To modify the Federal cost share of certain emergency assistance provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, to modify the activities eligible for assistance under the emergency declaration issued by the President on March 13, 2020, relating to COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Mr. DeFazio (for himself, Mr. Thompson of California, Mrs. Lowey, Ms. Titus, Ms. Roybal-Allard, Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. Walden, Mr. Schrader, Ms. Bonamici, Ms. Norton, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, Mr. Payne, Mr. Carbergal, Mr. Lowenthal, Mr. Stanton, Mr. Huffman, Mr. Pappas, Mr. Garamendi, Ms. Finkenauer, Mr. Lipinski, Mr. Carson of Indiana, Mr. Sires, Ms. Mucarsel-Powell, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Desaulnier, Mr. Rouda, Mr. Panetta, Mr. Costa, Ms. Johnson of Texas, Mr. Cohen, Ms. Sánchez, Mr. Brown of Maryland, Ms. Eshoo, and Ms. Lofgren) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To modify the Federal cost share of certain emergency assistance provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, to modify the activities eligible for assistance under the emergency declaration issued by the President on March 13, 2020, relating to COVID–19, 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.

This Act may be cited as the “FEMA Assistance Re-

SEC. 2. COST SHARE.

(a) Temporary Federal Share.—Notwith-
standing sections 403(b), 403(c)(4), 404(a), 406(b),
408(d), 408(g)(2), 428(e)(2)(B), and 503(a) of the Robert
T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
(42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), for any emergency or major dis-
aster declared by the President under such Act during the
period beginning on January 1, 2020, and ending on De-
cember 31, 2020, the Federal share of assistance provided
under such sections shall be not less than 90 percent of
the eligible cost of such assistance.

(b) Cost Share Under COVID Emergency Decl-
aration.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), assistance
provided under the emergency declaration issued by the
President on March 13, 2020, pursuant to section 501(b)
of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191(b)), and under any subse-
quent major disaster declaration under section 401 of such
Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) that supersedes such emergency
declaration, shall be at a 100 percent Federal cost share.
SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For the emergency declared on March 13, 2020, by the President under section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191), the President may provide assistance for activities, costs, and purchases of States or local governments or the owners or operators of eligible private nonprofits, including—

(1) activities eligible for assistance under sections 301, 415, 416, and 426 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5141, 5182, 5183, 5189d);

(2) backfill costs for first responders and other essential employees who are ill or quarantined;

(3) increased operating costs for essential government services due to such emergency, including costs for implementing continuity plans, and sheltering or housing for first responders, emergency managers, health providers, and other essential employees;

(4) costs of providing guidance and information to the public and for call centers to disseminate such guidance and information;

(5) costs associated with establishing and operating virtual services;
(6) costs for establishing and operating remote

test sites;

(7) training provided specifically in anticipation

of or in response to the event on which such emer-
gency declaration is predicated;

(8) personal protective equipment and other
critical supplies and services for first responders and
other essential employees, including individuals
working in public schools, courthouses, and public
transit systems;

(9) medical equipment, regardless of whether
such equipment is used for emergency or inpatient
care;

(10) public health costs, including provision and
distribution of medicine and medical supplies;

(11) costs associated with maintaining alternate
care facilities or related facilities currently inactive
but related to future needs tied to the ongoing pan-
demic event; and

(12) costs of procuring and distributing food to
individuals affected by the pandemic through net-
works established by State, local, or Tribal govern-
ments, or other organizations, including restaurants
and farms, and for the purchase of food directly
from food producers and farmers.
(b) MAJOR DISASTER.—The activities described in subsection (a) may also be eligible for assistance under any major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) that supersedes the emergency declaration described in such subsection.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to make ineligible any assistance that would otherwise be eligible under section 403 or 502 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b, 5192).

(d) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “State” has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).