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TITLE: MAINE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1990

SPEAKER: MR. BRENNAN; Mr. de la GARZA; Mr. MORRISON of Washington; Mr. RHODES; MS. SNOWE; Mr. VENTO

TEXT:

Text that appears in UPPER CASE identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the House on the floor.

[*H7664] Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2205) to designate certain lands in the State of Maine as wilderness.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2205

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 "Maine Wilderness Act of 1990".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.

In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136), certain land in the White Mountain National Forest, in the State of Maine –

(1) which comprise approximately twelve thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness -- Proposed", dated January 1987; and

(2) which shall be known as the Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness,

are hereby designated wilderness, and, therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

SEC. 3. MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS.

As soon as practicable after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal description of the wilderness area designated by this Act with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the Committee on Agriculture of the United States House of Representatives and with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry of the United States Senate. The map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that correction of clerical and typographical errors in such map and description may be made by the Secretary. The map and description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS.

Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness area designated by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness, except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. WILDERNESS REVIEW CONCERNS.

(a) Findings. -- The Congress finds that –

(1) the Department of Agriculture has completed the second roadless area review and evaluation program (RARE II); and

(2) the Congress has made its own review and examination of National Forest System roadless areas in the Maine section of the White Mountain National Forest and of the environmental impacts associated with alternative allocations of such areas.

(b) Determination. -- On the basis of such review, the Congress hereby determines and directs that –

(1) without passing on the question of the legal and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environmental statement (dated January 1979) with respect to National Forest System lands in the State of Maine; such statement shall not be subject to judicial review with respect to National Forest System lands in the State of Maine;

(2) with respect to the National Forest System lands in the State of Maine which were reviewed by the Department of Agriculture in the second roadless area review and evaluation (RARE II) and those lands referred to in subsection (d), that review and evaluation or reference shall be deemed for the purposes of the initial land management plans required for such lands by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, to be an adequate consideration of the suitability of such lands for inclusion in the National

Wilderness Preservation System and the Department of Agriculture shall not be required to review the wilderness option prior to the revisions of the plans, but shall review the wilderness option when the plans are revised, which revisions will ordinarily occur on a ten-year cycle, or at least every fifteen years, unless, prior to such time, the Secretary of Agriculture finds that conditions in a unit have significantly changed;

(3) areas in the State of Maine reviewed in such final environmental statement or referenced in subsection (d) and not designated wilderness upon enactment of this Act shall be managed for multiple use in accordance with land management plans pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976: PROVIDED, That such areas need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of the initial land management plans;

(4) in the event that revised land management plans in the State of Maine are implemented pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law, areas not recommeded for wilderness designation need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of such plans, and areas recommended for wilderness designation shall be managed for the purpose of protecing their suitability for wilderness designation as may be required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law; and

(5) unless expressly authorized by Congress, the Department of Agriculture shall not conduct any further statewide roadless area review and evaluation of National Forest System lands in the State of Maine for the purpose of determining their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

(c) Revision. -- As used in this section, and as provided in section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, the term "revisions" shall not include an "amendment" to a plan.

(d) Application of Section. -- The provisions of this section shall also apply to National Forest System roadless lands in the State of Maine which are less than 5,000 acres in size.

SEC. 6. PROHIBITION ON BUFFER ZONES.

Congress does not intend that the designation of a wilderness area in the State of Maine lead to the creation of protective perimenters or buffer zones around the wilderness area. The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from within the wilderness area shall not, of itself, preclude such activities or uses up to the boundary of the wilderness area.

SEC. 7. CONTROL OF FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASES.

As provided in section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act, such measures may be taken within wilderness areas designated by this Act as may be necessary in the control of fire, insects and diseases, subject to applicable laws and such additional reasonable conditions as the Secretary deems desirable.

SEC. 8. STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY.

As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act, nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State of Maine with respect to wildlife and fish in the National forests in Maine.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, a second is not required on this motion.

The gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. Vento] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. Rhodes] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. Vento].

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may be allowed to yield 10 minutes of my time to be controlled by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. de la Garza], the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture.

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

There was no objection. GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the Senate bill presently under consideration

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 2205, the Maine Wilderness Act, would designate 12,000 acres of the White Mountain National Forest as the Caribou Speckled Mountain Wilderness. Currently, the State of Main has only one designated wilderness area, the 7,000-acre Moosehorn Wilderness in the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge. The Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness would include Rocky Peaks with panoramic views of surrounding valleys, waterfalls, and many species of wildlife, including ruffed grouse,

snowshoe hare, white-tailed deer, black bear, and moose. Brook trout are found in the lower reaches of many streams. This is [*H7665] a bipartisan bill, supported by all Members of Maine's congressional delegation and the administration.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. RHODES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may be allowed to yield 10 minutes of my time to be controlled by the gentleman from Washington [Mr. Morrison] on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will designate 12,000 acres of forest in the White Mountain National Forest as the National Wilderness Preservation System. The proposed wilderness area will include Caribou and Speckled Mountains.

In response to concerns from forest product users and environmentalists, the Forest Service, the Maine delegation, and an ad hoc committee developed H.R. 4145 as a compromise proposal. Selective timber harvesting would be permitted in the remaining 4,000 acres of the White Mountain National Forest where such harvesting is currently prohibited.

The ad hoc committee members consisted of representatives of the wood products industry, environmental groups, multiple use proponents, and State and local officials.

The entire Maine congressional delegation supports this legislation and a companion bill, S. 2205, which was introduced by Senator Mitchell and cosponsored by Senator Cohen.

This bill stands as a tribute of leadership to the gentlewoman Olympia Snowe from Maine.

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

Mr. de la GARZA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2205, the Maine Wilderness Act of 1990, and urge its adoption by the House.

S. 2205, which was introduced by the distinguished majority leader of the Senate, Mr. Mitchell, would designate approximately 12,000 acres of land in the White Mountain National Forest in the State of Maine for inclusion in the National Wilderness

Preservation System. The area, which is to be designated as the Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness, is consistent with the recommendations of the U.S. Forest Service and the administration, which supports this bill.

The lands to be included in this wilderness area are diverse and unique both in their topographical and biological features. In addition, the area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and wild recreational experiences. As such, this area is appropriate for wilderness, which will assure its protection for the benefit of future generations.

I should also note, Mr. Speaker, that S. 2205 includes the standard sufficiency and release language that has been associated with wilderness bills since 1984. This language will provide for the release and subsequent multiple use management of lands that are currently roadless and were subject to study for possible wilderness designation as a part of the Forest Service's land management planning efforts. Approximately 4,000 acres, not designated as wilderness by this bill, are affected.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleagues in the Senate, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Cohen, for their leadership in developing this legislation. They, along with their House colleagues, Ms. Snowe and Mr. Brennan, have worked together to fashion a compromise that will benefit the residents of Maine and others who visit the White Mountain National Forest for many years to come.

I want also to commend the chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Forests, Family Farms, and Energy, Mr. Volkmer, and the chairman of the Public Lands Subcommittee of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Mr. Vento, for moving this legislation forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to support S. 2205.

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

Mr. MORRISON of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Agriculture Committee is pleased to join in the processing of this particular measure. We pay particular credit to the gentlewoman from Maine [Ms. Snowe], who introduced the House version, but as indicated by other speakers, it is supported by the entire Maine delegation.

We add this 12,000 acres to the State of Maine in wilderness designation. They currently have a 7,000-acre wilderness designation, so this is a significant expansion for them. This meets all the criteria that both committees have established for this sort of designation.

So, Mr. Speaker, we congratulate the folks in the State of Maine, and I am pleased to support this measure adding this acreage to the wilderness area of the State of Maine.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would echo the sentiments of the gentleman from Washington [Mr. Morrison] in paying tribute to this work of the gentlewoman from Maine [Ms. Snowe] for crafting this compromise and bringing it before us here today. Unfortunately, she has been delayed on her return from Maine, but I know she would join us in requesting unanimous support for this measure in the House.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I know that the entire Maine delegation, led by the majority leader of the Senate and by the gentlewoman from Maine [Ms. Snowe] and the gentleman from Maine [Mr. Brennan] on the House side, supported this effort, and we appreciate their good work in bringing this measure before us.

MR. BRENNAN. MR. SPEAKER, I RISE TODAY TO EXPRESS MY FULL SUPPORT FOR S. 2205, THE MAINE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1990, A BILL WHICH WILL PROTECT FOREVER 12,000 ACRES OF PRISTINE MAINE FORESTLAND.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK CHAIRMAN VENTO FOR HIS HELP AND SUPPORT, AS WELL AS ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERIOR AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEES FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN BRINGING THIS BILL TO THE FLOOR.

THE MAINE WILDERNESS ACT IS THE PRODUCT OF YEARS OF DELIBERATION AND STUDY.

IT IS THE FINAL RESULT OF AN ONGOING PROCESS THAT BEGAN IN 1983, WHEN I WAS GOVERNOR OF MAINE.

I AM PROUD TO BE HERE TODAY, AND TO JOIN WITH MY COLLEAGUE CONGRESSWOMAN SNOWE IN URGING YOU TO SUPPORT S. 2205.

CARIBOU-SPECKLED MOUNTAIN IS PART OF THE WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST, AND IS ONE OF THE LAST POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS IN THE STATE OF MAINE.

THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS DESIGNATION FOR THE AREA IN 1985.

THE MAINE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION THEN CREATED AN AD HOC COMMITTEE, REPRESENTING ALL CONCERNED PARTIES, INCLUDING THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, AND STATE

AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, TO DEVELOP A CONSENSUS USE PLAN FOR THE REGION.

THE AD HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED A WILDERNESS DESIGNATION, AND A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE COMMITTEE'S DECISION WAS HELD IN BETHEL, ME, IN 1988.

THIS LEGISLATION DEMONSTRATES MAINE'S COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING ITS VALUED TIMBER RESOURCES.

WHILE THE BILL SETS ASIDE 12,000 ACRES FOR WILDERNESS, TO BE UNTOUCHED BY THE HAND OF MAN, 4,000 ADJOINING ACRES WILL BE RELEASED FOR MIXED USES, INCLUDING SOME LOGGING.

THIS COMPROMISE, FULLY SUPPORTED BY BOTH INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES, AS WELL AS ALL FOUR MEMBERS OF THE MAINE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, PROMISES BOTH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, AND CONTINUING ACCESS TO PUBLIC TIMBER.

CARIBOU-SPECKLED MOUNTAIN IS ONE OF THE MOST SCENIC AREAS IN THE STATE OF MAINE -- A STATE JUSTIFIABLY FAMOUS FOR ITS NATURAL BEAUTY, AND SCENIC LANDSCAPES.

THE MAINE WILDERNESS ACT WILL KEEP THIS PRISTINE AREA UNTOUCHED, SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS MAY TRULY APPRECIATE THE GIFT THAT IS MAINE'S NATURAL HERITAGE.

I ASK YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS CAREFULLY DRAFTED, CONSERVATION-MINDED BILL.

MS. SNOWE. MR. SPEAKER, I AM VERY HAPPY TO RISE TODAY IN SUPPORT OF S. 2205, THE MAINE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1990. THIS LEGISLATION WILL DESIGNATE 12,000 ACRES OF PRISTINE FOREST IN THE WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST AS PART OF THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM.

THE PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREA WILL INCLUDE CARIBOU AND SPECKLED MOUNTAINS AND IS ONE OF THE MOST SCENIC AND BREATHTAKING LOCATIONS [*H7666] IN THE STATE OF MAINE. I URGE MY COLLEAGUES TO JOIN ME IN SUPPORT OF FINAL PASSAGE OF S. 2205.

FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VENTO AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBER MARLENEE AS WELL AS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN UDALL AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBER YOUNG. I ALSO OWE MY APPRECIATION TO SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VOLKMER AND

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER MORRISON AS WELL AS CHAIRMAN DE LA GARZA AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBER MADIGAN OF THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE. THEIR LEADERSHIP, AND THE ASSISTANCE OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THE COMMITTEE STAFFS, WAS TRULY GRATIFYING.

THIS LEGISLATION HAS THE BACKING OF THE ENTIRE MAINE DELEGATION. WE DID NOT ARRIVE AT THIS INTRODUCTION LIGHTLY. SEVERAL YEARS OF THOROUGH REVIEW AND STUDY BY THE PEOPLE OF MAINE, AS WELL AS THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE, PRECEDED THIS LEGISLATION.

CURRENTLY, THERE ARE NO FEDERALLY DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS AREAS IN MAINE -- NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT OVER 90 PERCENT OF THE STATE IS FORESTED. ONLY BAXTER STATE PARK AND THE MOOSEHORN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE HAVE PRESERVED LARGE TRACTS OF LAND IN A NATURAL STATE. FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND ACRES OF THE WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST ARE LOCATED IN MAINE AND THE 16,000 ACRES IN THE CARIBOU-SPECKLED MOUNTAIN AREA REPRESENT THE ONLY FEDERAL LAND CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.

POSSIBLE CREATION OF A CARIBOU-SPECKLED MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS AREA FIRST SURFACED IN CONGRESS BACK IN 1983. AT THAT TIME, PORTIONS OF THE WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST IN MAINE WERE INCLUDED IN A BILL TO CREATE WILDERNESS AREAS IN THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PORTION OF THE FOREST. HOWEVER, NO HEARINGS HAD BEEN CONDUCTED ON THE MAINE LANDS PROPOSAL.

SINCE THERE HAD BEEN NO OPPORTUNITY TO EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL ON OUR STATE, I ASKED THAT THE MAINE LANDS BE REMOVED FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE BILL SO THAT AN EVALUATION BY THE PEOPLE MOST AFFECTED COULD PROCEED.

FROM THAT POINT, THE MAINE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION BEGAN A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE LAND, THE NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF MAINE PEOPLE, AND THE OPTIONS THAT MIGHT EXIST. WE ASKED THE FOREST SERVICE TO STUDY THE CARIBOU-SPECKLED AREA AND PROVIDE A LIST OF MANAGEMENT OPTIONS.

AFTER A STUDY, THE FOREST SERVICE RECOMMENDED THAT 12,000 OF THE 16,000 ACRE CARIBOU-SPECKLED MOUNTAIN AREA BE DESIGNATED AS WILDERNESS. THE REMAINING 4,000 ACRES WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR TIMBER HARVESTING.

THIS FOREST SERVICE DECISION WAS BASED UPON EXTENSIVE REVIEW OF THE AREA'S RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL VALUES. OF PARTICULAR NOTE IN THE STUDY WAS THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR WILDERNESS-RELATED RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES ON PUBLIC LAND. THE CARIBOU-SPECKLED MOUNTAIN AREA IS PARTICULARLY POPULAR WITH HIKERS AND CAMPERS WHO VISIT THE WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST IN MAINE. IT REPRESENTS ONE OF THE LAST, LARGE UNDEVELOPED TRACTS IN THAT AREA OF MAINE.

ACCORDING TO THE FOREST SERVICE STUDY, APPROXIMATELY 4,000 ACRES OF THE AREA IS SUITABLE FOR COMMERCIAL TIMBER HARVESTING. MOST OF THE SIGNIFICANT TIMBER HARVEST AREAS WILL BE RELEASED UNDER H.R. 4145. THE FOREST SERVICE CONCLUDED THAT "ELIMINATING TIMBER HARVESTING FROM THE 12,000 ACRE AREA WOULD HAVE NO DISCERNIBLE EFFECT ON LOCAL WOOD USING INDUSTRIES."

AS PART OF OUR EFFORTS TO INCLUDE THE WIDEST POSSIBLE RANGE OF VIEWPOINTS, THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION APPOINTED AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE FOREST SERVICE PROPOSAL. THIS COMMITTEE WAS COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION GROUPS, LANDOWNERS, LUMBER MILL OWNERS, AND STATE AND LOCAL OFFICALS.

ON DECEMBER 20, 1984, IN ITS FINAL OF FOUR MEETINGS, THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ENDORSED BY A 9-TO-2 VOTE A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL THAT WOULD DESIGNATE 12,000 ACRES AS PERMANENT WILDERNESS. SELECTIVE TIMBER HARVESTING WOULD BE PERMITTED IN THE REMAINING 4,000 ACRES OF THE WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST WHERE SUCH HARVESTING IS CURRENTLY PROHIBITED.

ON NOVEMBER 14, 1987, THE MAINE DELEGATION HELD AN OPEN HEARING IN BETHEL, ME, ON THE 12,000 ACRE WILDERNESS PROPOSAL. DURING THIS HEARING, CONCERNED CITIZENS WERE ABLE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS AND HAVE THEIR QUESTIONS ANSWERED REGARDING THE WILDERNESS PROPOSAL. EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS RAISED DURING, AND SUBSEQUENT TO, THE HEARING. THIS WILDERNESS LEGISLATION REPRESENTS AN OPTIMAL COMPROMISE OF THESE INTERESTED PARTIES.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO STRESS THE FACT THAT THE FOREST SERVICE HAS HELD 16,000 ACRES OF THE WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST UNDER A DE FACTO WILDERNESS STATUS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO TIMBER SALES IN THIS AREA IN OVER 20 YEARS AND THE MAJORITY OF THE CARIBOU-SPECKLED MOUNTAIN AREA HAS NOT BEEN CUT IN OVER 50 YEARS. ENACTMENT OF S. 2205 WOULD ACTUALLY RELEASE 4,000 ACRES OF

TIMBER FOR HARVESTING THAT IS CURRENTLY PROHIBITED UNDER EXISTING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES. I

N S. 2205 WE HAVE ATTEMPTED, AND I BELIEVE SUCCEEDED IN, ACCOMMODATING LOCAL CONCERNS. IN FACT, THE MAINE DELEGATION HAS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO BALANCE THE NEEDS OF THE WOOD PRODUCT INDUSTRY AND MULTIPLE USE PROPONENTS WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS THAT SOME LAND BE PROTECTED FOR FUTURE ENJOYMENT.

MR. SPEAKER, I AM PROUD OF MAINE'S REPUTATION AS A LEADER IN PROTECTING ITS PRECIOUS ENVIRONMENT. THE MAINE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1990 REITERATES OUR COMMITMENT TO PRESERVE PORTIONS OF THIS ENVIRONMENT FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS. I ASK MY COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT THE MAINE WILDERNESS ACT.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. Vento] that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2205.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.