

Among other things, S. 2438 will improve current law by investing in new technology to improve pipeline safety, increasing civil penalties for safety violations, and requiring pipeline operators to conduct periodic inspections of their systems. In addition, in response to accusations that the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) has not always done its job in the past S. 2438 provides a significant increase in funds for the OPS to enable it to hire more personnel to handle the mandates that Congress has already required.

Some of our colleagues will argue that this bill is not strong enough. In fact, S. 2438 is the strongest pipeline safety reform ever adopted by either body of Congress. This bill represents meaningful reform. It was crafted by a bipartisan group of legislators who worked through months of meetings and negotiations to develop the best bill possible. The resulting legislation is so strong that both the Vice President and the Secretary of Transportation supported passage of S. 2438.

Let's not put process over results. Our nation needs strong pipeline safety legislation this year. The safety of millions of Americans is at stake, and S. 2438 is a strong, workable bill that will result in vast improvements over the current safeguards for pipeline operations. I urge all Members to support S. 2438. It is a good bipartisan bill that will take an effective first step towards improving pipeline safety.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2438.

The question was taken.

Mr. OBERSTAR. 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. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

1730

DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 707) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize a program for predisaster mitigation, to streamline the administration of disaster relief, to control the Federal costs of disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment to House amendment to Senate amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House amendment, insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION

Sec. 101. Findings and purpose.

Sec. 102. Predisaster hazard mitigation.

Sec. 103. Interagency task force.

Sec. 104. Mitigation planning; minimum standards for public and private structures.

TITLE II—STREAMLINING AND COST REDUCTION

Sec. 201. Technical amendments.

Sec. 202. Management costs.

Sec. 203. Public notice, comment, and consultation requirements.

Sec. 204. State administration of hazard mitigation grant program.

Sec. 205. Assistance to repair, restore, reconstruct, or replace damaged facilities.

Sec. 206. Federal assistance to individuals and households.

Sec. 207. Community disaster loans.

Sec. 208. Report on State management of small disasters initiative.

Sec. 209. Study regarding cost reduction.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 301. Technical correction of short title.

Sec. 302. Definitions.

Sec. 303. Fire management assistance.

Sec. 304. Disaster grant closeout procedures.

Sec. 305. Public safety officer benefits for certain Federal and State employees.

Sec. 306. Buy American.

Sec. 307. Treatment of certain real property.

Sec. 308. Study of participation by Indian tribes in emergency management.

TITLE I—PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION

SEC. 101. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) *FINDINGS.*—Congress finds that—

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

(2) greater emphasis needs to be placed on—

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

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

(C) ensuring that the critical services and facilities of communities will continue to function after a natural disaster;

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

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

(5) with a unified effort of economic incentives, awareness and education, technical assistance, and demonstrated Federal support, States and local governments (including Indian tribes) will be able to—

(A) form effective community-based partnerships for hazard mitigation purposes;

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

(C) ensure continued functionality of critical services;

(D) leverage additional non-Federal resources in meeting natural disaster resistance goals; and

(E) make commitments to long-term hazard mitigation efforts to be applied to new and existing structures.

(b) *PURPOSE.*—The purpose of this title is to establish a national disaster hazard mitigation program—

(1) to reduce the loss of life and property, human suffering, economic disruption, and disaster assistance costs resulting from natural disasters; and

(2) to provide a source of predisaster hazard mitigation funding that will assist States and local governments (including Indian tribes) in implementing effective hazard mitigation measures that are designed to ensure the continued functionality of critical services and facilities after a natural disaster.

SEC. 102. PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Title II of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 203. PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION.

"(a) *DEFINITION OF SMALL IMPOVERISHED COMMUNITY.*—In this section, the term 'small impoverished community' means a community of 3,000 or fewer individuals that is economically disadvantaged, as determined by the State in which the community is located and based on criteria established by the President.

"(b) *ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.*—The President may establish a program to provide technical and financial assistance to States and local governments to assist in the implementation of predisaster hazard mitigation measures that are cost-effective and are designed to reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property, including damage to critical services and facilities under the jurisdiction of the States or local governments.

"(c) *APPROVAL BY PRESIDENT.*—If the President determines that a State or local government has identified natural disaster hazards in areas under its jurisdiction and has demonstrated the ability to form effective public-private natural disaster hazard mitigation partnerships, the President, using amounts in the National Predisaster Mitigation Fund established under subsection (i) (referred to in this section as the 'Fund'), may provide technical and financial assistance to the State or local government to be used in accordance with subsection (e).

"(d) *STATE RECOMMENDATIONS.*—

"(1) *IN GENERAL.*—

"(A) *RECOMMENDATIONS.*—The Governor of each State may recommend to the President not fewer than 5 local governments to receive assistance under this section.

"(B) *DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION.*—The recommendations under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted to the President not later than October 1, 2001, and each October 1st thereafter or such later date in the year as the President may establish.

"(C) *CRITERIA.*—In making recommendations under subparagraph (A), a Governor shall consider the criteria specified in subsection (g).

"(2) *USE.*—

"(A) *IN GENERAL.*—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), in providing assistance to local governments under this section, the President shall select from local governments recommended by the Governors under this subsection.

"(B) *EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.*—In providing assistance to local governments under this section, the President may select a local government that has not been recommended by a Governor under this subsection if the President determines that extraordinary circumstances justify the selection and that making the selection will further the purpose of this section.

"(3) *EFFECT OF FAILURE TO NOMINATE.*—If a Governor of a State fails to submit recommendations under this subsection in a timely manner, the President may select, subject to the criteria specified in subsection (g), any local governments of the State to receive assistance under this section.

"(e) *USES OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.*—

"(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Technical and financial assistance provided under this section—

“(A) shall be used by States and local governments principally to implement predisaster hazard mitigation measures that are cost-effective and are described in proposals approved by the President under this section; and

“(B) may be used—

“(i) to support effective public-private natural disaster hazard mitigation partnerships;

“(ii) to improve the assessment of a community's vulnerability to natural hazards; or

“(iii) to establish hazard mitigation priorities, and an appropriate hazard mitigation plan, for a community.

“(2) **DISSEMINATION.**—A State or local government may use not more than 10 percent of the financial assistance received by the State or local government under this section for a fiscal year to fund activities to disseminate information regarding cost-effective mitigation technologies.

“(f) **ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.**—The amount of financial assistance made available to a State (including amounts made available to local governments of the State) under this section for a fiscal year—

“(1) shall be not less than the lesser of—

“(A) \$500,000; or

“(B) the amount that is equal to 1.0 percent of the total funds appropriated to carry out this section for the fiscal year;

“(2) shall not exceed 15 percent of the total funds described in paragraph (1)(B); and

“(3) shall be subject to the criteria specified in subsection (g).

“(g) **CRITERIA FOR ASSISTANCE AWARDS.**—In determining whether to provide technical and financial assistance to a State or local government under this section, the President shall take into account—

“(1) the extent and nature of the hazards to be mitigated;

“(2) the degree of commitment of the State or local government to reduce damages from future natural disasters;

“(3) the degree of commitment by the State or local government to support ongoing non-Federal support for the hazard mitigation measures to be carried out using the technical and financial assistance;

“(4) the extent to which the hazard mitigation measures to be carried out using the technical and financial assistance contribute to the mitigation goals and priorities established by the State;

“(5) the extent to which the technical and financial assistance is consistent with other assistance provided under this Act;

“(6) the extent to which prioritized, cost-effective mitigation activities that produce meaningful and definable outcomes are clearly identified;

“(7) if the State or local government has submitted a mitigation plan under section 322, the extent to which the activities identified under paragraph (6) are consistent with the mitigation plan;

“(8) the opportunity to fund activities that maximize net benefits to society;

“(9) the extent to which assistance will fund mitigation activities in small impoverished communities; and

“(10) such other criteria as the President establishes in consultation with State and local governments.

“(h) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Financial assistance provided under this section may contribute up to 75 percent of the total cost of mitigation activities approved by the President.

“(2) **SMALL IMPOVERISHED COMMUNITIES.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the President may contribute up to 90 percent of the total cost of a mitigation activity carried out in a small impoverished community.

“(i) **NATIONAL PREDISASTER MITIGATION FUND.**—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The President may establish in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the ‘National Predisaster

Mitigation Fund’, to be used in carrying out this section.

“(2) **TRANSFERS TO FUND.**—There shall be deposited in the Fund—

“(A) amounts appropriated to carry out this section, which shall remain available until expended; and

“(B) sums available from gifts, bequests, or donations of services or property received by the President for the purpose of predisaster hazard mitigation.

“(3) **EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.**—Upon request by the President, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the Fund to the President such amounts as the President determines are necessary to provide technical and financial assistance under this section.

“(4) **INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury, required to meet current withdrawals. Investments may be made only in interest-bearing obligations of the United States.

“(B) **ACQUISITION OF OBLIGATIONS.**—For the purpose of investments under subparagraph (A), obligations may be acquired—

“(i) on original issue at the issue price; or

“(ii) by purchase of outstanding obligations at the market price.

“(C) **SALE OF OBLIGATIONS.**—Any obligation acquired by the Fund may be sold by the Secretary of the Treasury at the market price.

“(D) **CREDITS TO FUND.**—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to and form a part of the Fund.

“(E) **TRANSFERS OF AMOUNTS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The amounts required to be transferred to the Fund under this subsection shall be transferred at least monthly from the general fund of the Treasury to the Fund on the basis of estimates made by the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(ii) **ADJUSTMENTS.**—Proper adjustment shall be made in amounts subsequently transferred to the extent prior estimates were in excess of or less than the amounts required to be transferred.

“(j) **LIMITATION ON TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**—The President shall not provide financial assistance under this section in an amount greater than the amount available in the Fund.

“(k) **MULTIHAZARD ADVISORY MAPS.**—

“(1) **DEFINITION OF MULTIHAZARD ADVISORY MAP.**—In this subsection, the term ‘multihazard advisory map’ means a map on which hazard data concerning each type of natural disaster is identified simultaneously for the purpose of showing areas of hazard overlap.

“(2) **DEVELOPMENT OF MAPS.**—In consultation with States, local governments, and appropriate Federal agencies, the President shall develop multihazard advisory maps for areas, in not fewer than 5 States, that are subject to commonly recurring natural hazards (including flooding, hurricanes and severe winds, and seismic events).

“(3) **USE OF TECHNOLOGY.**—In developing multihazard advisory maps under this subsection, the President shall use, to the maximum extent practicable, the most cost-effective and efficient technology available.

“(4) **USE OF MAPS.**—

“(A) **ADVISORY NATURE.**—The multihazard advisory maps shall be considered to be advisory and shall not require the development of any new policy by, or impose any new policy on, any government or private entity.

“(B) **AVAILABILITY OF MAPS.**—The multihazard advisory maps shall be made available to the appropriate State and local governments for the purposes of—

“(i) informing the general public about the risks of natural hazards in the areas described in paragraph (2);

“(ii) supporting the activities described in subsection (e); and

“(iii) other public uses.

“(l) **REPORT ON FEDERAL AND STATE ADMINISTRATION.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the President, in consultation with State and local governments, shall submit to Congress a report evaluating efforts to implement this section and recommending a process for transferring greater authority and responsibility for administering the assistance program established under this section to capable States.

“(m) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority provided by this section terminates December 31, 2003.”

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Title II of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131 et seq.) is amended by striking the title heading and inserting the following:

“TITLE II—DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION ASSISTANCE”.

SEC. 103. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.

Title II of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131 et seq.) (as amended by section 102(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 204. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall establish a Federal interagency task force for the purpose of coordinating the implementation of predisaster hazard mitigation programs administered by the Federal Government.

“(b) **CHAIRPERSON.**—The Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall serve as the chairperson of the task force.

“(c) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The membership of the task force shall include representatives of—

“(1) relevant Federal agencies;

“(2) State and local government organizations (including Indian tribes); and

“(3) the American Red Cross.”

SEC. 104. MITIGATION PLANNING; MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STRUCTURES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title III of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 322. MITIGATION PLANNING.

“(a) **REQUIREMENT OF MITIGATION PLAN.**—As a condition of receipt of an increased Federal share for hazard mitigation measures under subsection (e), a State, local, or tribal government shall develop and submit for approval to the President a mitigation plan that outlines processes for identifying the natural hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities of the area under the jurisdiction of the government.

“(b) **LOCAL AND TRIBAL PLANS.**—Each mitigation plan developed by a local or tribal government shall—

“(1) describe actions to mitigate hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities identified under the plan; and

“(2) establish a strategy to implement those actions.

“(c) **STATE PLANS.**—The State process of development of a mitigation plan under this section shall—

“(1) identify the natural hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities of areas in the State;

“(2) support development of local mitigation plans;

“(3) provide for technical assistance to local and tribal governments for mitigation planning; and

“(4) identify and prioritize mitigation actions that the State will support, as resources become available.

“(d) **FUNDING.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Federal contributions under section 404 may be used to fund the development and updating of mitigation plans under this section.

“(2) **MAXIMUM FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION.**—With respect to any mitigation plan, a State, local, or

tribal government may use an amount of Federal contributions under section 404 not to exceed 7 percent of the amount of such contributions available to the government as of a date determined by the government.

“(e) INCREASED FEDERAL SHARE FOR HAZARD MITIGATION MEASURES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If, at the time of the declaration of a major disaster, a State has in effect an approved mitigation plan under this section, the President may increase to 20 percent, with respect to the major disaster, the maximum percentage specified in the last sentence of section 404(a).

“(2) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In determining whether to increase the maximum percentage under paragraph (1), the President shall consider whether the State has established—

“(A) eligibility criteria for property acquisition and other types of mitigation measures;

“(B) requirements for cost effectiveness that are related to the eligibility criteria;

“(C) a system of priorities that is related to the eligibility criteria; and

“(D) a process by which an assessment of the effectiveness of a mitigation action may be carried out after the mitigation action is complete.

“SEC. 323. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STRUCTURES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receipt of a disaster loan or grant under this Act—

“(1) the recipient shall carry out any repair or construction to be financed with the loan or grant in accordance with applicable standards of safety, decency, and sanitation and in conformity with applicable codes, specifications, and standards; and

“(2) the President may require safe land use and construction practices, after adequate consultation with appropriate State and local government officials.

“(b) EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE.—A recipient of a disaster loan or grant under this Act shall provide such evidence of compliance with this section as the President may require by regulation.”

(b) LOSSES FROM STRAIGHT LINE WINDS.—The President shall increase the maximum percentage specified in the last sentence of section 404(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c(a)) from 15 percent to 20 percent with respect to any major disaster that is in the State of Minnesota and for which assistance is being provided as of the date of enactment of this Act, except that additional assistance provided under this subsection shall not exceed \$6,000,000. The mitigation measures assisted under this subsection shall be related to losses in the State of Minnesota from straight line winds.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 404(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c(a)) is amended—

(A) in the second sentence, by striking “section 409” and inserting “section 322”; and

(B) in the third sentence, by striking “The total” and inserting “Subject to section 322, the total”.

(2) Section 409 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5176) is repealed.

TITLE II—STREAMLINING AND COST REDUCTION

SEC. 201. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

Section 311 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5154) is amended in subsections (a)(1), (b), and (c) by striking “section 803 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965” each place it appears and inserting “section 209(c)(2) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3149(c)(2))”.

SEC. 202. MANAGEMENT COSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-

ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5141 et seq.) (as amended by section 104(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 324. MANAGEMENT COSTS.

“(a) DEFINITION OF MANAGEMENT COST.—In this section, the term ‘management cost’ includes any indirect cost, any administrative expense, and any other expense not directly chargeable to a specific project under a major disaster, emergency, or disaster preparedness or mitigation activity or measure.

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF MANAGEMENT COST RATES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including any administrative rule or guidance), the President shall by regulation establish management cost rates, for grantees and subgrantees, that shall be used to determine contributions under this Act for management costs.

“(c) REVIEW.—The President shall review the management cost rates established under subsection (b) not later than 3 years after the date of establishment of the rates and periodically thereafter.”

(b) APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), subsections (a) and (b) of section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (as added by subsection (a)) shall apply to major disasters declared under that Act on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) INTERIM AUTHORITY.—Until the date on which the President establishes the management cost rates under section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (as added by subsection (a)), section 406(f) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172(f)) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) shall be used to establish management cost rates.

SEC. 203. PUBLIC NOTICE, COMMENT, AND CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS.

Title III of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5141 et seq.) (as amended by section 202(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 325. PUBLIC NOTICE, COMMENT, AND CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS.

“(a) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT CONCERNING NEW OR MODIFIED POLICIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall provide for public notice and opportunity for comment before adopting any new or modified policy that—

“(A) governs implementation of the public assistance program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency under this Act; and

“(B) could result in a significant reduction of assistance under the program.

“(2) APPLICATION.—Any policy adopted under paragraph (1) shall apply only to a major disaster or emergency declared on or after the date on which the policy is adopted.

“(b) CONSULTATION CONCERNING INTERIM POLICIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Before adopting any interim policy under the public assistance program to address specific conditions that relate to a major disaster or emergency that has been declared under this Act, the President, to the maximum extent practicable, shall solicit the views and recommendations of grantees and subgrantees with respect to the major disaster or emergency concerning the potential interim policy, if the interim policy is likely—

“(A) to result in a significant reduction of assistance to applicants for the assistance with respect to the major disaster or emergency; or

“(B) to change the terms of a written agreement to which the Federal Government is a party concerning the declaration of the major disaster or emergency.

“(2) NO LEGAL RIGHT OF ACTION.—Nothing in this subsection confers a legal right of action on any party.

“(c) PUBLIC ACCESS.—The President shall promote public access to policies governing the implementation of the public assistance program.”

SEC. 204. STATE ADMINISTRATION OF HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION BY STATES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State desiring to administer the hazard mitigation grant program established by this section with respect to hazard mitigation assistance in the State may submit to the President an application for the delegation of the authority to administer the program.

“(2) CRITERIA.—The President, in consultation and coordination with States and local governments, shall establish criteria for the approval of applications submitted under paragraph (1). The criteria shall include, at a minimum—

“(A) the demonstrated ability of the State to manage the grant program under this section;

“(B) there being in effect an approved mitigation plan under section 322; and

“(C) a demonstrated commitment to mitigation activities.

“(3) APPROVAL.—The President shall approve an application submitted under paragraph (1) that meets the criteria established under paragraph (2).

“(4) WITHDRAWAL OF APPROVAL.—If, after approving an application of a State submitted under paragraph (1), the President determines that the State is not administering the hazard mitigation grant program established by this section in a manner satisfactory to the President, the President shall withdraw the approval.

“(5) AUDITS.—The President shall provide for periodic audits of the hazard mitigation grant programs administered by States under this subsection.”

SEC. 205. ASSISTANCE TO REPAIR, RESTORE, RECONSTRUCT, OR REPLACE DAMAGED FACILITIES.

(a) CONTRIBUTIONS.—Section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172) is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) CONTRIBUTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may make contributions—

“(A) to a State or local government for the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of a public facility damaged or destroyed by a major disaster and for associated expenses incurred by the government; and

“(B) subject to paragraph (3), to a person that owns or operates a private nonprofit facility damaged or destroyed by a major disaster for the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of the facility and for associated expenses incurred by the person.

“(2) ASSOCIATED EXPENSES.—For the purposes of this section, associated expenses shall include—

“(A) the costs of mobilizing and employing the National Guard for performance of eligible work;

“(B) the costs of using prison labor to perform eligible work, including wages actually paid, transportation to a worksite, and extraordinary costs of guards, food, and lodging; and

“(C) base and overtime wages for the employees and extra hires of a State, local government, or person described in paragraph (1) that perform eligible work, plus fringe benefits on such wages to the extent that such benefits were being paid before the major disaster.

“(3) CONDITIONS FOR ASSISTANCE TO PRIVATE NONPROFIT FACILITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may make contributions to a private nonprofit facility under paragraph (1)(B) only if—

“(i) the facility provides critical services (as defined by the President) in the event of a major disaster; or

“(ii) the owner or operator of the facility—
“(I) has applied for a disaster loan under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)); and

“(II)(aa) has been determined to be ineligible for such a loan; or

“(bb) has obtained such a loan in the maximum amount for which the Small Business Administration determines the facility is eligible.

“(B) DEFINITION OF CRITICAL SERVICES.—In this paragraph, the term ‘critical services’ includes power, water (including water provided by an irrigation organization or facility), sewer, wastewater treatment, communications, and emergency medical care.

“(4) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Before making any contribution under this section in an amount greater than \$20,000,000, the President shall notify—

“(A) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

“(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

“(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

“(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.”.

(b) FEDERAL SHARE.—Section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) FEDERAL SHARE.—

“(1) MINIMUM FEDERAL SHARE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal share of assistance under this section shall be not less than 75 percent of the eligible cost of repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement carried out under this section.

“(2) REDUCED FEDERAL SHARE.—The President shall promulgate regulations to reduce the Federal share of assistance under this section to not less than 25 percent in the case of the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of any eligible public facility or private nonprofit facility following an event associated with a major disaster—

“(A) that has been damaged, on more than 1 occasion within the preceding 10-year period, by the same type of event; and

“(B) the owner of which has failed to implement appropriate mitigation measures to address the hazard that caused the damage to the facility.”.

(c) LARGE IN-LIEU CONTRIBUTIONS.—Section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) LARGE IN-LIEU CONTRIBUTIONS.—

“(1) FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which a State or local government determines that the public welfare would not best be served by repairing, restoring, reconstructing, or replacing any public facility owned or controlled by the State or local government, the State or local government may elect to receive, in lieu of a contribution under subsection (a)(1)(A), a contribution in an amount equal to 75 percent of the Federal share of the Federal estimate of the cost of repairing, restoring, reconstructing, or replacing the facility and of management expenses.

“(B) AREAS WITH UNSTABLE SOIL.—In any case in which a State or local government determines that the public welfare would not best be served by repairing, restoring, reconstructing, or replacing any public facility owned or controlled by the State or local government because soil instability in the disaster area makes repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement infeasible, the State or local government may elect to receive, in lieu of a contribution under subsection (a)(1)(A), a contribution in an amount equal to 90 percent of the Federal share of the Federal estimate of the cost of repairing, restoring, reconstructing, or replacing the facility and of management expenses.

“(C) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds contributed to a State or local government under this paragraph may be used—

“(i) to repair, restore, or expand other selected public facilities;

“(ii) to construct new facilities; or

“(iii) to fund hazard mitigation measures that the State or local government determines to be necessary to meet a need for governmental services and functions in the area affected by the major disaster.

“(D) LIMITATIONS.—Funds made available to a State or local government under this paragraph may not be used for—

“(i) any public facility located in a regulatory floodway (as defined in section 59.1 of title 44, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation)); or

“(ii) any uninsured public facility located in a special flood hazard area identified by the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.).

“(2) FOR PRIVATE NONPROFIT FACILITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which a person that owns or operates a private nonprofit facility determines that the public welfare would not best be served by repairing, restoring, reconstructing, or replacing the facility, the person may elect to receive, in lieu of a contribution under subsection (a)(1)(B), a contribution in an amount equal to 75 percent of the Federal share of the Federal estimate of the cost of repairing, restoring, reconstructing, or replacing the facility and of management expenses.

“(B) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds contributed to a person under this paragraph may be used—

“(i) to repair, restore, or expand other selected private nonprofit facilities owned or operated by the person;

“(ii) to construct new private nonprofit facilities to be owned or operated by the person; or

“(iii) to fund hazard mitigation measures that the person determines to be necessary to meet a need for the person’s services and functions in the area affected by the major disaster.

“(C) LIMITATIONS.—Funds made available to a person under this paragraph may not be used for—

“(i) any private nonprofit facility located in a regulatory floodway (as defined in section 59.1 of title 44, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation)); or

“(ii) any uninsured private nonprofit facility located in a special flood hazard area identified by the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.).”.

(d) ELIGIBLE COST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172) is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e) ELIGIBLE COST.—

“(1) DETERMINATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of this section, the President shall estimate the eligible cost of repairing, restoring, reconstructing, or replacing a public facility or private nonprofit facility—

“(i) on the basis of the design of the facility as the facility existed immediately before the major disaster; and

“(ii) in conformity with codes, specifications, and standards (including floodplain management and hazard mitigation criteria required by the President or under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.)) applicable at the time at which the disaster occurred.

“(B) COST ESTIMATION PROCEDURES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the President shall use the cost estimation procedures established under paragraph (3) to determine the eligible cost under this subsection.

“(ii) APPLICABILITY.—The procedures specified in this paragraph and paragraph (2) shall apply only to projects the eligible cost of which is equal to or greater than the amount specified in section 422.

“(2) MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE COST.—

“(A) ACTUAL COST GREATER THAN CEILING PERCENTAGE OF ESTIMATED COST.—In any case in which the actual cost of repairing, restoring, reconstructing, or replacing a facility under this section is greater than the ceiling percentage established under paragraph (3) of the cost estimated under paragraph (1), the President may determine that the eligible cost includes a portion of the actual cost of the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement that exceeds the cost estimated under paragraph (1).

“(B) ACTUAL COST LESS THAN ESTIMATED COST.—

“(i) GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO FLOOR PERCENTAGE OF ESTIMATED COST.—In any case in which the actual cost of repairing, restoring, reconstructing, or replacing a facility under this section is less than 100 percent of the cost estimated under paragraph (1), but is greater than or equal to the floor percentage established under paragraph (3) of the cost estimated under paragraph (1), the State or local government or person receiving funds under this section shall use the excess funds to carry out cost-effective activities that reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, or suffering from a major disaster.

“(ii) LESS THAN FLOOR PERCENTAGE OF ESTIMATED COST.—In any case in which the actual cost of repairing, restoring, reconstructing, or replacing a facility under this section is less than the floor percentage established under paragraph (3) of the cost estimated under paragraph (1), the State or local government or person receiving assistance under this section shall reimburse the President in the amount of the difference.

“(C) NO EFFECT ON APPEALS PROCESS.—Nothing in this paragraph affects any right of appeal under section 423.

“(3) EXPERT PANEL.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the President, acting through the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall establish an expert panel, which shall include representatives from the construction industry and State and local government.

“(B) DUTIES.—The expert panel shall develop recommendations concerning—

“(i) procedures for estimating the cost of repairing, restoring, reconstructing, or replacing a facility consistent with industry practices; and

“(ii) the ceiling and floor percentages referred to in paragraph (2).

“(C) REGULATIONS.—Taking into account the recommendations of the expert panel under subparagraph (B), the President shall promulgate regulations that establish—

“(i) cost estimation procedures described in subparagraph (B)(i); and

“(ii) the ceiling and floor percentages referred to in paragraph (2).

“(D) REVIEW BY PRESIDENT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of promulgation of regulations under subparagraph (C) and periodically thereafter, the President shall review the cost estimation procedures and the ceiling and floor percentages established under this paragraph.

“(E) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of promulgation of regulations under subparagraph (C), 3 years after that date, and at the end of each 2-year period thereafter, the expert panel shall submit to Congress a report on the appropriateness of the cost estimation procedures.

“(4) SPECIAL RULE.—In any case in which the facility being repaired, restored, reconstructed, or replaced under this section was under construction on the date of the major disaster, the cost of repairing, restoring, reconstructing, or replacing the facility shall include, for the purposes of this section, only those costs that, under the contract for the construction, are the owner’s responsibility and not the contractor’s responsibility.”.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by paragraph (1) takes effect on the date of enactment of this Act and applies to funds appropriated after the date of enactment of this Act, except that paragraph (1) of section 406(e) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (as amended by paragraph (1)) takes effect on the date on which the cost estimation procedures established under paragraph (3) of that section take effect.

(e) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172) is amended by striking subsection (f).

SEC. 206. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 408. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—In accordance with this section, the President, in consultation with the Governor of a State, may provide financial assistance, and, if necessary, direct services, to individuals and households in the State who, as a direct result of a major disaster, have necessary expenses and serious needs in cases in which the individuals and households are unable to meet such expenses or needs through other means.

“(2) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSISTANCE.—Under paragraph (1), an individual or household shall not be denied assistance under paragraph (1), (3), or (4) of subsection (c) solely on the basis that the individual or household has not applied for or received any loan or other financial assistance from the Small Business Administration or any other Federal agency.

“(b) HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) ELIGIBILITY.—The President may provide financial or other assistance under this section to individuals and households to respond to the disaster-related housing needs of individuals and households who are displaced from their pre-disaster primary residences or whose pre-disaster primary residences are rendered uninhabitable as a result of damage caused by a major disaster.

“(2) DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall determine appropriate types of housing assistance to be provided under this section to individuals and households described in subsection (a)(1) based on considerations of cost effectiveness, convenience to the individuals and households, and such other factors as the President may consider appropriate.

“(B) MULTIPLE TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—One or more types of housing assistance may be made available under this section, based on the suitability and availability of the types of assistance, to meet the needs of individuals and households in the particular disaster situation.

“(c) TYPES OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) TEMPORARY HOUSING.—

“(A) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The President may provide financial assistance to individuals or households to rent alternate housing accommodations, existing rental units, manufactured housing, recreational vehicles, or other readily fabricated dwellings.

“(ii) AMOUNT.—The amount of assistance under clause (i) shall be based on the fair market rent for the accommodation provided plus the cost of any transportation, utility hookups, or unit installation not provided directly by the President.

“(B) DIRECT ASSISTANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The President may provide temporary housing units, acquired by purchase or lease, directly to individuals or households who, because of a lack of available housing re-

sources, would be unable to make use of the assistance provided under subparagraph (A).

“(ii) PERIOD OF ASSISTANCE.—The President may not provide direct assistance under clause (i) with respect to a major disaster after the end of the 18-month period beginning on the date of the declaration of the major disaster by the President, except that the President may extend that period if the President determines that due to extraordinary circumstances an extension would be in the public interest.

“(iii) COLLECTION OF RENTAL CHARGES.—After the end of the 18-month period referred to in clause (ii), the President may charge fair market rent for each temporary housing unit provided.

“(2) REPAIRS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may provide financial assistance for—

“(i) the repair of owner-occupied private residences, utilities, and residential infrastructure (such as a private access route) damaged by a major disaster to a safe and sanitary living or functioning condition; and

“(ii) eligible hazard mitigation measures that reduce the likelihood of future damage to such residences, utilities, or infrastructure.

“(B) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSISTANCE.—A recipient of assistance provided under this paragraph shall not be required to show that the assistance can be met through other means, except insurance proceeds.

“(C) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—The amount of assistance provided to a household under this paragraph shall not exceed \$5,000, as adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Department of Labor.

“(3) REPLACEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may provide financial assistance for the replacement of owner-occupied private residences damaged by a major disaster.

“(B) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—The amount of assistance provided to a household under this paragraph shall not exceed \$10,000, as adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Department of Labor.

“(C) APPLICABILITY OF FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIREMENT.—With respect to assistance provided under this paragraph, the President may not waive any provision of Federal law requiring the purchase of flood insurance as a condition of the receipt of Federal disaster assistance.

“(4) PERMANENT HOUSING CONSTRUCTION.—The President may provide financial assistance or direct assistance to individuals or households to construct permanent housing in insular areas outside the continental United States and in other remote locations in cases in which—

“(A) no alternative housing resources are available; and

“(B) the types of temporary housing assistance described in paragraph (1) are unavailable, infeasible, or not cost-effective.

“(d) TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATING TO HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) SITES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any readily fabricated dwelling provided under this section shall, whenever practicable, be located on a site that—

“(i) is complete with utilities; and

“(ii) is provided by the State or local government, by the owner of the site, or by the occupant who was displaced by the major disaster.

“(B) SITES PROVIDED BY THE PRESIDENT.—A readily fabricated dwelling may be located on a site provided by the President if the President determines that such a site would be more economical or accessible.

“(2) DISPOSAL OF UNITS.—

“(A) SALE TO OCCUPANTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a temporary housing unit purchased under this section by the President for the purpose of housing disaster victims may be sold directly to the individual or household who is occupying the unit if the individual or household lacks permanent housing.

“(ii) SALE PRICE.—A sale of a temporary housing unit under clause (i) shall be at a price that is fair and equitable.

“(iii) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the proceeds of a sale under clause (i) shall be deposited in the appropriate Disaster Relief Fund account.

“(iv) HAZARD AND FLOOD INSURANCE.—A sale of a temporary housing unit under clause (i) shall be made on the condition that the individual or household purchasing the housing unit agrees to obtain and maintain hazard and flood insurance on the housing unit.

“(v) USE OF GSA SERVICES.—The President may use the services of the General Services Administration to accomplish a sale under clause (i).

“(B) OTHER METHODS OF DISPOSAL.—If not disposed of under subparagraph (A), a temporary housing unit purchased under this section by the President for the purpose of housing disaster victims—

“(i) may be sold to any person; or

“(ii) may be sold, transferred, donated, or otherwise made available directly to a State or other governmental entity or to a voluntary organization for the sole purpose of providing temporary housing to disaster victims in major disasters and emergencies if, as a condition of the sale, transfer, or donation, the State, other governmental agency, or voluntary organization agrees—

“(I) to comply with the nondiscrimination provisions of section 308; and

“(II) to obtain and maintain hazard and flood insurance on the housing unit.

“(e) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS OTHER NEEDS.—

“(1) MEDICAL, DENTAL, AND FUNERAL EXPENSES.—The President, in consultation with the Governor of a State, may provide financial assistance under this section to an individual or household in the State who is adversely affected by a major disaster to meet disaster-related medical, dental, and funeral expenses.

“(2) PERSONAL PROPERTY, TRANSPORTATION, AND OTHER EXPENSES.—The President, in consultation with the Governor of a State, may provide financial assistance under this section to an individual or household described in paragraph (1) to address personal property, transportation, and other necessary expenses or serious needs resulting from the major disaster.

“(f) STATE ROLE.—

“(1) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS OTHER NEEDS.—

“(A) GRANT TO STATE.—Subject to subsection (g), a Governor may request a grant from the President to provide financial assistance to individuals and households in the State under subsection (e).

“(B) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A State that receives a grant under subparagraph (A) may expend not more than 5 percent of the amount of the grant for the administrative costs of providing financial assistance to individuals and households in the State under subsection (e).

“(2) ACCESS TO RECORDS.—In providing assistance to individuals and households under this section, the President shall provide for the substantial and ongoing involvement of the States in which the individuals and households are located, including by providing to the States access to the electronic records of individuals and households receiving assistance under this section in order for the States to make available any additional State and local assistance to the individuals and households.

“(g) COST SHARING.—

“(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal share of the costs eligible to be paid using assistance provided under this section shall be 100 percent.

“(2) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS OTHER NEEDS.—In the case of financial assistance provided under subsection (e)—

“(A) the Federal share shall be 75 percent; and

“(B) the non-Federal share shall be paid from funds made available by the State.

“(h) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No individual or household shall receive financial assistance greater than \$25,000 under this section with respect to a single major disaster.

“(2) ADJUSTMENT OF LIMIT.—The limit established under paragraph (1) shall be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Department of Labor.

“(i) RULES AND REGULATIONS.—The President shall prescribe rules and regulations to carry out this section, including criteria, standards, and procedures for determining eligibility for assistance.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 502(a)(6) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5192(a)(6)) is amended by striking “temporary housing”.

(c) ELIMINATION OF INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY GRANT PROGRAMS.—Section 411 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5178) is repealed.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 207. COMMUNITY DISASTER LOANS.

Section 417 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5184) is amended—

(1) by striking “(a) The President” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The President”;

(2) by striking “The amount” and inserting the following:

“(b) AMOUNT.—The amount”;

(3) by striking “Repayment” and inserting the following:

“(c) REPAYMENT.—

“(1) CANCELLATION.—Repayment”;

(4) by striking “(b) Any loans” and inserting the following:

“(d) EFFECT ON OTHER ASSISTANCE.—Any loans”;

(5) in subsection (b) (as designated by paragraph (2))—

(A) by striking “and shall” and inserting “shall”; and

(B) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and shall not exceed \$5,000,000”; and

(6) in subsection (c) (as designated by paragraph (3)), by adding at the end the following:

“(2) CONDITION ON CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY.—A local government shall not be eligible for further assistance under this section during any period in which the local government is in arrears with respect to a required repayment of a loan under this section.”.

SEC. 208. REPORT ON STATE MANAGEMENT OF SMALL DISASTERS INITIATIVE.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report describing the results of the State Management of Small Disasters Initiative, including—

(1) identification of any administrative or financial benefits of the initiative; and

(2) recommendations concerning the conditions, if any, under which States should be allowed the option to administer parts of the assistance program under section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172).

SEC. 209. STUDY REGARDING COST REDUCTION.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall complete a study estimating the reduction in Federal disaster assistance that has resulted and is likely to result from the enactment of this Act.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 301. TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF SHORT TITLE.

The first section of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 note) is amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

“This Act may be cited as the ‘Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act’.”.

SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.

Section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122) is amended—

(1) in each of paragraphs (3) and (4), by striking “the Northern” and all that follows through “Pacific Islands” and inserting “and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands”;

(2) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘local government’ means—

“(A) a county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government;

“(B) an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or Alaska Native village or organization; and

“(C) a rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity, for which an application for assistance is made by a State or political subdivision of a State.”; and

(3) in paragraph (9), by inserting “irrigation,” after “utility.”.

SEC. 303. FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 420. FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to provide assistance, including grants, equipment, supplies, and personnel, to any State or local government for the mitigation, management, and control of any fire on public or private forest land or grassland that threatens such destruction as would constitute a major disaster.

“(b) COORDINATION WITH STATE AND TRIBAL DEPARTMENTS OF FORESTRY.—In providing assistance under this section, the President shall coordinate with State and tribal departments of forestry.

“(c) ESSENTIAL ASSISTANCE.—In providing assistance under this section, the President may use the authority provided under section 403.

“(d) RULES AND REGULATIONS.—The President shall prescribe such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) takes effect 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 304. DISASTER GRANT CLOSEOUT PROCEDURES.

Title VII of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 705. DISASTER GRANT CLOSEOUT PROCEDURES.

“(a) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), no administrative action to recover any payment made to a State or local government for disaster or emergency assistance under this Act shall be initiated in any forum after the date that is 3 years after the date of transmission of the final expenditure report for the disaster or emergency.

“(2) FRAUD EXCEPTION.—The limitation under paragraph (1) shall apply unless there is evidence of civil or criminal fraud.

“(b) REBUTTAL OF PRESUMPTION OF RECORD MAINTENANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In any dispute arising under this section after the date that is 3 years after the date of transmission of the final expenditure report for the disaster or emergency,

there shall be a presumption that accounting records were maintained that adequately identify the source and application of funds provided for financially assisted activities.

“(2) AFFIRMATIVE EVIDENCE.—The presumption described in paragraph (1) may be rebutted only on production of affirmative evidence that the State or local government did not maintain documentation described in that paragraph.

“(3) INABILITY TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTATION.—The inability of the Federal, State, or local government to produce source documentation supporting expenditure reports later than 3 years after the date of transmission of the final expenditure report shall not constitute evidence to rebut the presumption described in paragraph (1).

“(4) RIGHT OF ACCESS.—The period during which the Federal, State, or local government has the right to access source documentation shall not be limited to the required 3-year retention period referred to in paragraph (3), but shall last as long as the records are maintained.

“(c) BINDING NATURE OF GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—A State or local government shall not be liable for reimbursement or any other penalty for any payment made under this Act if—

“(1) the payment was authorized by an approved agreement specifying the costs;

“(2) the costs were reasonable; and

“(3) the purpose of the grant was accomplished.”.

SEC. 305. PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN FEDERAL AND STATE EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b) is amended by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

“(7) ‘public safety officer’ means—

“(A) an individual serving a public agency in an official capacity, with or without compensation, as a law enforcement officer, as a firefighter, or as a member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew;

“(B) an employee of the Federal Emergency Management Agency who is performing official duties of the Agency in an area, if those official duties—

“(i) are related to a major disaster or emergency that has been, or is later, declared to exist with respect to the area under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); and

“(ii) are determined by the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to be hazardous duties; or

“(C) an employee of a State, local, or tribal emergency management or civil defense agency who is performing official duties in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in an area, if those official duties—

“(i) are related to a major disaster or emergency that has been, or is later, declared to exist with respect to the area under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); and

“(ii) are determined by the head of the agency to be hazardous duties.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) applies only to employees described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 1204(7) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (as amended by subsection (a)) who are injured or who die in the line of duty on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 306. BUY AMERICAN.

(a) COMPLIANCE WITH BUY AMERICAN ACT.—No funds authorized to be appropriated under this Act or any amendment made by this Act may be expended by an entity unless the entity, in expending the funds, complies with the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. 10a et seq.).

(b) DEBARMENT OF PERSONS CONVICTED OF FRAUDULENT USE OF “MADE IN AMERICA” LABELS.—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—If the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency determines that a person has been convicted of intentionally affixing a label bearing a “Made in America” inscription to any product sold in or shipped to the United States that is not made in America, the Director shall determine, not later than 90 days after determining that the person has been so convicted, whether the person should be debarred from contracting under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

(2) *DEFINITION OF DEBAR.*—In this subsection, the term “debar” has the meaning given the term in section 2393(c) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 307. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4002 et seq.), or any other provision of law, or any flood risk zone identified, delineated, or established under any such law (by flood insurance rate map or otherwise), the real property described in subsection (b) shall not be considered to be, or to have been, located in any area having special flood hazards (including any floodway or floodplain).

(b) *REAL PROPERTY.*—The real property described in this subsection is all land and improvements on the land located in the Maple Terrace Subdivisions in the city of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois, including—

- (1) Maple Terrace Phase I;
- (2) Maple Terrace Phase II;
- (3) Maple Terrace Phase III Unit 1;
- (4) Maple Terrace Phase III Unit 2;
- (5) Maple Terrace Phase III Unit 3;
- (6) Maple Terrace Phase IV Unit 1;
- (7) Maple Terrace Phase IV Unit 2; and
- (8) Maple Terrace Phase IV Unit 3.

(c) *REVISION OF FLOOD INSURANCE RATE LOT MAPS.*—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall revise the appropriate flood insurance rate lot maps of the agency to reflect the treatment under subsection (a) of the real property described in subsection (b).

SEC. 308. STUDY OF PARTICIPATION BY INDIAN TRIBES IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

(a) *DEFINITION OF INDIAN TRIBE.*—In this section, the term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(b) *STUDY.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall conduct a study of participation by Indian tribes in emergency management.

(2) *REQUIRED ELEMENTS.*—The study shall—

(A) survey participation by Indian tribes in training, predisaster and postdisaster mitigation, disaster preparedness, and disaster recovery programs at the Federal and State levels; and

(B) review and assess the capacity of Indian tribes to participate in cost-shared emergency management programs and to participate in the management of the programs.

(3) *CONSULTATION.*—In conducting the study, the Director shall consult with Indian tribes.

(c) *REPORT.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit a report on the study under subsection (b) to—

- (1) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;
- (2) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;
- (3) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and
- (4) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKY). Pursuant to the rule, the gen-

tleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DUNN) who I am sure will be able to tie our interest in this legislation back to the pipeline safety bill that we have just passed.

Ms. DUNN. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) for bringing Senate bill 2438 to the floor and I want to make a few comments on it. I appreciate his leadership and commitment to passing a very strong pipeline safety bill.

We are all aware of the tragedy of pipeline accidents. In Washington State, as I am sure Members have heard from the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF), we have been dealing with this important issue ever since three young boys were tragically killed by a pipeline explosion in Bellingham on June 10, 1999, in our State of Washington. After consulting with the parents of the three youngsters and the mayors of the communities in the district I represent, I have supported stronger pipeline inspection requirements than this bill provides. But I truly believe that Senate bill 2438 is a meaningful step forward in strengthening our laws and protecting the people we represent. I believe, too, that a vote against this pipeline safety bill is a vote for the status quo. A status quo in which communities are unable to gather information about the pipelines that run under their schools and neighborhoods; a status quo that does not increase penalties for those who fail to comply with the law; and a status quo that says pipeline companies do not have to report a leak until 2,100 gallons have been spilled into our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the status quo is not enough. We cannot simply place our hopes on future legislation and fail to protect those who live near the pipelines today. It is time to pass a strong pipeline safety bill and demand that the Office of Pipeline Safety enforce it. Today, we have an opportunity to pass a substantive pipeline bill that will increase and improve safety in our communities. It requires pipeline companies to provide information to the public and emergency agencies. It increases fines for noncompliance and the caps on maximum enforcement penalties. It requires pipeline companies to report any spills over five gallons so that our communities will be well informed and ready to respond. And it provides local citizens a forum in which to make recommendations to the Federal Government about the pipelines in their own neighborhoods.

Pipeline safety does not end today. This is a beginning. And we can build upon this beginning by holding the Of-

fice of Pipeline Safety and pipeline companies accountable to Congress and to our communities. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Returning now to H.R. 707, I would note that I have no further requests for time but simply would point out, I understand we have strong bipartisan support on this legislation which is the norm in our committee. What this legislation does, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 marks the first major amendments to the Stafford Disaster Relief Act since 1988. I would urge strong support for it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will resist the temptation to rebut the statements just made on pipeline safety, made out of order, out of regular time, except to say that we had time to get a better bill. We still could do it, there is plenty of time left in this session, we still can work things out, and we ought to.

This disaster mitigation legislation does represent the very best, however, of comity between the two parties in this House and the two sides of our committee. The benefit of this bill is that it establishes a predisaster mitigation program based on the very effective Project Impact initiative that emphasizes local community involvement critical to the success of implementing long-term strategies for disaster resistance.

This is the first time at the Federal level that we will be providing a mechanism and funding to address problems before they occur. If we can avoid losses, we can avoid future tragedies, we will save tens of millions of dollars, and that is the essential character of this legislation, the essential contribution that it makes.

I rise in support of H.R. 707, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, the third and final time that we take up this legislation in this body. This legislation represents tireless work on the part of the gentlewoman from Florida who has given exhausting hours of her time to fashion a bill that will be effective and that will respond to the concerns that she has expressed so well, not only in Florida but elsewhere around this country. The cooperative work that she has undertaken with our ranking member, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), has been exemplary. I appreciate the many visits that we have had about this and about the terrorism commission legislation which I will address in a moment.

The benefits of the disaster mitigation bill are that first of all it establishes a predisaster mitigation program based on the very effective Project Impact initiative. Project Impact emphasizes local community involvement that is critical to the success of implementing long-term strategies for disaster resistance.

This is the first time that we will be attempting at the Federal level to address problems before they occur. I think properly so, because if we address problems that we know cause increased losses, we can avoid those losses

in the future disasters that we know are likely to occur. These initiatives, rather modest in this bill, will translate into millions of dollars of savings.

There are, however, a couple of concerns that I have about the legislation. Both House and Senate bills require non-profit entities to seek loans from the Small Business Administration as a precondition of assistance. But, certain non-profits are singled out not for what they do but for who they are. Libraries, museums and shelters should not be discriminated against in this fashion. It is not a fatal flaw in the bill, not one that would cause me to oppose it, but one that I hope can be revisited and fixed in the future.

Second, the bill authorizes funding only for the next three fiscal years. I believe that oversight of this program will demonstrate its value, and that there will be a continuing need to work with communities for many years. I look forward to working to extend this program.

The Senate has removed language requiring the establishment of a President's Council on Domestic Terrorism and Preparedness within the Executive Office of the President. The gentlewoman has again devoted tireless hours and very deep personal conviction to this legislation. This is not something that she has undertaken as a gesture, but as a matter of very deep conviction. I have been greatly persuaded by her activism, by her profound self-assurance based on case studies and careful analysis of the situation and the failure of the existing system to perform as intended.

I support the establishment of the President's council. I worked to mediate between the subcommittee and the Office of Management and Budget and White House staff. I think under the circumstances this is a sound, reasonable, responsible initiative. As the gentlewoman has said to me, in years to come after she enters retirement, she does not want to look back on a tragedy and say, "That could have been prevented. I could have done something while I was in Congress." She tried her hardest to do something, Mr. Speaker. But, the Senate has refused to acquiesce. That is unfortunate, but the unwillingness of the Senate causes us to accept the agreement on mitigation and address terrorism preparedness at a later date.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to comment that I understand there has been some byplay among our staffs, perhaps, on an issue of whether or not we are going to move to the next bill which is strongly supported by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL). It has been suggested to me that there might be some tactics on both our parts to delay this. That is not my style. I am quite prepared once we dispose of this to move ahead with the gentleman from West Virginia's legislation because it is the right thing to do. If we have anything else we need to fight out, we can do that later.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this important legislation.

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew slammed into the coast of Florida resulting in total losses ex-

ceeding \$30 billion. Andrew is the costliest major disaster in U.S. history.

Of course, Floridians are not the only ones at risk from natural disasters. In the past 10 years every State and territory in the Union has been adversely impacted by a natural disaster.

This Nation simply can't afford to keep exposing our people and their property to these disasters.

In the past, Congress has focused on assisting the victims of disasters after the damage is done: Since 1989, Congress has spent over \$25 billion on disaster relief.

Our emphasis needs to change. H.R. 707 significantly increases Federal assistance for projects that prevent damage before hurricanes and other disasters strike.

This money can be used for such projects as strengthening schools, providing shelters for evacuees, and hurricane-proofing homes. If used in the right way, such spending should decrease overall Federal spending by reducing the disaster relief needed after a disaster hits.

With more emphasis on mitigation we will have less to fear from natural disasters and reduce the threat to our families and property.

I want to thank Mr. BOEHLERT for all his work on this bill as well as the ranking member of the subcommittee Mr. TRAFICANT.

I also want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and the ranking minority member of the full committee, Mr. OBERSTAR, for their support and encouragement.

While I am very pleased to support final passage of H.R. 707, I am disappointed that the Senate failed to retain a section of the bill establishing a President's council to coordinate domestic terrorism preparedness programs.

There is clearly more work that needs to be done to prepare and protect the public from man-caused disasters. I have no doubt that the next Congress will continue to grapple with this important issue.

Regardless of this omission, this is still an excellent bill and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 707.

I want to thank my subcommittee staff: Marcus Peacock, Charlie Ziegler, Miki White, Denise Beshaw, and Dan Shulman for their dedication and hard work throughout the year in getting this legislation passed.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 707, the Disaster Mitigation Amendments Act of 2000. The amendments establish a predisaster mitigation grant program, make it easier for states to administer the Federal program, and enhance state efforts to prepare for and respond to disasters. Before I continue, I would like to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Democratic Member OBERSTAR for their assistance on this legislation. I also would like to commend and thank Chairman FOWLER for her leadership, her hard work and her willingness to listen to all the stakeholders, the Administration and Members, in an effort to make this the best legislation it could be. She indeed has done an admirable job.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 is about being prepared for natural disasters. By establishing and funding a pre-disaster mitigation program, we can lessen the human and financial losses associated with natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes.

This bill also simplifies the Federal-State relationship in providing Federal disaster assist-

ance. It encourages States to be more active in providing assistance, and to assume responsibility for administering benefits where the state chooses to do so. It also protects the taxpayer by encouraging those communities suffering from repetitive losses to undertake efforts to reduce those losses. But it also protects the local community by establishing a 3-year limitation on FEMA's ability to review an assistance grant for compliance with law and regulation.

It is my understanding that there were some Members of the other body that had some concerns about the part of the bill that contained the Council for Terrorism Preparedness. I am sorry that we were not able to work out those concerns. We missed a tremendous opportunity to help organize and prepare for any future terrorist attacks against our nation. I am disappointed about that. I hope we will have a chance in the future to pass a bill on terrorism preparedness.

Mr. Speaker, disaster mitigation is such an extremely important and urgent issue for our country. I support the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, and urge my colleagues to support it.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 707.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 707, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

MOTOR CARRIER FUEL COST EQUITY ACT OF 2000

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4441) to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide a mandatory fuel surcharge for transportation provided by certain motor carriers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4441

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Motor Carrier Fuel Cost Equity Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. MANDATORY FUEL SURCHARGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 137 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: