

(2) commends the brave efforts of the people of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador as they recover from Tropical Storm Agatha;

(3) recognizes the assistance of the international community during the recovery effort in providing relief to the people of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador; and

(4) urges the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), to continue to develop a strategic plan to promote food security and recovery efforts with the goal of mitigating the current and future effects of the recent natural disasters that have devastated Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MAFFEI). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

□ 2404

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

On May 29, 2010, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador experienced devastating floods and mudslides caused by Tropical Storm Agatha. Agatha has left 174 dead and directly affected more than 62,000 families in Guatemala, killed 22 and forced nearly 8,000 into shelters in Honduras, and left 11 dead and 12,000 in shelters in El Salvador. And to make matters worse, over 2,000 Guatemalans were displaced with little forewarning following the eruption of the Pacaya volcano on May 27, 2010.

The combination of the tropical storm and the volcano has devastated Guatemala's landscape leaving behind sinkholes and mudslides across the country. In addition, due to recent droughts, erratic rainfalls and high food prices, a sharp drop in remittances, Guatemala now faces severe food insecurity, and this is expected to increase in the wake of Tropical Storm Agatha.

Guatemalan officials are estimating that damages will surpass \$475 million. In Honduras, the loss in the agriculture sector could be close to \$18.5 million. In all three countries, critical infrastructure relating to water and sanitation has been destroyed.

The United States has provided relief for the victims of Tropical Storm Agatha by deploying United States Southern Command support helicopters and frigates to assist with the transport of food, water, and emergency supplies. Humanitarian aid agencies in the United States and countries and NGOs around the world are mobi-

lizing to provide much-needed assistance to the relief and the recovery efforts.

The resolution before us recognizes the assistance efforts already under way and urges the Secretary of State in coordination with the administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, or USAID, to continue to develop a strategic plan with the goal of mitigating the effects of the recent natural disasters that have devastated these three countries. Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador face a major challenge as they recover and rebuild. They deserve our continued support.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today as a proud cosponsor of House Resolution 1462, which expresses the support of the United States to the people of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Agatha.

Having already declared a state of emergency following a volcano eruption just 50 miles from Guatemala City days earlier, Guatemala was hit by Tropical Storm Agatha on May 29, 2010. Floods and mudslides devastated parts of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador as a result of the storm. Hundreds of lives were lost, hundreds of thousands of survivors left in shelters.

Immediately following this disaster, as we always do, the United States, as a government and as a people, was standing by to lend a helping hand. The United States Southern Command, SOUTHCOM, located in my home district in Miami, Florida, deployed four helicopters from Soto Cano Air Base in Honduras to conduct aerial assessments and transport emergency relief supplies to areas impacted by the disaster.

The ability of SOUTHCOM to utilize resources from the Soto Cano Air Base demonstrates the important role that Honduras plays in enabling the United States to provide support for security and disaster purposes. SOUTHCOM also sent personnel from Miami to join a humanitarian assessment team on the ground in Guatemala. And I was proud to see Royal Caribbean Cruises, also of Miami, work with the Pan American Development Foundation to help transport food to the tens of thousands of survivors in the days following the storm.

The growing security challenges facing Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador as a result of narco-traffickers and vicious gangs have only been complicated by this recent natural disaster. It will be critical for the United States to work with responsible democratic nations in the region to ensure that this does not become a window of opportunity for criminals.

The success we have seen in Colombia and the ongoing efforts being taken in Mexico against the drug cartels have

created an unfortunate sandwich effect in Central America. But only through a united hemispheric-wide approach that is based on a shared commitment to democracy, to security, to prosperity, will we achieve success against the narco-traffickers and organized crime.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who suffered as a result of Tropical Storm Agatha. As the brave people of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador continue to recover from this tragic disaster, please know that we have you in our hearts and in our prayers.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1462, support for the people of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador as they persevere through the aftermath of Tropical Storm Agatha which swept across Central America causing deadly floods and mudslides. I would like to thank Mr. MACK for introducing this resolution underlining our heartfelt support for our North American neighbors in their time of desperate need.

Mr. Speaker, the countries of Central America have suffered devastating damage and loss of life at the hands of Mother Nature. Tropical Storm Agatha has left over 200 dead and over 95,000 in shelters, most of them in Guatemala. The powerful storm has inflicted over \$475,000,000 in damages throughout the region, destroying critical water and sanitation infrastructure. Combined with recent droughts, high food prices and a dramatic drop in remittances from the United States, Guatemala in particular has suffered severe food insecurity that will likely increase due to the effects of the storm.

I join my fellow members in expressing our most heartfelt condolences for the loss of life and suffering the Guatemalan, Honduran and Salvadoran people have endured in the wake of the storm. We mourn for those who are no longer with us, and extend our deepest sympathies to those they have left behind, in many cases without food or shelter. It is a tragedy for anyone to lose their home, their father, their mother, their children, their friends. We will do everything we can to help them recover from this disaster.

But we also commend the people of these ravaged countries for their bravery, and for standing tall in the face of adversity. In spite of the frustration and sadness that come in the aftermath of a disaster, they are fighting hard to recover. They could certainly use our help.

The international community and the United States have already responded. Countries, NGOs and humanitarian aid agencies from around the world have generously contributed millions of dollars in medicine and aid, and mobilizing to transport and deliver support and supplies. The United States continue to assert and strengthen our commitment to participate in the global outpouring of support to our devastated neighbors to the south.

After all, we are no strangers to the effects of natural disasters, and many of our cities have suffered through more than their fair share. As a Representative of the good people of Houston, Texas, many of the Atlantic hurricanes and tropical storms that wreak havoc every summer hit very close to home. From

Ike to Ivan to Wilma to Katrina, we know all too well the devastation that befalls those unfortunate enough to be standing in the path of one of the North Atlantic's deadly hurricanes or tropical storms. We have seen the destruction first hand; I have spoken to the victims; we have known the pain and suffering those natural disasters can cause.

We know the road of recovery can be long and fraught with challenges. But we have recovered, and so shall the people of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. And the United States must help ensure that they do.

As such, I am proud to stand behind my fellow members in calling upon the Congress to urge the Secretary of State and the United States Agency for International Development to continue working on a strategic plan to promote food security and recovery efforts, with the aim of mitigating current and future effects of the recent natural disasters that have devastated Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1462, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. WATSON. 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.

SUPPORTING DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL ESIGN DAY

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 290) expressing support for designation of June 30 as "National ESIGN Day".

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 290

Whereas the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (ESIGN) was enacted on June 30, 2000, to ensure that a signature, contract, or other record relating to a transaction may not be denied legal effect, validity, or enforceability solely because it is in electronic form;

Whereas Congress directed the Secretary of Commerce to take all actions necessary to eliminate or reduce, to the maximum extent possible, the impediments to commerce in electronic signatures, for the purpose of facilitating the development of interstate and foreign commerce; and

Whereas June 30, 2010, marks the 10th anniversary of the enactment of ESIGN and

would be an appropriate date to designate as "National ESIGN Day": Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the designation of a "National ESIGN Day";

(2) recognizes the previous contribution made by Congress to the adoption of modern solutions that keep the United States on the leading technological edge; and

(3) reaffirms its commitment to facilitating interstate and foreign commerce in an increasingly digital world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

□ 2050

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, the ESIGN bill, a landmark piece of legislation that has transformed how we conduct interstate commerce and business. The advent of e-signatures has brought enormous benefit to both consumers and businesses alike by drastically improving convenience, reducing costs, and increasing the speed of transactions.

As many of you know, I represent Seattle, which is one of the most wired and high-tech cities in the world. ESIGN has greatly improved the ability of companies in my district to be more effective and competitive in the global marketplace.

I would especially like to acknowledge Seattle-based electronic signature platform provider DocuSign for being a leader in the electronic signatures and records industry and for helping spearhead the coalition to recognize June 30 as National ESIGN Day.

DocuSign recognizes that the benefits of e-commerce extend beyond the dollar values that are placed on business activity. With over 30,000 current customers and having served over 4.5 million people to date, DocuSign provides its customers with confidence in the integrity and credibility of emerging electronic capabilities. They have been a leader in removing obstacles and barriers to business transactions online and in allowing their customers to work faster, more reliably, and more securely.

It is important we recognize the foresight and vision of those who worked so hard to pass ESIGN 10 years ago, in-

cluding Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO and Congressman JAY INSLEE. The passage of that bill has helped more American companies to operate globally, and it has helped to increase productivity and efficiency for consumers, businesses, and governments.

When President Clinton signed the bill into law in June 2000, he said, "Just imagine if this had existed 224 years ago. The Founding Fathers wouldn't have had to come all the way to Philadelphia on July 4 for the Declaration of Independence. They could have emailed their John Hancocks in."

Now, 10 years later, that is what businesses and governments in every corner of the globe are able to do—instantly complete transactions that used to take days.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is great to be down here with my colleague Mr. McDERMOTT. Usually, I don't like resolutions, you know, but he approached me on the floor. This is a really important one, and I think it is important to go back over the history of what we did 10 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, everything was paper. You had to have paper copies. You couldn't do bank transactions. You couldn't do certifications. You couldn't do business documentation.

My colleague mentioned ANNA ESHOO, who is a great friend of mine on the committee. JAY INSLEE is also a great friend of mine on the committee. I serve on the Energy and Commerce Committee. I've been on the Telecommunications Subcommittee. I think credit goes to Chairman Bilely, and I think credit goes to Billy Tauzin. The great thing about Energy and Commerce is a lot of the issues that we address cut across partisan lines, especially on the Technology Subcommittee.

So the signing of this bill really helped, as my colleague said, and it really changed the way we can conduct business in the new digital age. It is really a great credit, and it does merit taking the time to think back on those folks who pushed for this, in a bipartisan resolution and through both Chambers, in order to get the bill signed into law.

I am sure there was opposition by Members in both parties. In fact, I know one famous Democrat on the committee who wasn't an original supporter of this. So the fact that Chairman Bilely and Billy Tauzin, as the chairmen of the subcommittee and the full committee, were all engaged in support shows what we can do when we work together.

The Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, ESIGN, represents a critical step in harmonizing the world's global commerce and contract law with a modern electronic and increasingly Internet-dependent world. This happened during the 106th Congress. It was my second Congress. I came in during the 105th.