

I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 3048, in support of the legislation introduced by my good friend, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is intended to resolve a longstanding dispute over ownership of lands at the junction of the Russian and Kenai Rivers in Alaska. It accomplishes that goal by ratifying an agreement negotiated between the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Cook Inlet Region, Incorporated, or CIRI. CIRI is one of the regional corporations formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 to manage lands and financial assets for its Alaska Native shareholders.

Asserting claims under the authority of section 14(h)(1) of the settlement act, CIRI sought title to 2,000 acres of public lands at the conflux of the two rivers. This area was considered by CIRI to qualify as a historic site under the settlement act. But it also is one of the most popular recreational fishing areas in Alaska.

Both the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service opposed outright the conveyance to CIRI of these lands from the Chugach National Forest and the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

As an alternative to prolonged and uncertain litigation, the three parties reached an agreement on July of 2001 which seeks to fairly balance and accommodate CIRI's interests in the cultural history and archeological assets as well as the public interest in the recreational and fish and wildlife resources of this area.

Under the agreement, the Forest Service will convey to CIRI fee title to two parcels of land totaling only 62 acres. The Fish and Wildlife Service will also convey to CIRI the archeological and cultural resources from some 502 acres to the Kenai Refuge lands.

In addition, CIRI will develop a visitors center and other facilities on the 42-acre parcel. The bill provides for an appropriation of \$13.8 million to support that endeavor to showcase the native history of this region.

Mr. Speaker, in return for those assets and financial assistance, CIRI agrees to relinquish its section 14(h)(1) claims allowing the majority of the lands at issue to remain in public ownership as part of the national forest and national wildlife refuge. The right of public access to continue fishing in the Kenai and Russian Rivers and to make use of the campgrounds is also maintained.

Finally, the agreement authorizes, but does not require, an exchange of additional lands between CIRI and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Any such exchange would be of equal value and affect no more than 3,000 acres of the Kenai Refuge boundaries.

While such preauthorization of the exchange that could affect refuge wilderness boundaries is unusual and not unprecedented, in this case we have been assured by the Fish and Wildlife

Service that any agreed-to exchange of lands would clearly be in the best interest of the Kenai Refuge and the public.

It is our understanding that if the Service desires to acquire lands from the CIRI which would have higher value for implementing the Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear Conservation Strategy than would any lands conveyed from the refuge to CIRI in exchange, we expect the service will consult with the committee in the development of any exchange using this authority and have added language to the bill concerning the public process and submission for any proposed exchange to the committee prior to final approval.

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In closing, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentleman from Alaska for bringing this bill before us today. I also applaud CIRI, the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service for their work on the agreement. This is a consensus-based and creative solution to a complex land management problem.

I urge the passage of this legislation, and on behalf of the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the ranking member of this party on this side of the aisle and the members of the committee, I urge my colleagues to support passage of this legislation.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3048, 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill and a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2037. An act to mobilize technology and science experts to respond quickly to the threats posed by terrorist attacks and other emergencies, by providing for the establishment of a national emergency technology guard, a technology reliability advisory board, and a center for evaluating antiterrorism and disaster response technology within the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

S. Con. Res. 128. Concurrent resolution honoring the invention of modern air conditioning by Dr. Willis H. Carrier on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House

is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3487. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to health professions programs regarding the field of nursing.

MOUNT NAOMI WILDERNESS BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4870) to make certain adjustments to the boundaries of the Mount Naomi Wilderness Area, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4870

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 "Mount Naomi Wilderness Boundary Adjustment Act".

SEC. 2. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) *LANDS REMOVED.*—The boundary of the Mount Naomi Wilderness is adjusted to exclude the approximately 31 acres of land depicted on the Map as "Land Excluded".

(b) *LANDS ADDED.*—Subject to valid existing rights, the boundary of the Mount Naomi Wilderness is adjusted to include the approximately 31 acres of land depicted on the Map as "Land Added". The Utah Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-428) shall apply to the land added to the Mount Naomi Wilderness pursuant to this subsection.

SEC. 3. MAP.

(a) *DEFINITION.*—For the purpose of this Act, the term "Map" shall mean the map entitled "Mt. Naomi Wilderness Boundary Adjustment" and dated May 23, 2002.

(b) *MAP ON FILE.*—The Map shall be on file and available for inspection in the office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

(c) *CORRECTIONS.*—The Secretary of Agriculture may make technical corrections to the Map.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, this bill was sponsored by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the chairman of the Committee on Resources. Mount Naomi is located in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest near Logan, Utah in the gentleman from Utah's (Mr. HANSEN) district.

It is a beautiful area composed of approximately 44,523 acres, making it one of the largest wilderness areas in the State of Utah. It is the host of many different families of both plants and animals and undoubtedly deserves wilderness protection.

Mount Naomi was designated a wilderness area by the Utah Wilderness