

education budget to pay for the massive tax cuts for the wealthy. These 10 million young voters, along with their parents and grandparents who share the growing financial burden of higher education, elected a Democratic majority in Congress because they know our party has continually stood for making a college education an affordable goal for all American students.

Mr. Speaker, these families will soon see results. Within the first 100 hours of taking office next January, Democrats will broaden college opportunities for all students.

□ 1015

AMERICANS WANT A CHANGE IN STRATEGY IN IRAQ

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, last week the American people voiced their strong opposition to the handling of the war in Iraq. On the day after the election, it appeared that President Bush had finally gotten the message when he removed Secretary Rumsfeld, the man who bears a great deal of responsibility for the failed Iraq policy. However, there is now some doubt whether the President fully comprehended the magnitude of the quagmire his administration created and continues to defend.

The situation in Iraq is getting worse, not better. October was the deadliest month for American troops in over 2 years, and they continue to play referee in a civil war between the Sunnis and the Shiites.

It is clear after last week's election that the American people want a change in strategy. It is time for the Iraqi people to take control of their country and to stop the sectarian violence that has made it impossible to bring stability to that nation. American troops cannot do it for them. They have got to do it for themselves.

Therefore, it is time to begin redeploying our troops out of Iraq so that we can better protect our Nation. The President's own intelligence agencies say the war in Iraq is making us less safe.

When Democrats take control of Congress next year, we will advocate for a phased redeployment so we can better protect the homeland from terrorist attacks.

DEMOCRATS WILL HIT THE ROAD RUNNING WITH AN AGENDA FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, when Democrats take over the House in January, we are going to hit the road running, moving forward on an agenda that every American should be able to embrace.

Within the first 100 hours, Democrats pledge to bring legislation to the House floor that would increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour to more than 6 million American workers.

We will also give the Secretary of Health and Human Services the ability to negotiate lower drug prices, something that the Republican drug law specifically prohibited.

We will also repeal billions in tax breaks for big oil companies, companies that experienced record profits this summer while they were gouging the American consumer.

Democrats also plan to help college students with skyrocketing college costs by cutting their student loan interest payments in half, something that could save future graduates about \$5,000 over the lifetime of the loan.

All of this, plus fully implementing the 9/11 Commission's recommendations, and we will do that all in the first 100 hours.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

FRANNIE, WYOMING, LAND CONVEYANCE

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 101) to convey to the town of Frannie, Wyoming, certain land withdrawn by the Commissioner of Reclamation.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 101

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

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO THE TOWN OF FRANNIE, WYOMING.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey by quitclaim deed, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel of land described in subsection (b) to the town of Frannie, Wyoming.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcel of land referred to in subsection (a) is the parcel of land withdrawn by the Commissioner of Reclamation—

(1) consisting of approximately 37,500 square feet;

(2) located in the town of Frannie, Wyoming; and

(3) more particularly described in the approved Plat of Survey of Frannie Townsite, Wyoming, as the North ½ of Block 26, T. 58 N., R. 97 W.

(c) RESERVATION OF MINERAL RIGHTS.—The conveyance under subsection (a) shall be subject to the reservation by the United States of any oil and gas rights.

(d) REVOCATIONS.—

(1) SPECIAL USE PERMIT.—The special use permit issued by the Commissioner of Reclamation, numbered O-LM-60-L1413, and dated April 20, 1990, is revoked with respect to the land described in subsection (b).

(2) SECRETARIAL ORDERS.—The following Secretarial Orders issued by the Commissioner of Reclamation are revoked with respect to the land described in subsection (b):

(A) The Secretarial Order for the withdrawal of land for the Shoshone Reclamation Project dated October 21, 1913, as amended.

(B) The Secretarial Order for the withdrawal of land for the Frannie Townsite Reservation dated April 19, 1920.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia.

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

S. 101, introduced by Senator MIKE ENZI, and supported by our Wyoming colleague, BARBARA CUBIN, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey a parcel of land to the town of Frannie, Wyoming. The land in question is less than 1 acre and equates to approximately half a city block.

The Bureau of Reclamation has not used this land for many years, and the town has actually managed it for the last 15 years. As the land is no longer needed for reclamation projects, the town would like to use this land to build a community center.

The Department of the Interior has testified in support of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this noncontroversial bill.

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, the purpose of S. 101 is to convey a small parcel of Federal land to the town of Frannie, Wyoming.

While we do not object to passage of S. 101, we do want to ensure that we address concerns raised at the December 7, 2005, hearing of the Subcommittee on Water and Power regarding the intent of Congress with respect to the ownership of this parcel and the purpose for which it will be used.

Mr. Speaker, I will include in the RECORD at this point two letters received from the town of Frannie by Water and Power Subcommittee Ranking Member GRACE NAPOLITANO.

TOWN OF FRANNIE,

Frannie, WY, December 15, 2005.

Hon. GRACE NAPOLITANO,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE NAPOLITANO: It has come to our attention that there were concerns expressed over the Town of Frannie gaining ownership of federal lands in Frannie Wyoming and then immediately disposing of them. As a smaller governmental entity, we fully understand the concerns on this issue.

One of the unique features in the Town of Frannie is on the NE¼ of Block 26. The Town

of Frannie holds a Bureau of Reclamation 99-year Special Use Permit for our Centennial (Lasting Legacy) Park. In 1990, as a project to commemorate a "Lasting Legacy" of Wyoming's centennial year, the Frannie Elementary students, with community support and help, built this park. The park is a topographical representation of Wyoming with rocks depicting mountain ranges and the pathways are the two main thoroughfares across the state. This children's park holds a special place in the hearts of many of our community members.

Past and present Town Council members have been discussing the use for the NW¼ of Block 26. The need for a large group picnic shelter, a community hall, and a maintenance shop are a few ideas that the councils were considering. Before we can commit to developing these lots for public use, we will first need to gain ownership.

It is our desire to have this land remain open for public use since it is adjacent to our town hall, basketball court, and library. We feel that we would be better managers and protectors of these lots if they were under our care. On July 19, 2000, the Wyoming State Director of the Bureau of Land Management, stated in a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation, "Since BLM feels the parcel is not suitable for return to the public domain and management under the public land and mining laws, and the land is no longer needed for BR purposes, it is recommended a means of disposal of this parcel be sought whereby the Town of Frannie can protect its investment."

We understand the concern with the Town of Frannie turning around and selling the North½ of Block 26. Although we cannot guarantee what future council members' goals and values will be, you can rest assured that the present council and many of our community members desire that this entire block remain intact for the public's use.

We sincerely hope that you will give us your support of S. 101.

Sincerely,

JERRY DART,
Mayor.

TOWN OF FRANNIE
Frannie, WY, July 14, 2006.

Hon. GRACE NAPOLITANO,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water and Power, House Committee on Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER NAPOLITANO: Thank you for your interest in S. 101, a bill to convey land to the Town of Frannie, and for your continued interest in good government. As a local government official, I have a great respect for your desire to see lands conveyed to our town used in a manner that is in the public interest.

I write you today to make clear that the Town of Frannie has no intention of selling the land that the federal government would convey to us if S. 101 is signed into law. It is my understanding that a letter sent by our previous mayor did not clarify what our intention is for that land, and so I hope to ease your concerns that the town may attempt to sell this land in the future. That is not our goal, and we have no desire to sell the land to private individuals.

Half of the land owned by the Bureau of Reclamation holds a portion of the town's Centennial Park. It is our intention to keep that park in place. The Other half of the land contains an American Legion building that is condemned. It is our intention to tear that building down, and it is our dream to build a community center on that land.

We expect the community center to be a place where townspeople can meet for dinners, meetings and other community events because our community does not have such a

gathering facility. Although it is our dream to make this happen, we do not yet want to begin the process of raising the funds if we do not own the land. Although we enjoy our relationship with Bureau of Reclamation, we do not feel comfortable investing what we believe to be substantial dollars if we do not own the land.

Because the federal government no longer uses the land and because the cost of selling the land is more than the value of the land, we believe S. 101 is a win-win situation for our community and for the taxpayers. It is my hope that you will support passage of S. 101 so that we can begin moving forward with our dream to build It community center that will undoubtedly make Frannie a better place for all its citizens.

Sincerely,

MIRIAM ROBERTS,
Mayor, Town of Frannie.

The letters clearly state that it is the intent of the town government that this parcel permanently remain in public ownership and that the land continue to be used as it is presently, that is, for public purposes. We appreciate these assurances by the town of Frannie.

In addition to these assurances, Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of the Interior, in executing the transfer of real property authorized by this act, shall include in the deed or deeds a restriction requiring that the lands remain in public ownership by the town of Frannie and used solely and in perpetuity for public purposes.

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

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 101.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NEW ENGLAND WILDERNESS ACT OF 2006

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 4001) to designate certain land in New England as wilderness for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and certain land as a National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 4001

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "New England Wilderness Act of 2006".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Section 1. Short title; table of contents
Sec. 2. Definition of Secretary

TITLE I—NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sec. 101. Definition of State

Sec. 102. Designation of wilderness areas
Sec. 103. Map and description
Sec. 104. Administration

TITLE II—VERMONT

Sec. 201. Definitions

Subtitle A—Designation of Wilderness Areas

Sec. 211. Designation
Sec. 212. Map and description
Sec. 213. Administration

Subtitle B—Moosalamoo National Recreation Area

Sec. 221. Designation
Sec. 222. Map and description
Sec. 223. Administration of National Recreation Area

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.

In this Act, the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

TITLE I—NEW HAMPSHIRE

SEC. 101. DEFINITION OF STATE.

In this title, the term "State" means the State of New Hampshire.

SEC. 102. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.

In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following Federal land in the State is designated as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 23,700 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Proposed Wild River Wilderness—White Mountain National Forest", dated February 6, 2006, which shall be known as the "Wild River Wilderness".

(2) Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 10,800 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Proposed Sandwich Range Wilderness Additions—White Mountain National Forest", dated February 6, 2006, and which are incorporated in the Sandwich Range Wilderness, as designated by the New Hampshire Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-323; 98 Stat. 259).

SEC. 103. MAP AND DESCRIPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and a legal description of each wilderness area designated by section 102 with the committees of appropriate jurisdiction in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(b) FORCE AND EFFECT.—A map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall be filed and made available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 104. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area designated under this title shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with—

(1) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and
(2) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE OF WILDERNESS ACT.—With respect to any wilderness area designated by this title, any reference in the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this title affects any jurisdiction or responsibility of the State with respect to wildlife and fish in the State.