

bringing this important resolution before the House. I strongly support it and was pleased to cooperate in seeing it move through the Committee on Agriculture, and I urge my colleagues to adopt it here.

The gentleman is quite correct. We are not facing an ordinary situation here. These are not natural forest fires, and as a result, this resolution would clearly establish Congress' commitment and support for a proactive forest management strategy.

The strategy cannot simply be to let these fires burn. They consume the entire forest from the ground to the top of the tallest and oldest and most extensive trees. They leave behind bare mineral soil, dead trees and vegetation, hot running streams and rivers, and the threat of more devastation from massive mudslides. The historic efforts of managing fire suppression will only lead to an increase in the forest health crises and the probability of more catastrophic wildfires like the ones we are experiencing today. We must actively manage by focusing on forest health and if we want to protect our firefighters, our communities, or forests, we must work to create healthy, sustainable ecosystems through good stewardship. Healthy forests burn more predictably and can be more easily controlled when necessary.

The Western Governors Association comprehensive strategy does this very thing. It calls for moving quickly to plan programs that will reduce hazardous fuels and implementing restoration efforts on fire-ravaged landscapes.

Therefore, I strongly urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 352, to reinforce Congress' commitment to the health of our forests.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER).

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. We are in the midst of what could be the most costly and destructive fire season for which records have been kept. More than 3½ million acres have burned so far this year, almost 2½ times the 10-year average, and close to a million acres more than at this time in 2000 which was then the worst fire season in 50 years.

It is an ominous glimpse of what the future holds if Congress and the administration do not make a dramatic commitment and take immediate steps to manage our forests aggressively to protect public health and safety. Our forests are incredibly unhealthy and literally choking from an unnatural accumulation of forest fuels. Some areas are up to 10 times denser than historically. Because of this dangerous build-up of trees, instead of the healthy fires that clean up the forest floor, we are now seeing wildfires of catastrophic size and intensity that cannot be controlled, threatening entire communities, lives and property, and leaving

charred forests that will not recover for a century or more. These fires are not natural. They are not inevitable. They are not environmentally healthy. They are a very serious threat to public health and safety.

According to the Forest Service's own estimates, the number of acres at risk for such catastrophic fire events has grown to alarming proportions. Today close to 80 million acres of our Federal forest lands are threatened and, Mr. Speaker, this devastating fire season is further proof that time is quickly running out.

The 1999 GAO, Government Accounting Office, report that provided the first insight into the extent of our forest health crises also predicted that the window for taking effective action is quickly closing. They indicated that we have only 10 to 25 years within which to take action before these fires become widespread. We are not going to prevent forest fires, but by implementing a fire protection and fuel reduction strategy, setting aggressive goals, and giving land managers the tools and flexibility they need, we can reduce their size and intensity and give our firefighters a fighting chance. Congress approved such a plan in 1998. The Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act, which this House passed by the overwhelming margin of 429 to 1, requires implementation of a locally developed bipartisan pilot project based on a system of environmentally sensitive fuel breaks and thinning that would reduce the risk of fire and protect communities. It would protect wildlife and enhance their habitat. With a \$3 return for every \$1 expended and \$2.1 billion in economic benefit for rural communities, it is proof that there are win-win, cost-effective fire protection solutions out there that are ripe for immediate implementation.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is a critical step toward giving this emergency and the need for solutions the urgency and the serious attention they deserve. I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. Fires continue to blaze through the western portion of our country. Aided by drought the damage stretches into a million acres and billions of dollars.

More than 22,000 communities across the country and over 211 million acres of federal lands are currently at risk to these severe wildfires. In Arizona alone, over a half a million acres of land burned with more than 400 homes and other structures. Nearly 33,000 people were evacuated.

The key to reducing risk of these catastrophic wildfires is to actively manage forests not just in the interface but landscape wide to ensure forests can withstand drought, insects and disease. Reaching the appropriate tree density and promoting native mixes of species ensures less severe burns than what we have seen ravage the west already this year.

This is not a commercial logging or timber issue. This is an issue of keeping the forests

healthy and well maintained through thinning, logging and prescribed burns. Policies that slow down this process coupled with appeals that further halt necessary treatments must be stopped. Without these changes, we will see more years similar to this one where the fire year is shaping up as the most devastating on record. Some 2.7 million acres have already burned, nearly three times the average acreage for this time of year.

We still have time. The fire season is in its early stages. Thinning and forest management practices necessary to ensure our forests are able to survive future catastrophic wildfires must begin without further delay.

In a 1999 report, the General Accounting Office report to the U.S. House of Representatives, entitled "Western Forests: A Cohesive Strategy Is Needed To Address Catastrophic Wildfire Threats," was published in 1999. The GAO reported that "the most extensive and serious problem related to the health of national forests in the interior West is the over-accumulation of vegetation, which has caused an increasing number of large, intense, uncontrolled and catastrophically destructive wildfires. According to the U.S. Forest Service, 39 million acres on national forests in the interior West are at high risk of catastrophic wildfire."

The Western Governors Association (WGA) signed it "Collaborative 10-year Strategy for Reducing Wild Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment" in 2001. The plan emphasizes preventing catastrophic blazes instead of just fighting them.

I encourage Congress to support the plans of the 10-year strategy. I encourage the immediate implementation of practices we know will aide in preventing future fires that burn thousands of acres of land and homes.

Mr. POMBO. 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 gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 352, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read:

"Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Federal land management agencies should fully support the "Collaborative 10-year Strategy for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment" as prepared by the Western Governors' Association, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior, and other stakeholders, to reduce the overabundance of forest fuels that place national resources at high risk of catastrophic wildfire, and prepare a national assessment of prescribed burning practices to minimize risks of escape."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will now put the question on motions to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Con. Res. 439, by the yeas and nays;

H. Con. Res. 492, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote.

HONORING CORINNE "LINDY" CLAIBORNE BOGGS ON OCCASION OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 439.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LIN- DER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 439, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 378, nays 0, not voting 56, as follows:

[Roll No. 324]

YEAS—378

Ackerman	Chambliss	Filner	Hoyer	Miller, Gary	Sensenbrenner
Aderholt	Clay	Flake	Hulshof	Miller, George	Serrano
Akin	Clayton	Forbes	Hunter	Miller, Jeff	Shadegg
Allen	Clyburn	Ford	Hyde	Mink	Shaw
Andrews	Coble	Fossella	Inslee	Mollohan	Shays
Armey	Collins	Frank	Isakson	Moran (KS)	Sherman
Baca	Combest	Frost	Israel	Moran (VA)	Sherwood
Baird	Condit	Galleghy	Issa	Morella	Shimkus
Baker	Cooksey	Ganske	Jackson (IL)	Nadler	Show
Baldacci	Costello	Gekas	Jackson-Lee (TX)	Napolitano	Shuster
Baldwin	Crenshaw	Gephart	Jefferson	Neal	Simmons
Ballenger	Crowley	Gibbons	Jenkins	Nethercutt	Simpson
Barcia	Cubin	Gilchrest	John	Ney	Skeen
Barr	Culberson	Gillmor	Johnson (CT)	Northup	Skelton
Bartlett	Cummings	Gilman	Johnson (IL)	Norwood	Slaughter
Bass	Cunningham	Gonzalez	Johnson, E. B.	Nussle	Smith (MI)
Bentsen	Davis (CA)	Goode	Jones (NC)	Oberstar	Smith (NJ)
Bereuter	Davis (IL)	Goodlatte	Kanjorski	Obey	Smith (TX)
Berkley	Davis, Jo Ann	Gordon	Kaptur	Olver	Smith (WA)
Berman	Davis, Tom	Goss	Keller	Ortiz	Snyder
Berry	Deal	Graham	Kelly	Osborne	Solis
Biggert	Defazio	Granger	Kennedy (MN)	Ose	Souder
Bilirakis	DeGette	Graves	Kennedy (RI)	Otter	Spratt
Bishop	Delahunt	Green (TX)	Kerns	Owens	Stark
Blumenauer	DeLauro	Green (WI)	Kildee	Oxley	Stearns
Boehlert	DeLay	Greenwood	Kind (WI)	Pallone	Stenholm
Boehner	DeMint	Menendez	King (NY)	Pascarella	Strickland
Bono	Deutsch	Gutknecht	Kingston	Pastor	Stupak
Boozman	Diaz-Balart	Hall (TX)	Kirk	Paul	Sullivan
Boswell	Dicks	Hart	Knollenberg	Payne	Sununu
Boucher	Dingell	Hastings (WA)	LaTourette	Pelosi	Sweeney
Boyd	Doggett	Hastings (WA)	Leach	Petri	Tauscher
Brady (PA)	Doolittle	Hayes	Lampson	Pickering	Tauzin
Brown (FL)	Doyle	Hayworth	Langevin	Pitts	Taylor (MS)
Brown (OH)	Dreier	Hefley	Lantos	Platts	Thompson (CA)
Brown (SC)	Duncan	Herger	Larsen (WA)	Pombo	Thompson (MS)
Burr	Dunn	Hill	Larson (CT)	Pomeroy	Thornberry
Burton	Edwards	Hilliard	Latham	Portman	Thune
Buyer	Ehlers	Hinojosa	LaTourette	Price (NC)	Thurman
Camp	Ehrlich	Hobson	Leach	Pryce (OH)	Tiahrt
Cannon	Engel	Hoeffel	Lampson	Putnam	Tiberi
Cantor	English	Hoekstra	Langevin	Quinn	Toomey
Capito	Eshoo	Holden	Lantos	Levin	Towns
Capps	Etheridge	Holt	Larsen (WA)	Lewis (CA)	Turner
Capuano	Evans	Honda	Latham	Lewis (KY)	Udall (CO)
Cardin	Everett	Hoooley	LaTourette	Linder	Udall (NM)
Carson (IN)	Farr	Horn	Leach	Lipinski	Upton
Castle	Fattah	Hostettler	Lampson	LoBiondo	Velazquez
Chabot	Ferguson	Houghton	Langevin	Lofgren	Visclosky

NOT VOTING—56

Abercrombie	Cramer	McCrery
Bachus	Crane	McKeon
Barrett	Davis (FL)	Meek (FL)
Barton	Dooley	Millender
Becerra	Emerson	McDonald
Blagojevich	Fletcher	Miller, Dan
Blunt	Foley	Murtha
Bonilla	Frelinghuysen	Myrick
Bonior	Gutierrez	Phelps
Borski	Hall (OH)	Riley
Brady (TX)	Hansen	Rush
Bryant	Hastings (FL)	Schaffer
Callahan	Hillear	Sessions
Calvert	Hinchey	Stump
Carson (OK)	Johnson, Sam	Tancredo
Clement	Jones (OH)	Taylor (NC)
Conyers	Kilpatrick	Tierney
Cox	Lewis (GA)	Traficant
Coyne	Maloney (CT)	Young (FL)

□ 1901

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:

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 324, I was with the DEA Administrator, Asa Hutchinson, and missed the vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted **Yea.**

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on the additional motion to suspend the rules on which the Chair has postponed further proceedings.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR THE 10-MONTH-LONG WORLD TRADE CENTER CLEANUP AND RECOVERY EFFORTS AT THE FRESH KILLS LANDFILL ON STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK, FOLLOWING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 492.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUT- NAM) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 492, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 375, nays 0, not voting 59, as follows:

[Roll No. 325]

YEAS—375

Ackerman	Bono	Collins
Aderholt	Boozman	Combest
Akin	Boswell	Condit
Allen	Boucher	Cooksey
Andrews	Boyd	Costello
Armey	Brady (PA)	Cox
Baca	Brown (FL)	Crenshaw
Baird	Brown (OH)	Crowley
Baker	Brown (SC)	Cubin
Baldacci	Burr	Culberson
Baldwin	Burton	Cummings
Ballenger	Buyer	Cunningham
Barcia	Camp	Davis (CA)
Barr	Carron	Davis (IL)
Bartlett	Cantor	Davis, Jo Ann
Bass	Capito	Davis, Tom
Bentsen	Castile	DeLauro
Bereuter	DeLay	DeLauro
Berkley	Chabot	DeMint
Berman	Capuano	DeFazio
Berry	Carpano	DeGrazio
Biggert	DeGette	DeGette
Bilirakis	Carson (IN)	Delahunt
Bishop	Carson (IN)	DeLauro
Blumenauer	Carson (IN)	DeLauro
Boehlert	Castle	DeMint
Boehner	DeLay	DeMint
Bono	DeMint	Deutsch
Boozman	Diaz-Balart	Dicks
Boswell	Dicks	Dingell
Boucher	Dicks	Dixie
Boyd	Dicks	Dixie
Brady (PA)	Dicks	Dixie
Brown (FL)	Dicks	Dixie
Brown (OH)	Dicks	Dixie
Brown (SC)	Dicks	Dixie
Burr	Dicks	Dixie
Burton	Dicks	Dixie
Buyer	Dicks	Dixie
Camp	Dicks	Dixie
Cannon	Dicks	Dixie
Cantor	Dicks	Dixie
Capito	Dicks	Dixie
Capps	Dicks	Dixie
Capuano	Dicks	Dixie
Cardin	Dicks	Dixie
Carson (IN)	Dicks	Dixie
Castle	Dicks	Dixie
Chabot	Dicks	Dixie