

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2756

To authorize the President to utilize Federal equipment, supplies, facilities, personnel, and other non-monetary resources to assist utility companies that contribute to recovery efforts from the effects of a major disaster.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 5, 2006

Ms. COLLINS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the President to utilize Federal equipment, supplies, facilities, personnel, and other non-monetary resources to assist utility companies that contribute to recovery efforts from the effects of a major disaster.

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. UTILITY COMPANY DISASTER ASSISTANCE.**

4 Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
5 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.) is
6 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 425. UTILITY COMPANIES.**

2 “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘quali-
3 fied utility company’ means an entity that—

4 “(1) provides—

5 “(A) telecommunications service;

6 “(B) electrical power;

7 “(C) natural gas;

8 “(D) water and sewer services; or

9 “(E) any other essential service, as deter-
10 mined by the President;

11 “(2) is a private, for-profit entity; and

12 “(3) is contributing to efforts to recover from
13 the effects of a major disaster.

14 “(b) AUTHORIZATION.—In a major disaster, the
15 President may utilize Federal equipment, supplies, facili-
16 ties, personnel, and other non-monetary resources to assist
17 a qualified utility company, in exchange for reasonable
18 compensation.

19 “(c) COMPENSATION.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, by
21 regulation, establish a mechanism to set reasonable
22 compensation for the provision of assistance under
23 subsection (b).

24 “(2) CRITERIA.—The mechanism established
25 under paragraph (1)—

1 “(A) shall reflect fair market value for the
2 assistance provided under subsection (b) in set-
3 ting compensation;

4 “(B) shall have streamlined procedures for
5 determining compensation; and

6 “(C) is not required to set compensation
7 based on the costs to the Federal Govern-
8 ment.”.

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