

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5171

To create a program under which qualified and available United States construction workers and appropriate equipment can be sent to Haiti to assist Haitians in the rebuilding of their country after the devastating January 12, 2010, earthquake, as requested by the Government of Haiti, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2010

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To create a program under which qualified and available United States construction workers and appropriate equipment can be sent to Haiti to assist Haitians in the rebuilding of their country after the devastating January 12, 2010, earthquake, as requested by the Government of Haiti, and for other purposes.

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 “‘Partnership With
5 America’ Rapid Rebuilding of Haiti Act of 2010”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) On January 12, 2010, Haiti experienced a
4 7.0 magnitude earthquake centered approximately
5 15 miles southwest of the nation's capital, Port-au-
6 Prince.

7 (2) Following the initial earthquake came 50
8 aftershocks, all higher than a magnitude of 4.0,
9 within 24 hours.

10 (3) The Government of Haiti reports an esti-
11 mated 230,000 deaths and 300,000 injured.

12 (4) Additionally, 1.2 million people have been
13 displaced as a result of the earthquake.

14 (5) Damage caused by the earthquake is esti-
15 mated to be between \$8 billion and \$14 billion.

16 (6) According to an Inter-American Develop-
17 ment Bank report, the episode “. . . is the most de-
18 structive event a country has ever experienced when
19 measured in terms of the number of people killed as
20 a share of the country's population”.

21 (7) Given the ongoing economic recession in
22 which more than 8 million people have lost their jobs
23 in the United States, many qualified construction in-
24 dustry employees in the United States are currently
25 unemployed or significantly underemployed and
26 therefore could be available to provide immediate ex-

1 expertise and labor to facilitate the rapid rebuilding of
2 Haiti.

3 **SEC. 3. PARTNERSHIP WITH AMERICA.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 30-
5 day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this
6 Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, working through the
7 Infrastructure Finance Experts Corps of the Office of
8 Technical Assistance, shall develop and begin carrying out,
9 together with the Government of Haiti, a program to be
10 called the “Partnership With America” program, under
11 which United States construction and reconstruction ex-
12 perts and workers who currently are unemployed or sig-
13 nificantly underemployed shall begin work in Haiti on an
14 organized and coordinated plan to help Haitians rebuild
15 the infrastructure of Haiti, including roads, airports, en-
16 ergy facilities, schools, hospitals, and other services funda-
17 mental to economic development, including permanent
18 housing for persons who lost their housing because of the
19 earthquake.

20 (b) PROGRAM GUIDELINES.—In developing the Part-
21 nership With America program, the Secretary, working
22 through the Infrastructure Finance Experts Corps of the
23 Office of Technical Assistance, shall—

1 (1) provide the Congress with an estimate of
2 the funding needs of such program, including pro-
3 posed funding sources;

4 (2) develop a plan for transporting the United
5 States workers and appropriate construction equip-
6 ment to Haiti;

7 (3) develop a plan for the United States work-
8 ers to mentor Haitian workers while effecting a
9 rapid rebuilding of important Haitian infrastructure
10 to help the country recover from the January 12,
11 2010, earthquake as quickly as possible while antici-
12 pating the needs of a Haitian economy that does not
13 merely return to pre-earthquake levels but grows
14 fast enough to provide jobs for Haitians and raise
15 the overall standard of living in that country;

16 (4) ensure that various infrastructure projects
17 are coordinated as well as possible to minimize
18 waste, fraud, and abuse;

19 (5) seek to employ to the greatest extent pos-
20 sible United States experts and qualified workers
21 who are unemployed or significantly underemployed,
22 and be flexible enough to cycle workers to and from
23 Haiti in such a way that allows them to return to
24 the United States quickly to fill new jobs, while still
25 completing their stated missions in rebuilding Haiti;

1 (6) develop a public-private partnership for ef-
2 fecting the goals of the program, using available
3 Government transportation and logistical resources
4 while providing rapid rebuilding of Haiti using quali-
5 fied and available American workers;

6 (7) establish centers of excellence through
7 which available construction industry experts from
8 the United States provide specialized training to
9 Haitians on construction industry best practices and
10 leading methodologies and technologies to facilitate
11 the transfer of deep expertise, including knowledge
12 on earthquake-resistant infrastructure;

13 (8) seek to ensure that the United States work-
14 ers do not take the place of Haitian workers, but in-
15 stead supplement, coordinate, and mentor Haitian
16 construction workers, and train them so that an ade-
17 quate and adequately trained Haitian construction
18 force is left in place to accommodate the hoped-for
19 future growth of the Haitian economy;

20 (9) include adequate controls to ensure that
21 United States contractors subcontract substantial
22 amounts of work to local Haitian companies; and

23 (10) ensure that clear performance metrics and
24 incentives are provided to those entities participating
25 in the program.

1 (c) TERMINATION.—The Partnership With America
2 program shall terminate on the date that is the end of
3 the 36-month period following the date of the enactment
4 of this Act, so the program assists Haiti in rebuilding but
5 does not supplant the jobs of Haitians over the longer
6 term.

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