

that it does pass. Today's bill takes the bare minimum necessary to convey this property to an owner who will have an opportunity to invest in the buildings and restore them to their historical significance.

Prior to the committee's consideration of the bill, we were advised by the Congressional Budget Office that the small area conveyed and the deterioration of the buildings ensures that the bill will not have a significant impact on spending.

I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER), for introducing this good measure and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON), the ranking member, for helping us get it to the floor. I urge my colleagues to adopt this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 5103. Mr. BOUCHER's bill will convey about 6 acres of land within Jefferson National Forest back to the Lutheran Church to allow them to restore and preserve the historic Konnarock Lutheran Girls School in Smyth County, Virginia.

The Lutheran Evangelical Coalition for Missions in the Appalachias has developed a thoughtful plan for the site that includes the restoration and preservation of the building, a retreat center, and an environmental learning center that will work in conjunction with local schools.

This is a worthwhile use of Federal forest land and an excellent project which deserves congressional support.

Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER), the author of the bill.

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

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I want to express my appreciation to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) for moving this measure through the committee and bringing the bill to the House floor today.

The Lutheran Girls School building in Konnarock, Virginia, is a historic structure; and it is presently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was constructed of wood and stone, hewed from the mountains where the building is located during the 1920s, and has graceful architecture that is typical of the rustic buildings constructed during that era.

It was constructed by the Women's Missionary Society of the Lutheran Church in America and was operated by the Lutheran Church as a girls school from the middle 1920s until 1959. At that time the school was closed and the building at that point entered a very long period of disuse.

In 1967 the Forest Service acquired that building as part of a much larger

acquisition of 680 acres, all of which bordered the national forest. Today, the building has fallen into a severe state of disrepair and is in danger of collapse unless substantial remedial work is performed in the very near future.

The bill before us would convey the building and up to 6 acres of lands, the exact amount to be determined by conducting a survey, from the Federal Government and to the Evangelical Lutheran Coalition for Mission in Appalachia. That is an organization that is affiliated with the Lutheran Church.

The Lutheran Coalition intends to restore and renovate the property in a manner consistent with its historic status. Its future use will be as a retreat center for the Lutheran Coalition, and it will be available for use as a retreat center and by other nonprofit entities and faith-based organizations.

The coalition also plans to partner with area colleges to establish exhibits and a learning center for matters relating to the unique mountain environment in which this building is located.

Through this conveyance, we can assure that the restoration and future maintenance of this historic structure will occur. I thank Chairman GOODLATTE and Mr. PETERSON for their work in bringing this bill to the floor. I join with them in urging its approval by the House

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5103, 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.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND TO LAONA AND WABENO, WISCONSIN

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4559) to provide for the conveyance of National Forest System land to the towns of Laona and

Wabeno, Wisconsin, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain isolated parcels of National Forest System land in Florence and Langlade Counties, Wisconsin, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4559

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

#### SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF CHEQUAMEGON-NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST LAND TO TOWNS OF LAONA AND WABENO, WISCONSIN.

(a) CONVEYANCE TO TOWN OF LAONA.—

(1) CONVEYANCE.—At the request of the town of Laona, Wisconsin (referred to in this subsection as the "town"), the Secretary of Agriculture shall convey to the town all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel of National Forest System land in Forest County, Wisconsin, consisting of approximately 176 acres, as further described in paragraph (2), for the purpose of permitting the town to use the parcel as a site for an industrial park and for other purposes.

(2) LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—The parcel of land referred to in paragraph (1) consists of the N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and that part of the W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  lying south of the Rat River, excluding Lot #1 of Forest County Certified Survey Map #157861 and a 100-foot wide former rail road right-of-way running through the W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , all in section 6, township 35 north, range 15 east, Laona Township, Forest County, Wisconsin.

(3) CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the conveyance under this subsection, the town shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to \$300,000, which is the appraised fair market value of the parcel of National Forest System land to be conveyed.

(b) CONVEYANCE TO TOWN OF WABENO.—

(1) CONVEYANCE.—At the request of the town of Wabeno, Wisconsin (referred to in this subsection as the "town"), the Secretary of Agriculture shall convey to the town all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel of National Forest System land in Forest County, Wisconsin, consisting of approximately 173 acres, as further described in paragraph (2), for the purpose of permitting the town to use the parcel as a site for an industrial park and for other purposes.

(2) LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—The parcel of land referred to in paragraph (1) consists of the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and east 17.30 acres of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , excluding a 100-foot wide former rail road right-of-way running through the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  and a 0.02 acre parcel in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , a 0.93 acre parcel in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and a 2.36 acre parcel in the E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  reserved for highway purposes, as described in volume 7, 276-277, Forest County Records, and all in section 7, township 34 north, range 15 east, Wabeno Township, Forest County, Wisconsin.

(3) CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the conveyance under this subsection, the town shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to \$320,000, which is the appraised fair market value of the parcel of National Forest System land to be conveyed.

(c) SURVEY.—If necessary, the exact acreage and legal description of the lands to be conveyed under subsections (a) and (b) shall be determined by surveys satisfactory to the Secretary. The cost of a survey shall be borne by the recipient of the land.

(d) DEPOSIT AND USE OF PROCEEDS.—

(1) DEPOSIT.—The Secretary shall deposit the proceeds from the conveyance of land under this section in the fund established

under Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the Sisk Act; 16 U.S.C. 484a).

(2) USE.—Funds deposited pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation and until expended—

(A) to acquire land and interests in land for inclusion in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin; and

(B) to reimburse costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyances under this section, including the payment of any real estate broker commissions.

(3) ADMINISTRATION.—The lands acquired under paragraph (2)(A) shall be included in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and administered in accordance with the laws applicable to that National Forest.

(e) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the land to be conveyed under this section is withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under the public land laws, mining laws, and mineral leasing laws, including geothermal leasing laws.

(f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyances under this section as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4559. This bill simply provides the Forest Service with the required legislative authority to sell two tracts in Wisconsin to neighboring towns for a set price which the Forest Service and the towns agree represents fair market value.

The intent of the land sale is to spur economic development by providing the towns room to grow and allow the Forest Service to acquire more sensitive lands that have higher natural resource value. The proceeds of these sales will be used by the Forest Service to acquire other higher priority lands in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) for introducing this legislation, and I thank Mr. PETERSON for working with us on the committee to move this legislation forward. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4559. Mr. GREEN's bill would allow the towns of Laona and Wabeno in Wisconsin to purchase two parcels of marginal Forest Service land for development. Those towns, as was noted, suffer from low timber prices and a limited tax base, and this bill is an effort to provide economic development in these communities.

This bill allows the Forest Service to use the proceeds of the sale to buy land

with greater environmental value which will improve the forest. This project is a sensible transfer of Federal forest land, and it deserves congressional support.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and 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 Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4559, 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 provide for the conveyance of certain National Forest System land to the towns of Laona and Wabeno, Wisconsin, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

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#### CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the House amendments to the Senate bill (S. 3525) to amend subpart 2 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve outcomes for children in families affected by methamphetamine abuse and addiction, to reauthorize the promoting safe and stable families program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments to House amendments: In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House amendment to the text of the bill, insert:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006".

##### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) For Federal fiscal year 2004, child protective services (CPS) staff nationwide reported investigating or assessing an estimated 3,000,000 allegations of child maltreatment, and determined that 872,000 children had been abused or neglected by their parents or other caregivers.

(2) Combined, the Child Welfare Services (CWS) and Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) programs provide States about \$700,000,000 per year, the largest source of targeted Federal funding in the child protection system for services to ensure that children are

not abused or neglected and, whenever possible, help children remain safely with their families.

(3) A 2003 report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported that little research is available on the effectiveness of activities supported by CWS funds—evaluations of services supported by PSSF funds have generally shown little or no effect.

(4) Further, the Department of Health and Human Services recently completed initial Child and Family Service Reviews (CFSRs) in each State. No State was in full compliance with all measures of the CSFRs. The CSFRs also revealed that States need to work to prevent repeat abuse and neglect of children, improve services provided to families to reduce the risk of future harm (including by better monitoring the participation of families in services), and strengthen upfront services provided to families to prevent unnecessary family break-up and protect children who remain at home.

(5) Federal policy should encourage States to invest their CWS and PSSF funds in services that promote and protect the welfare of children, support strong, healthy families, and reduce the reliance on out-of-home care, which will help ensure all children are raised in safe, loving families.

(6) CSFRs also found a strong correlation between frequent caseworker visits with children and positive outcomes for these children, such as timely achievement of permanency and other indicators of child well-being.

(7) However, a December 2005 report by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General found that only 20 States were able to produce reports to show whether caseworkers actually visited children in foster care on at least a monthly basis, despite the fact that nearly all States had written standards suggesting monthly visits were State policy.

(8) A 2003 GAO report found that the average tenure for a child welfare caseworker is less than 2 years and this level of turnover negatively affects safety and permanency for children.

(9) Targeting CWS and PSSF funds to ensure children in foster care are visited on at least a monthly basis will promote better outcomes for vulnerable children, including by preventing further abuse and neglect.

(10) According to the Office of Applied Studies of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the annual number of new uses of Methamphetamine, also known as "meth," has increased 72 percent over the past decade. According to a study conducted by the National Association of Counties which surveyed 500 county law enforcement agencies in 45 states, 88 percent of the agencies surveyed reported increases in meth related arrests starting 5 years ago.

(11) According to the 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, nearly 12,000,000 Americans have tried methamphetamine. Meth making operations have been uncovered in all 50 states, but the most wide-spread abuse has been concentrated in the western, southwestern, and Midwestern United States.

(12) Methamphetamine abuse is on the increase, particularly among women of child-bearing age. This is having an impact on child welfare systems in many States. According to a survey administered by the National Association of Counties ("The Impact of Meth on Children"), conducted in 300 counties in 13 states, meth is a major cause of child abuse and neglect. Forty percent of all the child welfare officials in the survey reported an increase in out-of-home placements because of meth in 2005.

(13) It is appropriate also to target PSSF funds to address this issue because of the unique strain the meth epidemic puts on child welfare agencies. Outcomes for children affected by meth are enhanced when services provided by law enforcement, child welfare and substance abuse agencies are integrated.