

Utah that should not be developed and allows the school children of Utah to fully appreciate the assets they own. We have wide spread support for this effort throughout the State, among the Congressional delegation, from the NEA, PTA, the Administration and members of the environmental community. Critics of the exchange have made completely contradictory claims. They have asserted that the federal lands being granted to the state have huge value, but then say that the lands won't generate significant revenue. In reality, the lands that the Utah school trust will acquire have potential to generate reasonable future income, which will provide additional income to each of Utah's public schools, in a state where every penny counts.

This bill has received prominent attention in the national press. Much of that attention has been focused on what Utah stands to gain from the exchange. It is important that we look at the other side of the exchange as well. Under H.R. 4968, the Federal Government will acquire over 100,000 acres of conservation lands in the San Rafael Swell, as well as the balanced of the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve in Washington County, in exchange for less sensitive federal lands that can generate revenue for Utah's schools.

This is the third land exchange in Utah in the last three Congresses. We are improving the process and we will do better next time. It is imperative that these exchanges be transparent and evenhanded. It is important that valuable resources are protected and that both parties be treated equitably. I am convinced this exchange meets those criteria.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4968.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4968, 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.

COAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND RETIRED EMPLOYEE ACT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3813) to modify requirements relating to allocation of interest that accrues to the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3813

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 "Coal Accountability and Retired Employee Act for the 21st Century".

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND INTEREST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any interest credited

to the fund established by section 401 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1231) shall be transferred to the Combined Fund identified in section 402(h)(2) of such Act (30 U.S.C. 1232(h)(2)), up to such amount as is estimated by the trustees of such Combined Fund to offset the amount of any deficit in net assets in the Combined Fund.

(b) PROHIBITION ON OTHER TRANSFERS.—Except as provided in subsection (a), no principal amounts in or credited to the fund established by section 401 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1231) may be transferred to the Combined Fund identified in section 402(h)(2) of such Act (30 U.S.C. 1232(h)(2)).

(c) LIMITATION.—This section shall cease to have any force and effect after September 30, 2004.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

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

H.R. 3813 the Coal Accountability and Retired Employee Act for the 21st Century introduced by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) transfers any interest credited to the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund established under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to the Combined Benefit Fund for 2 years.

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

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

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, enactment this year of the pending legislation will stave off any potential reduction in health care coverage for 54,000 retired coal miners and their widows, whose average age is 78 years old. These miners bravely served their country through both war and peace, many of them working deep within the bowels of this Earth to produce the coal that powered this Nation through both the industrial and now the technological revolution. We owe them a debt of gratitude and as a society would be ill-served by not keeping the promise to them of lifetime health care.

In this regard I do want to express my sincere appreciation to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), chairman of the Committee on Resources, for his support of this legislation. He has not only been of tremendous help on this, but a great many other pieces of legislation that this committee has produced. I salute him for his leadership.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), who is an original cosponsor of this bill, who does care very deeply about our Nation's coal miners. I salute him for his work as well.

Finally, I want to say to the gentleman from Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN), I

thank her for working with me on this bill and for helping to make it possible for this legislation to be considered on the floor today.

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

Mr. HANSEN. 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 Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3813, 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.

YANKTON SIOUX TRIBE AND SANTEE SIOUX TRIBE EQUITABLE COMPENSATION ACT

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 434) to provide equitable compensation to the Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota and the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska for the loss of value of certain lands, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 434

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I—YANKTON SIOUX AND SANTEE SIOUX TRIBES EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Yankton Sioux Tribe and Santee Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act".

SEC. 102. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) by enacting the Act of December 22, 1944, commonly known as the "Flood Control Act of 1944" (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665; 33 U.S.C. 701-1 et seq.) Congress approved the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin program (referred to in this section as the "Pick-Sloan program")—

(A) to promote the general economic development of the United States;

(B) to provide for irrigation above Sioux City, Iowa;

(C) to protect urban and rural areas from devastating floods of the Missouri River; and

(D) for other purposes;

(2) the waters impounded for the Fort Randall and Gavins Point projects of the Pick-Sloan program have inundated the fertile, wooded bottom lands along the Missouri River that constituted the most productive agricultural and pastoral lands of, and the homeland of, the members of the Yankton Sioux Tribe and the Santee Sioux Tribe;

(3) the Fort Randall project (including the Fort Randall Dam and Reservoir) overlies the western boundary of the Yankton Sioux Tribe Indian Reservation;

(4) the Gavins Point project (including the Gavins Point Dam and Reservoir) overlies the eastern boundary of the Santee Sioux Tribe;

(5) although the Fort Randall and Gavins Point projects are major components of the Pick-Sloan program, and contribute to the economy of the United States by generating a substantial amount of hydropower and impounding a substantial quantity of water, the reservations of the Yankton Sioux Tribe