

Forest Service has indicated it is prepared to manage the new Scenic Area once it is acquired. I have no doubt that Saint Helena is a wise investment by the Federal government for the preservation of a very special place, and the recreational enjoyment of this and future generations of Michiganders.

It is my hope that H.R. 468 will move swiftly to the President's desk, and that sufficient Land and Water Conservation funding will be found in the near future to secure this national treasure between our two peninsulas.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 468, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1231, H.R. 2079, and H.R. 468.

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

There was no objection.

#### TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2367) to reauthorize a comprehensive program of support for victims of torture, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2367

*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 "Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 1999".

##### SEC. 2. FOREIGN TREATMENT CENTERS FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 2001, 2002, and 2003 pursuant to chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, there are authorized to be appropriated to the President \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2002, and \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2003 to carry out section 130 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to this section shall remain available until expended.

##### SEC. 3. DOMESTIC TREATMENT CENTERS FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Health and Human Services for fiscal years 2001, 2002, and 2003, there are authorized to be appropriated to

carry out subsection (a) of section 5 of the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2152) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2002, and \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2003.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to this section shall remain available until expended.

##### SEC. 4. MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) FUNDING.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 2001, 2002, and 2003 for "Voluntary Contributions to International Organizations" pursuant to chapter 3 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, there are authorized to be appropriated for a United States contribution to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (in this section referred to as the "Fund") the following amounts for the following fiscal years:

(1) FISCAL YEAR 2001.—For fiscal year 2001, \$5,000,000.

(2) FISCAL YEAR 2002.—For fiscal year 2002, \$5,000,000.

(3) FISCAL YEAR 2003.—For fiscal year 2003, \$5,000,000.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

(c) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the President, acting through the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, should—

(1) request the Fund—

(A) to find new ways to support and protect treatment centers and programs that are carrying out rehabilitative services for victims of torture; and

(B) to encourage the development of new such centers and programs;

(2) use the voice and vote of the United States to support the work of the Special Rapporteur on Torture and the Committee Against Torture established under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and

(3) use the voice and vote of the United States to establish a country rapporteur or similar procedural mechanism to investigate human rights violations in a country if either the Special Rapporteur or the Committee Against Torture indicates that a systematic practice of torture is prevalent in that country.

##### SEC. 5. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

Not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives on the specialized training for foreign service officers required by section 7 of the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-320). The Report shall include detailed information regarding—

(1) efforts by the Department of State to implement the specialized training requirement;

(2) the curriculum that is being used in the specialized training;

(3) the number of foreign service officers who have received the specialized training as of the date of the Report; and

(4) the nongovernmental organizations that have been involved in the development of the specialized training curriculum or in providing the specialized training, and the nature and extent of that involvement.

##### SEC. 6. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS RELATING TO THE SECOND SECTION 129 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.

(a) AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.—The second section 129 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by section 4(a) of the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-320), is redesignated as section 130.

(b) AMENDMENT TO TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF ACT OF 1998.—Section 4(b)(1) of the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 is amended by striking "section 129 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by subsection (a)" and inserting "section 130 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as redesignated by section 6(a) of the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 1999)".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) each will control 20 minutes.

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

□ 1600

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to explain the bill.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2367, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act. Let me point out to my colleagues that on June 29, the Subcommittee on International Relations and Human Rights held a hearing on U.S. policy toward the victims of torture. The testimony that was presented that day emphasized the continuing and compelling need for this legislation. Those who suffer the unspeakable cruelty of torture at the hands of despotic governments bear physical, emotional and psychological scars for the rest of their lives. Often, the ordeal of torture does not end with the victim's release from a gulag, laogai, or prison. Without professional help and rehabilitation, many torture victims will never get their lives back.

United States law, Madam Speaker, regarding torture victims took a giant step forward on October 30, 1998, with the enactment of Public Law 105-320, the Torture Victims Relief Act. I am proud to have been the principal sponsor of that act, which was cosponsored by 30 of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle. It authorized \$12.5 million over 2 years for assistance to torture victim treatment centers in the United States and another \$12.5 million for assistance to treatment centers in other countries around the world. It also authorized a U.S. contribution in the amount of \$3 million per year to the U.N. Voluntary Fund for Torture Victims. Finally, it required specialized training for State Department personnel in the identification of torture and its long-term effects, techniques for interviewing torture victims, and related subjects.

To continue the good work that that law began, I, along with the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY), our ranking member on the subcommittee, and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), introduced H.R. 2367, the Torture Victims Relief Act Reauthorization. It will extend and increase the authorizations of last year's act through fiscal year 2003.

For each of the 3 fiscal years it covers, the reauthorization act authorizes \$10 million for domestic treatment centers. The Center for Victims of Torture estimates that there are as many as 400,000 victims of foreign governmental torture in the United States. At present there are only 14 domestic treatment centers which are able to serve only a small fraction of the torture victim population here in this country. Because many of their clients do not have health insurance, the centers must bear most of the costs of treatment. Our hope is that the money authorized by H.R. 2367 will support these existing efforts and perhaps even enable the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement to establish much needed new centers.

Madam Speaker, the bill also authorizes \$10 million per year for international treatment centers. According to the International Rehab Council for Torture Victims, the IRCT, the leading international nongovernmental organization engaged in treating victims of torture, \$33 million is needed in 1999 alone for international rehab centers. Currently there are about 175 torture victim treatment centers around the world.

The bill also authorizes \$5 million per year for a United States contribution to the U.N. Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. I am pleased to note that the administration greatly increased the U.S. contribution to the fund this year to \$3 million, the full level authorized by the Torture Victims Relief Act. We should continue this trend, and I believe we should expand our effort for this worthwhile multilateral effort.

Finally, the bill requires, as it did before, that the State Department report on its efforts to provide specialized training to foreign service officers, as mandated by the Torture Victims Relief Act. It is important that our personnel who deal with torture victims be able to identify evidence of torture and its long-term effects, and that they learn techniques for interviewing torture victims who may still be suffering trauma from their experiences.

At our recent subcommittee hearing, it became apparent that the State Department has not yet implemented the training required by the act. This reporting requirement will serve as a wake-up call to prompt the Department to fulfill its statutory obligations.

Madam Speaker, for the RECORD I am inserting correspondence between the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), of the Committee on Commerce, regarding the jurisdictional aspects of this bill, and I greatly appreciate the willingness of the gentleman from Virginia to accede to consideration of this measure on the suspension calendar. I hope all Members will support this legislation.

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 17, 1999.

Hon. TOM BLILEY,  
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, House of Representatives.

DEAR TOM: I am writing to thank the Committee on Commerce for its willingness to waive consideration of H.R. 2367, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 1999. As you correctly note, the Committee on International Relations and the sponsors of the bill believe it is important to bring this legislation before the House as expeditiously as possible.

I am writing to confirm our understanding, upon which your agreement to waive Committee consideration of the bill was premised:

Although I am hopeful that the Senate will pass the bill as passed by the House, I agree to support the appointment of Commerce Committee conferees, should a conference be convened on this legislation.

I will gladly include your September 10, 1999 letter as part of the record during consideration of the bill by the House.

Thank you again for your prompt attention to this time-sensitive matter. Do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions or suggestions you may have.

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,  
Washington, DC, September 10, 1999.

Hon. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN,  
Chairman, House Committee on International Relations, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR BEN: On September 9, 1999, the Committee on International Relations ordered reported H.R. 2367, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 1999. H.R. 2367, as ordered reported by the Committee on International Relations, reauthorizes programs for the support and treatment of torture victims through a variety of sources. As you know, the Committee on Commerce was granted an additional referral upon the bill's introduction pursuant to the Committee's jurisdiction over health and health facilities under Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Because of the importance of this matter, I recognize your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and will waive consideration of the bill by the Commerce Committee. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, the Commerce Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 2367. In addition, the Committee on Commerce reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within the Commerce Committee's jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Commerce for conferees on H.R. 2367 or related legislation.

I request that you include this letter as a part of your committee's report on H.R. 2367 and as part of the RECORD during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

TOM BLILEY,  
Chairman.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

This is a very serious subject we are addressing this afternoon, and I just want to say for the record that I was supportive of my friend from New Jersey's request for additional time. I am glad, however, that we will not have to use that, for the sake of the other business here today.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2367, and I just want to address the House for a number of minutes. The legislation before the House today authorizes critically important domestic and international programs that provide relief to victims of torture. Specifically, the bill increases from \$7.5 million to \$10 million the annual authorization for AID to provide assistance to treatment centers and programs in foreign countries regarding the physical and psychological rehabilitation of victims of torture.

These funds support programs in countries like South Africa, Liberia, and Rwanda that meet the medical and psychological needs of traumatized and tortured civilians. This assistance has been particularly important to the children of Africa, because many of them have witnessed or experienced unspeakable horrors as child soldiers in the civil strife that has wracked these countries.

USAID is also training health providers and trauma counselors to deal with the enormous psychological and medical needs in Kosovo. One of the most devastating accounts was that of an 8-year-old boy in Kosovo who was forced to listen to the screams of his 2-year-old sister as she was burned alive when the Serbs set fire to his house after killing the rest of his family. He was unable to help his younger sister because the Serbs had shot him also.

The legislation also increases from \$7.5 million to \$10 million the annual authorization for HHS to provide relief activities domestically. The U.S. is working to meet the needs of refugee survivors of torture living in the United States by training community service providers who work with refugees to recognize survivors of torture and provide appropriate mental health referrals for them.

This bill also increases the annual authorization for the U.S. contribution to the U.N. Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture from \$3 million a year to \$5 million. In recent years, the United States has been the single largest contributor to the United Nations Voluntary Fund, established by the U.N. General Assembly in 1981. The U.N. fund provides worldwide humanitarian assistance to meet the medical and psychological needs of torture victims and their families.

One center receiving assistance from the U.N. fund is the Center for Victims of Torture based in Minnesota. This center established an innovative training program for school teachers whose students are survivors of torture or

who have family members who are survivors. There are now nearly 200 centers supported by the U.N. fund working to meet the unique needs of survivors of torture around this world.

Finally, the legislation expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should support, one, the U.N. Voluntary Fund to find new ways to rehabilitate victims of torture; two, the work of the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Committee Against Torture; and, three, the establishment of a country rapporteur or similar mechanism to investigate human rights violations in any country that has been found to have a systematic practice of torture.

The United States has been in the forefront of providing assistance to torture victims, including through the many centers in the United States that address the dreadful effect of these barbarous practices. This legislation will ensure that the U.S. continues to play this vital leadership role.

While it is unusual for Congress to authorize funds in advance, as this bill does, it will send a message that this committee believes that a stable funding base is necessary for these important programs to work and to continue.

Madam Speaker, let me add that it is unfortunate that this legislation is needed at the dawn of the year 2000 in the 21st century; that humankind can be as cruel today in many respects as it was during the time of the Spanish inquisition and Nazi Germany, when torture became institutionalized. Hot spots today include Rwanda, Burundi, Algeria, Colombia, Kosovo, East Timor, just to mention a few. And they are not just governments, but militias and rebel groups that are also involved in acts of torture. They are engaging in torture to produce a political outcome beneficial to their cause.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2367; and I thank my good friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), for his work on this legislation; the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for his work, our ranking member, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GEJDENSON), the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and the many, many others who were involved in creating this legislation and seeing it pass today.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I want to thank my good friend from New York for his excellent statement and his good work on the subcommittee.

I would like to point out, Madam Speaker, that it is not the intention of the supporters, the prime sponsor of the bill or anyone else that this legislation should result in any decrease whatsoever in the resources available to other programs of the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

I would also note for the Record that Lavinia Limon, Director of the Office

of Refugee Resettlement, is doing an outstanding job. She testified before our subcommittee. She did the work at Fort Dix as the ethnic Albanians were making their way during the Kosovo crisis.

We have to make sure that the money that is available by way of HHS, that the money be found so that this is not a zero-sum game. We have to make sure, and I would encourage our appropriators to make sure, that this money is in addition to and does not take away from the other good work that the Office of Refugee Resettlement does.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2367—the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 1999. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this legislation.

First, Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to our distinguished colleague and my friend, the gentleman from New Jersey, Congressman, CHRIS SMITH. He has shown outstanding leadership on this issue, and I want to express my appreciation to him for the direction and focus he has given this important legislation.

It is critical that we continue this program to provide assistance to the unfortunate individuals who have been victims of torture. I am pleased that our country has been in the forefront in providing assistance to those who suffer from these barbarous practices.

Mr. Speaker, while it is unusual to provide in legislation authorizing funds in advance as this bill does, it is important to send the message that the Congress believes that a stable funding base is essential for these important programs to assist the unfortunate victims of torture.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation authorizes a number of critically important domestic and international programs to provide relief to the victims of torture. The bill increases from \$7.5 million to \$10 million the annual authorization for the Agency for International Development (AID) to provide assistance to treatment centers and programs in foreign countries which deal with physical and psychological rehabilitation of victims of torture. The legislation also authorizes five million dollars in contributions to the U.N. Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture, an increase from the three million which is currently authorized.

Just a few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, I hosted a reception here on Capitol Hill honoring Dr. Inge Genefke and the Center for the Victims of Torture. In 1979 Dr. Genefke established a clinic in her native Copenhagen, Denmark, which was the first such facility anywhere in the world devoted specifically to treating victims of torture. Now, I am happy to report, that facilities exist in a number of countries—including several in our own country—which provide this kind of specialized medical care. It is very reassuring to see the progress that is being made in dealing with the tragic victims of repressive regimes which carry out or tolerate this horrendous violation of human rights.

This legislation is important in our stand for human rights, Mr. Speaker, and I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I want to commend Chairman SMITH and the Ranking Minority Member Ms. MCKINNEY of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights for crafting this timely initiative

which addresses a critical area of our efforts to combat human rights abuses—treatment of those individuals who have suffered the effects of torture at the hands of governments as a means of destroying dissent and opposition.

The resolution rightly recognizes the importance of treating victims of torture in order to combat the long-term devastating effects that torture has on the physical and psychological well-being of those who have undergone this pernicious form of abuse. Torture is an extremely effective method to suppress political dissidence, and for those governments which lack the legitimacy of democratic institutions to justify their power, torture can provide a bulwark against popular opposition.

This measure authorizes funding at the level of \$10 million a year for the next three fiscal years for treatment centers in the United States and overseas. It also authorizes the State Department to contribute \$5 million in fiscal years 2001, 2002 and 2003 to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

Political leaders of undemocratic societies still find torture useful because its aims are the destruction of the personality. It attempts to rob those individuals who would actively involve themselves in opposition to oppress their self-confidence and other characteristics that produce leadership. I quote from a speech by Dr. Inge Genefke, who is a founder of the international treatment movement, "Sophisticated torture methods today can destroy the personality and self-respect of human beings. . . . Many victims are threatened with having to do or say things against his ideology or religious convictions, with the purpose of attacking fundamental parts of the identity, such as self-respect and self-esteem. Torturers today are able to create conditions which effectively break down the victim's personality and identity and his ability to live a full life later with and amongst other human beings."

Accordingly, I urge all my colleagues to join in approving this legislation.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for H.R. 2367, the Torture Victims Relief Act reauthorization.

I also want to commend my colleagues, Representative CHRIS SMITH and Representative JOSEPH CROWLEY, who serve on the International Relations Committee, for bringing this bill to the floor, today.

The Center for Victims of Torture is one of over 175 centers which treats and supports victims of politically-motivated torture. It was established in 1985 and is the first of its kind in the United States.

The Center helps to rehabilitate survivors by addressing their physical and psychological needs in order to reintegrate them back into society. The treatment program assists their families who also suffer the effects of the torture. They have provided services for survivors from more than 45 countries and all continents. And the center treats American victims of torture overseas.

According to the Center for Victims of Torture, "The debilitating nature of torture makes it extremely difficult for survivors to hold down jobs, study for new professions, or acquire other skills needed for a successful integration into the culture and economy. Torture is a crime against humanity; as a strategic tool of repression, it is the single most effective weapon against democracy. Its purpose is to

control populations by destroying individual leaders and frightening entire communities. Torture is rarely used to extract information from someone."

I am a strong supporter of this program and am pleased that both the House and the Senate Foreign Operations Appropriations bills have provided \$3 million for the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and \$7.5 million for the Foreign Treatment Centers for Torture Victims.

As a member of the Labor, HHS Appropriations Subcommittee, I am hopeful that once we draft our legislation, it will reflect the President's FY 2000 request of \$7.5 million for Domestic Centers for Victims of Torture.

John F. Kennedy once said, "I am certain that after the dust of centuries has passed over our cities, we, too, will be remembered not for victories or defeats in battle or in politics, but for our contribution to the human spirit." This program does just that. It works to rebuild the human spirit that was broken as an act of war and repression.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation and encourage full funding for these programs. Because democracy is neither easy nor simple. It is, however, a goal that we must boldly pursue.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. R. 2367.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, 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. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2367, 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.

#### GRANTING CONSENT OF CONGRESS TO MISSOURI-NEBRASKA BOUNDARY COMPACT

Mr. GEKAS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 54) granting the consent of Congress to the Missouri-Nebraska Boundary Compact.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H. J. RES. 54

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL CONSENT.

The Congress consents to the Missouri-Nebraska Boundary Compact entered into between the States of Missouri and Nebraska. The compact reads substantially as follows:

#### "MISSOURI-NEBRASKA BOUNDARY COMPACT

##### "ARTICLE I

##### "FINDINGS AND PURPOSES

"(a) The states of Missouri and Nebraska find that there are actual and potential disputes, controversies, criminal proceedings and litigation arising or which may arise out of the location of the boundary line between the states of Missouri and Nebraska; that the Missouri River constituting the boundary between the states has changed its course from time to time, and that the United States Army Corps of Engineers has established a main channel of such river for navigation and other purposes, which main channel is identified on maps jointly certified by the state surveyors of Missouri and Nebraska and identified as the "Missouri-Nebraska Boundary Maps", which maps are incorporated in this act and made part of this act by reference, and which maps shall be filed with the secretaries of state of Missouri and Nebraska.

"(b) It is the principal purpose of the states of Missouri and Nebraska in executing the compact to establish an identifiable compromise boundary between the state of Missouri and the state of Nebraska for the entire distance thereof as of the effective date of the compact without interfering with or otherwise affecting private rights or titles to property, and the states of Nebraska and Missouri declare that further compelling purposes of the compact are—

"(1) to create a friendly and harmonious interstate relationship;

"(2) to avoid multiple exercise of sovereignty and jurisdiction including matters of taxation, judicial and police powers and exercise of administrative authority;

"(3) to encourage settlement and disposition of pending litigation and criminal proceedings and avoid or minimize future disputes and litigation;

"(4) to promote economic and political stability;

"(5) to encourage the optimum mutual beneficial use of the Missouri River, its waters and its facilities;

"(6) to establish a forum for settlement of future disputes;

"(7) to place the boundary in a location which can be identified or located; and

"(8) to express the intent and policy of the states that the common boundary be established within the confines of the Missouri River and both states shall continue to have access to and use of the waters of the river.

##### "ARTICLE II

##### "ESTABLISHMENT OF BOUNDARY

"The permanent compromise boundary line between the states of Missouri and Nebraska shall be fixed at the center line of the main channel of the Missouri River as of the effective date of the compact, except for that land known as McKissick's Island as determined by the Supreme Court of the United States to be within the state of Nebraska in the case of *Missouri v. Nebraska*, 196 U.S. 23, and 197 U.S. 577, all of which is identified on maps jointly prepared and certified by the state surveyors of Missouri and Nebraska and identified as the "Missouri-Nebraska Boundary Compact Maps", incorporated in this act and made a part of this act by reference, and which maps shall be filed with the secretaries of state of Missouri and Nebraska. This center line of the main channel of the Missouri River between the states is also described in this act by metes and bounds on the "Missouri-Nebraska Boundary Compact Maps" incorporated in this act by reference and made a part of this act. This center line of the main channel of the Missouri River as described on such maps shall be referred to as the "compromise boundary".

##### "ARTICLE III

##### "RELINQUISHMENT OF SOVEREIGNTY

"The state of Missouri hereby relinquishes to the state of Nebraska all sovereignty over all lands lying on the Nebraska side of such compromise boundary and the state of Nebraska hereby relinquishes to the state of Missouri all sovereignty over all lands lying on the Missouri side of such compromise boundary except for that land known as McKissick's Island which is identified on the "Missouri-Nebraska Boundary Compact Maps" incorporated in this act by reference and made a part of this act.

##### "ARTICLE IV

##### "PENDING LITIGATION

"Nothing in the act shall be deemed or construed to affect any litigation pending in the courts of either of the states of Missouri or Nebraska as of the effective date of the compact concerning the title to any of the lands, sovereignty over which is relinquished by the state of Missouri to the state of Nebraska or by the state of Nebraska to the state of Missouri and any matter concerning the title to lands, sovereignty over which is relinquished by either state to the other, may be continued in the courts of the state where pending until the final determination thereof.

##### "ARTICLE V

##### "PUBLIC RECORDS

"(a) The public record of real estate titles, mortgages and other liens in the state of Missouri to any lands, the sovereignty over which is relinquished by the state of Missouri to the state of Nebraska, shall be accepted as evidence of record title to such lands, to and including the effective date of such relinquishment by the state of Missouri, by the courts of the state of Nebraska.

"(b) The public record of real estate titles, mortgages and other liens in the state of Nebraska to any lands, the sovereignty over which is relinquished by the state of Nebraska to the state of Missouri, shall be accepted as evidence of record title to such lands, to and including the effective date of such relinquishment by the state of Nebraska, by the courts of the state of Missouri.

"(c) As to lands, the sovereignty over which is relinquished, the recording officials of the counties of each state shall accept for filing documents of title using legal descriptions derived from the land descriptions of the other state. The acceptance of such documents for filing shall have no bearing upon the legal effect or sufficiency thereof.

##### "ARTICLE VI

##### "TAXES

"(a) Taxes lawfully imposed by either Missouri or Nebraska may be levied and collected by such state or its authorized governmental subdivisions and agencies on land, jurisdiction over which is relinquished by the taxing state to the other, and any liens or other rights accrued or accruing, including the right of collection, shall be fully recognized and the county treasurers of the counties or other taxing authorities affected shall act as agents in carrying out the provisions of this article; provided, that all liens or other rights arising out of the imposition of taxes, accrued or accruing, shall be claimed or asserted within five years after the compact becomes effective and if not so claimed or asserted shall be forever barred.

"(b) The lands, sovereignty over which is relinquished by the state of Missouri to the state of Nebraska, shall not thereafter be subject to the imposition of taxes in the state of Missouri from and after the effective date of the compact. The lands, sovereignty over which is relinquished by the state of Nebraska to the state of Missouri, shall not