

Finally, I will include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
Washington, DC, June 14, 2004.

Hon. BILL THOMAS,  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: In recognition of the desire to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 4520, the "American Jobs Creation Act of 2004," the Committee on the Judiciary hereby waives consideration of the bill.

Certain sections of H.R. 4520 contain matters within the Committee on the Judiciary's Rule X jurisdiction: Section 416 (extension of provision allowing disclosure of tax information for law enforcement and terrorism investigation purposes); Section 613 (limitation on tax practitioners' privilege that applied in Federal courts); Section 620 (creation of civil action to enjoin tax shelters); Section 657(b) (increased criminal penalty for failure to register); Section 658 (treatment of court jurisdiction for collection on customs bond); Section 681 (creation of civil action against private collection agents); and Section 691 (study of DHS fees to the extent that it covers fees of components over which the Committee on the Judiciary has jurisdiction). Because of the need to expedite this legislation, I will not seek a sequential referral of this legislation.

The Committee on the Judiciary takes this action with the understanding that the Committee's jurisdiction over these provisions is in no way diminished or altered. I would appreciate your including this letter in your Committee's report on H.R. 4520 and the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
Washington, DC, June 15, 2004.

Hon. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SENSENBRENNER: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4520, the "American Jobs Creation Act of 2004." The Committee on Ways and Means ordered favorably reported, as amended, H.R. 4520, the "American Jobs Creation Act of 2004," on Monday, June 14, 2004. I appreciate your agreement to expedite the passage of this legislation although it contains several judicial and court provisions which are shared with your Committee's jurisdiction. I acknowledge your decision to forego further action on the bill is based on the understanding that it will not prejudice the Committee on the Judiciary with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

Our committees have long collaborated on these important initiatives, and I am very pleased we are continuing that cooperation. Your leadership on judicial issues is critical to the success of this bill. I appreciate your helping us to move this legislation quickly to the floor.

Finally, I will include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter. Thank you for your as-

sistance and cooperation. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,  
Chairman.

□ 1445

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill (H.R. 4568) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes, and that I may include tabular and other extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 674 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4568.

□ 1345

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4568) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes, with Mrs. BIGGERT (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, June 16, 2004, the amendment by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) had been disposed of and the bill was open for amendment from page 77, line 9, through page 139, line 22.

Are there further amendments to this portion of the bill?

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. HINCHEY

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 18 offered by Mr. HINCHEY:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

TITLE V—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to kill, or assist other persons in killing, any bison in the Yellowstone National Park herd.

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Chairman, first I want to thank my good friend,

the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) for cosponsoring this amendment with me. This is an amendment which will protect the Yellowstone bison. The Yellowstone bison are unique, in that they are the last element that traces its genetic strain back to the American bison that roamed the great plains and prairies of America in the early years of our history and of course much before that.

In the 18th century, it is estimated that there were between 20 and 40 million American bison in the Midwest and the West of the United States between the Appalachians and the Rockies.

By the advent of the 20th century that number had dwindled to 25. The American bison was almost extinct, and it almost followed the path of the passenger pigeon, but due to the intervention of conservationists and the efforts of this House, measures were taken to preserve the American bison. As a result of that, their numbers turned around and they began to prosper once again under that protection.

The American bison has become an American icon. It was on one of our coins. It is seen across the country in a variety of ways. It represents the great freedom that was inherent in the vast plains and prairies of America.

But now the American bison, the last genetic strain that traces its history back to those that roamed this country and earlier centuries, is in great danger. It is in great danger as a result of the activities of the Park Service and the harassment of these animals out of Yellowstone National Park, west and northwest of the park and then the capture and slaughter of those animals.

The amendment that the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) and I offer today would restrict funding in this appropriations bill so no money could be used to carry out that capture and slaughtering process for 1 year so we will have an opportunity to look into this situation, examine it closely, see what is being done and understand it better.

Now there are some Members who contend that this slaughter is necessary because bison may transmit brucellosis to cattle on the fringes of Yellowstone. First of all, there are hardly any cattle on the fringes of Yellowstone. And what are there, most of those are trucked in in the summertime when the bison are back in the park. Furthermore, according to the National Academy of Sciences, there has never been one single example of the transmission of brucellosis from bison to cattle. It has never occurred.

Yes, brucellosis can be transmitted from animals in the wild, and it has been shown that brucellosis can be transmitted from elk in Yellowstone and elsewhere to cattle, but there is no program to deal with elk in any way. That causes one to wonder whether brucellosis is really a motivation here at all; I suspect it is not. There is