

her assistance in moving the bill and her help in fashioning it.

Mr. Speaker, I will not take too long. This is a technical corrections bill. While it is important work, there is no reason to spend a great deal of time on it. The purpose of H.R. 3412 is to make certain technical amendments to title III of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958. Title III authorizes the Small Business Investment Company program. The small business investment companies are venture capital firms licensed by the Small Business Administration that use SBA guarantees to leverage private capital for investment in small businesses. The technical corrections proposed by H.R. 3412, as amended, will improve the flexibility of the SBIC program and allow increased access to this program by small businesses.

Congress revamped the SBIC program during the 103rd Congress to provide for a new form of leverage geared specifically toward equity investment in small businesses. Over the past few years as the new program has become established, certain deficiencies have come to light. In addition, certain statutory provisions have become obsolete. Moreover, the nature of the SBIC industry has changed. The result is a participating securities program that is made up primarily of smaller SBICs. The fact that these smaller SBICs are dominating the program points to shifting dynamics in the SBIC program. Smaller, start-up investments are more typical, and therefore the demand for SBA leverage has shifted to smaller individual placements.

H.R. 3412 seeks to correct these deficiencies and remove provisions that may produce confusion due to changes in law and the character of the SBIC program. Under H.R. 3412, a provision in the Small Business Investment Act that reserves leverage for smaller SBICs will be repealed. Changes in SBA policy regarding applications for leverage, statutory changes in the availability of commitments for SBICs and the makeup of the industry present the possibility that that provision may, unless repealed, create conflicts and confusion.

H.R. 3412 also modifies the test for determining the eligibility of small businesses for SBIC financing. Current statutory language does not account for small businesses organized in pass-through tax structures such as S corporations, limited liability companies, and certain partnerships. These small businesses do not pay taxes at the enterprise level, but instead pass through income and the ensuing tax liabilities to their partners and shareholders. Consequently, many of these small businesses face difficulties when the income test is applied to them, and are often declared ineligible for financing they should receive.

Finally, H.R. 3412 will allow the SBA greater flexibility in issuing trust certificates to finance the SBIC program's investments in small businesses. Cur-

rent law allows funding pools to be issued every 6 months or more frequently. This inhibits the ability of the SBICs and the SBA to form pools of certificates that are large enough to generate serious investor interest. Allowing more time between fundings will permit SBA and the industry to form larger pools for sale in the market, thereby increasing investor interest and improving the interest rates for the small businesses financed.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3412. I would like to thank the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Small Business for bringing this legislation to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which makes corrections to the Small Business Investment Act and the Small Business Investment Company Program.

There is no question that the value of small business investment companies has been felt across this Nation. SBICs have invested nearly \$15 billion in long-term debt and equity capital to over 90,000 small businesses. Over the years, SBICs have given companies like Intel Corporation, Federal Express and America Online the push they needed to succeed. The result has been the creation of millions of jobs and billions of dollars in tax revenue. The bill before us today expands on that legacy by taking a good program and making it better.

The passage of H.R. 3412 will make the SBIC program even more efficient and responsive to the needs of small entrepreneurs. The changes made by this legislation will serve a number of important purposes. By giving the SBIC program greater flexibility in issuing investment guarantees, small businesses will be assured lower interest rates.

Second, H.R. 3412 clarifies SBA's role in ensuring equitable distribution and management of its participating securities to SBICs of all sizes. Finally, the bill confirms that small businesses, regardless of their chosen business form, are eligible for SBIC financing.

These changes are part of an ongoing process that will enable us to provide creative financing to more small businesses more efficiently. Last year alone SBICs invested over \$2.4 billion in over 2,500 small businesses. This bill will allow us to expand the scope of the SBIC program even further, allowing us to create more jobs and provide even greater economic opportunity to our Nation's small entrepreneurs.

I am pleased to join the distinguished chairman in support of the proposed corrections, and I am happy to be a co-sponsor of this legislation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3412.

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

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. This bill will have a real impact on the businesses in this country seeking start-up financing. At the end of the day, that is the most important part of our job. Let me again thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and her staff, Michael Day and Salomon Torres, for their assistance in moving this measure before us. Let me also extend my appreciation to my staff, particularly Emily Murphy, Harry Katrichis and Tee Rowe. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3412.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3412, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LANDS AND IMPROVEMENTS IN VIRGINIA

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3226) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands and improvements in the State of Virginia, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3226

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

SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other lands in the George Washington National Forest and the Jefferson National Forest, and to use the value derived therefrom to acquire a replacement site and to construct on the site suitable improvements for national forest administrative purposes.

SEC. 2. SALE OR EXCHANGE OF LAND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, sell or exchange any or all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the approximately 368 acres contained in the following tracts of land situated in the State of Virginia:

(1) Tract J-1665 (approximately 101 acres), as shown on the map titled "Natural Bridge Juvenile Corrections Center, February 4, 1998".

(2) Tract G-1312a (approximately 214 acres), Tract G-1312b (approximately 2 acres), and Tract G1312a-I (approximately 10 acres), as shown on the plat titled "George Washington National Forest, Alleghany Construction Company, (1312a,-I,b), Alleghany County, Virginia, June 1936".

(3) Tract G-1709 (approximately 23 acres), as shown on the plat titled "James C. Doyle, Alleghany County, Virginia, April 13, 1993".

(4) Tract G-1360 (consisting of Lots 31 and 32; approximately .29 acres), Tract G-1361

(consisting of Lots 29 and 30; approximately .29 acres), Tract G-1362 (consisting of Lots 22, 23, and 24; approximately .43 acres), and Tract G-1363 (consisting of Lot 21; approximately .14 acres), as shown on the plat titled "Dry River Road, George Washington National Forest, Warehouse Site, Bridgewater, Rockingham County, Virginia, July 1936".

(5) Tract G-1524 (consisting of Lot 13; approximately .13 acres), as shown on the plat titled "Vertie E. Beery Tract, Rockingham County, Virginia, February 3, 1966".

(6) Tract G-1525 (consisting of Lots 11 and 12; approximately .26 acres), as shown on the plat titled "Charles F. Simmons Tract 1525, Rockingham County, Virginia, February 3, 1966".

(7) Tract G-1486 (consisting of Lots 14, 15, and 16; approximately .39 acres), as shown on the plat shown at Deed Book 133, Page 341 Rockingham Virginia Records of the D.S. Thomas Inc. Addition, Town of Bridgewater.

(8) Tract N-123a (consisting of Lots 7 and 8; approximately .287 acres), as shown on the plat titled "George Washington Forest. A.M. Rucker, Tract N-123a, Buena Vista, Virginia".

(9) Tract N-123b (consisting of Lots 5 and 6; approximately .287 acres), as shown on the plat titled "George Washington Unit, A.M. Rucker, N-123b, Rockbridge County, Virginia, city of Buena Vista, dated 1942".

(10) Tract G-1417 (approximately 1.2 acres), as shown on the plat titled "George Washington Unit, R.A. Warren, Tracts (1417-1417a), Bath County, Virginia, May 1940".

(11) Tract G-1520 (approximately 1 acre), as shown on the plat titled "Samuel J. Snead Tract, Bath County, Virginia, February 3, 1966".

(12) Tract G-1522a (approximately .65 acres), as shown on the plat titled "Charles N. Loving Tract, Bath County, Virginia, February 3, 1966".

(13) Tract G-1582 (approximately .86 acres), as shown on the plat titled "Willie I. Haynes Tract, Bath County, Virginia, January 1974".

(14) Tract G-1582a (approximately .62 acres), as shown on the plat titled "Willie I. Haynes, Bath County, Virginia, January 1979".

(15) Tract G-1673 (approximately 1.69 acres), as shown on the plat titled "Erwin S. Solomon Tract, Bath County, Virginia, September 15, 1970".

(16) Tract J-1497 (approximately 2.66 acres), as shown on the plat titled "James A. Williams, Tract 1497, January 24, 1990".

(17) Tract J-1652 (approximately 1.64 acres), as shown on the plat titled "United States of America, Tract J-1652, Buchanan Magisterial District, Botetourt County, Virginia, September 4, 1996".

(18) Tract J-1653 (approximately 5.08 acres), as shown on the plat titled "United States of America, Tract J-1653, Peaks Magisterial District, Bedford County, Virginia, November 4, 1996".

The Secretary may acquire land, and existing or future administrative improvements, in consideration for the conveyance of the lands designated in this subsection.

(b) **APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES.**—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, any sale or exchange of all or a portion of the lands designated in subsection (a) shall be subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the conveyance and acquisition of lands for National Forest System purposes.

(c) **CASH EQUALIZATION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may accept cash equalization payments in excess of 25 percent of the total value of the lands designated in subsection (a) from any exchange authorized by subsection (a).

(d) **SOLICITATIONS OF OFFERS.**—In carrying out this Act, the Secretary may use public

or private solicitations of offers for sale or exchange on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe. The Secretary may reject any offer if the Secretary determines that the offer is not adequate or not in the public interest.

SEC. 3. DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.

Any funds received by the Secretary through sale or by cash equalization from an exchange shall be deposited into the fund provided by the Act of December 4, 1967 (16 U.S.C. 484a), commonly known as the Sisk Act, and shall be available for expenditure, upon appropriation, for—

(1) the acquisition of lands, and interests in the lands, in the State of Virginia; and

(2) the acquisition or construction of administrative improvements in connection with the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3226, my bill to convey administrative and other lands in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests and to utilize the value derived therefrom to acquire replacement sites, where appropriate, and suitable improvements for national forest administrative purposes.

H.R. 3226 grants authority for the Forest Service to sell 200 acres of land adjacent to U.S. Interstate 64 to the Allegheny Highlands Economic Development Authority for purposes of developing a corporate area catering to high tech companies.

□ 1550

It will be named Innovation Park. Innovation Park should prove to have a positive economic impact by bringing high-tech jobs to those living in the rural areas. This project will not only address a need for good high-paying jobs but also for additional transportation, water, and wastewater system development and improvement.

An environmental impact review is currently underway. Preliminary results indicate that Innovation Park will not adversely impact any habitats for plant or animal life. A public notice of environmental assessment was issued in January and not a single complaint has been registered.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that I have had the opportunity to visit this site in Allegheny County in my congressional district. It is an ideal location for a transfer of land from the National Forest Service to this economic development authority because this land is not contiguous with any other land in the national forest and it is located in a place where it is particularly suitable for economic development, right along an interstate highway.

The plans for this particular park are very exciting for this area of my district, which is a rural area and which needs to have the kind of high-tech

jobs that this park we think will draw to the Allegheny Highlands, one of the most beautiful areas in the entire country, one that has a very high quality of life and is in need of higher-paying jobs.

My bill also transfers the Natural Bridge Juvenile Correction Center from the Forest Service to the Commonwealth of Virginia, along with nearly 20 other administrative land tracts or land tracts that lost their natural forest character because of proximity to interstate highways. The largest of these tracts is 1.69 acres, but the majority of them are about a third of an acre. They are either residential sites, vacant lots or the lands are not manageable as forestlands and are no longer necessary for administrative purposes.

The Forest Service does not object to the land transfers and has been very cooperative in this attempt to gain transfer authority. They believe that the property included in my bill is more conducive to economic development than forest management and therefore are anxious to remove it from their need to manage inventory.

I would like to offer special recognition to Glynn Loope, the executive director of the Economic Development Authority. The Innovation Park project would not have made it as far as it has without his perseverance and enthusiasm.

This is just the first step in a long journey to bring major economic and high-tech development to the Allegheny Highlands as well as the greater Rockbridge area, Bath, Botetourt, and Craig counties in Virginia. I am proud to sponsor and support this bill. I am confident of its success and look forward to being of continued assistance to the Innovation Park project.

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

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of H.R. 3226 authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands and improvements in the State of Virginia. I would like to begin by commending the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) for his leadership and hard work on this legislation. This bill will clear the way for George Washington and Jefferson National Forests to sell 368 acres to the Commonwealth of Virginia in exchange for cash and land. All sales or exchanges would be for fair market value.

The Natural Bridge Juvenile Correctional Center is located in Rockbridge County. It has been under the maintenance and supervision of the Commonwealth since 1964 and, having seen that facility, in my opinion it is highly appropriate that it be conveyed to the Commonwealth.

This legislation also authorizes the sale of over 200 acres along Interstate 64. This tract will be sold to the Allegheny Highland Economic Development Authority which will develop the

land into a separate area called Innovative Park. Additionally, this bill authorizes the sale of several other small tracts of land which are close to I-64 and which have lost their natural forest characteristics. The proceeds from the sale will be used for the acquisition of other lands in Virginia that still have forest characteristics.

The George Washington National Forest, the Jefferson National Forest and the U.S. Forest Service have expressed their support for this legislation. I strongly support the measure and urge its passage by the House.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume simply to thank my colleague from my neighboring district for his support for this legislation, which hopefully will also yield some benefits further across the State to his district as well. This is something that is responsible use of National Forest Service land and good for economic development in Virginia, it is something that has the strong support of the National Forest Service, and I urge my colleagues to adopt this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). 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. 3226.

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

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 H.R. 3226, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

CORRECTIONS CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is the day for the call of the Corrections Calendar.

The Clerk will call the bill on the Corrections Calendar.

CORRECTING A PROVISION RELATING TO TERMINATION OF BENEFITS FOR CONVICTED PERSONS

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 3096) to correct a provision relating to termination of benefits for convicted persons.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 3096

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

SECTION 1. CORRECTION.

Section 8148(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "a receipt" and inserting "or receipt".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) each will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD).

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

The subject of H.R. 3096 is the Federal Employees Compensation Act. The Federal Employees Compensation Act is a good statute, it is an important one, it makes sure that when Federal employees are injured in the line of work that their lost wages are made up by the Federal Government and that their medical bills are paid for. It is a program that has been in place for a long time and it is one that we need to have, of course.

There are some problems with this program in my view. We are now spending \$1.9 billion a year to pay for the costs of 270,000 Federal workers. There are some changes that I will propose at a future date. We had a hearing on those changes this morning. But today, for Corrections Day, we are considering H.R. 3096, which unlike some of the other more controversial changes that I will propose, is noncontroversial and enjoys bipartisan support.

The loophole that we are trying to close with this Corrections Day Calendar has to do with the following:

Under the current law, if an individual files a valid claim for an injury during the course of Federal employment and then subsequently files a false claim or false follow-up information and is convicted and may even go to jail, under that scenario that individual can still, believe it or not, receive every 4 weeks a Federal workers' compensation check from the very funds supported by the taxpayers that that individual has defrauded.

We are going to simply change one word, change the word "a" to "or" so that we make sure that an individual will be ineligible to receive workers' compensation funds whether they had committed the initial fraud at the first claim or any subsequent fraud thereafter.

It is a good bill, it is an important thing to do to make the system have a bit more integrity. It has bipartisan support. It is supported by the Department of Labor and the Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General, and I would urge an aye vote.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD), the sponsor of H.R. 3096, and the Inspector General of the Department of Labor who recommended that we make this correction to the

statute. The statute as presently drafted and the parallel language in the Federal Criminal Code differ, creating a discrepancy in the law which could have been interpreted to allow persons to receive FECA benefits on the basis of fraudulent information. The legislation before us makes a minor technical correction, changing an "a" to an "or." This will ensure that persons who commit fraud and the receipt of FECA benefits would lose their entitlements to such benefits.

I am pleased to support this legislation and again I commend the sponsor, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD), for bringing it before us.

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

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP).

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Corrections Advisory Group, I rise today in full support of the legislation of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD), H.R. 3096. This is truly a technical correction, and it is fitting for the bill to be considered on the Corrections Calendar.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's laws are complex and sometimes confusing, and when someone interprets the law, one word can make a difference. In this case, the inconsistent use of one word and the thousands of words that make up our laws called into question the law's application to certain individuals.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) recognized this inconsistency and quickly acted to make a change. He contacted the Corrections Advisory Group, which moved to correct the problem. The bill ensures that no Federal employee can lie on a benefit application or any subsequent request for information and get away with it.

The Corrections Calendar was created to fix small, technical corrections such as this, and I am pleased the bill has made its way to the House floor so quickly.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for introducing this bill and for utilizing the Corrections Advisory Group, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) for his bipartisan support of this legislation. I want to thank the full committee chairman, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), and the Subcommittee on Workforce Protection chairman, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER), for their support of H.R. 3096 and for moving it so quickly through the committee. I would also like to again express my appreciation to the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), as well as the Members on both sides of the aisle and, as well, the Corrections Day committee for their support of H.R. 3096.