically significant to the site, but which the City of Atlanta would like to acquire as part of its redevelopment of the area surrounding the National Historic Site.

The National Park Service has established a visitor center and museum at the historic site that could be enhanced by acquisition of an adjacent parcel owned by the city. While there have been discussions of an exchange of the two properties under the site's Enabling Act, city-owned property can only be acquired by donation.

Madam Speaker, both the National Park Service and the City of Atlanta support this exchange. It is an action that would benefit both the national historic site and the city. This looks to be a win-win situation and, as such, we support the legislation.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to serve with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) who, of course, was a trusted and invaluable worker and leader along with Dr. Martin Luther King and who continues to be a drum major for justice today.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands for those kind remarks and also for yielding to me time to speak about H.R. 1616, the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site Land Exchange Act. I also want to thank my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), for bringing this legislation before us.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1616 is a good bill. It authorizes the exchange of land owned by the National Park Service for land of equal or greater value from the City of Atlanta. The National Park Service and the City of Atlanta have already agreed to the land swapping. However, this cannot be done without authorization from Congress, and H.R. 1616 completes the deal.

This legislation is so important because the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site Visitor Center and Museum is landlocked and has no emergency access, making it virtually impossible for firefighting equipment to reach the facility. In fact, if there were a fire at the visitor center, the Atlanta Fire Department would have to walk at least 150 to 200 yards in order to reach the center.

Luckily, we have not been faced with such an outcome. However, we must be prepared. Furthermore, Madam Speaker, with heightened security concerns at our Nation's monuments and parks, emergency access is critical.

Passage of H.R. 1616 will allow the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site to create an emergency access road to and from the site.

As the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands already stated, this bill is a win-win for all parties. The acquisition of city-owned property would enable the National Park Service to establish easy street access to the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site Visitor Center and Museum and would benefit the City of Atlanta by exchanging a piece of property that the city could develop into a viable commercial center.

Madam Speaker, Atlanta is the heart of the South and home to progressive residential and business communities. The Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site is adjacent to one of Atlanta's most preserved districts. It is a gathering place where people from all over the world travel to and from to learn our Nation's history. Furthermore the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site is central to the growth and prosperity of the surrounding community.

Madam Speaker, we must do all that we can to preserve this important tale of history. H.R. 1616 plays a small, but important, role in achieving this responsibility.

Again, I would like to thank the Committee on Resources for supporting this bill, and I urge its immediate passage.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1616. The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, located in Atlanta, Georgia, commemorates the community where the Civil Rights leader was raised. This community was rich with black commercial and residential areas with strong, prominent black religious institutions. It was these components that were said to have a lasting impact on King and other black community leaders. It is also known for greatly influencing the life path chosen by King, to challenge racism, poverty, and the denial of black civil rights.

There are several events and programs that take place at the Museum free of charge to the public. For instance, currently, there is a program called Confederate Currency: The Color of Money, which tells the story of the contribution of enslaved Africans to the American economy and expands the discussion with exhibits on reparations and racial healing. There are also events which are based around significant moments in Dr. King's life such as the King Holiday, Black History Month, an Assassination Remembrance and the 'I Have a Dream' speech.

Unfortunately, this area rich with history and memories of Dr. King's childhood and a strong black neighborhood is land-locked and parts could easily be destroyed considering it has no emergency ingress, making it impossible for firefighting equipment to reach the Visitor Center and Museum. There is a lot owned by the National Park Service which could not only solve the problem by allowing street access to the Visitor Center, it will also serve as a great piece of property for the City to develop.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend Congressman LEWIS for introducing this resolution and I urge all of my colleagues to support it as well.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1616.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2003

Mr. LEACH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 63) to approve the "Compact of Free Association, as amended between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia", and the "Compact of Free Association, as amended between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands", and otherwise to amend Public Law 99-239, and to appropriate for the purposes of amended Public Law 99-239 for fiscal years ending on or before September 30, 2023, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 63

Whereas the United States, in accordance with section 231 of the Compact of Free Association set forth in Title II of Public Law 99-239, January 14, 1986, 99 Stat. 1770, entered into negotiations with the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

Whereas these negotiations, in accordance with section 431 of the Compact, resulted in the "Compact of Free Association, as amended between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia", and the "Compact of Free Association, as amended between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands", which, together with their related agreements, were signed by the Government of the United States and the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands on May 14, and April 30, 2003, respectively; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This joint resolution, together with the Table of Contents in subsection (b) of this section, may be cited as the "Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this joint resolution is as follows:

TITLE I—APPROVAL OF U.S.-FSM COMPACT AND U.S.-RMI COMPACT; INTERPRETATION OF, AND UNITED STATES POLICIES REGARDING, U.S.-FSM COMPACT AND U.S.-RMI COMPACT; SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. Approval of U.S.-FSM Compact of Free Association and U.S.-RMI Compact of Free Association.

(a) Federated States of Micronesia.

- (b) Republic of the Marshall Islands.
- (c) References to the Compact, the U.S.-FSM Compact and the U.S.-RMI Compact; References to Subsidiary Agreements or Separate Agreements.
- (d) Amendment, Change, or Termination in the U.S.-FSM Compact and the U.S.-RMI Compact and Certain Agreements.
- (e) Subsidiary Agreement Deemed Bilateral.
- (f) Entry Into Force of Future Amendments to Subsidiary Agreements.

Sec. 102. Agreements With Federated States of Micronesia.

- (a) Law Enforcement Assistance.
- (b) Agreement on Audits.

Sec. 103. Agreements With and Other Provisions Related to the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

- (a) Law Enforcement Assistance.
- (b) Ejit.
- (c) Kwajalein.
- (d) Section 177 Agreement.
- (e) Nuclear Test Effects.
- (f) Espousal Provisions.
- (g) DOE Radiological Health Care Program; USDA Agricultural and Food Programs.
- (h) Rongelap.
- (i) Four Atoll Health Care Program.
- (j) Enjebi Community Trust Fund.
- (k) Bikini Atoll Cleanup.
- (l) Agreement on Audits.

Sec. 104. Interpretation of and United States Policy Regarding U.S.-FSM Compact and U.S.-RMI Compact.

- (a) Human Rights.
- (b) Immigration and Passport Security.
- (c) Nonalienation of Lands.
- (d) Nuclear Waste Disposal.
- (e) Impact of Compacts on Guam, the State of Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa; Related Authorization and Continuing Appropriation.
- (f) Sense of Congress Concerning Funding of Public Infrastructure.
- (g) Foreign Loans.
- (h) Reports and Reviews.
- (i) Construction of Section 141(F).

Sec. 105. Supplemental Provisions.

- (a) Domestic Program Requirements.
- (b) Relations With the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
- (c) Judicial Training.
- (d) Continuing Trust Territory Authorization.
- (e) Survivability; Actions Incompatible with United States Authority.
- (f) Noncompliance Sanctions.
- (g) Continuing Programs and Laws.
- (h) College of Micronesia.
- (i) Trust Territory Debts to U.S. Federal Agencies.
- (j) Technical Assistance.
- (k) Prior Service Benefits Program.
- (l) Indefinite Land Use Payments.
- (m) Communicable Disease Control Program.
- (n) User Fees.
- (o) Treatment of Judgments of Courts of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.
- (p) Inflation Adjustment.
- (q) Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Testing.
- (r) Establishment of Trust Funds; Expedition of Process.

Sec. 106. Construction Contract Assistance.

- (a) Assistance to U.S. Firms.