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TITLE: PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 974 NEVADA WILDERNESS PROTECTION ACT OF 1989

SPEAKER: Mr. DERRICK; Mr. QUILLEN

TEXT: [*H8825] Mr. DERRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 289 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 289

RESOLVED, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (S. 974) to designate certain lands in the State of Nevada as wilderness, and for other purposes, and the first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with the provisions of clause 2(l)(6) of rule XI are hereby waived. After general debate, which shall be confined to the bill and which shall not exceed one hour, with thirty minutes to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, and with thirty minutes to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule and each section shall be considered as having been read. At the conclusion of the consideration of the bill for amendment, the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted, and the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. Derrick] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DERRICK. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. Quillen], and pending that I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. DERRICK. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 289 is a rule providing for the consideration of S. 974. This is a bill that would designate wilderness in the State of Nevada and release national forest lands not designated as wilderness for consideration for nonwilderness, multiple uses.

House Resolution 289 is an open rule. The rule waives all points of order against S. 974 for failure to comply with the provisions of clause 2(l)(6) of rule XI. This clause would prohibit the consideration of any measure until the report on that measure has been available to Members of the House for 3 calendar days.

The rule further provides for 1 hour of general debate on this measure, with 30 minutes to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and 30 minutes to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture.

As is usually the case with an open rule, House Resolution 289 provides that S. 974 will be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule with each section considered as having been read.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for one motion to recommit S. 974.

Mr. Speaker, as noted at the beginning of my statement, this rule provides for the consideration of a bill that would designate certain lands in Nevada as wilderness and would release national forest lands not designated as wilderness for other uses.

No wilderness legislation for lands in Nevada has been introduced since 1964. As a result, Nevada is one of three Western States without a statewide wilderness act. This means that the Forest Service cannot proceed in its plan to manage roadless lands, that industrial projects and developments are delayed indefinitely, and that high quality wildlands remain vulnerable to environmental degradation.

S. 974 seeks to address this problem by protecting the wilderness value of some of these lands while allowing the rest to be managed for other uses.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 289 is a straightforward, open rule for a measure that deserves enactment. I urge my colleagues to adopt this rule.

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

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

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

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. Derrick], has ably described the provisions of this rule. I will not repeat them.

I would like to commend the chairman and the ranking Republican member of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. Udall], and the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. Young] for all their work in putting this legislation together. It is never easy to balance the competing interests that are affected by these wilderness bills.

There is one problem that has caused me concern about a number of these wilderness bills and it seems to be a factor here as well. I note that there are dissenting views signed by 15 members and the first name on the list is the gentlewoman from Nevada [Mrs. Vucanovich]. On a number of these wilderness bills, we have seen the Representatives of the area affected not being given the full amount of consideration they are due. Too often it is the will of a lot of outside interests being imposed on the citizens who are most affected, namely those who live in the area where new wilderness is being set aside. It is very easy to be a do-gooder when we are imposing burdens on citizens other than those we represent. But we need to pay more attention to the welfare of those most impacted by our actions.

I should note that the administration supports this bill if it is amended to delete or modify specified provisions.

This open rule will allow the House to make any necessary improvements in the bill. I will support this rule so that the House may get down to business and move this legislation.

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

Mr. DERRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Murtha). The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.