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GENERAL LEAVE (Please insert within the floor debate on H.R. 6979)  
H.R. 6979  
REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE LES AuCOIN

Mr. AuCOIN. Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the legislation now being considered by the House. I commend the Chairman of the Oceanography Subcommittee, the gentleman from Massachusetts, (Mr. STUDDS) for his leadership in strengthening the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 and working to reauthorize its funding provisions.

I would like particularly to stress the importance of two sections in the bill before us today.

Section 309 provides for interstate regional and multi-state coastal resource coordination. This is an effective means for developing cooperative multi-jurisdictional programs for conducting research, planning and policy development. Capabilities for regional approaches to coastal zone planning and related research must be established to parallel the regional efforts of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Regional Council authority does not extend to the coastal zone; fish and their habitat do.

A prime example of an interstate study is that developed by CREST, the Columbia River Estuary Study Task Force, in Astoria, Oregon. CREST is an organization of Oregon and Washington local governments and it has completed a Regional Management Plan for the 95,000 acre Columbia River Estuary. It contains goals, regional policies, a management

system and development standards for use in local ordinances, detailed plans for use of estuary and shoreland areas, a dredged material disposal plan, a restoration-mitigation plan and implementation measures. CREST was restructed<sup>ur</sup> to provide "coastal implementation" but needs funding such as provided for in this bill if it is to continue. Failure to pass this bill may mean discontinuing CREST and other organizations like it.

Section 315, Estuarine Sanctuaries, is another important section in H.R. 6979. This program provides 50% matching grants to coastal states to acquire, develop and operate estuarine areas. These sanctuaries are set aside as natural field laboratories to study what goes on within an estuary. The program is a tool whereby states can improve their coastal zone management program. This bill reauthorizes this section at \$9 million for five years and maintains provisions for estuarine sanctuaries and preservation of islands.

The necessity of this section is seen in the first estuarine sanctuary program in the nation funded out of coastal zone management funds, the South Slough Estuarine Sanctuary in Coos Bay, Oregon. This 4200 acre sanctuary is part of the Coos Bay Estuary and has received over \$1.6 million for acquisition and management. Currently, the sanctuary has acquired 83% of the land it needs. If this bill doesn't pass, the South Slough Estuarine Sanctuary will probably not be able to acquire the remaining lands. Acquisition of the final

17% is essential for the sanctuary to be able to achieve its intended purposes. Not to complete the sanctuary would be unsound and wasteful.

H.R. 6979 is vital to the continuation of our nation's coastal zone management policy and I urge my colleagues to support it.