

and more heavy lifting for our Nation's defense and in deploying overseas in armed conflict. At the same time, we are asking them to also be on the frontlines in protect the homeland, and also to be there for our States and communities in times of emergency or natural disasters. We ask a lot of them, and they deliver.

This bill will allow our Utah National Guard to support its future mission growth in meeting these challenges. It is a small thing for us to be able to help them down the road in meeting their obligations. I thank my colleagues for consideration of this bill, and I strongly urge its adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Armed Services Committee, and as chairman of the Air Land Subcommittee of that committee, I particularly want to commend Mr. BISHOP for his remarks regarding the National Guard deployments and our obligations to them. And in recognition of that, I would like his remarks to be incorporated as my own with regard to his bill. With his permission I would like to do that.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I think the gentleman from Hawaii could have done it much more artfully than I did, but I will be happy to allow him to do that.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3651, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LOWER COLORADO RIVER MULTI-SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM ACT

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2515) to authorize appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation to carry out the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program in the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2515

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 "Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **LOWER COLORADO RIVER MULTI-SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**—The term "Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Pro-

gram" or "LCR MSCP" means the cooperative effort on the Lower Colorado River between Federal and non-Federal entities in Arizona, California, and Nevada approved by the Secretary of the Interior on April 2, 2005.

(2) **LOWER COLORADO RIVER.**—The term "Lower Colorado River" means the Colorado River from Lake Mead to the Southerly International Boundary with Mexico, including its historic floodplain and its mainstem reservoirs to their full pool elevations.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) **STATES.**—The term "States" means each of the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada.

SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION AND WATER ACCOUNTING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary is authorized to participate in the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program.

(b) **WATER ACCOUNTING.**—The Secretary is authorized to enter into an agreement with the States providing for the use of water from the Lower Colorado River for habitat creation and maintenance.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as may be necessary to participate in the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, to remain available until expended.

(b) **NONREIMBURSABLE AND NONRETURNABLE.**—All amounts appropriated to and expended by the Secretary for the LCR MSCP shall be nonreimbursable and nonreturnable.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days 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 Hawaii?

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2515, as introduced by our colleague and friend, Representative Dean Heller, would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the multi-species habitat conservation plan on the lower 400 miles of the Colorado River. The States of Nevada, Arizona and California, along with several major water districts, are participants and funding partners in this program.

As amended, this legislation is not controversial and should be supported. And I might say, Madam Speaker, exhibits the multiple responsibilities of the Resources Committee and the really extraordinary complications and details that have to be considered when such legislation comes forward. It is a tribute to the staffs of the members on the committee, and most particularly the professional staff of the Resources Committee, that this legislation is able to be compiled, understood and comprehended by the members, and then

brought forward to the body as a whole in a way that advances the public interest.

With that, Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This particular bill helps solve the conundrum that we face in the protection and conservation of certain species: For example, the bony-tailed chub, the razorback sucker, and the humpback chub.

H.R. 2515, introduced by Dean Heller of Nevada and Harry Mitchell of Arizona, is an amended bipartisan measure aimed at protecting endangered species while keeping the waters running and the lights on for consumers in the Southwest.

As amended at the committee level, this bill has been scaled back, but still codifies a very popular multi-species habitat conservation plan on the Lower Colorado River. I note that some water and power supply organizations support key provisions taken out by the majority. However, in the interest of moving this bill forward, they support the passage of this bill with the hope that the final bill signed into law will better resemble the original legislation.

At a time when our water supply is being diminished due to a number of factors, this bill—although somewhat incomplete—is still a win-win for our water and power consumers.

I have no additional speakers, and I am prepared to yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I observed that Mr. BISHOP was looking directly at me when he recited, with a look that I can only determine as "gleeful," he cited the razorback sucker and the bonytail chub. I am not sure whether I was being categorized by him in the sucker category or the chub category, or he was gazing at me metaphorically.

Do you suppose he might be able to answer that for me.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. I will yield.

Mr. BISHOP of UTAH. I have certainly never thought of the gentleman as either a razorback or a bonytail.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker, it is now clear for me.

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 Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2515, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.