AMENDMENT TO H.R. 6355
OFFERED BY MR. WESTERMAN OF ARKANSAS

Beginning at page 2, strike line 1 and all that follows through page 4, line 11.

Page 17, beginning at line 1, strike “(i) Except” and all that follows through “Notwithstanding” at line 17 and insert “Notwithstanding”.

Page 17, line 25, strike the closing quotation marks and the second period, and after line 25 insert the following:

“(M)(i) The Secretary shall enter into a contract with any person under which the person agrees to reimburse the Federal Government for all costs incurred for review of and decision upon any petition under this Act to add a species to a list of species under section 4(c), including petitions to move a species from the list of threatened species to the list of endangered species.

“(ii) Such a contract—

“(I) shall require the person to reimburse such costs monthly during the period
the petition is under review by the Secretary; and

“(II) if payment of reimbursement is made in accordance with subclause (I) without lapse, shall require the Secretary, notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, to—

“(aa) issue a decision on the petition; and

“(bb) continuously study, review, or render such a decision during the period the contract is in effect;”.

Page 18, after line 5, add the following:

(e) Effect of Dismissal of Petition.—Section 4(b)(3) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533(b)(3)), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(N) Dismissal of a petition by backlog procedures shall not affect the review of any subsequent petition for any species”.

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