AN ACT

To improve and streamline disaster assistance for Hurricane Sandy, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-

tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Public assistance program alternative procedures.
Sec. 3. Federal assistance to individuals and households.
Sec. 4. Hazard mitigation.
Sec. 5. Dispute resolution pilot program.
Sec. 6. Unified Federal review.
Sec. 7. Simplified procedures.
Sec. 8. Essential assistance.
Sec. 9. Individual assistance factors.
Sec. 10. Tribal requests for a major disaster or emergency declaration under the Stafford Act.
Sec. 11. Recommendations for reducing costs of future disasters.

SEC. 2. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES.

Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second section 425 (relating to essential service providers) as section 427;

and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 428. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES.

“(a) APPROVAL OF PROJECTS.——The President, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, may approve projects under the alternative procedures adopted under this section for any
major disaster or emergency declared on or after the date
of enactment of this section. The Administrator may also
apply the alternate procedures adopted under this section
to a major disaster or emergency declared before enact-
ment of this Act for which construction has not begun as
of the date of enactment of this Act.

“(b) ADOPTION.—The Administrator, in coordination
with States, tribal and local governments, and owners or
operators of private nonprofit facilities, may adopt alter-
native procedures to administer assistance provided under

“(c) GOALS OF PROCEDURES.—The alternative pro-
cedures adopted under subsection (a) shall further the
goals of—

“(1) reducing the costs to the Federal Govern-
ment of providing such assistance;

“(2) increasing flexibility in the administration
of such assistance;

“(3) expediting the provision of such assistance
to a State, tribal or local government, or owner or
operator of a private nonprofit facility; and

“(4) providing financial incentives and disincen-
tives for a State, tribal or local government, or
owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility for
the timely and cost-effective completion of projects with such assistance.

“(d) PARTICIPATION.—Participation in the alternative procedures adopted under this section shall be at the election of a State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility consistent with procedures determined by the Administrator.

“(e) MINIMUM PROCEDURES.—The alternative procedures adopted under this section shall include the following:

“(1) For repair, restoration, and replacement of damaged facilities under section 406—

“(A) making grants on the basis of fixed estimates, if the State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of the private nonprofit facility agrees to be responsible for any actual costs that exceed the estimate;

“(B) providing an option for a State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility to elect to receive an in-lieu contribution, without reduction, on the basis of estimates of—

“(i) the cost of repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of a public facility owned or controlled by the State,
tribal or local government or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility; and

“(ii) management expenses;

“(C) consolidating, to the extent determined appropriate by the Administrator, the facilities of a State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility as a single project based upon the estimates adopted under the procedures;

“(D) if the actual costs of a project completed under the procedures are less than the estimated costs thereof, the Administrator may permit a grantee or subgrantee to use all or part of the excess funds for—

“(i) cost-effective activities that reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, or suffering from a major disaster; and

“(ii) other activities to improve future Public Assistance operations or planning;

“(E) in determining eligible costs under section 406, the Administrator shall make available, at an applicant’s request and where the Administrator or the certified cost estimate prepared by the applicant’s professionally licensed engineers has estimated an eligible Federal
share for a project of at least $5,000,000, an
independent expert panel to validate the esti-
mated eligible cost consistent with applicable
regulations and policies implementing this sec-
tion; and

“(F) in determining eligible costs under
section 406, the Administrator shall, at the ap-
plicant’s request, consider properly conducted
and certified cost estimates prepared by profes-
sionally licensed engineers (mutually agreed
upon by the Administrator and the applicant),
to the extent that such estimates comply with
applicable regulations, policy, and guidance.

“(2) For debris removal under sections
403(a)(3)(A), 407, and 502(a)(5)—

“(A) making grants on the basis of fixed
estimates to provide financial incentives and
disincentives for the timely or cost-effective
completion if the State, tribal or local govern-
ment, or owner or operator of the private non-
profit facility agrees to be responsible to pay for
any actual costs that exceed the estimate;

“(B) using a sliding scale for determining
the Federal share for removal of debris and
wreckage based on the time it takes to complete debris and wreckage removal;

“(C) allowing use of program income from recycled debris without offset to the grant amount;

“(D) reimbursing base and overtime wages for employees and extra hires of a State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility performing or administering debris and wreckage removal;

“(E) providing incentives to a State or tribal or local government to have a debris management plan approved by the Administrator and have pre-qualified 1 or more debris and wreckage removal contractors before the date of declaration of the major disaster; and

“(F) if the actual costs of projects under subparagraph (A) are less than the estimated costs of the project, the Administrator may permit a grantee or subgrantee to use all or part of the excess funds for—

“(i) debris management planning;

“(ii) acquisition of debris management equipment for current or future use; and
“(iii) other activities to improve future debris removal operations, as determined by the Administrator.

“(f) Waiver Authority.—Until such time as the Administrator promulgates regulations to implement this section, the Administrator may—

“(1) waive notice and comment rulemaking, if the Administrator determines the waiver is necessary to expeditiously implement this section; and

“(2) carry out the alternative procedures under this section as a pilot program.

“(g) Overtime Payments.—The guidelines for reimbursement for costs under subsection (e)(2)(D) shall ensure that no State or local government is denied reimbursement for overtime payments that are required pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).

“(h) Report.—

“(1) In General.—Not earlier than 3 years, and not later than 5 years, after the date of enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of
Representatives a report on the alternative procedures for the repair, restoration, and replacement of damaged facilities under section 406 authorized under this section.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The report shall contain an assessment of the effectiveness of the alternative procedures, including—

“(A) whether the alternative procedures helped to improve the general speed of disaster recovery;

“(B) the accuracy of the estimates relied upon;

“(C) whether the financial incentives and disincentives were effective;

“(D) whether the alternative procedures were cost effective;

“(E) whether the independent expert panel described in subsection (e)(1)(E) was effective; and

“(F) recommendations for whether the alternative procedures should be continued and any recommendations for changes to the alternative procedures.”.
SEC. 3. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS AND
HOUSEHOLDS.

Section 408(c)(1)(B) of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
5174(c)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii) as
clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively;

(2) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) LEASE AND REPAIR OF RENTAL
UNITS FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The Presi-
dent, to the extent the President de-
termines it would be a cost-effective
alternative to other temporary housing
options, may—

“(aa) enter into lease agree-
ments with owners of multifamily
rental property located in areas
covered by a major disaster dec-
laration to house individuals and
households eligible for assistance
under this section; and

“(bb) make repairs or im-
provements to properties under
such lease agreements, to the ex-
tent necessary to serve as safe
and adequate temporary housing.

“(II) IMPROVEMENTS OR RE-
PAIRS.—Under the terms of any lease
agreement for property entered into
under this subsection, the value of the
improvements or repairs—

“(aa) shall be deducted from
the value of the lease agreement;

and

“(bb) may not exceed the
value of the lease agreement.”;

and

(3) in clause (iv) (as so redesignated) by strik-
ing “clause (ii)” and inserting “clause (iii)”.

SEC. 4. HAZARD MITIGATION.

(a) STREAMLINED PROCEDURES; ADVANCE ASSIST-
ANCE.—Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c)
is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) STREAMLINED PROCEDURES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of pro-
viding assistance under this section, the President
shall ensure that—
“(A) adequate resources are devoted to ensure that applicable environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and historic preservation reviews under the National Historic Preservation Act are completed on an expeditious basis; and

“(B) the shortest existing applicable process under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act is utilized.

“(2) Authority for other expedited procedures.—The President may utilize expedited procedures in addition to those required under paragraph (1) for the purpose of providing assistance under this section, such as procedures under the Prototype Programmatic Agreement of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, for the consideration of multiple structures as a group and for an analysis of the cost-effectiveness and fulfillment of cost-share requirements for proposed hazard mitigation measures.

“(e) Advance assistance.—The President may provide not more than 25 percent of the amount of the estimated cost of hazard mitigation measures to a State
grantee eligible for a grant under this section before eligi-
ble costs are incurred.”.

(b) Establishment of Criteria Relating to Ad-
ministration of Hazard Mitigation Assistance by
States.—Section 404(c)(2) of the Robert T. Stafford
Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
5170c(c)(2)) is amended by inserting after “applications
submitted under paragraph (1).” the following: “Until
such time as the Administrator promulgates regulations
to implement this paragraph, the Administrator may
waive notice and comment rulemaking, if the Adminis-
trator determines doing so is necessary to expeditiously
implement this section, and may carry out this section as
a pilot program.”.

(c) Applicability.—The authority under the
amendments made by this section shall apply to—

(1) any major disaster or emergency declared
under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)
on or after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) a major disaster or emergency declared
under that Act before the date of enactment of this
Act for which the period for processing requests for
assistance has not ended as of the date of enactment
of this Act.
SEC. 5. DISPUTE RESOLUTION PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal emergency Management Agency.

(2) ELIGIBLE ASSISTANCE.—The term “eligible assistance” means assistance—

(A) under section 403, 406, or 407 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b, 5172, 5173);

(B) for which the legitimate amount in dispute is not less than $1,000,000, which sum the Administrator shall adjust annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers published by the Department of Labor;

(C) for which the applicant has a non-Federal share; and

(D) for which the applicant has received a decision on a first appeal.

(b) PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, and in order to facilitate an efficient recovery from major
disasters, the Administrator shall establish proce-
dures under which an applicant may request the use of alternative dispute resolution, including arbitra-
tion by an independent review panel, to resolve dis-
putes relating to eligible assistance.

(2) BINDING EFFECT.—A decision by an inde-
dependent review panel under this section shall be
binding upon the parties to the dispute.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—The procedures estab-
lished under this section shall—

(A) allow a party of a dispute relating to
eligible assistance to request an independent re-
view panel for the review;

(B) require a party requesting an inde-
dependent review panel as described in subpara-
graph (A) to agree to forgo rights to any fur-
ther appeal of the dispute relating to any eligi-
ble assistance;

(C) require that the sponsor of an inde-
dependent review panel for any alternative dispute resolution under this section be—

(i) an individual or entity unaffiliated
with the dispute (which may include a
Federal agency, an administrative law
judge, or a reemployed annuitant who was
an employee of the Federal Government) selected by the Administrator; and

(ii) responsible for identifying and maintaining an adequate number of independent experts qualified to review and resolve disputes under this section;

(D) require an independent review panel to—

(i) resolve any remaining disputed issue in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and Agency interpretations of those laws through its published policies and guidance;

(ii) consider only evidence contained in the administrative record, as it existed at the time at which the Agency made its initial decision;

(iii) only set aside a decision of the Agency found to be arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law; and

(iv) in the case of a finding of material fact adverse to the claimant made on first appeal, only set aside or reverse such finding if the finding is clearly erroneous;
(E) require an independent review panel to expeditiously issue a written decision for any alternative dispute resolution under this section; and

(F) direct that if an independent review panel for any alternative dispute resolution under this section determines that the basis upon which a party submits a request for alternative dispute resolution is frivolous, the independent review panel shall direct the party to pay the reasonable costs to the Federal Emergency Management Agency relating to the review by the independent review panel. Any funds received by the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the authority of this section shall be deposited to the credit of the appropriation or appropriations available for the eligible assistance in dispute on the date on which the funds are received.

(c) SUNSET.—A request for review by an independent review panel under this section may not be made after December 31, 2015.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the termination of authority under this section
under subsection (c), the Comptroller General of the
United States shall submit to the Committee on
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
Senate and the Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a re-
port analyzing the effectiveness of the program
under this section.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under
paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a determination of the availability of
data required to complete the report;

(B) an assessment of the effectiveness of
the program under this section, including an as-
essment of whether the program expedited or
delayed the disaster recovery process;

(C) an assessment of whether the program
increased or decreased costs to administer sec-
tion 403, 406, or 407 of the Robert T. Stafford
Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act;

(D) an assessment of the procedures and
safeguards that the independent review panels
established to ensure objectivity and accuracy,
and the extent to which they followed those pro-
cedures and safeguards;
(E) a recommendation as to whether any aspect of the program under this section should be made a permanent authority; and

(F) recommendations for any modifications to the authority or the administration of the authority under this section in order to improve the disaster recovery process.

SEC. 6. UNIFIED FEDERAL REVIEW.

Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (as amended by this Act) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 429. UNIFIED FEDERAL REVIEW.

“(a) In general.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, and in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the President shall establish an expedited and unified interagency review process to ensure compliance with environmental and historic requirements under Federal law relating to disaster recovery projects, in order to expedite the recovery process, consistent with applicable law.

“(b) Contents.—The review process established under this section shall include mechanisms to expeditiously address delays that may occur during the recovery
from a major disaster and be updated, as appropriate, consistent with applicable law.”.

SEC. 7. SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES.

Section 422 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189) is amended—

(1) by striking “If the Federal estimate” and inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Federal estimate”;

(2) by inserting “(or, if the Administrator has established a threshold under subsection (b), the amount established under subsection (b))” after “$35,000” the first place it appears;

(3) by inserting “or, if applicable, the amount established under subsection (b),” after “$35,000 amount” the second place it appears; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) THRESHOLD.—

“(1) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the President, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (in this section referred to as the ‘Administrator’), shall—

“(A) complete an analysis to determine whether an increase in the threshold for eligi-
bility under subsection (a) is appropriate, which
shall include consideration of cost-effectiveness,
speed of recovery, capacity of grantees, past
performance, and accountability measures; and

“(B) submit to the Committee on Trans-
portation and Infrastructure of the House of
Representatives and the Committee on Home-
land Security and Governmental Affairs of the
Senate a report regarding the analysis con-
ducted under subparagraph (A).

“(2) AMOUNT.—After the Administrator sub-
mits the report required under paragraph (1), the
President shall direct the Administrator to—

“(A) immediately establish a threshold for
eligibility under this section in an appropriate
amount, without regard to chapter 5 of title 5,
United States Code; and

“(B) adjust the threshold annually to re-
fect changes in the Consumer Price Index for
all Urban Consumers published by the Depart-
ment of Labor.

“(3) REVIEW.—Not later than 3 years after the
date on which the Administrator establishes a
threshold under paragraph (2), and every 3 years
thereafter, the President, acting through the Admin-
istrator, shall review the threshold for eligibility under this section.”.

SEC. 8. ESSENTIAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) Other Needs Assistance.—Section 408(e)(1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(e)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading by inserting “CHILD CARE,” after “DENTAL,”; and

(2) by inserting “child care,” after “dental,”.

(b) Salaries and Benefits.—Section 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) Salaries and Benefits.—

“(1) In general.—If the President declares a major disaster or emergency for an area within the jurisdiction of a State, tribal, or local government, the President may reimburse the State, tribal, or local government for costs relating to—

“(A) basic pay and benefits for permanent employees of the State, tribal, or local government conducting emergency protective measures under this section, if—

“(i) the work is not typically performed by the employees; and
“(ii) the type of work may otherwise be carried out by contract or agreement with private organizations, firms, or individuals.; or

“(B) overtime and hazardous duty compensation for permanent employees of the State, tribal, or local government conducting emergency protective measures under this section.

“(2) OVERTIME.—The guidelines for reimbursement for costs under paragraph (1) shall ensure that no State, tribal, or local government is denied reimbursement for overtime payments that are required pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).

“(3) NO EFFECT ON MUTUAL AID PACTS.—Nothing in this subsection shall affect the ability of the President to reimburse labor force expenses provided pursuant to an authorized mutual aid pact.”.

SEC. 9. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE FACTORS.

In order to provide more objective criteria for evaluating the need for assistance to individuals, to clarify the threshold for eligibility and to speed a declaration of a major disaster or emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
5121 et seq.), not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
ment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emer-
gency Management Agency, in cooperation with represent-
atives of State, tribal, and local emergency management
agencies, shall review, update, and revise through rule-
making the factors considered under section 206.48 of
title 44, Code of Federal Regulations (including section
206.48(b)(2) of such title relating to trauma and the spe-
cific conditions or losses that contribute to trauma), to
measure the severity, magnitude, and impact of a disaster.

SEC. 10. TRIBAL REQUESTS FOR A MAJOR DISASTER OR
EMERGENCY DECLARATION UNDER THE
STAFFORD ACT.

(a) MAJOR DISASTER REQUESTS.—Section 401 of
the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) is amended—

(1) by striking “All requests for a declaration”
and inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—All requests for a
declaration”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT REQUESTS.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive of an
affected Indian tribal government may submit a re-
quest for a declaration by the President that a
major disaster exists consistent with the requirements of subsection (a).

“(2) REFERENCES.—In implementing assistance authorized by the President under this Act in response to a request of the Chief Executive of an affected Indian tribal government for a major disaster declaration, any reference in this title or title III (except sections 310 and 326) to a State or the Governor of a State is deemed to refer to an affected Indian tribal government or the Chief Executive of an affected Indian tribal government, as appropriate.

“(3) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit an Indian tribal government from receiving assistance under this title through a declaration made by the President at the request of a State under subsection (a) if the President does not make a declaration under this subsection for the same incident.

“(c) COST SHARE ADJUSTMENTS FOR INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In providing assistance to an Indian tribal government under this title, the President may waive or adjust any payment of a
non-Federal contribution with respect to the assistance if—

“(A) the President has the authority to waive or adjust the payment under another provision of this title; and

“(B) the President determines that the waiver or adjustment is necessary and appropriate.

“(2) Criteria for Making Determinations.—The President shall establish criteria for making determinations under paragraph (1)(B).”.

(b) Emergency Requests.—Section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) Indian Tribal Government Requests.—

“(1) In General.—The Chief Executive of an affected Indian tribal government may submit a request for a declaration by the President that an emergency exists consistent with the requirements of subsection (a).

“(2) References.—In implementing assistance authorized by the President under this title in response to a request of the Chief Executive of an affected Indian tribal government for an emergency
declaration, any reference in this title or title III (except sections 310 and 326) to a State or the Governor of a State is deemed to refer to an affected Indian tribal government or the Chief Executive of an affected Indian tribal government, as appropriate.

“(3) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit an Indian tribal government from receiving assistance under this title through a declaration made by the President at the request of a State under subsection (a) if the President does not make a declaration under this subsection for the same incident.”.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—Section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7)(B) by striking “; and” and inserting “, that is not an Indian tribal government as defined in paragraph (6); and”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (10) as paragraphs (7) through (11), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘Indian tribal government’ means the governing body
of any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe under the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 479a et seq.).”; and (4) by adding at the end the following:“(12) CHIEF EXECUTIVE.—The term ‘Chief Executive’ means the person who is the Chief, Chairman, Governor, President, or similar executive official of an Indian tribal government.”.

(d) REFERENCES.—Title I of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) is amended by adding after section 102 the following:SEC. 103. REFERENCES.

“Except as otherwise specifically provided, any reference in this Act to ‘State and local’, ‘State or local’, ‘State, and local’, ‘State, or local’, or ‘State, local’ (including plurals) with respect to governments or officials and any reference to a ‘local government’ in sections 406(d)(3) and 417 is deemed to refer also to Indian tribal governments and officials, as appropriate.”.

(e) REGULATIONS.—
(1) ISSUANCE.—The President shall issue regulations to carry out the amendments made by this section.

(2) FACTORS.—In issuing the regulations, the President shall consider the unique conditions that affect the general welfare of Indian tribal governments.

SEC. 11. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCING COSTS OF FUTURE DISASTERS.

(a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to Congress recommendations for the development of a national strategy for reducing future costs, loss of life, and injuries associated with extreme disaster events in vulnerable areas of the United States.

(b) NATIONAL STRATEGY.—The national strategy should—

(1) respect the constitutional role and responsibilities of Federal, State, and local governments and the private sector;

(2) consider the vulnerability of the United States to damage from flooding, severe weather events, and other hazards;
(3) analyze gaps and duplication of emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation measures provided by Federal, State, and local entities; and

(4) include recommendations on how to improve the resiliency of local communities and States for the purpose of lowering future costs of disaster response and recovery.

Passed the House of Representatives January 14, 2013.

Attest: KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.