

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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□ 1603

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HEINRICH) at 4 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

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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.

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SUPPORTING BACKCOUNTRY AIRSTRIPS AND RECREATIONAL AVIATION

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1473) supporting backcountry airstrips and recreational aviation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1473

*Whereas recreational aviation represents a significant portion of the Nation's aviation activity;*

*Whereas recreational aviators utilize backcountry airstrips as access points for a variety of activities;*

*Whereas backcountry airstrips provide multiple benefits to the general public, including search and rescue, fire management, research, disaster relief, and wildlife management benefits;*

*Whereas recreational aviation helps State economies by providing efficient access to recreational activities for visitors;*

*Whereas backcountry airstrips serve as emergency landing sites for aircraft in the event of mechanical problems or inclement weather; and*

*Whereas backcountry airstrips provide for dispersed recreational activity and act as internal trailheads within backcountry areas: Now, therefore, be it*

*Resolved,* That the House of Representatives recognizes the value of recreational aviation and backcountry airstrips located on the Nation's public lands and commends aviators and the various private organizations that maintain these airstrips for public use.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 1473.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Hawaii?

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H. Res. 1473, as amended, introduced by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG), which expresses support for backcountry airstrips and recreational aviation.

A backcountry airstrip is an unattended landing area in a location that provides access to remote, undeveloped rural areas by aircraft, usually airplanes. Backcountry airstrips provide benefits to the general public, including performing research and rescue operations, fire management, research and aerial mapping, and disaster relief. These airstrips allow tourists to access remote Federal lands that, in turn, helps to support local economies and small businesses. Also, in the event of mechanical problems or inclement weather, backcountry airstrips serve as emergency landing sites when airports are out of reach.

H. Res. 1473 recognizes the value of recreational aviation and backcountry airstrips located on our Nation's public lands. In addition, it commends aviators and the various private organizations that maintain these airstrips for public use. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

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

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of the resolution currently before us, our colleague from the State of Montana, Representative DENNIS REHBERG.

Mr. REHBERG. Thank you, Mr. PETRI.

Mr. Speaker, I want to voice my support for House Resolution 1473, supporting recreational aviation and backcountry airstrips on America's public lands.

This resolution is the fruit of a bipartisan effort. I could not have drafted this legislation without the support of my colleagues from Idaho, Mr. SIMPSON and Mr. MINNICK, and the co-chairs of the House General Aviation Caucus, Mr. EHLERS and Mr. BOYD.

One hundred years ago, this resolution might have been about supporting horses. Aviation has become as important to the modern West as horses were to the early explorers, trappers and prospectors. That is because the vast majority of Montana's 147,000 square miles aren't easily reached by roads—we've got a lot of dirt between light

bulbs. And like the horse opened new lands in 1910, aviation is critical to access today. That is why backcountry airstrips are such an important part of our way of life.

There are too many benefits to list them all. They enable search and rescue, fire management, research, disaster relief and wildlife management. In the event of mechanical problems or inclement weather, they serve as emergency landing sites when larger airports are out of reach. They allow public access to some of the most beautiful, remote Federal lands in America, regardless of one's physical ability, and they serve as efficient access points for tourists, who in turn contribute to local economies and small businesses. That means jobs. Too often, however, these airstrips are targeted for closure by the Federal Government or well-funded special interest groups, or simply ignored by bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

Please join the bipartisan support for this measure and vote for House Resolution 1473.

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

I support the resolution before us, H. Res. 1473, recognizing the value of recreational aviation in backcountry airstrips.

Aviation provides access, as we've heard, to the most remote and scenic areas of our national landscape, and not just for recreational users. Backcountry airstrips also provide access for those who do not have the physical ability to get to these areas any other way. The airstrips also serve an important safety function as emergency landing sites in the event of severe weather or another emergency. Sustaining these airstrips is critical to preserving safe flight and access to the American wilderness. It is important to promote and maintain the public use of backcountry airstrips for future generations. Additionally, we should be proud of the individuals and private organizations that donate their time and resources in order to sustain these airstrips for public use and benefit.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution and urge its passage by the House today.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1473, as amended, introduced by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG), which expresses support for backcountry airstrips. Generally speaking, a backcountry airstrip is an unattended landing area in a location that provides access to remote, undeveloped rural areas by aircraft, usually airplanes.

Backcountry airstrips are a part of life for many Americans, especially in the West. They provide countless benefits to the general public, including search and rescue, fire management, research, disaster relief and wildlife management. They also allow public access to some of the most beautiful, remote federal lands in America, as well as providing a means of access to remote areas for physically disadvantaged individuals who might not otherwise be able to get to remote locations for leisure.