generation of scientific breakthroughs in a variety of fields central to the Department of Energy's mission.

In many cases, dramatic breakthroughs will require increasing computing power by a factor of a hundred or in some cases by a factor of a thousand. While attaining these increases may seem daunting, the history of computer development has taught us that, with a sustained commitment to research, such gains are within our reach. That is why Secretary Abraham recently announced the selection of a team including Argonne National Laboratory, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, IBM, Cray and other partners to develop and build a new high-end computing facility.

When completed, this new user facility will outpace the world's current number one computer, Japan's Earth Stimulator. H.R. 4516 supports this new initiative of the Department of Energy and ensures that the Department can fulfill its responsibility to help lead the Federal Government's supercomputing R&D efforts.

Mr. Speaker, by renewing our commitment to high-end computing research and development at the Department of Energy, the United States can regain its competitive edge in the development and use of supercomputers and recapture the distinction of being home to the world's most powerful computer. Again, our Nation's scientific enterprise and our economy will be the stronger for it.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and I are pleased to bring H.R. 4516, the Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004, for consideration in the House today.

H.R. 4516 authorizes the Department of Energy to advance high-end computing, and the House Committee on Science has held several hearings that have emphasized its importance to achieve progress in many fields of science and engineering.

The gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and I also introduced H.R. 4218 that we just considered to strengthen existing interagency planning and budgeting mechanisms for high-end computing.

In response to the needs for greater resource and focus, we have introduced this bill, H.R. 4516. This legislation focuses on activities at the Department of Energy, which has been a major player in the development of supercomputing since its earliest days.

Tennessee's Oak Ridge National Lab will lead a partnership supported by DOE to build the world's most powerful supercomputer by 2007. I am thrilled that the Center for Computational Science at Oak Ridge will soon be the new home of the word's largest and fastest computer.

H.R. 4516 authorizes research and development activities needed to develop future supercomputing systems and, equally important, provides for the sustained development and deployment of the most capable computing system for use by U.S. researchers for academia, industry, and Federal labs.

These computing systems will truly be national resources that will address important problems related to national security, economic competitiveness, health care, and environmental protection.

H.R. 4516 responds to an identified national need for Federal support of supercomputing. I commend this bill to my colleagues and ask for their support.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and the Committee on Science for their work on developing and bringing this bill to the floor for the consideration of the members of the subcommittees of the House of Representatives.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVIS), once more for his work as a lead sponsor of this legislation, and I would also like to thank the minority and the majority staff of the Committee on Science for their time and effort and ideas. With the passage of this legislation, the Department of Energy will continue to revolutionize the use of supercomputers, ensuring the competitiveness of American science and industry. I would urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4516, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION ACT OF 2004

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3980) to establish a National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3980

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 ''National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes, and thunderstorms can cause significant loss of life, injury, destruction of property, and economic and social disruption. All States and regions are vulnerable to these hazards.

(2) The United States currently sustains several billion dollars in economic damages each year due to these windstorms. In recent decades, rapid development and population growth in high-risk areas has greatly increased overall vulnerability to windstorms.

(3) Improved windstorm impact reduction measures have the potential to reduce these losses through—

(A) cost-effective and affordable design and construction methods and practices;

(B) effective mitigation programs at the local, State, and national level;

(C) improved data collection and analysis and impact prediction methodologies;

(D) engineering research on improving new structures and retrofitting existing ones to better withstand windstorms, atmospheric-related research to better understand the behavior and impact of windstorms on the built environment, and subsequent application of those research results; and

(E) public education and outreach.

(4) There is an appropriate role for the Federal Government in supporting windstorm impact reduction. An effective Federal program in windstorm impact reduction will require interagency coordination, and input from individuals, academia, the private sector, and other interested non-Federal entities.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(2) The term ''State'' means each of the States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

(3) The term ''windstorm'' means any storm with a damaging or destructive wind component, such as a hurricane, tropical storm, tornado, or thunderstorm.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (in this Act referred to as the ''Program'').

(b) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the Program is the achievement of major measurable reductions in losses of life and property from windstorms. The objective is to be achieved through a coordinated Federal effort, in cooperation with other levels of government, academia, and the private sector, aimed at improving the understanding of windstorms and their impacts and developing and encouraging implementation of cost-effective mitigation measures to reduce those impacts.

(c) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish an Interagency Working Group consisting of representatives of the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other Federal agencies as appropriate. The Director shall designate an agency to serve as Chair of the Working Group and be responsible for the planning, management, and coordination of the Program, including budget coordination. Specific agency roles and responsibilities under the Program shall

be defined in the implementation plan required under subsection (e). General agency responsibilities shall include the following:

(1) The National Institute of Standards and Technology shall support research and development to improve building codes and standards and practices for design and construction of buildings, structures, and lifelines.

(2) The National Science Foundation shall support research in engineering and the atmospheric sciences to improve the understanding of the behavior of windstorms and their impact on buildings, structures, and lifelines.

(3) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall support atmospheric sciences research to improve the understanding of the behavior of windstorms and their impact on buildings, structures, and lifelines.

(4) The Federal Emergency Management Agency shall support the development of risk assessment tools and effective mitigation techniques, windstorm-related data collection and analysis, public outreach, information dissemination, and implementation of mitigation measures consistent with the Agency's all-hazards approach.

(d) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Program shall consist of three primary mitigation components: improved understanding of windstorms, windstorm impact assessment, and windstorm impact reduction. The components shall be implemented through activities such as data collection and analysis, risk assessment, outreach, technology transfer, and research and development. To the extent practicable, research activities authorized under this Act shall be peer-reviewed, and the components shall be designed to be complementary to, and avoid duplication of, other public and private hazard reduction efforts.

(2) UNDERSTANDING OF WINDSTORMS.—Activities to enhance the understanding of windstorms shall include research to improve knowledge of and data collection on the impact of severe wind on buildings, structures, and infrastructure.

(3) WINDSTORM IMPACT ASSESSMENT.—Activities to improve windstorm impact assessment shall include—

(A) development of mechanisms for collecting and inventorying information on the performance of buildings, structures, and infrastructure in windstorms and improved collection of pertinent information from sources, including the design and construction industry, insurance companies, and building officials;

(B) research, development, and technology transfer to improve loss estimation and risk assessment systems; and

(C) research, development, and technology transfer to improve simulation and computational modeling of windstorm impacts.

(4) WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION.—Activities to reduce windstorm impacts shall include—

(A) development of improved outreach and implementation mechanisms to translate existing information and research findings into cost-effective and affordable practices for design and construction professionals, and State and local officials;

(B) development of cost-effective and affordable windstorm-resistant systems, structures, and materials for use in new construction and retrofit of existing construction; and

(C) outreach and information dissemination related to cost-effective and affordable construction techniques, loss estimation and risk assessment methodologies, and other pertinent information regarding windstorm phenomena to Federal, State, and local officials, the construction industry, and the general public.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after date of enactment of this Act, the Interagency Working Group shall develop and transmit to the Congress an implementation plan for achieving the objectives of the Program. The plan shall include—

(1) an assessment of past and current public and private efforts to reduce windstorm impacts, including a comprehensive review and analysis of windstorm mitigation activities supported by the Federal Government;

(2) a description of plans for technology transfer and coordination with natural hazard mitigation activities supported by the Federal Government;

(3) a statement of strategic goals and priorities for each Program component area;

(4) a description of how the Program will achieve such goals, including detailed responsibilities for each agency; and

(5) a description of plans for cooperation and coordination with interested public and private sector entities in each program component area.

(f) BIENNIAL REPORT.—The Interagency Working Group shall, on a biennial basis, and not later than 180 days after the end of the preceding 2 fiscal years, transmit a report to the Congress describing the status of the windstorm impact reduction program, including progress achieved during the preceding two fiscal years. Each such report shall include any recommendations for legislative and other action the Interagency Working Group considers necessary and appropriate. In developing the biennial report, the Interagency Working Group shall consider the recommendations of the Advisory Committee established under section 5.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish a National Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction, consisting of not less than 11 and not more than 15 non-Federal members representing a broad cross section of interests such as the research, technology transfer, design and construction, and financial communities; materials and systems suppliers; State, county, and local governments; the insurance industry; and other representatives as designated by the Director.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—The Advisory Committee shall assess—

(1) trends and developments in the science and engineering of windstorm impact reduction;

(2) the effectiveness of the Program in carrying out the activities under section 4(d);

(3) the need to revise the Program; and

(4) the management, coordination, implementation, and activities of the Program.

(c) BIENNIAL REPORT.—At least once every two years, the Advisory Committee shall report to Congress and the Interagency Working Group on the assessment carried out under subsection (b).

(d) SUNSET EXEMPTION.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act shall not apply to the Advisory Committee established under this section.

SEC. 6. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

Nothing in this Act supersedes any provision of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974. No design, construction method, practice, technology, material, mitigation methodology, or hazard reduction measure of any kind developed under this Act shall be required for a home certified under section 616 of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5415), pursuant to standards issued under such Act, without being subject to the consensus development process and rulemaking procedures of that Act.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out this Act—

(1) $8,700,000 for fiscal year 2006; and

(2) $9,400,000 for fiscal year 2007.

(b) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—From sums otherwise authorized to be appropriated, there are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation for carrying out this Act—

(1) $8,700,000 for fiscal year 2006; and

(2) $9,400,000 for fiscal year 2007.

(c) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.—From sums otherwise authorized to be appropriated, there are authorized to be appropriated to the National Institute of Standards and Technology for carrying out this Act—

(1) $3,000,000 for fiscal year 2006; and

(2) $4,000,000 for fiscal year 2007.

(d) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.—From sums otherwise authorized to be appropriated, there are authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for carrying out this Act—

(1) $2,100,000 for fiscal year 2006; and

(2) $2,200,000 for fiscal year 2007.

SEC. 8. BIENNIAL REPORT.

Section 37(a) of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885d(a)) is amended by striking ''By January 30, 1982, and biennially thereafter'' and inserting ''By January 30 of each odd-numbered year''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3980, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) and his staff for their leadership and support for allowing me to bring this important piece of legislation before the Committee on Science. I would also like to thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE), who introduced this bill with me, and all of the cosponsors of H.R. 3980 for their support.

Windstorms in the United States, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, continue to cause high levels of injuries, deaths, business interruption, and property damage. Unfortunately, the level of losses due to the windstorms increase each year and will continue to escalate unless technology generation, education, and public policies are improved.

On May 11, 1970, tragedy struck my hometown of Lubbock, Texas. An F5

tornado ripped through downtown Lubbock. Six people were killed, and 500 were injured. The tornado had winds estimated in excess of 200 miles an hour and damaged or destroyed a large portion of our city.

In a few moments between 9:35 p.m. and the time the funnel lifted into the cloud, the tornado devastated a community along an 8½ mile-wide path. It wrought havoc along a track that was 1½ miles wide in downtown Lubbock to one-fourth mile wide as it passed over the National Weather Bureau's office located at the airport. The twister was responsible for $125 million in damage, and an estimated 15 square miles of the city was damaged or destroyed.

The National Weather Service estimates that between 1995 and 2002, hurricanes, tornadoes, and thunderstorm winds caused an average of $4.5 billion in damage every year. Texas alone averages 124 tornadoes every year, which is more than double the average of any other State.

Over this past Memorial Day weekend, for example, 175 tornadoes were reported across the country, bringing the preliminary total for May to 544. The storms were responsible for 8 deaths and millions of dollars in damages in 12 States.

June 1 was the official start of hurricane season, and forecasters are predicting an above-normal Atlantic season. Officials anticipate 12 to 15 tropical storms for the season, with six to eight systems becoming hurricanes, with two to four of those becoming major hurricanes.

Last year, Hurricane Isabel, one of the storms to affect the United States, caused 17 deaths and more than $3 billion in damages. Technological advancements in the second half of the century have contributed to better, more accurate severe weather watches and warnings from the National Weather Service, ultimately saving countless lives. Advancements in computer technology also led to progress in numerical weather prediction, allowing meteorologists to apply physics in replicating motions of the atmosphere.

But even as we build on our current weather prediction successes and create new resources to predict windstorms at a greater rate, the United States continues to sustain billions of dollars each year in property damage and economic losses due to wind storms, and the human costs are all too painful.

Over the last 5 years, Texas Tech University Wind Engineering Research Center has received funding under a cooperative agreement with the National Institute For Standards and Technology to research the detrimental effects of windstorms on buildings and to reduce the loss of life from windstorm events. Their work has led to many accomplishments on the national scope. This year alone, they will receive $900,000 to carry on research to improve the economy of shelters and wind-resistant construction.

A variety of cost-effective windstorm hazard mitigation measures exist, and many more are undergoing important research and development at universities like Texas Tech University across this Nation. However, these efforts are not being coordinated at the Federal level to improve the general public's understanding of windstorm impacts, and we are not doing a good job of encouraging implementation of cost-effective mitigation measures for our citizens.

Improving the wind resistance of buildings can only be achieved when there is a demand for wind-resistant construction by homeowners. Hurricane Isabel, the tornado in Lubbock that was so destructive more than 30 years ago, and the 544 tornadoes in the month of May alone are serious reminders of how vulnerable we are and how serious we should be about severe weather safety and preparedness.

Here is what we can do about it. The objective of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program is to achieve measurable reduction in loss of life and property from windstorms. In a coordinated effort between academia, the private sector and the Federal Government, this legislation will improve distribution of current research findings, develop cost-effective and affordable windstorm-resistant systems, and develop outreach techniques for the general public.

The aim of this act is also to enable the marketplace to form incentives. Improving our understanding of how wind impacts buildings, enhancing the scope and detail of damage data collection, and measuring the degree to which varying mitigation techniques can lessen that impact will make it possible to quantify the value of mitigation. This information will give policymakers, private industry, and individual homeowners the tools to make decisions that take windstorm vulnerability into consideration.

An investment in windstorm impact reduction will pay significant dividends and will save lives, decrease property damage, and reduce the cost of Federal disaster relief in the future. Therefore, I urge Members to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 3980.

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

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

I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) for following through on his promise to mark up legislation on windstorms in the 108th Congress. I would also like to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) for sponsoring with me this important legislation. I would also like to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) and the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES), who have worked with me over the past three Congresses. And finally, staff member Jim Turner of the Committee on Science staff and Brian Pallasch of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and my staff person, Jana Denning, have worked tirelessly over the past 5 years on this legislation, and they all deserve thanks.

Almost 6 years ago, my hometown of Wichita, Kansas, was hit by an F4 tornado which plowed through the suburb of Haysville, killing six, injuring 150, and causing over $140 million in damage. The devastation of this attack motivated me to try to do something.

I put together a bill modeled after NEHRP, the successful earthquake research program begun over 30 years ago. My goal is to mitigate loss of life and damage to property due to wind and related hazards. We can do this through early warning of tornadoes, better emergency response, and better design and construction of buildings. I reviewed comments from the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Association of Home Builders, the insurance industry, meteorologists, emergency managers, academia, industry, and the manufactured housing associations to try to fine-tune this legislation.

On May 4, just last year, almost 4 years to the day after the deadly 1999 Kansas and Oklahoma tornadoes, tornadoes touched down again in metropolitan Kansas City and the surrounding suburbs, as well as in many of my congressional colleagues' districts, destroying property, killing people and injuring our constituents.

□ 1115

These tornadoes, Mr. Speaker, did not check to find out if they were hitting a Republican or Democratic district. Tornadoes are truly an equal-opportunity destroyer. This is not a Republican bill. It is not a Democratic issue. It is a human issue, and it is a human tragedy. And we need to deal with this, and we are dealing with this. And I am grateful to my colleagues across the aisle for dealing with this on a bipartisan basis. These windstorms destroy lives. I have seen it in my own district, and I know that many of my colleagues have as well.

I thank, again, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) for his work on this legislation with me.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to just summarize a little bit about this bill and to also let folks know that this bill has a lot of endorsements from people that are very active in this type of engineering: the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, the Manufacturing Housing Institute, the National Association of Wind Engineering, Applied Technology Council, and the International Code Council. These are the organizations that are actively involved in this kind of research, and

they wholeheartedly support and endorse this bill.

One of the things that this bill does is it creates a national windstorm impact reduction program, and it improves our understanding of windstorm issues. And it also brings about a collaboration of the private sector and the public sector so that we can begin to commercialize a lot of the important research that is going on. It really does not do us any good to do a lot of good research in this country if we do not get it into the hands of the people that can actually use that, and those are the homeowners and the building owners around this country.

It also brings some oversight to the process and creates a National Advisory Committee who will oversee the various research. They will be reported back to and given an opportunity to give progress reports to the Congress to make sure that we are providing adequate oversight for the important research dollars that we are providing for this type of research.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, first let me thank the gentleman from Texas, and I also want to thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE), who has also worked awfully hard on this legislation.

But I have to admit, Mr. Speaker, that I am a bit in awe of the work that the gentleman from Texas has done to get this bill this far. As has been said, many lives and billions of dollars are lost during hurricanes and tornadoes due to really poor mitigation techniques, from the structure of buildings to the planning of evacuation corridors. Hurricane Andrew, for example, in 1992 resulted in $26.5 billion in losses and 61 fatalities. Southern Dade County, by the way, Miami/Dade County, is still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Andrew. Hurricane Hugo in 1989 resulted in $7 billion in losses and 86 fatalities.

I am fortunate to help represent the International Hurricane Research Center, a research center in Florida International University, which is directed by Dr. Leatherman. It was established after Hurricane Andrew. It serves as Florida's center for hurricane research, education, and outreach. Of course, their work really serves the entire Nation. The center has led research on everything from appropriate housing techniques to beach erosion and coastal vulnerability. Like many other wind-related institutions, the International Hurricane Research Center supports this legislation. The sponsor of this legislation was mentioning a number that did. This is one more, which I know the gentleman is aware of, and, again, it will make significant steps in mitigating the effects of wind-related hazards throughout the United States.

This legislation, is a, I think, very important piece of legislation, and the gentleman from Texas has done an incredible job shepherding it through the process; and, again, I am in awe of the job that he has done. This legislation creates a National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program in order to improve understanding of windstorm impacts and develops implementation of cost-effective mitigation measures. This will use the vital research already done to implement a uniform policy that will ultimately lead to better-built office buildings, homes, structures, in order to lessen the impact of hurricanes and tornadoes and other windborne tragedies.

It establishes a National Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction. Again, this group will routinely assess the effectiveness of the program and make recommendations if any changes are needed down the road. The sponsor has been very key on making sure that there is strong oversight, and I want to thank the sponsor for his leadership there and not only on this issue but particularly on this issue, on this bill.

And, again, I want to thank the sponsor, the gentleman from Texas, and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE), who also, I repeat, has done a lot of work. I am in awe of the work that has been done on this bill, and it is a privilege to support this bill here on the floor today.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3980 and applaud the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) for introducing it and getting it to the floor for passage today.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3980 would establish the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program to achieve major measurable reductions in losses of life and property from windstorms. This is critically important to Members like me whose districts are prone to catastrophic windstorms such as hurricanes.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent one of the most beautiful places under the American Flag, the U.S. Virgin Islands. While we live in an area that sees its share of hurricanes every year, prior to 1989 we were spared for over 60 years of being hit by one of these storms. Since September, 1989, however, when Hurricane Hugo hit with sustained winds in excess of 200 miles per hour, our islands were changed forever. The devastation wrought by this storm was astronomical. However, just as we were beginning to recover from the legacy of Hurricane Hugo, we were hit with a second devastating storm in September of 1995, Hurricane Marilyn. Since then we were hit by at least four other major storms, the last one being Hurricane Lenny in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, if having to deal with recovering from a major natural disaster was not enough, Hurricanes Hugo and Marilyn left the Virgin Islands with an even more ominous legacy. It almost wiped out the availability of affordable windstorm insurance in the territory.

The lack of available affordable homeowners insurance in the Virgin Islands remains a serious problem for many of my constituents today. With the huge payouts associated with the September 11 attacks and natural disasters of 2 years ago, insurance companies' costs have skyrocketed. To keep from falling into the red, many are passing their costs on to homeowners in the form of higher premiums. For the Virgin Islands, added risk of hurricanes, increased seismic activity, and the lack of competition among insurers make it more difficult for my constituents to find relief from these skyrocketing premiums.

While H.R. 3980 does not directly address the problem of the availability of affordable disaster insurance, it has the very real potential of lowering these costs in the long run if it is successful in lowering or reducing the losses to life and property from hurricanes and other windstorm disasters.

Mr. Speaker, windstorms and the damage and destruction they bring result in higher and higher costs to our Nation every year. Any effort which will result in the reduction of these costs will yield untold benefits for all of us. For this reason I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3980. And I once again want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) for introducing it and bringing it to the floor today.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Science.

(Mr. BOEHLERT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, and I want to congratulate the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) for bringing this bill forward. Bills in this area have been proposed for many years; but through the gentleman from Texas's (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) efforts, we now have a bipartisan measure that the House can pass.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) is what I refer to as an impact player. Some people come to this House, the people's House, and take a few years, understandably, to get sort of settled in and to begin to have an impact. He just took a couple of months, and he has had an impact. And this bill is a direct tribute to his tenacity and determination to get something done, and I want to thank him for that on behalf of the entire committee on a bipartisan basis.

Windstorms cause damage and deaths every year throughout the country. Far too much damage, far too many

deaths. One is unacceptable. We may not be able to do anything about the weather, but we can do more than talk about it. We can build and retrofit structures so they are better able to survive windstorms. But we can do that successfully and affordably only if we conduct the research and development needed to learn more about storms and about structures. That is exactly what this bill will enable us to do.

This is not a vain hope. Congress created the same kind of program for earthquakes in the late 1970s. And as a result, we are able to do much more today than we were 30 years ago to make structures earthquake resistant. We hope this similar program will yield a similar result for windstorms.

So in this bill we are following a proven formula. So again let me congratulate once again the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) for this bill. They worked together in a bipartisan basis to fashion something that earns our support.

Let me thank also the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and I am privileged to serve on that committee also, for working with us on the FEMA portions of this bill. And let me thank the American Society of Civil Engineers and the other groups that have guided us in drafting the bill. We did not just get in some closet someplace and say this is a problem, how do we deal with it. We reached out under the gentleman from Texas's (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) leadership and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE), and we invited opinion, we invited input; and as a result of all that, we were able to fashion something that is pretty darn good, and I am proud of it. And I want to commend it to the attention of my colleagues and urge its overwhelming adoption.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), who helped get an initial ''big wind earmark'' that brought $3.8 million to Texas Tech's Wind Disaster Research Program in 1998 and helped lay some of the foundation for the bill that is now going to come to the floor for a vote.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3980. With the rain, wind, hail, and tornadoes that passed through West Texas last month and again today, this legislation could not be more timely.

This bill will give us the tools to research the effects of these storms, and it will provide us with a foundation from which we can learn how to minimize the damages associated with them. A working group comprised of officials from many Federal agencies will be formed to assess ways to reduce losses of life and property caused by these storms. As a farmer from West Texas, I know how damaging tornadoes and windstorms can be, and I understand the importance of this legislation. In the past I have strongly supported the efforts of research entities like the Texas Tech Wind Science Center to study ways to mitigate the damages caused by large windstorms. The Wind Science Center at Texas Tech has done yeomen's work identifying the best ways to reduce structural damage to properties caused by high winds associated with tornadoes and hurricanes. As a member of the Wind Hazard Reduction Caucus, I have supported efforts to make available the resources needed to study and minimize the damaging effects of these windstorms.

As has already been pointed out, in 1997 I worked on a bipartisan, bicameral basis with Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON to ensure the Texas Tech Wind Science Center got its first Federal earmark of $3.8 million, which was included in the fiscal year 1998 appropriations bill. As is quite often the case, when some folks do not understand, quite frankly, what wind is all about, some suggested this was pork. We contacted the then-Chief of Staff for the White House, Erskine Bowles, and requested that the funding be supported by President Clinton and be kept off the line item veto list. These efforts paid off. The center has since received anywhere from $1.1 million to $2.4 million each year since then.

I want to close by thanking the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) for his work on this issue and the gentleman from Texas. The gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) first introduced this legislation in 1999, and he has been a champion of wind hazard reduction efforts since he has come to Congress. I know that he is happy to have this bill on the floor, as I am here today happy to support these measures again and encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

□ 1130

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

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH), the newest Member of the House of Representatives.

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3980, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004. In an average year, more than 1,000 tornadoes are reported in the United States. With winds that can reach in excess of 200 miles per hour, these storms cause an average of more than 80 deaths and over 1,500 injuries per year.

In South Dakota, we have our fair share of severe weather. In the summer months, this takes the form of violent thunderstorms that often contain powerful winds. In fact, barely 1 year ago, South Dakota experienced the worst tornado outbreak in its recorded history. June 24, 2003, will be forever known in South Dakota as ''Tornado Tuesday.'' In one 24-hour period, we had a confirmed 67 tornadoes touch down in the State.

This ''superstorm'' produced over 350 weather warnings, and at least one tornado reached F–4 status, meaning it had winds reaching over 260 miles per hour. Miraculously, no one lost his or her life on this day, but at other times we have not been so lucky.

On May 30, 1998, a category F–4 tornado pummeled the small community of Spencer, South Dakota. The town of 400 residents was almost totally destroyed and six people lost their lives.

We have also experienced loss on my State's Indian lands. On June 4, 1999, a deadly tornado swept across the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. One person was killed and the property damage was widespread. More than 1,000 people were left temporarily homeless.

Because the people of South Dakota have seen firsthand the devastation that tornadoes and strong straight-line winds can bring, I am proud to support this legislation. It would create incentives for Federal agencies to work together to address the threats caused by wind damage. It would also improve our understanding of windstorms and how they create such intense devastation.

I believe that we need a proactive approach that will mitigate the damage caused by these remarkable natural events. This bill will save lives, result in decreased property damage and reduce the overall cost of Federal disaster relief.

I appreciate the bipartisan efforts of my colleagues, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) in moving this important legislation forward, and I urge all Members of this House to support the bill.

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

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE).

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act. This legislation will help us take great strides in reducing the loss of life and property from windstorms.

We in North Carolina know all too well how devastating tropical storms and hurricanes can be. While flooding from hurricanes is often the culprit for the majority of the deaths, the winds generated from these storms range from 74 to 155 miles an hour or more, indiscriminately wreaking havoc to lives and property wherever they strike.

The National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act will develop windstorm impact reduction projects that could lead to new designs and construction practices that could mitigate, if not withstand, the force and damage generated by these high windstorms. This is an important piece of legislation, which I encourage all Members to support.

I want to congratulate the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) for his work and leadership on this issue. Kansas does not have the hurricane problems that my State has, but I know its position in the middle of Tornado Alley makes it a life-and-death issue for the State of Kansas. So I thank the gentleman.

As a Member of the House Committee on Science, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) has been fighting to improve research in wind-related hazards for years. I have been proud to cosponsor and support very similar legislation that he introduced both in this Congress and during the 107th Congress.

Very simply, this legislation will save lives in North Carolina, in Kansas and throughout this country. I congratulate my friend and colleague on his success in this effort, and urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 3980.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I just want to close by saying that this bill consolidates and coordinates windstorm research that has been going on throughout multiple agencies and brings oversight to that process, and I think that is very important. I think the American people expect us to oversee the moneys that we are appropriating and authorizing; but it also is a public and private partnership, and the whole goal of this bill is to make sure that we get the important research out of the laboratories and into practical solutions that are going to be saving lives and reducing property damage.

So I encourage my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 3980, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 3890, the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act. I'd like to commend my colleague from Pennsylvania, MELISSA HART, for introducing this important legislation.

During a very busy week in May, I chaired two Energy Subcommittee hearings on the issues of energy efficiency R and D. The first hearing took a broad look at research and development in the area of energy efficiency.

The second hearing focused on the legislation under consideration today, H.R. 3890. This bill authorizes a research and development program at the Department of Energy aimed at improving the energy efficiency of the metals industry.

Some may have wondered why we didn't simply combine the two hearings, on similar topics, into a single hearing. But there were two main reasons why it was important to give the metals industry initiative a dedicated place on the Subcommittee's calendar, and why the Department of Energy has an initiative focused on this one industry to begin with.

First of all, the metals industry is highly energy-intensive. Taken together, the steel, aluminum, and copper industries account for more than 10 percent of industrial energy usage in the United States. President Bush's National Energy Plan recognized that improving energy efficiency in our most energy-intensive industries could yield large improvements in productivity, product quality, safety, and pollution prevention.

Second, we have a strategic national interest in helping our metals industry remain competitive. For any industry, energy efficiency means increased production without increased energy consumption or costs. Improving energy efficiency helps improve the bottom line, making American metal products more competitive on the global market. That means more jobs here at home.

But energy efficiency is more than that. Reducing energy use reduces our emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases, and it increases our energy security. In this way, energy efficiency just makes sense—dollars and cents—for the nation. Again, I commend Ms. HART for all her hard work on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3980, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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.

STEEL AND ALUMINUM ENERGY CONSERVATION AND TECHNOLOGY COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 1988 REAUTHORIZATION

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3890) to reauthorize the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3890

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

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 9 of the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 5108) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this Act for fiscal year 2005, an amount equal to the amount appropriated for the same purposes for fiscal year 2004, and $20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2009.''.

(b) STEEL PROJECT PRIORITIES.—Section 4(c)(1) of the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 5103(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (H), by striking ''coatings for sheet steels'' and inserting ''sheet and bar steels''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(K) The development of technologies which reduce greenhouse gas emissions.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988 is further amended—

(1) by striking section 7 (15 U.S.C. 5106); and

(2) in section 4(b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting ''AND REPORT'' after ''MANAGEMENT PLAN'';

(B) by striking ''Within 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act'' and inserting ''Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Act enacting this sentence'';

(C) by striking ''to expand the steel research and development initiative to include aluminum and''; and

(D) by inserting '', and shall transmit such plan to Congress'' after ''carry out the purposes of this Act''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3890, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank the gentlewoman from Illinois (Chairman Biggert) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) of the Subcommittee on Energy of the Committee on Science, and also the gentleman from New York (Chairman BOEHLERT) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) of the full Committee on Science, for working with me on H.R. 3890, a bill which will reauthorize the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988.

The legislation reauthorizes the Steel and Aluminum Competitiveness Act of 1988, which established a public-private research initiative, with cost sharing from industry, focused on improving industrial energy efficiency in the steel and aluminum smelting and fabrication industries.

The bill would result in improved energy efficiency in the domestic metals industries, thereby improving our international competitiveness in those industries. Improved industrial energy efficiency also offers environmental benefits through reduced emissions per unit of steel or aluminum produced. It can also help reduce the future demand for energy in the industrial sector, which is extremely important as we see rising fuel prices.

The bill authorizes $13.3 million for this program in fiscal year 2005, the same level that was appropriated for fiscal year 2004. For the outyears, that