

without compromising opportunities for outdoor recreation in a remote area. I urge Members to support H.R. 417.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you for allowing a vote on H.R. 417, necessary to right a past error by the Department of Interior in designating the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge. Mr. Frank Dokter, a former constituent whose family business depends on the outcome of this legislation, testified before this panel last year on a similar bill. Although it passed the House, the Senate unfortunately could not act before the end of the 107th Congress.

Mr. Dokter and his family operate Walter's Camp, a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) concession on land near the lower Colorado River in Imperial County, California, near and within the Cibola Refuge. The facility provides visitors with a family-friendly outdoors experience, which includes camping, hiking, canoeing, fishing, birdwatching and rock-hounding. In an increasingly crowded Southern California, Mr. Dokter and his family have provided a welcome diversion from city life to many of the region's outdoors enthusiasts.

Walter's Camp was first authorized in 1962, and in August 1964, Public Land Order 3442 withdrew 16,627 acres along the Colorado River to create the Refuge. The withdrawal erroneously included the 140.32 acre Walter's Camp, but neither the BLM or the Fish and Wildlife Service immediately recognized the mistake. The BLM continued to renew the original permit, allowing the recreational concession use to continue unbroken until the present time. However, given the discovery of the past mistake, the BLM does not have the authority to continue issuing the concession contracts to Walter's Camp.

The Fish and Wildlife Service and the BLM agree that the land has "insignificant, if any, existing . . . or potential . . . wildlife habitat value," as stated in a Department of Interior memo. Therefore, I have introduced H.R. 417 to correct this mistake and allow the BLM to continue to issue contracts to Walter's Camp.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my sincere recommendation that this land to taken out of the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, and that Mr. Dokter's family be allowed to continue such a valuable and productive service to our region. Respectfully, I urge my colleagues' support on final passage.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 417.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. POMBO. 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.

RATHDRUM PRAIRIE/SPOKANE VALLEY AQUIFER STUDY

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 699) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a comprehensive study of the Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Valley Aquifer, located in Idaho and Washington.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 699

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

SECTION 1. COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE RATHDRUM PRAIRIE/SPOKANE VALLEY AQUIFER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the State of Idaho and the State of Washington, shall conduct a comprehensive study of the Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Valley Aquifer for the purpose of preparing a model of the aquifer and establishing for those States a mutually acceptable understanding of the aquifer as a ground water resource.

(b) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report on the findings and conclusions of the study by not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

For conducting the study under this Act there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$3,500,000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) and the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 699, authored by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NETHERCUTT), directs the Secretary of the Interior to work with the State of Idaho and the State of Washington to conduct a comprehensive study for the Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Valley Aquifer by preparing a groundwater model to help establish a mutually acceptable understanding of the aquifer as a groundwater resource. The tools developed by this legislation will help to better coordinate and understand the various factors that influence the quantity and quality of the aquifer and encourage better cooperation between the two States charged with its maintenance operations. I urge adoption of the measure.

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

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

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 699. This bill simply directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the groundwater resources in certain areas of the States of Washington and Idaho. We support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

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

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 699.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. POMBO. 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.

SAN GABRIEL RIVER WATERSHED STUDY ACT

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 519) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the San Gabriel River Watershed, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 519

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

SECTION 1. SAN GABRIEL RIVER WATERSHED STUDY.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "San Gabriel River Watershed Study Act".

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this section referred to as the "Secretary") shall conduct a special resource study of the following areas:

(A) The San Gabriel River and its tributaries north of and including the city of Santa Fe Springs.

(B) The San Gabriel Mountains within the territory of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (as defined in section 32603(c)(1)(C) of the State of California Public Resource Code).

(2) STUDY CONDUCT AND COMPLETION.—Section 8(c) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5(c)) shall apply to the conduct and completion of the study conducted under this section.

(3) CONSULTATION WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—In conducting the study under this section, the Secretary shall consult with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and other appropriate Federal, State, and local governmental entities.

(4) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study under this section, the Secretary shall consider regional flood control and drainage needs and publicly owned infrastructure such as wastewater treatment facilities.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after funds are made available for this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives a report on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from