

ratification of the protocol in their nation's legislative bodies.

It should also be noted, ironically however, that although the protocol is not yet in force on the U.S. settlements, we, for the most part, already adhere to the protocol tenants.

For example, NSF already conducts its antarctic activities in a manner consistent with the protocol's requirements and already issues environmental assessment regulations in compliance with the protocol.

Madam Speaker, I am a proud original cosponsor and a strong supporter of H.R. 3060, the Antarctic Environmental Protection Act.

H.R. 3060 comprehensively and effectively implements the Antarctic Treaty.

It achieves the appropriate balance between sound environmental practices and the promotion of antarctic scientific research.

It certainly deserves our support today and has already received the support of many others.

Not only is there a strong bipartisan congressional support for the bill, but it is also supported by a wide coalition of major environmental groups, the administration, and the antarctic research community.

I commend the chairman of the Science Committee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, for his leadership in this effort.

The committee has played a crucial role in negotiating the language in this bill with such disparate groups as the State Department, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, the Antarctica Project, the World Wildlife Fund, and Greenpeace, among others.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation to implement the Antarctic Environmental Protocol.

In doing so, we will preserve this fragile and still-developing glacier ecosystem for generations to come.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, today the House is considering the Senate amendments to H.R. 3060, the Antarctic Science, Tourism and Conservation Act of 1996. This bill brings U.S. law in line with the international agreement covering Antarctic environmental protection. The bill was referred to the House Resources Committee which I chair. In an effort to cooperate with the Science Committee, the Resources Committee agreed to let the measure be considered by the full House without amending the bill.

In the Senate, my Alaska colleague, Senator TED STEVENS, added an important amendment which I support. The Stevens amendment requires that the National Science Foundation provide Congress with a Polar Research and Policy Study by March 1, 1997. It will provide Congress with a status report on the implementation of the Arctic Environmental

Protection Strategy; a comparison of Federal Arctic and Antarctic research efforts; and an assessment of what needs to be done to implement the Arctic Research Commission's recommendations for Arctic research.

The Antarctic environment is, of course, very important and I am pleased that we are acting on this bill to improve our understanding of that continent and its surrounding waters. However, the Arctic also faces many difficult resource management issues. These issues include how to fairly manage wildlife to meet the needs of native people in the Arctic, and how to deal with the massive pollution problems created by Soviet industrial and military use of Arctic land and water. The study called for in this bill will give us the information we need to properly allocate Federal logistical and financial resources in order to make sure that the Arctic and those that live there get a fair share of Federal research dollars.

I am glad that the House is acting to clear this bill today, and I urge an "aye" vote.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, the Subcommittee on Basic Research, which I chair, has responsibility for the National Science Foundation [NSF]. NSF is responsible, in part, for conducting research in Antarctica and the protection of the environment in this pristine and unique part of the world. The subcommittee has recently completed hearings on the future of the South Pole Station and the role of NSF in Antarctic research.

I believe it is important to recognize the uniqueness of Antarctica; a place where the temperature in winter can exceed -45° F and winds can reach 180 miles per hour; a place $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the size of the United States. Antarctica's associated seas represent nearly 6 percent of the world's oceans and its ice, 70 percent of the Earth's fresh water. Lately, there have been news articles of the discovery of a large underground freshwater lake in Antarctica, Lake Vostok, 140 miles long, 30 miles wide, buried under 9,000 feet of ice and heated by the earth's core. And, most recently in the headline news, the meteorite that is credited with evidence of life on Mars was discovered in Antarctica.

We have much to learn from this area. The United States has important foreign policy, national security, scientific, and environmental interests in this vast region. With respect to international involvement in the Antarctic, there are seven countries which have territorial claims on Antarctica. The United States does not recognize these claims and there are 26 consultative parties to the Antarctic Treaty. Therefore, as we look to the future, the responsibilities of the United States and our commitment to the Antarctic and our role at the South Pole Station raises many questions.

This is one reason why the passage of H.R. 3060 is so important. The U.S. Senate gave its advice and consent to ratification of the Antarctic protocol in 1992. All that remains for the United States to become a party to the protocol is to enact the necessary implementing legislation. The protocol will activate when all 26 of the Antarctic Treaty consultative parties implement it. So far, 20 of the consultative parties have done so. The United States' ratification will provide impetus for the remaining five to join, as well.

I am proud to have been an original cosponsor of this bill. I want to commend Chairman WALKER for his leadership on this issue. I also want to point out that this has been a biparti-

san issue. Mr. BROWN and Mr. CRAMER have been very supportive in our efforts to protect, understand, and research the continent of Antarctica.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the Senate amendments to H.R. 3060.

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

There was no objection.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER] that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 3060.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DIRECTING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTION IN ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 3060, ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT OF 1996

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the immediate consideration in the House of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 211), directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a technical correction in the enrollment of H.R. 3060.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 211

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 3060) to implement the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following technical correction: In section 201(a)(1) strike "paragraphs (1) through (9) of subsection (a) as paragraphs (3) through (11)" and insert in lieu thereof "paragraphs (1) through (10) of subsection (a) as paragraphs (3) through (12)".

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CALIFORNIA INDIAN LAND TRANSFER ACT

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3642) to provide for the transfer of public lands to certain California Indian Tribes.