

for our communities. Earlier this year, they mistranslated parts of the Vietnamese census forms. The forms used a phrase connected to the previous governmental regime which meant “government investigation” in place of the word “census.” Clearly this was no minor gaffe. The language in this amendment ensures that future outreach doesn’t repeat these mistakes, that is, excluding deserving businesses from great opportunities.

But it’s not just minority businesses that need access to this program. Minority-owned banks also deserve the right to compete. That’s why our amendment makes sure such institutions receive consideration during the program’s implementation. Minority-owned banks play a vital role in the Asian Pacific Islander and minority business development endeavor; and together they enhance the country’s economic recovery and long-term growth. Minority firms currently provide nearly 5 million steady jobs but could potentially create over 11 million more. Our amendment helps them do so.

I ask my colleagues to support this amendment because it eliminates obstacles in the way of our Nation’s minority businesses and facilitates their growth during these very tough economic times.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

Ms. BEAN. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CHU) having assumed the chair, Ms. NORTON, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5297) to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

COLLINSVILLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROMOTION ACT

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules

and pass the bill (H.R. 4451) to reinstate and transfer certain hydroelectric licenses and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4451

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 “Collinsville Renewable Energy Promotion Act”.

SEC. 2. REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSES AND EXTENSION OF TIME TO COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECTS.

Subject to section 4 of this Act and notwithstanding the time period under section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission projects numbered 10822 and 10823, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (referred to in this Act as the “Commission”) may—

(1) reinstate the license for either or each of those projects; and

(2) extend for 2 years after the date on which either or each project is reinstated under paragraph (1) the time period during which the licensee is required to commence the construction of such projects.

Prior to reaching any final decision under this section, the Commission shall provide an opportunity for submission of comments by interested persons, municipalities, and States and shall consider any such comment that is timely submitted.

SEC. 3. TRANSFER OF LICENSES TO THE TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT.

Notwithstanding section 8 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 801) or any other provision thereof, if the Commission reinstates the license for, and extends the time period during which the licensee is required to commence the construction of, a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project under section 2, the Commission shall transfer such license to the town of Canton, Connecticut.

SEC. 4. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.

(a) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term “environmental assessment” shall have the same meaning as is given such term in regulations prescribed by the Council on Environmental Quality that implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall complete an environmental assessment for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission projects numbered 10822 and 10823, updating, to the extent necessary, the environmental analysis performed during the process of licensing such projects.

(c) COMMENT PERIOD.—Upon issuance of the environmental assessment required under subsection (b), the Commission shall—

(1) initiate a 30-day public comment period; and

(2) before taking any action under section 2 or 3—

(A) consider any comments received during such 30-day period; and

(B) incorporate in the license for the projects involved, such terms and conditions as the Commission determines to be necessary, based on the environmental assessment performed and comments received under this section.

SEC. 5. DEADLINE.

Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall—

(1) make a final decision pursuant to paragraph (1) of section 2; and

(2) if the Commission decides to reinstate 1 or both of the licenses under such paragraph and extend the corresponding deadline for commencement of construction under paragraph (2) of such section, complete the action required under section 3.

SEC. 6. PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS.

Nothing in this Act shall affect any valid license issued by the Commission under section 4 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 797) on or before the date of enactment of this Act or diminish or extinguish any existing rights under any such license.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The legislation before the House today is pretty simple. It will permit several communities in my district, the Fifth Congressional District of Connecticut, to operate two now-defunct hydroelectric dams as municipal power sources. The dams, the Upper and Lower Collinsville dams, have lain dormant in Connecticut’s Farmington River since the 1960s. The licenses previously issued by FERC to operate both these dams are currently inactive, and this legislation would allow FERC to reinstate them and transfer them to the town of Canton, Connecticut, for operation. The State legislature has already passed legislation to operate these two State-owned dams, but Federal legislation is also needed to restore their operation.

These small dams are already a beloved and longstanding symbol of the Farmington Valley’s rich history. They used to power a very well-known and thriving axe factory on the site. This legislation would allow for additional comments and for environmental data to be considered by FERC prior to taking any action, ensuring that the river’s health and the region’s health is well protected.

This legislation has been drafted over the course of many months with the close cooperation of FERC, who’s unopposed to the legislation, and we put together a bipartisan coalition of stakeholders, including all of the affected communities, the Governor of the State of Connecticut, and regional and national river protection organizations. Simply put, there is broad and deep consensus and agreement that these dams represent a valuable source of renewable energy right in the heart of suburban Connecticut.