

allow the dependents of federal employees working for the Forest Service to receive the highest educational experience.

In closing, I would like to thank Agriculture Committee Chairman BOB GOODLATTE, ranking member CHARLES STENHOLM, and the committee staff of their assistance in quickly shepherding this bill through their committee and to the floor. I appreciate their help in addressing this important measure.

I urge my fellow members to support this measure, and to ensure that the dependents of our dedicated and professional Forest Service employees in Puerto Rico maintain convenient access to quality education.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5042.

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.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. 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. 5042.

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

There was no objection.

#### AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO SELL OR EXCHANGE CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE SITES IN THE OZARK-ST. FRANCIS AND OUACHITA NATIONAL FORESTS

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 33) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other land in the Ozark-St. Francis and Ouachita National Forests and to use funds derived from the sale or exchange to acquire, construct, or improve administrative sites.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 33

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

#### SECTION 1. SALE OR EXCHANGE OF LAND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) may, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, sell or exchange any right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the following National Forest System land and improvements:

(1) In the Ouachita National Forest—

(A) tract 1, “Work Center and two Residences” (approximately 12.4 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ouachita National Forest, Waldron, Arkansas, Work Center and Residences” and dated July 26, 2000;

(B) tract 2, “Work Center” (approximately 10 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ouachita National Forest, Booneville, Arkansas, Work Center” and dated July 26, 2000;

(C) tract 3, “Residence” (approximately ½ acre), as identified on the map entitled “Ouachita National Forest, Glenwood, Arkansas, Residence” and dated July 26, 2000;

(D) tract 4, “Work Center” (approximately 10.12 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ouachita National Forest, Thornburg, Arkansas, Work Center” and dated July 26, 2000;

(E) tract 5, “Office Building” (approximately 1.5 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ouachita National Forest, Perryville, Arkansas, Office Building” and dated July 26, 2000;

(F) tract 6, “Several Buildings, Including Office Space and Equipment Depot” (approximately 3 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ouachita National Forest, Hot Springs, Arkansas, Buildings” and dated July 26, 2000;

(G) tract 7, “Isolated Forestland” (approximately 120 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ouachita National Forest, Sunshine, Arkansas, Isolated Forestland” and dated July 26, 2000;

(H) tract 8, “Isolated Forestland” (approximately 40 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ouachita National Forest, Sunshine, Arkansas, Isolated Forestland” and dated July 26, 2000;

(I) tract 9, “Three Residences” (approximately 9.89 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ouachita National Forest, Heavener, Oklahoma, Three Residences” and dated July 26, 2000;

(J) tract 10, “Work Center” (approximately 38.91 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ouachita National Forest, Heavener, Oklahoma, Work Center” and dated July 26, 2000;

(K) tract 11, “Residence #1” (approximately 0.45 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ouachita National Forest, Talihina, Oklahoma, Residence #1” and dated July 26, 2000;

(L) tract 12, “Residence #2” (approximately 0.21 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ouachita National Forest, Talihina, Oklahoma, Residence #2” and dated July 26, 2000;

(M) tract 13, “Work Center” (approximately 5 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ouachita National Forest, Big Cedar, Oklahoma, Work Center” and dated July 26, 2000;

(N) tract 14, “Residence” (approximately 0.5 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ouachita National Forest, Idabel, Oklahoma, Residence” and dated July 26, 2000;

(O) tract 15, “Residence and Work Center” (approximately 40 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ouachita National Forest, Idabel, Oklahoma, Residence and Work Center” and dated July 26, 2000; and

(P) tract 16, “Isolated Forestland” at sec. 30, T. 2 S., R. 25 W. (approximately 2.08 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ouachita National Forest, Mt. Ida, Arkansas, Isolated Forestland” and dated August 27, 2001.

(2) In the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest—

(A) tract 1, “Tract 750, District 1, Two Residences, Administrative Office” (approximately 8.96 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ozark-St. Francis National Forest, Mountain View, Arkansas, Tract 750, District 1, Two Residences, Administrative Office” and dated July 26, 2000;

(B) tract 2, “Tract 2736, District 5, Mountainburg Work Center” (approximately 1.61 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ozark-St. Francis National Forest, Mountainburg, Arkansas, Tract 2736, District 5, Mountainburg Work Center” and dated July 26, 2000;

(C) tract 3, “Tract 2686, District 6, House” (approximately 0.31 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ozark-St. Francis National Forest, Paris, Arkansas, Tract 2686, District 6 House” and dated July 26, 2000;

(D) tract 4, “Tract 2807, District 6, House” (approximately 0.25 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ozark-St. Francis National Forest, Paris, Arkansas, Tract 2807, District 6, House” and dated July 26, 2000;

(E) tract 5, “Tract 2556, District 3, Dover Work Center” (approximately 2.0 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ozark-St. Francis National Forest, Dover, Arkansas, Tract 2556, District 3, Dover Work Center” and dated July 26, 2000;

(F) tract 6, “Tract 2735, District 2, House” (approximately 0.514 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ozark-St. Francis National Forest, Jasper, Arkansas, Tract 2735, District 2, House” and dated July 26, 2000; and

(G) tract 7, “Tract 2574, District 2, House” (approximately 0.75 acres), as identified on the map entitled “Ozark-St. Francis National Forest, Jasper, Arkansas, Tract 2574, District 2, House” and dated July 26, 2000.

(b) APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, any sale or exchange of land described in subsection (a) shall be subject to laws (including regulations) applicable to the conveyance and acquisition of land for National Forest System purposes.

(c) CASH EQUALIZATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may accept cash equalization payments in excess of 25 percent of the total value of the land described in subsection (a) from any exchange under subsection (a).

(d) SOLICITATIONS OF OFFERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this Act, the Secretary may use solicitations of offers for sale or exchange under this Act on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe.

(2) REJECTION OF OFFERS.—The Secretary may reject any offer under this Act if the Secretary determines that the offer is not adequate or not in the public interest.

#### SEC. 2. DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.

Any funds received by the Secretary through sale or by cash equalization from an exchange—

(1) shall be deposited into the fund established by Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the “Sisk Act”) (16 U.S.C. 484a); and

(2) shall be available for expenditure, without further Act of appropriation, for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of administrative facilities, land, or interests in land for the national forests in the States of Arkansas and Oklahoma.

#### SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 33 which allows the Forest Service to sell or exchange a total of 23 administrative sites on national forest lands in Arkansas and Oklahoma. The funds generated will be used to relocate and renovate offices as well as purchase and replace administrative sites. Overall, the lands covered by the bill total just over 308 acres. The total value of the sites to be sold is \$3.375 million.

The total acreage involved requires an act of Congress to allow the agency to sell these lands. The sales will encourage efficient management of the National Forest Service lands in Arkansas and Oklahoma. And I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for S. 33, a lands exchange bill that was introduced by Senator LINCOLN of Arkansas which passed the Senate on November 11, 2003. Its companion bill in the House, H.R. 3744 was introduced by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS). These two pieces of legislation are the same except for changes to the title and some capitalization.

This legislation authorizes the sale of 16 administrative sites in the Ouachita National Forest and 7 administrative sites in the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest. Because some of the parcels contain buildings which must be maintained for historic preservation purposes, they are expensive to maintain, according to the U.S. Forest Service. In fact, the U.S. Forest Service contends that the cost of maintaining such parcels generally exceeds their value in terms of management. S. 33 allows the monies from the sale of the sites to be used to relocate and renovate offices and to purchase and replace administrative sites.

The Forest Service has indicated that it has no objections to the legislation. For all of these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I welcome back the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) who I hear has been at the Committee on Rules.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 33.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 33.

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

There was no objection.

#### PROVIDING FOR THE USE BY THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA OF FEDERAL LANDS AT THE OXFORD RESEARCH STATION IN GRANVILLE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2119) to provide for the use by the State of North Carolina of Federal lands, improvements, equipment, and resource materials at the Oxford Research Station in Granville County, North Carolina, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2119

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

#### SECTION 1. LAND CONVEYANCE, OXFORD RESEARCH STATION, GRANVILLE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall convey, without consideration, to the State of North Carolina all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of Federal real property consisting of approximately 4.28 acres and administered as part of the Oxford Research Station in Granville County, North Carolina. The conveyance shall include all improvements, equipment, and resource materials at the research station.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF REAL PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the real property to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary. The cost of the survey shall be borne by the State.

(c) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2119 sponsored by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

H.R. 2119, as amended, would allow the Forest Service to transfer a currently disused facility in North Carolina to the State of North Carolina. The facility has not been used in several years, and in fact, the land on which it sits was donated by the State of North Carolina to the Federal Government for the purpose of establishing a research station.

The administration supports the proposed transfer, and the State intends to use the facility to do research on invasive species, a very worthwhile project.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, October 5, 2004.

Hon. TOM DAVIS,  
Chairman, House Committee on Government Reform, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to take this opportunity to share with you a copy of H.R. 2119 as passed by the Committee on Agriculture. As you know, the Committee on Government Reform has received an additional referral of this legislation and I am respectfully requesting that this legislation be discharged from your committee. This legislation, sponsored by Representative Balance would provide for the use by the State of North Carolina of Federal lands, improvements, equipment, and resource materials at the Oxford Research Station in Granville County, North Carolina.

As the committee of primary jurisdiction, on September 23, 2004, the Committee on Agriculture favorably reported this legislation by an affirmative voice vote. As this bill prepares to move to the floor I am asking for your discharge to move this legislation forward.

This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Government Reform represented on the conference committee.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter and look forward to working with your committee in the future.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM,  
Washington, DC, October 5, 2004.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for working with me as you developed H.R. 2119, a bill to provide for the use by the State of North Carolina of Federal lands, improvements, equipment, and resource materials at the Oxford Research Station in Granville County, North Carolina. I would like to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to the consideration of H.R. 2119. As you know, the disposal of federal property, including real property, is within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Government Reform.

In the interests of moving this important legislation forward, I will agree to waive sequential consideration of this bill by the Committee on Government Reform. However, I do so only with the understanding that this procedural route should not be construed to prejudice the Committee on Government Reform's jurisdictional interest and prerogatives on this bill or other similar legislation. I respectfully request your support for the appointment of outside conferees from the Committee on Government Reform should this bill or a similar Senate bill be considered in conference with the Senate.

Finally, I would ask that you include a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during the