

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3793

To ensure that predisaster hazard mitigation continues beyond 2005.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

Mrs. CAPPS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To ensure that predisaster hazard mitigation continues
beyond 2005.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Disaster Preparation
5 and Local Action Now Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) natural disasters, including earthquakes,
9 tsunamis, tornadoes, hurricanes, flooding, and
10 wildfires, pose great danger to human life and to
11 property throughout the United States;

1 (2) greater emphasis needs to be placed on—

2 (A) identifying and assessing the risks to
3 States and local governments (including Indian
4 tribes) from natural disasters;

5 (B) implementing adequate measures to
6 reduce losses from natural disasters; and

7 (C) ensuring that the critical services and
8 facilities of communities will continue to func-
9 tion after a natural disaster;

10 (3) expenditures for postdisaster assistance are
11 increasing without commensurate reductions in the
12 likelihood of future losses from natural disasters;

13 (4) in the expenditure of Federal funds under
14 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
15 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), high
16 priority should be given to mitigation of hazards at
17 the local level;

18 (5) with a unified effort of economic incentives,
19 awareness and education, technical assistance, and
20 demonstrated Federal support, States and local gov-
21 ernments (including Indian tribes) will be able to—

22 (A) form effective community-based part-
23 nerships for hazard mitigation purposes;

1 (B) implement effective hazard mitigation
2 measures that reduce the potential damage
3 from natural disasters;

4 (C) ensure continued functionality of crit-
5 ical services;

6 (D) leverage additional non-Federal re-
7 sources in meeting natural disaster resistance
8 goals; and

9 (E) make commitments to long-term haz-
10 ard mitigation efforts to be applied to new and
11 existing structures;

12 (6) Project Impact: Building Disaster Resistant
13 Communities was a successful nationwide disaster
14 prevention initiative developed by the Federal Emer-
15 gency Management Agency to help communities take
16 steps to become more disaster resistant and sustain-
17 able in advance of a natural disaster event such as
18 a flood, hurricane, earthquake, or wildfire;

19 (7) Project Impact relied on active and effective
20 partnerships among Federal agencies, State and
21 local governments, volunteer agencies and the pri-
22 vate sector to support these local activities by pro-
23 viding technical assistance, funding, and resources;

24 (8) Project Impact activities were developed lo-
25 cally and empowered communities to determine their

1 needs and priorities and to act on those of greatest
2 importance to them;

3 (9) Project Impact based its work and planning
4 on three principles: preventive actions must be de-
5 cided at the local level; private sector participation
6 is vital; and long-term efforts and investments in
7 prevention measures are essential;

8 (10) Project Impact encouraged an investment
9 in mitigation in order to improve the economic struc-
10 ture, stability and sustainability of our neighbor-
11 hoods and communities and to save lives; and

12 (11) Project Impact expanded from seven pilot
13 communities to include nearly 250, enlisted partner-
14 ship of all States and territories, and signed up over
15 2,500 business partners, from 1997 to 2001.

16 **SEC. 3. PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION.**

17 Section 203(m) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
18 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
19 5133(m)) is amended by striking “December 31, 2005”
20 and inserting “September 30, 2010”.

21 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
23 section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and

- 1 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)
- 2 \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2010.

