The bill also establishes an advisory board of experts to provide scientific and technical expertise to the National Council and the Secretary.

Finally, under H.R. 1775, restoration projects will be monitored and evaluated to help ensure their long-term success.

I urge all Members to support this bill, which takes an important step forward to comprehensively address restoration of our estuaries.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1775, the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000. As an original cosponsor, I believe this bill will be tremendously instrumental for the restoration of our nation's major estuaries, including Galveston Bay which borders my district in Texas.

Estuaries act as nurseries for much of our marine life. These complex and productive areas urgently need recognition if estuaries are to continue supporting over 70 million jobs and countless millions of hours of recreation. Due to lack of recognition of their value, millions of acres of estuaries have been lost over the decades, losses which persist today. In my district, Galveston Bay is part of the national estuary program and has suffered troubling habitat loss. It would benefit tremendously under this bill.

Galveston Bay's watershed encompasses one of the most heavily industrialized and most heavily populated regions in the United States. Since the 1950's, 30,000 acres of wetlands have been lost in the estuary. Wastewater discharges from communities and industries into Galveston Bay account for half of Texas' total wastewater discharges every year. Like many of America's beloved bays and estuaries under these circumstances, the productivity of Galveston Bay has declined. In addition to the ecological loss, declining productivity is an alarming economic trend, because Galveston Bay produces two-thirds of Texas oyster harvest, one-third of Texas' bay shrimp catch, and one-quarter of Texas' blue crab catch. Declining productivity also means reduced recreation for a Bay that currently supports the third largest recreational boating fleet in the United States. In response, the local community has reacted, but recognition and support have been limited.

This act's defining principle is grassroots action. The bill authorizes $315 million over 5 years for matching grant funds to be used by nonprofit groups, State and local governments, neighborhood associations, schools, and concerned citizen organizations like the Galveston Bay Foundation. The goal of this $315 million is the restoration of 1 million acres of estuary over the next 10 years, so that our estuaries can continue producing food, flood mitigation, water quality employment, and recreational benefits along American coastlines. This bill provides a $315 million investment to ensure the sustainability of activities that contribute well over $100 billion to the U.S. economy. The matching grants will rehabilitate our Nation's estuaries by allowing local volunteer restoration activities to continue, strengthen, and take-off. Priority will be given to projects which build partnerships between public and private groups, relationships which can continue long after the period of this act. We in the Federal Government should make the prudent decision to invest in America's quality of life, environment, and economy by passing H.R. 1775.

As proof of the ability of local communities to take on estuary restoration, the Galveston Bay Foundation is exemplary of the type of organization that the Estuary Restoration Act will facilitate. The Galveston Bay Foundation began by restoring small areas measured in square feet, and now is pursuing the ambitious goal of restoring 24,000 of the 30,000 estuary acres lost in Galveston Bay. Assisted by the National Estuary Program, the Galveston Bay Foundation also monitors water quality by recruiting and training volunteers and by obtaining and distributing monitoring equipment. With the passage of the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000, organizations across the country including the Galveston Bay Foundation can leverage the investment efficiently and effectively on the local level.

I believe that H.R. 1775 is essential to implement longterm, local estuary conservation and management plans. Estuaries are integral parts of any nearby community and effect absolutely every community. I urge my colleagues to pass the Estuary Restoration Act and invest in the ecological and economic future of America's coastal areas by providing assistance to those who use it best—local communities.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1775 and would like to thank the gentleman from Maryland for his tireless work on this legislation.

H.R. 1775 addresses the serious problem of declining estuary and coastal wetland habitat throughout the United States. Despite our best efforts, we are continuing to lose valuable coastal and estuary acreage to erosion, subsidence, water quality degradation, invasive species, contaminated sediments, and other impacts. These areas are biologically important for many commercial and recreational fish species, shellfish, migratory birds, and other wildlife. These areas are also among this nation's busiest ports, playing an important role in the national economy.

This legislation would provide much-needed assistance to halt the degradation of these areas while allowing continued economic uses. Restoration projects are expensive, and H.R. 1775 creates new Federal, State, and local partnerships to undertake these projects.

H.R. 1775 builds upon the existing authorities and expertise of the Army Corps of Engineers, with the help of Federal partners such as NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This bill requires that restoration projects include a monitoring component to ensure that we learn from these restoration projects and continue to find innovative solutions.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1775 represents the hard work of both the Transportation and Resources Committees, and it is an innovative approach to on-the ground projects. I urge an ''aye'' vote on this legislation.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, we have no additional requests for time. We will be prepared to yield back when the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) does the same.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1775, 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.

MISSISSIPPI SOUND RESTORATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4104) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize funding to carry out certain water quality and barrier island restoration projects for the Mississippi Sound, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4104

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 ''Mississippi Sound Restoration Act of 2000''.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that the Mississippi Sound is an estuary of national significance.

(b) ADDITION TO NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM.—Section 320(a)(2)(B) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(a)(2)(B)) is amended by inserting ''Mississippi Sound, Mississippi;'' before ''and Peconic Bay, New York.''.

SEC. 3. MISSISSIPPI SOUND.

Title I of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 121. MISSISSIPPI SOUND.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF RESTORATION PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall establish within the Environmental Protection Agency the Mississippi Sound Restoration Program.

''(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program shall be to restore the ecological health of the Sound, including barrier islands, coastal wetlands, keys, and reefs, by developing and funding restoration projects and related scientific and public education projects and by coordinating efforts among Federal, State, and local governmental agencies and nonregulatory organizations.

''(c) DUTIES.—In carrying out the program, the Administrator shall—

''(1) provide administrative and technical assistance to a management conference convened for the Sound under section 320;

''(2) assist and support the activities of the management conference, including the implementation of recommendations of the management conference;

''(3) support environmental monitoring of the Sound and research to provide necessary technical and scientific information;

''(4) develop a comprehensive research plan to address the technical needs of the program;

''(5) coordinate the grant, research, and planning programs authorized under this section; and

''(6) collect and make available to the public publications, and other forms of information the management conference determines to be appropriate, relating to the environmental quality of the Sound.

''(d) GRANTS.—The Administrator may make grants—

''(1) for restoration projects and studies recommended by a management conference convened for the Sound under section 320; and

''(2) for public education projects recommended by the management conference.

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

''(1) SOUND.—The term 'Sound' means the Mississippi Sound located on the Gulf Coast of the State of Mississippi.

''(2) PROGRAM.—The term 'program' means the Mississippi Sound Restoration Program established under subsection (a).

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $10,000,000 to carry out this section. Such sums shall remain available until expended.''.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that all recipients of grants under this Act (including amendments made by this Act) shall abide by the Buy American Act. The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall give notice of the Buy American Act requirements to grant applicants under this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

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

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of H.R. 4104, introduced by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is to authorize financial and technical assistance for water quality restoration activities in the Mississippi Sound.

H.R. 4104 provides a framework for voluntary and cooperative efforts to restore the Mississippi Sound by identifying the Mississippi Sound as an estuary of national significance recommended for inclusion in the National Estuary Program, and also creating a Mississippi Sound program within EPA to coordinate and provide assistance to State and local efforts, to reduce pollution and restore the ecological health of the Sound.

I want to commend the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) for moving this legislation to the floor so expeditiously, and I support the legislation, and I urge an aye vote.

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

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, one of the best-kept secrets in America is no longer a well-kept secret. The Mississippi coast, with the advent of legalized gaming, has gone from a relatively quiet backwater community to one of the most popular destination resorts in the United States of America. The Gulfport airport that traditionally handled over 200,000 people will board over a million people this year.

All that being said, there are a heck of a lot more people using the Mississippi Sound than ever before, a heck of a lot more people living in the vicinity of it.

In all of the estuarine area in the Mississippi gulf coast, which is so similar to the Chesapeake Bay in characteristics with the bays and coastal marshes, is facing the same sort of stress that the Chesapeake Bay and other estuarine areas around the country have faced.

Although we still have record oyster harvest, we are having a phenomenal shrimp season this year, the bottom line is that, much as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) mentioned, our losses of coastal marshes are not taking place in hundreds of acres or thousands of acres, but truly an acre at a time, just as he mentioned it.

Although 1,200 acres were permitted to be filled by the Corps of Engineers last year, this is not a police state. I think it is fair to say, if 1,200 acres were permitted, probably 5,000 acres were truly lost.

What we are trying to do is restore some of the mistakes that man has made along the Mississippi Gulf Coast using the resources available.

We would like to be a pilot project in the United States of America for the beneficial use of dredge material when the Federal Government dredges and maintains its channels. Rather than taking that offshore and dumping it, we want to use that material to rebuild and restore our coastal marshes, to rebuild our barrier islands. We want to take the riprap that is created from Federal projects and start rebuilding some of the reefs that were unnecessarily destroyed in the 1950s and 1960s to provide aggregate material for building roads.

We have a lot of opportunities. What we need more than anything else is a game plan entailing the entire three coastal counties and our partners in Louisiana, since we were part of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin as well, to work together to take this jewel that God created and make it as pristine as possible.

I know the hour is late. I do not think it needs any further explanation. I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) for his help. I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for his great assistance in getting this on the calendar tonight.

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

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, we have no requests for time. I also urge passage of the bill.

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

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), ranking member, one of the gentlemen who was so helpful in bringing this to the floor tonight.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I want to, again, express my appreciation to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Chairman SHUSTER) for bringing this legislation to the committee and to the floor so expeditiously, and to compliment the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) for his dogged pursuit of this legislation. He has been a relentless advocate for action on the Mississippi Sound. The restoration act that he brings to the floor tonight is one that he has championed for many years and advocated vigorously within the committee and is one that will stand as a crown jewel in his legislative achievement.

Much progress has been made under the Clean Water Act since 1972, but many bodies of water still require additional attention and resources to achieve the clean water goals that we set forth 28 years ago.

The unique ecosystem in southern Mississippi that covers 2,400 square miles with a drainage basin, as the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) said, that extends from Mississippi into Louisiana, is one of the great jewels of our natural resources in the United States. But much of the problem that this legislation will address bears a made-in-other-States label.

The runoff from 10 States all along the Mississippi drainage basin all the way to Canada wind up in this ecosystem. All the rest of us have a responsibility to help Mississippi and Louisiana and the Mississippi Sound area protect this diverse environment, this essential habitat for an extraordinary variety of species of fish, birds, mammals, and plants.

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The legislation the gentleman has so thoughtfully crafted will move us along in that direction, and I greatly appreciate his leadership, that of our committee, the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT); the gentleman tonight who presents the bill, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), who has been such a strong voice for protection of the Great Lakes and the nonindigenous invasive species legislation that he championed and I have cosponsored with him.

His understanding there brings to bear a new dimension, an important dimension on this legislation being considered tonight. I urge its enactment.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4104, the Mississippi Sound Restoration Act of 2000, amends the Clean Water Act to require EPA to establish a Mississippi Sound Restoration Program, and to carry out water quality and environmental restoration projects for the Sound.

I commend Representative GENE TAYLOR for introducing H.R. 4104, a bill that will help restore and protect one more of our national treasures.

I also thank the chairman and ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for helping to bring this bill to the House floor for action.

I support passage of H.R. 4104, and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4104, 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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read:

''A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize funding to carry out certain water quality and environmental restoration projects for the Mississippi Sound, Mississippi, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CLEAN WATERS AND BAYS ACT OF 2000

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 835) to encourage the restoration of estuary habitat through more efficient project financing and enhanced coordination of Federal and non-Federal restoration programs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 835

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 ''Clean Waters and Bays Act of 2000''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—ESTUARY RESTORATION

Sec. 101. Short title.
Sec. 102. Purposes.
Sec. 103. Definitions.
Sec. 104. Estuary habitat restoration program.
Sec. 105. Establishment of Estuary Habitat Restoration Council.
Sec. 106. Advisory board.
Sec. 107. Estuary habitat restoration strategy.
Sec. 108. Monitoring of estuary habitat restoration projects.
Sec. 109. Reporting.
Sec. 110. Funding.
Sec. 111. General provisions.

TITLE II—CHESAPEAKE BAY RESTORATION

Sec. 201. Short title.
Sec. 202. Findings and purposes.
Sec. 203. Chesapeake Bay.
Sec. 204. Sense of Congress; requirement regarding notice.

TITLE III—NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

Sec. 301. Additions to national estuary program.
Sec. 302. Grants.
Sec. 303. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE IV—FLORIDA KEYS WATER QUALITY

Sec. 401. Short title.
Sec. 402. Florida Keys water quality improvements.
Sec. 403. Sense of Congress; requirement regarding notice.

TITLE V—LONG ISLAND SOUND RESTORATION

Sec. 501. Short title.
Sec. 502. Nitrogen credit trading system and other measures.
Sec. 503. Assistance for distressed communities.
Sec. 504. Reauthorization of appropriations.

TITLE VI—LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN RESTORATION

Sec. 601. Short title.
Sec. 602. National estuary program.
Sec. 603. Lake Pontchartrain Basin.
Sec. 604. Sense of Congress.

TITLE VII—ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCES

Sec. 701. Short title.
Sec. 702. Grants for alternative water source projects.
Sec. 703. Sense of Congress; requirement regarding notice.

TITLE VIII—CLEAN LAKES

Sec. 801. Grants to States.
Sec. 802. Demonstration program.
Sec. 803. Sense of Congress; requirement regarding notice.

TITLE IX—MISSISSIPPI SOUND RESTORATION

Sec. 901. Short title.
Sec. 902. National estuary program.
Sec. 903. Mississippi Sound.
Sec. 904. Sense of Congress.

TITLE X—TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY ESTUARY AND BEACH CLEANUP

Sec. 1001. Short title.
Sec. 1002. Purpose.
Sec. 1003. Definitions.
Sec. 1004. Actions to be taken by the Commission and the Administrator.
Sec. 1005. Negotiation of new treaty minute.
Sec. 1006. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE I—ESTUARY RESTORATION

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Estuary Restoration Act of 2000''.

SEC. 102. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are—

(1) to promote the restoration of estuary habitat;

(2) to develop a national estuary habitat restoration strategy for creating and maintaining effective estuary habitat restoration partnerships among public agencies at all levels of government and to establish new partnerships between the public and private sectors;

(3) to provide Federal assistance for estuary habitat restoration projects and to promote efficient financing of such projects; and

(4) to develop and enhance monitoring and research capabilities to ensure that estuary habitat restoration efforts are based on sound scientific understanding and to create a national database of estuary habitat restoration information.

SEC. 103. DEFINITIONS.

In this title, the following definitions apply:

(1) COUNCIL.—The term ''Council'' means the Estuary Habitat Restoration Council established by section 105.

(2) ESTUARY.—The term ''estuary'' means a part of a river or stream or other body of water that has an unimpaired connection with the open sea and where the sea water is measurably diluted with fresh water derived from land drainage. The term also includes near coastal waters and wetlands of the Great Lakes that are similar in form and function to estuaries.

(3) ESTUARY HABITAT.—The term ''estuary habitat'' means the physical, biological, and chemical elements associated with an estuary, including the complex of physical and hydrologic features and living organisms within the estuary and associated ecosystems.

(4) ESTUARY HABITAT RESTORATION ACTIVITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''estuary habitat restoration activity'' means an activity that results in improving degraded estuaries or estuary habitat or creating estuary habitat (including both physical and functional restoration), with the goal of attaining a self-sustaining system integrated into the surrounding landscape.

(B) INCLUDED ACTIVITIES.—The term ''estuary habitat restoration activity'' includes—

(i) the reestablishment of chemical, physical, hydrologic, and biological features and components associated with an estuary;

(ii) except as provided in subparagraph (C), the cleanup of pollution for the benefit of estuary habitat;

(iii) the control of nonnative and invasive species in the estuary;

(iv) the reintroduction of species native to the estuary, including through such means as planting or promoting natural succession;

(v) the construction of reefs to promote fish and shellfish production and to provide estuary habitat for living resources; and

(vi) other activities that improve estuary habitat.

(C) EXCLUDED ACTIVITIES.—The term ''estuary habitat restoration activity'' does not include an activity that—

(i) constitutes mitigation required under any Federal or State law for the adverse effects of an activity regulated or otherwise governed by Federal or State law; or

(ii) constitutes restoration for natural resource damages required under any Federal or State law.

(5) ESTUARY HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT.—The term ''estuary habitat restoration project'' means a project to carry out an estuary habitat restoration activity.

(6) ESTUARY HABITAT RESTORATION PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''estuary habitat restoration plan'' means any Federal or State plan for restoration of degraded estuary habitat that was developed with the substantial participation of appropriate public and private stakeholders.

(B) INCLUDED PLANS AND PROGRAMS.—The term ''estuary habitat restoration plan'' includes estuary habitat restoration components of—

(i) a comprehensive conservation and management plan approved under section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330);

(ii) a lakewide management plan or remedial action plan developed under section 118 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268);

(iii) a management plan approved under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.); and

(iv) the interstate management plan developed pursuant to the Chesapeake Bay program under section 117 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1267).

(8) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian tribe'' has the meaning given such term by section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(9) NON-FEDERAL INTEREST.—The term ''non-federal interest'' means a State, a political subdivision of a State, an Indian tribe, a regional or interstate agency, or, as provided in section 104(g)(2), a nongovernmental organization.

(10) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Army.

(11) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the States of Alabama, Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South