

as the tallgrass prairie, hiking trails, a forest, farming demonstrations, and much more.

Referring to this site as a historical park instead of a monument would far more clearly describe the opportunities to take in this living-history site. In fact, according to the Friends of Homestead, 89 percent of first-time visitors to the facility were confused by the name.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska and, particularly, the citizens of Beatrice and Gage County, Nebraska, I appreciate this opportunity to advocate in support of this proposal today.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the other gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank two of my good friends, Ranking Member MCCLINTOCK and Chairman HUFFMAN, for the cordial and elevated discussion today about something that might appear small in the big scheme of things, particularly with what is going on in Congress, but, nonetheless, is a good, working part of functioning government on this House floor.

This is important to us in Nebraska, and it is important to the rest of America. I am pleased that my good friend, Congressman ADRIAN SMITH, has been working on this effort to rename the Homestead National Monument of America to the Homestead National Historical Park to clear up some confusion. This small but important change will more accurately reflect the nature and mission of this unique National Park Service unit.

The Homestead Act of 1862, as we have heard, really did forever change the direction of our Nation. Let me take us through a few facts that have already been mentioned but I think worthwhile emphasizing.

In exchange for the \$18 filing fee and just a commitment to improve the land, any U.S. citizen could farm 160 acres and own it outright after 5 years. Almost inconceivable to us today, but that is how this began.

The National Park Service unit dedicated to telling the extraordinary story of these incredible pioneers is located in Beatrice, Nebraska.

And I thank Chairman HUFFMAN for clarifying how it is appropriately pronounced: Beatrice, Nebraska.

Before redistricting earlier, I used to represent this area. It is only about 50 minutes from my home in Lincoln, so it is a part of the broad neighborhood of the First and Third Congressional Districts.

Homestead is located on the site of one of the first homestead claims in the United States, and it commemorates the lives and accomplishments of these early homesteaders. It also celebrates those hardy individuals who, through harsh storms, brutal drought, wind, snow, and isolation, actually helped grow this country.

This minor name change will clear up any confusion about this important site because the word “monument” generally applies to a single individual or a unique topographical feature. Homestead is so much more. It is a unique piece of open prairie, as we have heard. It houses the historical records of so many settlers, and many visitors come looking to learn a little bit more about their ancestors.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to particularly recognize one individual, Mr. Mark Engler, who is Homestead’s superintendent and a friend of the Nebraska delegation who sees us quite a lot, along with everyone else in the Beatrice community who have helped to maintain Homestead as a gem of the Midwest and a treasure for all Americans.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. The community of Beatrice—I just had to say it one more time because I like that pronunciation—is fortunate to be home to what will hopefully soon be America’s newest historical park, the Homestead National Historical Park, and is also fortunate to have been represented over the years by these two fine gentlemen from Nebraska.

Mr. Speaker, I urge an “aye” vote on this bipartisan bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1472.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT STUDY ACT

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1487) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of portions of the Los Angeles coastal area in the State of California to evaluate alternatives for protecting the resources of the coastal area, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1487

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 “Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Study Act”.

SEC. 2. RESOURCE STUDY OF THE LOS ANGELES COASTAL AREA, CALIFORNIA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area” means the coastline and adjacent areas to the Santa Monica Bay from Will Rogers State Beach to Torrance Beach, including the areas in and around Ballona Creek and the Baldwin Hills and the San Pedro section of the City of Los Angeles, excluding the Port of Los Angeles north of Crescent Avenue.

(b) SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.—

(1) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of the study area.

(2) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) evaluate the national significance of the study area;

(B) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the National Park System;

(C) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the study area by the Federal Government, State or local government entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

(D) consult with interested Federal agencies, State or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or any other interested individuals; and

(E) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives.

(3) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available for the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(A) the results of the study; and

(B) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1487, introduced by my colleague TED LIEU from California, would direct the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating a new national recreation area along the Santa Monica Bay coastline or incorporating the area into the existing Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Expanding the National Park Service to include this area would significantly enhance recreational and public lands access in one of our Nation’s most congested, polluted, and park-poor regions, Los Angeles County.

Although our public lands belong to all Americans, many simply don't have the opportunity or the resources to visit these incredible places. H.R. 1487 would help us take an important step toward ensuring that public lands access exists for all Americans, and I thank my colleague Congressman LIEU for championing this proposal.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1487 authorizes a special resource study of portions of the Los Angeles coastal area in California to evaluate alternatives for land management, including designating the coastal area as a unit of the National Park System.

While I do not oppose authorizing a special resource study of this area, I hope that Congress will exercise caution before adding significant amounts of coastline to the existing Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, which is already struggling to manage its current resources and is increasingly beginning to resemble Lincoln's story of a farmer who said, "I ain't greedy for land. I just want what joins mine."

In 2018, because of bad land management, the vast majority of this same area burned in the massive Woolsey fire. More than 21,000 of the 23,595 National Park Service acres, about 88 percent of the land, were burned. This included most of the Western Town at Paramount Ranch, the 1926 Peter Strauss Ranch home, most of the joint National Park Service/UCLA La Kretz Research Center, two ranger residences, and an attached archives building.

Further, the National Park Service is already stretched perilously thin and facing a nearly \$12 billion deferred maintenance backlog that we discussed in an earlier bill.

Although I recognize that this measure simply authorizes a study and doesn't transfer any land or jurisdiction, it is imperative that we take into account the realities that our parks are facing and the devastating consequences of a land management policy that can only be described as benign neglect. As we are discovering, the consequences are anything but benign.

Mr. Speaker, with that caveat, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. TED LIEU).

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman HUFFMAN for his leadership and for supporting this legislation, and I thank Congressman MCCLINTOCK for supporting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1487, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Study Act.

In the 1970s, Congress established the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to preserve natural and historic sites and to provide recreational, educational, scientific, and public health benefits to our greater Los Angeles community.

Today, it spans more than 150,000 acres in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, including parts of the Santa Monica Bay Watershed in my congressional district. Much of the Santa Monica Bay Watershed, however, remains outside of the national recreation area. This includes several miles of beaches and acres of wetlands that stand to benefit greatly from Federal resources.

My bill would commission the National Park Service to conduct a 3-year special resource study to determine whether to expand the boundary of the existing Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area or create a new national recreation area altogether.

The study would cover the entire Santa Monica Bay coastline, from Venice Beach to Torrance Beach, as well as the Ballona Wetlands, Ballona Creek, Baldwin Hills, and the San Pedro coastline.

While conducting the study, the National Park Service will consult with State and local government groups, community groups, nonprofits, and residents.

The study would become a basis for future congressional action to modify the national recreation area borders. Expanding the national recreation area would allow the watershed to benefit from available Federal, scientific, and infrastructure resources, enabling better conservation and recreational use. It would also help Federal agencies enter into cooperative agreements to manage the land and carry out improvement projects aimed at connecting trails, building wildlife corridors, and more.

Importantly, all of this would be accomplished without affecting private property rights or creating unfunded mandates on State or local governments.

The Los Angeles coastal region stands to benefit tremendously from increased Federal resources to preserve open space for conservation and recreation, and I am proud to have the support of many of my colleagues in the Los Angeles delegation. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1487.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would urge adoption of the measure with the caveats I have already discussed, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote with no caveats, and I thank the gentleman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1487, 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.

□ 1530

HONG KONG HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1838) to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1838

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019".

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Statement of policy.

Sec. 4. Amendments to the United States Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992.

Sec. 5. Annual report on violations of United States export control laws and United Nations sanctions occurring in Hong Kong.

Sec. 6. Protecting United States citizens and others from rendition to the People's Republic of China.

Sec. 7. Sanctions relating to undermining fundamental freedoms and autonomy in Hong Kong.

Sec. 8. Sanctions reports.

Sec. 9. Sense of Congress on People's Republic of China state-controlled media.

Sec. 10. Sense of Congress on commercial exports of crowd control equipment to Hong Kong.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(F) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(G) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

(H) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives;

(I) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(J) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) SOCIAL CREDIT SYSTEM.—The term "social credit system" means a system proposed by the Government of the People's Republic of China and scheduled for implementation by 2020, which would—

(A) use existing financial credit systems, public records, online activity, and other tools of surveillance to aggregate data on every Chinese citizen and business; and

(B) use such data to monitor, shape, and rate certain financial, social, religious, or political behaviors.