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DENALI NATIONAL PARK IMPROVEMENT ACT

SEPTEMBER 10, 2013.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Natural Resources, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 157]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (S. 157) to provide for certain improvements to the Denali National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of S. 157 is to provide for certain improvements to the Denali National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

S. 157 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue right-of-way permits for a natural gas transmission pipeline within Denali National Park, authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue permits for a micro hydroelectric project within Denali National Park and Preserve, exchange land managed by Denali National Park and Preserve with land owned by Doyon Tourism, Inc., and rename the Talkeetna Ranger Station in Talkeetna, Alaska, in honor of Walter Harper.

Electricity in south-central Alaska is largely generated by burning natural gas produced from the gas fields in Cook Inlet, south of Anchorage, although production from Cook Inlet has been declining. There are concerns regarding the region's ability to produce sufficient gas to support the area's electricity and home heating needs. Plans for a large-volume natural gas pipeline to run from the Prudhoe Bay oil fields to the Lower 48 States may not be finished in time to provide needed gas to south-central Alaska. There-

fore, Alaska is considering investing in a pipeline to meet medium-term in-state demand.

The pipeline would run from Alaska's North Slope region, past Fairbanks, through the Nenana River Canyon and, as authorized by S. 157, through Denali National Park and Preserve following the existing highway, seven miles of which pass through the park. The proposed pipeline makes use of the current highway right-of-way. Using that right-of-way would prevent impacts on wildlife in lands immediately adjacent to the park and would provide natural gas for use in park facilities and vehicles, currently powered by diesel-turbine power sources.

To further the purposes of S. 157, the Committee strongly urges that the requirement for the simultaneous filing of an application by section 1104(c) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3164(c)) apply only to the portion of the applicant's high-pressure natural gas transmission pipeline that is within the boundary of Denali National Park.

The Kantishna Roadhouse is owned by Doyon Tourism, Inc., a subsidiary of the Alaska Native Corporation Doyon, Ltd. It is a full-service lodge located 92 miles inside Denali National Park and Preserve at the end of the Denali Park Road. The Roadhouse, like many structures within Denali National Park, is entirely off the grid and generates all of its electricity needs with a diesel generator. As a result, diesel must be trucked using the Denali Park Road. S. 157 would authorize the permitting of a micro hydroelectric project that would allow the Roadhouse to reduce its diesel use and transport by approximately 50 percent.

The proposed microhydro generator would be supplied by Eureka Creek, a four-mile-long stream. Some water from the creek would be diverted through an at-grade water intake with a conduit to carry water downhill to the generator housed in one of Doyon Tourism's buildings. An electrical distribution line would carry the electricity to the Roadhouse, about 600 feet from the microhydro generator. A battery bank would store surplus electricity to accommodate peak power demands and maintenance shut-downs of the generator. S. 157 would authorize the Secretary to issue permits for other microhydro projects in the Kantishna Hills area subject to applicable National Park Service terms and conditions. S. 157 also authorizes a land exchange between Denali National Park and Doyon Tourism, Inc., for the purpose of consolidating land holdings for both the Park and Doyon.

The Talkeetna Ranger Station is located approximately 100 miles from the south entrance to Denali National Park and Preserve and is the headquarters for the Park's mountaineering rangers. All climbing expeditions to Mt. McKinley and Mt. Foraker obtain permits and mountain orientation at this Ranger Station. S. 157 will rename the Talkeetna Ranger Station in honor of Alaskan Native Walter Harper. Nearly 100 years ago, Harper set out to reach the summit of Mount McKinley in the Alaskan Range. After a three-month journey from Fairbanks, Walter Harper became the first person to set foot on top of North America's tallest peak on June 7, 1913.

COMMITTEE ACTION

S. 157 was introduced on January 28, 2013, by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R–AK). On June 19, 2013, the bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent without amendment. The bill was then referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation. On May 9, 2013, the Subcommittee held a hearing on identical House companion bill (H.R. 586), sponsored by Congressman Don Young (R–AK). On July 24, 2013, the Full Resources Committee met to consider S. 157. The Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation was discharged by unanimous consent. No amendments were offered and the bill was adopted and ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(2)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

S. 157—Denali National Park Improvement Act

Based on information provided by the National Park Service (NPS), CBO estimates that implementing S. 157 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The act would:

- Authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue permits for microhydroelectric projects in the Kantishna Hills area of the Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska;
- Authorize an exchange of land between the Department of the Interior and Doyon Tourism, Inc.;
- Authorize the NPS to issue permits to construct a natural gas pipeline in the Denali National Park; and
- Redesignate the Talkeetna Ranger Station as the Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station.

Enacting S. 157 could increase offsetting receipts (from permit fees) and associated direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. If potential owners or operators of a pipeline seek permits from the NPS, the agency could collect a fee to recover any costs associated with issuing such permits. NPS would retain and spend those amounts to process the permit without further appro-

priation, and any excess receipts would be deposited in the Treasury. CBO estimates that the total collections under the legislation would be insignificant over the 2014–2023 period, and the net effect on direct spending would be negligible. Enacting the legislation would not affect revenues.

S. 157 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On April 1, 2013, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 157, the Denali National Park Improvement Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on March 14, 2013. The two versions of the legislation are identical, and the CBO cost estimates are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Martin von Gnechten. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

2. Section 308(a) of Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures. CBO estimates that the total collections under the legislation would be insignificant over the 2014–2023 period, and the net effect on direct spending would be negligible.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to provide for certain improvements to the Denali National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska.

EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104–4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

COMPLIANCE WITH H. RES. 5

Directed Rule Making. The Chairman does not believe that this bill directs any executive branch official to conduct any specific rule-making proceedings.

Duplication of Existing Programs. This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program. Such program was not included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (Public Law 95–220, as amended by Public Law 98–169) as relating to other programs.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes in existing law.

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