

any undue concern on the part of the American people that Congress intends to tax their Internet access. By keeping Internet service unregulated and unburdened by taxation, we have allowed millions of Americans to access these services and, in turn, created a boom in electronic commerce that has transformed the way we live and do business today in this country.

H.R. 1291 reaffirms the decision made more than a decade ago that access fees should not be imposed on Internet service providers. This has allowed consumers in droves to access the Internet on an affordable flat-rate basis, rather than a per-minute basis. It's simple economics: the less you tax supply, the more consumer demand you create.

I recognize that parts of this bill might create the mistaken impression that Congress is encouraging Federal regulators to impose access fees on Internet telephone services. I want to make clear that this bill is no way meant to encourage the FCC to apply existing access charges to providers of Internet telephone services. Rather than pile on additional charges for Internet users, we ought to first figure out how to reform telephone access charges as Congress instructed the FCC to do in 1996. The last thing we want to do is impose charges that will discourage consumers from embracing the Internet and the innovative services that will revolutionize the way we live and work.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1291, the Internet Access Charge Prohibition Act. This legislation will ensure that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are not required to pay access charges to connect to the Internet. As a result, consumers will continue to have lower prices for their Internet access.

In this Information Age, the number of consumers who use the Internet daily for their work and education continues to grow. This legislation will ensure that Internet access remains reasonable and accessible for all Americans.

In 1983, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) established rules which require long distance companies to pay "access charges" to local telephone companies for connecting a long-distance call to local telephone networks. These access charges are paid to both networks where the call originates and where the call ends. In addition, part of these access charges help to pay for the Universal Service Fund which subsidizes the cost of telephone services to rural and high-cost areas and low-cost individuals. In addition, this Universal Service Fund helps to provide low-cost Internet connections for schools and libraries. The current average access charge is 2.4 cents-per-minute which is paid by consumers.

The FCC however, does not permit local telephone companies to impose these access charges to ISPs because they classify these ISPs as "enhanced service providers." Recently, the FCC reviewed this matter again and determined that ISPs should continue to be exempt from these access charges. In May 1997, the Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit upheld this FCC decision and this decision remains in effect today.

Regrettably, there is a persistent rumor on the Internet that these fees are going to be imposed on all electronic mail (E-mail) messages. In my congressional district, I have

heard from many constituents that they are concerned about the burden that these fees would impose upon them. This legislation, H.R. 1291, would prohibit the FCC from imposing any per-minute access fees on ISPs if such fees are going to be dedicated to the federal Universal Service Fund activities. This legislation will permanently protect consumers who use the Internet daily. I am pleased that Congress has acted to provide this common-sense consumer protection to all Internet users.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill, H.R. 1291.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join other Members in applauding the intention of Mr. UPTON's bill as introduced. Avoiding per-minute charges for Internet access services is a very worthy goal. The use of per-minute access charges for the Internet has plagued the development of the Internet is no many other countries. We should do what is needed to continue a flat-rate charging mechanism.

However, H.R. 1291 also includes a "Rule of Construction" that I find a little troubling. The provision says that nothing in the bill precludes the FCC from imposing access charges on Internet telephone providers. This refers to the charges long-distance telephone companies must pay to local telephone companies for connecting a long-distance call to local telephone networks—both where the call originates and where it terminates.

I don't believe that this provision is intended to encourage the FCC to rush in and impose today's access charge regime on providers of Internet telephone services. Nor do I think the FCC has plans to impose any access charges at the present time.

Still, given the wording of this provision, I think it's important to emphasize that an imposition of old-style access charges on Internet telephony would be short-sighted. Access charges are based on a distinction between local and long-distance that the Internet is rendering irrelevant. The FCC should carefully study the issue and reform today's current access charge regime before it rushes in to impose old regulation on new Internet applications.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1291, the Internet Access Charge Prohibition Act of 2000, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

The Committee on Commerce last week reported H.R. 1291, a bill that was introduced by my friend and colleague from Michigan, Mr. UPTON.

His bill, H.R. 1291, will help to ensure consumers continue to have affordable access to the Internet. More to the point, his bill will block the FCC's ability to impose per-minute charges on consumers' Internet access services, when those charges are intended for support of universal service.

In doing so, this bill will help preserve the flat-rate pricing structure Americans enjoy today for their Internet services. Flat-rate pricing, as opposed to per-minute charging, is one of the reasons the Internet has flourished in this country, and why Internet usage is so high here, compared to other countries.

Preserving that flat-rate pricing scheme is a commendable goal, and I think Mr. UPTON for his efforts in that regard. The Report of the Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce, chaired by my good friend, the gov-

ernor of Virginia, Mr. Gilmore, recommended that Congress deregulate Internet access services. That is the intention of H.R. 1291.

I note that some have raised concerns that the bill could be used to impose per-minute access charges on providers of Internet telephony. That is not the intention, nor the effect, of the bill.

The FCC is not encouraged by this bill to extend today's access charge regime on providers of Internet telephony. That regime was devised in a very different time, for a very different situation. Access charges were designed in the early 1980's to compensate the local telephone companies for the use of their local loop facilities. These charges are predicated on a traditional distinction between local and long-distance services that the Internet is making irrelevant.

Choice telephone service is merely one type of application over the Internet. Internet voice should no more be subject to per-minute access charges than Internet access services. If we want to avoid per-minute charges on the Internet, we should avoid such charges for all Internet applications.

In the meantime, the House should begin the process now of ensuring that consumers can continue to have affordable, flat-rate prices for access to the Internet. I urge my colleagues to support the bill before us today.

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1291, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR STARTING A DESTRUCTIVE FIRE NEAR LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 326) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the Federal Government's responsibility for starting a destructive fire near Los Alamos, New Mexico.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 326

Whereas on May 4, 2000, the National Park Service initiated a prescription burn on Federal land during the southwest's peak fire season;

Whereas on May 5, 2000, the prescription burn exceeded the containment capabilities of the National Park Service, was reclassified as a wildland burn, and spread to non-Federal land, quickly becoming characterized as a firestorm;

Whereas by May 7, 2000, the fire had grown in size and caused evacuations in and around Los Alamos, New Mexico, including the Los Alamos National Laboratory, one of America's leading national research laboratories and birthplace of the atomic bomb;

Whereas on May 12, 2000, the President issued a major disaster declaration for the Counties of Bernalillo, Cibola, Los Alamos, McKinley, Mora, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, San Juan, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Taos, and Torrance;

Whereas the fire resulted in the loss of Federal, State, local, tribal, and private property;

Whereas the loss to private citizens of personal property and memories cannot be accounted for in monetary terms nor repaid with financial assistance; and

Whereas a full congressional investigation will assist the Federal Government to determine the cause of this disaster and its full cost to the Federal Government and the people of New Mexico: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) it is the sense of the Congress that the Federal Government should—

(A) take responsibility for the fire intentionally set by the National Park Service at the Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico, on May 4, 2000, which burned out of control near Los Alamos, New Mexico;

(B) take all necessary steps to mitigate the threats from the fire to the public health and well-being of the residents of New Mexico; and

(C) take all necessary steps to compensate the people of New Mexico for the losses incurred as a result of National Park Service actions; and

(2) the Congress commends—

(A) the people of New Mexico for opening their homes and their hearts to the New Mexican communities affected by this fire;

(B) the New Mexico firefighting teams for their efforts and courage in battling the fire;

(C) the New Mexico National Guard and the State of New Mexico for their efforts in mitigating the fire and assisting those affected by it;

(D) the American Red Cross and numerous other charitable organizations and volunteers for the extensive assistance provided to the fire victims;

(E) the Western States that have assisted New Mexico by sending people and equipment to help fight the fire;

(F) the businesses which have served as food and clothing collection points;

(G) all organizations and individuals that have collected and disseminated information to those affected by the fire;

(H) Sandia National Laboratories for extending assistance to fire victims;

(I) the Department of Energy for providing analysis and monitoring public health concerns; and

(J) the people of the United States for opening their hearts to assist with the plight of New Mexicans affected by the fire and for sending additional firefighting teams to help battle the fire.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Concurrent Resolution 326.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON).

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, it has been a very difficult week in New Mexico. My colleague, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. Udall), is not here. He is still in northern New Mexico. As so many New Mexicans have in the past week, we are pitching in together and holding up our end of the stick.

We wanted to move forward with this resolution today, not only to recognize those who have served and are still serving in the great State of New Mexico fighting the fires, but to begin to rebuild and look to the future, and for the Federal government and for this Congress to stand up and take responsibility for a fire that was started by the Federal government.

Mr. Speaker, the sense of the Congress that my colleagues will have an opportunity to vote on today recognizes a tragedy and a disaster in the State of New Mexico that I would like to talk about a little bit, because its origins will affect this Congress and how it appropriates funds this year.

Let me talk first a little bit about what happened. On May 4, it seems like a long, long time ago right now, the National Park Service set a prescribed burn which was supposed to be a controlled burn in the Bandelier National Forest, which is down here.

This is the area of the fire as of last night. The red area is that part of New Mexico that has been devastated by fire. Here is the Baca ranch, we are in the process of trying to purchase that for the Federal government. This is Bandelier National Monument, the Santa Clara Indian Reservation here, 10 percent of which has been burned, and the fire is now dangerously close to the cliff dwellings.

Here in the middle is the town of Los Alamos and Los Alamos National Laboratories. Los Alamos is a city built on mesas. It was a closed city for many years, put out in the middle of northern New Mexico where nobody would be likely to find its secrets.

On May 4, the National Park Service started a prescribed burn over here. That fire quickly became out of control, and while the Department of the Interior is conducting an administrative investigation as to whether their procedures were followed, the National Park Service has acknowledged that they started the fire, that they started it in very dry conditions, and it quickly got out of control.

By Sunday night, I got a phone call from my former legislative director who went back to New Mexico to work there just 8 months ago, and he moved to Los Alamos. His house is in the western part of Los Alamos here. He was supposed to meet with me on Monday morning. He called and said, they are evacuating our neighborhood. I am not going to be able to be at the meeting on Monday. He got what he could

in his pick-up truck and got his dog and headed down to White Rock, where his parents live. White Rock is this little community down here.

For about 48 hours it looked as though they had things mostly under control or at least contained, and the fire had not crossed State Route 4, which they were kind of using as a fire line. But on Wednesday, last Wednesday, we got the call here that the fire had jumped the road, that the winds were gusting to 40 and 50 and 60 miles an hour, that the humidity was 10 percent, and that as sparks dropped, 9 out of 10 sparks were starting new fires. The plume of smoke stretched all the way across northern New Mexico and into Texas and Oklahoma on high winds.

Immediately they began the evacuation of the town of Los Alamos and of Los Alamos National Laboratories. Los Alamos is the birthplace of the atomic bomb. It is a place that still has nuclear materials, and there was a real concern on the part of the residents of New Mexico about environmental safety and health if a raging forest fire crossed Los Alamos National Laboratories.

The laboratory I believe was well prepared, and the Department of Energy responded, as did the Environmental Protection Agency and numerous agencies, to monitor and make sure that all the plans were in place and executed well to protect the people of New Mexico and even surrounding States.

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But they could not fight the fire. The wind was too strong. By 1 a.m. on Thursday, they began to evacuate the town of White Rock. The fire had spread down Pajarito Canyon, and they were fighting to keep it from reaching the town of White Rock and reaching a number of technical areas that contained nuclear material.

So by Thursday at breakfast time, 20,000 New Mexicans had been evacuated from their homes. The winds were still high. There was no water pressure in Los Alamos. But the Los Alamos police department stayed in place. Throughout that terrible night of Wednesday night when 260 homes burned, the Los Alamos police department and the fire-fighting teams from across the American west saved everything that they could.

Last night, I was up in Espanola, which is a town near here and Pojoaque, which is just down the hill, and they did re-open 80 percent of Los Alamos, everything but the areas that were burned. But the fire is still only 35 percent contained, and the winds today are expected to gust up to 30 or 40 miles per hour or even higher again.

But now the biggest part of the fire is up here, burning the Santa Clara Indian Reservation and the Santa Clara Canyon, which is sacred to the Santa Clara Pueblo.

In this country, we are used to dealing with disasters with floods along the

Mississippi or hurricanes along the Gulf Coast or earthquakes in California, but there is a difference with this one. It is not just the Federal Emergency Management Agency coming in to help those in some way get back on their feet because they did not have insurance. Everyone in this town knows that the Federal Government started the fire. This was not an act of God. It was an act of man. While it was not intentional that this fire rage out of control, that the Park Service did not mean for this to happen, they set the fire that destroyed 260 homes and the lives of 400 families and the businesses and incomes of thousands of residents of Los Alamos in White Rock.

I spent much of the weekend dealing with the fire and the fire's victims. The response of the people of New Mexico to this disaster really warms one's heart. We always read about people taking advantage of people when things are going bad, and that did not happen in New Mexico.

There was nobody there trying to sell bottles of water for \$5 or \$10. On the contrary, there were truckloads of food and water and clothing streaming into Sante Fe and Los Alamos. Twenty thousand people relocated from a rural area in northern New Mexico, and immediately every hotel and motel in Sante Fe and Espanola in northern New Mexico dropped their prices to \$25 a night. It has probably been since 1920 since one has been able to get a \$25 a night hotel room in Sante Fe, New Mexico; but last weekend, one could get one if one were a victim of a fire.

The Red Cross mobilized. I was there on Friday morning in Albuquerque at the Red Cross Center there where they were bringing in the national teams. On Friday afternoon, they had to stop taking donated supplies because they had no more storage room. But they were still accepting donations.

Intel walked in on Thursday afternoon with a \$100,000 check. As I was standing there, a man walked in and opened his wallet and emptied it and gave it to the Red Cross.

Most of the banks in New Mexico set up special accounts for the victims of the fire. I went by one. It is not a big bank. It is called First State Bank. It is a New Mexico bank. They have a New Mexico flavor. They do not even wear ties to work. On Thursday mid-morning, they opened an account and just called the local radio station to say they had opened one. Six hours later, they had collected \$34,000 from New Mexicans who just walked in to donate to the victims of the fire.

As one can see, Los Alamos is kind of an isolated community, and there were over 1,000 fire fighters and policemen and Red Cross workers who still needed to be fed in a place that is really hard to get to. I was up in Los Alamos on Friday afternoon, and the Los Alamos Inn was still open. That is where most of the media and many of the fire fighters and rescue people were staging out of.

There was a waitress who continued to work there. They were just making food and bringing it in. She had her 4-year-old daughter with her there at work. I do not think she stopped working since they evacuated the town.

Down at Ray's in Albuquerque was one of the staging points for the food and water distribution. I was there on Friday morning. Mayflower had donated big trailer trucks to take food and water and clothing up to the victims of the fire. I was there. In probably about an hour and a half, they had filled half a tractor trailer truck full of food and water and clothing and bedding and equipment to rebuild lives and homes.

Car after car was just driving through the parking lot and opening their trunks and giving. There is a man who wanted to remain anonymous, but he donated 1,000 brand new suits to the Salvation Army down in Espanola to reclothe the victims of the fire. It kind of made me laugh actually because, in Los Alamos, they do not often wear suits. It is kind of a relaxed place of scientists and Ph.D.s. They probably will be better dressed than they have in a long time. But it is that kind of generosity that has been provoked by the fire.

The New Mexico home builders immediately got together, and they wanted to make sure there was not a lot of scamming of people who lost their homes. So they are working with the New Mexico Attorney General to come up with a list of the licensed contractors so that every victim knows what their options are and they will not have somebody show up at the front of their door and say, give me \$2,000, and I will fix their siding, and they never see them again, which so often happens after these kinds of disasters.

They also called all of the suppliers, all of the suppliers for the home building industry and said, we want the best and lowest prices you can get us for building materials to help rebuild. Those guys probably have the power to make that happen.

On Friday morning, I went by United Blood Services in Albuquerque. See, last week, there was supposed to be a big blood drive in Los Alamos, and they depend on that to supply the State of New Mexico. They have kind of got their plan from where they are going to get enough blood from this week to make sure all the hospitals were supplied.

They were 400 pints short because they had not been able to do the Los Alamos blood drive. So they put out a special appeal and said they were having a special week in Albuquerque, and please come in and donate blood. I dropped by, and the line was an hour wait just to donate blood because the people in Los Alamos were not there to donate blood.

But as I was standing there and watching the live news reports from Los Alamos, there was a lady standing next to me watching as well. Her hus-

band was donating blood. They were in Texas when the fire started, and they are from Los Alamos. The first thing they did when they came back to the State was to go donate blood while they wondered if their home still stood.

We have a number of military bases in New Mexico, and the military was there, too, the National Guard, the Army Guard, the Air Guard as well as active duty. A lot of guys loading the trucks with food and water were active duty military who were not on their shifts.

I met one guy. His name was David. He is a Sergeant in the Air Force. He has only been stationed in New Mexico for about a year. He is out at AFOTEC in Kirtland Air Force Base. He had come into the Red Cross because he figured the guys on the base could take the 6:00-to-6:00 shift and man the phones at night, and he could get a lot of his friends to help to relieve the Red Cross volunteers.

Many of the elementary schools in New Mexico all over New Mexico have gathered contributions for the victims of the fire. This has affected so many people's lives.

I dropped by the Elks Lodge in Los Alamos, which is right up there by the Los Alamos Inn. They stayed there to pass out food to the fire fighters and to the cops. They were kind of funny about it. There is more than a little gallows humor in these kinds of things. They said, well, the Elks Lodge really is not known around this town for the thing we do for the community, but we do do quite a lot.

There were folks coming in in their pickup trucks. One family from Santa Clara Pueblo had a pickup truck full of all kinds of snacks and food, and they were going to every one of the trail heads to make sure that all the fire fighters would be fed in an F-150 pickup that looked like it was about a 1981 version with about 130,000 miles on it. But their Pueblo was threatened, and they had not been evacuated yet, and they were going to do everything they could until they needed their pickup truck to move out of their own homes. At that time, they did not know if they would have to move or not.

Los Alamos has more Ph.D.s per capita than any other town in the world. It is probably not a surprise that, during this disaster, it was the Internet Professional Association that got up an Internet site immediately to communicate among the victims of the fire spread out across the State and their relatives, many of whom were looking for them.

They put up a web site that, not only had information for folks, but also had bulletin boards so that one could ask about one's friends or relatives or have any of you seen so and so, or we are missing our horses, down where they might be, to help with the information and the confusion of a disaster.

While sometimes we always like to pick on the press a little bit in this town, I have to give some commendations also to the television and radio

stations in New Mexico. All three of our television stations were working around the clock during this disaster, giving information to people and providing that public service to keep people informed on where they could go and what they should do and what the fire was doing to their lives.

My husband is in the Air Guard. On Saturday morning our phone rang, and the New Mexico Air Guard was called to duty for a civilian disaster for the first time in 30 years. The last time the Air Guard was called up for a disaster, State disaster, was during the riots in Vietnam at the University of New Mexico. But the Air Guard took on the task of taking in the victims, the one who had lost their homes, so that they could see what was lost and begin the process of getting insurance coverage and rebuilding their lives.

So he went up to do that on Saturday and Sunday, and he ended up taking in a busload of folks. As they were driving down the street, he really understood what the fire department had done, the extraordinary efforts they had gone to to save homes and save neighborhoods from a raging inferno.

There was one burned house, and right next to it, and he kind of laughed, was a fire hose with the end burned off. These guys were serious about doing everything they could to save the homes and lives of their neighborhoods.

So where are we now? This fire is 35 percent contained. It is burning mostly on the northern end. 80 percent of the residents of Los Alamos are able to get back into their homes. Some will never go back into their homes.

Every red dot on this map is a home that is not there anymore, 260 buildings, over 400 families that were burned out by a fire started by the United States Government. But it is not only their losses that the city of Los Alamos is feeling. Every small business in Los Alamos has been out of work and off the hill for over a week.

I ran into a family at Pojoaque Red Cross Station at the high school last night.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The time of the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) has expired.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON).

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Mrs. WILSON. The question is, where do we go from here? FEMA is doing everything they can, like they do in floods and tornadoes and other disasters, in bringing assistance to the people of New Mexico, but the reality is that the Federal Government started this fire. I am not a lawyer, I do not do liability, but there is responsibility, and the Federal Government must stand up and take responsibility for the actions and the consequences of those actions.

On the night of May 4, the National Weather Service told the Park Service that there were potential blow-out conditions and that any controlled fire might not be controlled. They lit the fire anyway. This resolution before the House today commends the people of New Mexico and those surrounding States that have helped New Mexico deal with this disaster, and it takes responsibility on the part of the Federal Government for this disaster.

We will begin to rebuild Los Alamos, but it will be with the help and assistance of the Federal Government, which must take responsibility for the actions that it took.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to speak on behalf of my friend and neighbor, fellow Congressman, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL). I say neighbor because the State of Texas and New Mexico are very close. In fact, at one time Texas claimed part of that area where the fire is at in the last century.

I have followed this story and the tragic fires in my colleague's district in northern New Mexico that has disrupted the lives of thousands of citizens of New Mexico, and we have shared the anguish of their families who have lost their homes and cherished possessions. There is, of course, no price we can place on much of what has been lost, but our hearts go out, and not only those of us who are Texas neighbors but also from the entire country, to the New Mexican people for this tragedy.

What we can do, though, is to support the relief and recovery of the people who are now faced with putting their lives back together, because that is the right thing to do. The New Mexico Congressional delegation has done just that, and on their behalf the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) asks that all his colleagues here in the House provide their support.

Right now the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) is back in his district working to provide his support to try to make the difference. He is making sure information about what assistance is available is getting to the people in his Third Congressional District who have been hit so hard by this fire. He is also walking through the fire stricken parts of his district, talking to his constituents and listening to them about what they need to put their lives back together.

What he has already learned has made him grateful for the efforts of the many New Mexicans and the communities surrounding the fire who have pulled together even as this tragedy unfolded, opening their homes and their hearts to the less fortunate. He has also expressed his gratefulness for the efforts of the countless organiza-

tions and firefighters who have helped bring some order to this shattered scene.

Even from that distance he is advocating for what his constituents are telling him by working with this Congress to keep the Federal efforts to help these citizens on track. The resolution is one example.

While in New Mexico, he has been working here in Washington to ensure that the emergency funds needed for these efforts are available. He has asked for \$100 million in additional emergency aid for that purpose. And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read from a letter from the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), who is a member of the Committee on Appropriations, and the ranking Democratic member on the Subcommittee on the Interior, to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL):

I am pleased to report that we are pursuing your suggestions in the Committee on Appropriations with regard to the need to replenish the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management firefighting funds in this fiscal year. While the emergency supplemental appropriations bill, which the House passed and sent to the Senate on March 30, contained \$250 million for these accounts, Senator Lott's opposition to moving the supplemental bill precluded us from providing additional funds to these agencies this spring, even though the expected weather conditions and Forest Service predictions indicate a very high risk of wildfires this year.

With the fire still raging in your State of New Mexico, and with these accounts becoming seriously depleted, it is our intention to introduce a freestanding supplemental appropriations bill containing \$350 million, \$200 million for the Bureau of Land Management and \$150 million for the U.S. Forest Service, to reflect the current estimates for emergency firefighting expenses. I want you to know that there is broad support in the Appropriations Committee, among both Republican and Democratic Members, for such a strategy. Pending a decision on whether a separate supplemental bill will have sufficient support in the Senate, I want you to know that it is also the committee's intention to add this amount of funding to the fiscal year 2001 Interior appropriations bill when the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee considers the bill on Wednesday. That is tomorrow.

In addition, I have sought agreement from our committee leadership to designate this funding as emergency in nature, so that it will be available immediately upon passage by both Houses and when signed by the President.

Again, continuing the letter, Mr. Speaker,

Let me assure you that I and all of my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee understand the urgent situation you have brought to our attention. To the best of our ability, we will attempt to play a constructive role in assuring that Forest Service and BLM firefighters will have sufficient resources to hire the fire crews to contain the New Mexico fires now occurring, as well as to fight additional wildfires that may occur later in this fiscal year.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this letter is signed by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Interior of the Committee on Appropriations.

While the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) is in New Mexico he remains in close contact with the Federal agencies that share the assistance and relief responsibilities for dealing with this disaster. He wants to make sure that the maximum effort is being employed to discharge these responsibilities. And, again, having him on the ground in New Mexico is just like, and I can relate to it in Texas when we have a hurricane come to the coast in Houston, oftentimes we have to fight a battle here to have the resources at home, but oftentimes we need to be at home to see what our constituents need, and that is what the gentleman from New Mexico is doing today.

This resolution is a first step in taking both responsibility for the fire but also to help mitigate the threats of fire to public health and to take the necessary steps to compensate the people of New Mexico. As the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) mentioned, and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) has expressed to me, the people in New Mexico are opening their homes and their hearts to the people affected.

The firefighting teams should be commended for their courage in battling the fire, as well as the New Mexico National Guard and the State of New Mexico for their efforts in mitigating the fire. We could go on and on. The American Red Cross, and the other western States who have provided help to New Mexico by sending people and equipment, as well as the businesses who have served food and clothing at collection points. Thanks also should go to the Sandia National Laboratory for their assistance to the fire victims, and the Department of Energy for providing analysis regarding public health.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE).

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining? The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE) has 12 minutes remaining.

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I really want to commend the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) for this very quick response resolution, letting the National Park Service know of our deep concern about their destructive and negligent actions in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, this is not one moment too soon to let the Federal land management agencies know that we as a Congress take these issues very seriously and we will take appropriate action. This is more than money that is involved. What happened here was the fact that it has become apparent that the Federal agencies do not understand the consequences of their actions or their inactions.

There was an inordinate amount of squabbling about what kind of aircraft

to use to put out the fire quickly, while it was still containable. And, yes, people can make mistakes, but to see continual finger pointing at each other between the agencies does not resolve the problem. What we in the Congress must do to resolve the problem is to make sure that we have agencies who know how to take the appropriate action when these destructive measures happen in our country.

This phenomenon that is occurring lately is one where we see agencies not able to take the proper course and not be able to make decisions, and it costs lives. It costs the lives of animals who are burned, it destroys habitat, it destroys landscapes, it destroys homes, it destroys families, it destroys communities because a handful of individuals fail to make the right decisions at the right time.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come when this Congress must begin to look in a new direction for the appropriate measures to make sure that we have agencies who are responsive to these emergency needs. The fires burning today in New Mexico provide the Nation with the very worst examples of Federal agency mismanagement of the public trust. The National Park Service is, frankly, acting like children playing with matches, not understanding the consequences of their actions.

Since becoming chairman of the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health, I have held numerous hearings on Federal agency firefighting, fire prevention and related issues. And through these efforts, my subcommittee has uncovered many, many serious problems. Even before the Cerro Grande fires, I had begun planning a hearing on the administration's overreliance on prescribed fire. Now, in continuation of our investigation, my subcommittee is in the process of scheduling two hearings to follow up just as soon as possible.

Again, I want to thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) for their leadership on this issue. Rest assured we will get to the bottom of this issue.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to speak on behalf of my cousin and fellow Congressman TOM UDALL. We have followed the story of the tragic fires in my cousin's district in New Mexico that have disrupted the lives of thousands of our citizens in New Mexico and we have shared the anguish of the families that have lost their homes and cherished possessions. There is, of course, no price that we can place on much of what has been lost.

What we can do, though, is support the relief and recovery efforts for the people who are now faced with putting their lives back together. It is the right thing to do. The New Mexico congressional delegation has done just that. And on the delegations behalf he asks that you also provide your support for the delegation's efforts.

Right now, Congressman TOM UDALL is back in his district working to provide support to his constituents. He is making sure information about what assistance is available is getting to the people in the Third Congressional District who have been hit so hard by this fire. He is also walking through the fire-stricken parts of his district, talking with his constituents and listening to them in order to understand what they need to put their lives back together.

What he has learned has made him grateful for the efforts of the New Mexicans in the surrounding communities the fire who they pulled together even as this tragedy unfolded. Opened their homes and their hearts to those less fortunate. And he is so grateful for the efforts of the countless organizations and firefighters who have helped bring some order to this shattered scene.

And even from that distance he is advocating for his constituents by working with this Congress to keep the Federal efforts to help these citizens get back on track. This house resolution is one example.

While in New Mexico, he has also been working here in Washington to ensure that the emergency funds that are needed for these efforts are available. He has asked for 100 million dollars in additional emergency aid for that purpose.

And he remains in close contact with the Federal agencies that share the assistance and relief responsibilities for dealing with this disaster. He will make sure that the maximum effort is employed to meet our responsibilities. Colleagues, I am here to tell you that he asks for your support for his efforts and those of his colleague HEATHER WILSON to help Americans whose lives have been turned upside down.

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 326.

The question was taken.

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 404, nays 0, answered "present" 6, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 183]
YEAS—404

Aderholt	Archer	Bachus
Allen	Armey	Baird
Andrews	Baca	Baker

Baldacci	Etheridge	Larson
Baldwin	Evans	Latham
Ballenger	Everett	LaTourrette
Barcia	Ewing	Lazio
Barr	Farr	Leach
Barrett (NE)	Fattah	Lee
Barrett (WI)	Filner	Levin
Bartlett	Fletcher	Lewis (CA)
Barton	Foley	Lewis (GA)
Bass	Forbes	Lewis (KY)
Becerra	Ford	Linder
Bentsen	Fossella	Lipinski
Bereuter	Fowler	Lofgren
Berkley	Frank (MA)	Lucas (KY)
Berman	Frelinghuysen	Lucas (OK)
Berry	Frost	Luther
Biggert	Galleghy	Maloney (CT)
Billbray	Ganske	Maloney (NY)
Billrakis	Gejdenson	Manzullo
Bishop	Gekas	Markay
Blagojevich	Gephardt	Mascara
Bliley	Gibbons	Matsui
Blumenauer	Gilchrest	McCarthy (MO)
Blunt	Gillmor	McCrery
Boehlert	Gilman	McDermott
Boehner	Gonzalez	McGovern
Bonilla	Goode	McHugh
Bonior	Goodlatte	McInnis
Bono	Goodling	McIntyre
Borski	Gordon	McKeon
Boswell	Goss	McKinney
Boyd	Graham	Meehan
Brady (PA)	Granger	Meek (FL)
Brady (TX)	Green (TX)	Meeks (NY)
Brown (OH)	Green (WI)	Menendez
Bryant	Greenwood	Metcalfe
Burr	Gutierrez	Mica
Burton	Gutknecht	Millender-
Buyer	Hall (OH)	McDonald
Calvert	Hall (TX)	Miller (FL)
Camp	Hansen	Miller, Gary
Canady	Hastings (FL)	Miller, George
Cannon	Hastings (WA)	Minge
Capps	Hayes	Mink
Capuano	Hayworth	Moakley
Cardin	Hefley	Moore
Carson	Herger	Moran (KS)
Castle	Hill (IN)	Moran (VA)
Chabot	Hill (MT)	Morella
Chambliss	Hilleary	Murtha
Chenoweth-Hage	Hilliard	Myrick
Clayton	Hinchev	Nadler
Clement	Hinojosa	Napolitano
Clyburn	Hobson	Neal
Coble	Hoeffel	Nethercutt
Coburn	Hoekstra	Ney
Collins	Holden	Northup
Combest	Holt	Oberstar
Condit	Hooley	Obey
Conyers	Horn	Olver
Cook	Hostettler	Ortiz
Cooksey	Houghton	Ose
Costello	Hoyer	Owens
Cox	Hulshof	Oxley
Coyne	Hunter	Packard
Cramer	Hyde	Pallone
Crane	Inslee	Pascarell
Crowley	Isakson	Pastor
Cubin	Istook	Paul
Cummings	Jackson (IL)	Payne
Cunningham	Jackson-Lee	Pease
Davis (FL)	(TX)	Pelosi
Davis (IL)	Jefferson	Peterson (MN)
Davis (VA)	Jenkins	Peterson (PA)
Deal	John	Petri
DeFazio	Johnson (CT)	Phelps
DeGette	Johnson, E. B.	Pickering
Delahunt	Johnson, Sam	Pickett
DeLauro	Jones (NC)	Pitts
DeMint	Jones (OH)	Pombo
Deutsch	Kanjorski	Pomeroy
Diaz-Balart	Kaptur	Porter
Dickey	Kasich	Portman
Dicks	Kennedy	Price (NC)
Dingell	Kildee	Pryce (OH)
Dixon	Kilpatrick	Quinn
Doggett	Kind (WI)	Radanovich
Doolittle	King (NY)	Rahall
Doyle	Kingston	Ramstad
Dreier	Klecza	Rangel
Duncan	Klink	Regula
Dunn	Knollenberg	Reyes
Edwards	Kolbe	Reynolds
Ehlers	Kucinich	Riley
Ehrlich	Kuykendall	Rivers
Emerson	LaFalce	Rodriguez
Engel	LaHood	Roemer
English	Lampson	Rogan
Eshoo	Lantos	Rogers

Rohrabacher	Skelton	Towns
Ros-Lehtinen	Smith (MI)	Trafficant
Rothman	Smith (NJ)	Turner
Roukema	Smith (TX)	Udall (CO)
Roybal-Allard	Smith (WA)	Upton
Royce	Snyder	Velazquez
Rush	Souder	Visclosky
Ryan (WI)	Spence	Vitter
Ryun (KS)	Spratt	Walden
Sabo	Stabenow	Walsh
Salmon	Stark	Wamp
Sanchez	Stearns	Waters
Sanders	Stenholm	Watkins
Sandlin	Strickland	Watt (NC)
Sawyer	Stump	Watts (OK)
Saxton	Sununu	Waxman
Scarborough	Sweeney	Weiner
Schaffer	Talent	Weldon (FL)
Schakowsky	Tancred	Weldon (PA)
Scott	Tanner	Weller
Sensenbrenner	Tauscher	Wexler
Serrano	Tauzin	Weyand
Sessions	Taylor (MS)	Whitfield
Shadegg	Taylor (NC)	Wicker
Shaw	Terry	Wilson
Shays	Thomas	Wise
Sherman	Thompson (CA)	Wolf
Sherwood	Thompson (MS)	Woolsey
Shimkus	Thornberry	Wu
Shows	Thune	Wynn
Shuster	Thurman	Young (AK)
Simpson	Tiahrt	Young (FL)
Sisisky	Tierney	
Skeen	Toomey	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—6

Bateman	Kelly	Mollohan
Hutchinson	Lowey	Sanford

NOT VOTING—24

Abercrombie	DeLay	McIntosh
Ackerman	Dooley	McNulty
Boucher	Franks (NJ)	Norwood
Brown (FL)	Largent	Nussle
Callahan	LoBiondo	Slaughter
Campbell	Martinez	Stupak
Clay	McCarthy (NY)	Udall (NM)
Danner	McCollum	Vento

□ 1146

Mrs. KELLY changed her vote from "yea" to "present."

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on business and unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 183. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 183.

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to speak out of order for 5 minutes.)

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING BART STUPAK, JR.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I intend to share this time with my good friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), who has been enormously helpful in this difficult matter. As reported to the House by our Dear Colleague letter of yesterday, our colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) and his wife, Laurie, have suffered a terrible loss with the tragic death of their son, and we extend our condolences to them and to their other son, Ken, for this terrible and tragic loss of young Bart, who is also known as BJ.

He was a bright and energetic young man, much loved by all who knew him.

Obviously his loss is a devastating blow to the Stupak family and to all of their friends, and many of my colleagues in the House have come over to express their sorrow and concern.

It is my purpose to announce at this time that the funeral for BJ, as he was known, will be tomorrow evening on Wednesday, May 17. It will take place in Menominee, Michigan at 8 p.m. Our offices, that of myself and my good friend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), have worked to arrange travel for Members wishing to attend the visitation and the funeral mass.

Members desiring to go will leave the House steps of the Capitol tomorrow at 3:15 p.m. The aircraft which has been chartered will be departing Reagan National Airport at 4 p.m. We should be returning about 1 a.m. on Thursday morning.

For Members desiring more details on travel arrangements, they should contact either my office or that of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

I yield to my good friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity to speak to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) this morning. He thanked the leadership for the moment of silence, and also the staffs of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and my staff, and also his staff has been terrific in putting together this event on, obviously, a pretty short notice.

I also want to thank Northwest Airlines which has bent over backwards to allow us to charter a plane to fly to Wisconsin tomorrow. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) also indicated he wanted me to thank the leadership for postponing votes allowing Members to be able to attend the service tomorrow afternoon and evening.

I would just like to thank the Dean of the House for this 5 minutes and would ask Members that would like to attend the service tomorrow if they could contact either the office of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) or my office. We will make sure that those arrangements are taken care of.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleague for the wonderful help he has been in this difficult matter and express my thanks to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) for that. I would like to observe that we will be making further communications with the office of the Members both by Dear Colleague and electronically, so that they will be fully informed of this.

I repeat, the chartered aircraft will be leaving tomorrow at 3:15 by bus from the Capitol steps; the actual time of departure from the aircraft will be from Reagan National Airport at 4 p.m. It is anticipated that the return will be about 1 o'clock in the morning the next day. I do thank my good friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).