

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4337, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

## MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMP PROMOTION ACT

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4248) to authorize the use of receipts from the sale of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to promote additional stamp purchases, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4248

*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 "Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Promotion Act".

**SEC. 2. PROMOTION OF STAMP SALES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 of the Act of March 16, 1934 (chapter 71; 16 U.S.C. 718d), popularly known as the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b) by striking "subsection (c)" and inserting "subsections (c) and (d)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(d) PROMOTION OF STAMP SALES.—(1) The Secretary of the Interior may utilize funds from the sale of migratory-bird hunting and conservation stamps, not to exceed \$1,000,000 in each of fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003, for the promotion of additional sales of those stamps, in accordance with a Migratory Bird Conservation Commission-approved annual marketing plan. Such promotion shall include the preparation of reports, brochures, or other appropriate materials to be made available to the public that describe the benefits to wildlife derived from stamp sales.

"(2) The Secretary of the Interior shall include in each annual report of the Commission under section 3 of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715b) a description of activities conducted under this subsection in the year covered by the report."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

□ 1230

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4248, the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Promotion Act. This bill was introduced primarily by our colleague the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), who has done such a great job and has been such a great advocate of the bill. He is the primary reason that we are here today.

Joining him is of course the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER), and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), who also were very, very hard workers on the bill.

The bill was the subject of a subcommittee hearing on July 16th. At that time, every witness testified in strong support of trying to promote additional duck stamp purchases. In fact, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which has endorsed the bill, testified that additional opportunities to increase revenues to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund from increased duck stamp sales do exist, and this bill is a good route to get that done.

Since Congress approved the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act of 1934, every waterfowl hunter 16 years and older has been required to purchase a valid Federal duck stamp. The cost of the stamp has increased from \$1 to its present cost of \$15. These funds, which exceed a total of \$500 million, have been used to purchase some 5 million acres of prime wildlife habitat. This habitat is essential to literally millions of migratory birds.

Unfortunately, the sale of duck stamps has declined in recent years. In fact, nearly 1 million less duck stamps were sold last year than two decades ago.

H.R. 4248 is designed to reverse that trend. Under the terms of this legislation, up to \$1 million per year in duck stamp receipts would be spent to create a promotional program to increase the sale of duck stamps. This promotional program would be crafted to appeal to a growing number of bird watchers, wildlife artists, stamp collectors, and those Americans who simply enjoy wildlife.

If successful, this program will generate millions of dollars in new revenues which would be used to buy additional waterfowl habitat in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is strongly supported by many conservation organizations, including Ducks Unlimited, the Izaak Walton League, and the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America.

I urge an "aye" vote on the bill.

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

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

Mr. Speaker, again, my sincere thanks and appreciation to the chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) for bringing this legislation to the floor. I also want to commend my good friend the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) for his primary sponsorship of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I might add, this does have bipartisan support, especially

friends from this side of the aisle, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER).

Mr. Speaker, the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Promotion Act is a sound piece of legislation. This bill will allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to spend \$1 million a year in revenues from the migratory bird hunting stamp to promote sales of those stamps to a broader range of users, including bird watchers, photographers, and other conservationists.

It is estimated that as many as 25 million Americans enjoy observing birds and spend as much as \$20 billion a year to do so. They travel to see over 800 species of birds that reside in the United States. I might add, Mr. Speaker, I invite all my fellow Americans and bird watchers of America to come and observe the only bat that flies during the day like a bird, and it is the flying fox in the Samoan Islands.

Many of these birds are undergoing serious conservation problems. These problems are no less serious than the declines of game birds in the 1920s which inspired hunters, conservationists and Federal lawmakers to pass the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929. That act, Mr. Speaker, authorized the duck stamp program.

Since that time, Mr. Speaker, the program has been enormously successful and has helped protect some 5 million acres of land for habitat. Many waterfowl populations have recovered tremendously. Millions of acres of habitat have been protected. But even as duck stamp sales to hunters have begun to level off, the need to continue to acquire and protect habitat for wildlife has increased tremendously.

Mr. Speaker, an amendment in this bill would encourage the Fish and Wildlife Service to describe the benefits to wildlife which are derived from the sales of these stamps. By demonstrating to bird watchers and conservationists just how these funds contribute to the recovery and relief of some of the many species of wildlife which continue to decline, the Service can be assured of finding a growing number of Americans who are willing to contribute to the protection of habitat for their future.

I am confident that the Fish and Wildlife Service, Mr. Speaker, and the conservation community can work together to make this bill a success and continue to protect valuable habitat for all of those who enjoy this Nation's natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and, again, I commend my good friend, the gentleman from California, for his prime sponsorship of this bill.

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from San Diego, California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) who has worked so hard and in such a dedicated way to

sponsor this bill and bring it to the floor.

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I think if you take a look at what this entire subcommittee and committee has done this year, it is very, very noteworthy; from a disabled bill, to a tuna-dolphin bill, as well as future legislation, in a bipartisan way. It is gratifying when we have so many bad days, "bad hair" days here in Congress, that this subcommittee and committee has "good hair" days for us, and I appreciate it.

The gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), see, that is not bad for an Irish kid from northern L.A., but I would like to thank him for his support for this.

Who I would really like to thank is a staffer named Tim Charters. Tim has poured his life and his lifeblood into this. Here is a young man that knew very little about conservation and the outdoors; and in the last 2 years, I cannot keep him out of the woods, and I cannot keep him out from looking and working in conservation programs. So I would like to thank Tim Charters.

I thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), that have helped make this possible, and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) in the full committee, along with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE). It is gratifying.

But I will not reiterate some of the things that my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), chairman of the committee, has said, but this money used from the duck stamp is basically used to buy property for conservation.

In every State, we have lands where there is MSP or whether we are trying to connect lands so that critters can grow and have a quarter to prosper, there is never enough funds. With a dwindling of the duck stamp, we are looking for new ways to generate revenue.

The duck stamp group had, there is precedence for this because what they have done in the past is even made quilts and got a contract to make quilts with the duck stamp on it and other images of it, and we sell that to earn money to buy property for the environment and conservation programs like this one.

So it is a good bill, and it is bipartisan. Very few people know that this entire program started in 1934, the duck stamp. It has been immensely popular and it has been successful and at the same time responsible.

One supporter of this plan is Mr. James Mosher, a conservation director for the Izaak Walton League, who says this legislation will significantly increase revenue from duck sales, consequently leading to the enhancement

of habitat acquisition and migratory bird conservation.

We have some tremendous problems with migratory birds, for example, the Salton Sea in which the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. BONO) is trying to save.

Migratory birds are at risk. We need to protect them. Some of our wetlands are at risk. This bill helps that.

I would like to submit the rest of my statement for the RECORD, and it is with gratification and much happiness that I support this bill, ask my colleagues to support it and want to personally thank them for all their help.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. I yield to the gentleman from American Samoa.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again thank the gentleman for his eloquent statement. Maybe something that our colleagues here in the House and even the American public do not know, but the fact is that watching birds is a \$20 billion industry here in America.

I want to say to my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), for myself, who actually experienced seeing these terns who come all the way from Alaska to Hawaii and even to my islands in Samoa, just to watch these little birds, it is amazing how these little birds can fly for such a tremendous distance.

I am sure that my good friend, who is an excellent jet fighter pilot, can attest to the fact that it is amazing how nature and how these migratory birds can fly for so far and yet be so small in form. It is just amazing.

I think it is an excellent way to promote that we need more funds, and I sincerely hope that this legislation will pass. Again, I want to commend the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, this is a private/public partnership in which we engage, and I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Promotion Act (H.R. 4248). I am proud to be joined in this effort by my fellow Sportsmen's Caucus Co-Chairman JOHN TANNER and Migratory Bird Conservation Committee members, Representative JOHN DINGELL and Representative CURT WELDON.

This legislation will allow the Federal Duck Stamp office to use money from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) to create an advertising program for the promotion of the federal duck stamp. This promotional program will be similar to the program used by the Postal Service to promote its stamp sales and stamp collecting.

Since Congress created the Federal Duck Stamp in 1934, it has been one of America's most successful conservation initiatives. It has generated more than \$500 million for the conservation of wildlife habitat. This money has permanently protected more than 5 million acres of prime wildlife habitat. This program is successful. It is also responsible, because it focuses 98 percent of the program's revenue to purchase habitat.

H.R. 4248 is important because in recent years duck stamp sales have leveled off. Unless we find new ways to promote the Duck Stamp and generate additional revenues, the MBCF will be unable to keep pace with the increasing costs of purchasing land for conservation. By passing this legislation, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission will be able to promote the benefits of the Federal Duck Stamp. In doing so, they will sell more stamps and generate more funds for habitat conservation.

One supporter of this plan is Mr. James Mosher, Conservation Director for the Izaak Walton League, says this "legislation will significantly increase revenue from stamp sales, consequently leading to enhancement of habitat acquisition and migratory bird conservation efforts."

This legislation has some precedence. In 1984, Congress allowed the Migratory Bird Conservation Committee to use MBCF funds to administer a program to license the image of the Duck Stamp. Today the Duck Stamp image is printed on products like throw rugs, T-shirts, ties, and other items. These licensing agreements generated \$65 thousand in 1997, and more than \$770 thousand since 1984. This additional funding has been added to the MBCF and used to protect and preserve habitat.

Mr. Chairman, one may ask whether money we use for the Duck Stamp promotion program wouldn't be better invested in habitat conservation. In fact, Ducks Unlimited, one of America's most prominent conservation organizations, addressed that exact issue in its letter of support for this legislation.

Quoting from Mr. Scott Sutherland and Mr. Fred Abraham's letter, "While Ducks Unlimited is always concerned that the maximum amount of funds raised actually go into protecting habitat in the refuge system, we believe that this temporary set-aside for marketing will eventually lead to more funds being available for the refuge system."

This legislation is supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Duck Stamp Office, Ducks Unlimited, the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America, and the Izaak Walton League.

I urge my colleagues to join me and pass this legislation and preserve more of our nation's wildlife habitat.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I also have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4248, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to