

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

CONSTITUTION FOR THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States, which was read and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the requirements of Public Law 94-584 (the "Act"), I hereby transmit to the Congress a proposed constitution for the United States Virgin Islands (USVI). The constitution, drafted by the Fifth Constitutional Convention of the United States Virgin Islands, was submitted to me on December 31, 2009, by Governor John P. deJongh, United States Virgin Islands. In submitting the proposed constitution, Governor deJongh expressed his concerns about several provisions of the proposed constitution, but he also expressed his hope that the people of the United States Virgin Islands continue to "move ahead towards [their] goal of increased local governmental autonomy."

The Act requires that I submit this proposed constitution to the Congress, along with my comments. The Congress then has 60 days to amend, modify, or approve the proposed constitution. If approved, or approved with modification, the constitution will be submitted for a referendum in the Virgin Islands for acceptance or rejection by the people.

In carrying out my responsibilities pursuant to the Act, I asked the Department of Justice, in consultation with the Department of the Interior, to provide its views of the proposed constitution. The Department of Justice concluded that several features of the proposed constitution warrant analysis and comment, including: (1) the absence of an express recognition of United States sovereignty and the supremacy of Federal law; (2) provisions for a special election on the USVI's territorial status; (3) provisions conferring legal advantages on certain groups defined by place and timing of birth, timing of residency, or ancestry; (4) residence requirements for certain offices; (5) provisions guaranteeing legislative representation of certain geographic areas; (6) provisions addressing territorial waters and marine resources; (7) imprecise language in certain provisions of the proposed constitution's bill of rights; (8) the possible need to repeal certain Federal laws if the proposed USVI constitution is adopted; and (9) the effect of congressional action or inaction on the proposed constitution.

To assist the Congress in its deliberations about this important matter, I attach the analysis of the Department

of Justice, with which the Department of the Interior concurs. I believe that the analysis provided by the Department of Justice warrants careful attention.

I commend the electorate of the Virgin Islands and its governmental representatives in their continuing commitment to increasing self-government and the rule of law.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 26, 2010.

RECONCILIATION—DEMOCRATS CONSIDER MANEUVERS TO PASS GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, a government takeover of health care was rushed to happen last July, but during overflowing town hall meetings and then in Virginia, Massachusetts and New Jersey, the American people made it perfectly clear that a Big Government takeover of health care is not an option.

Almost a year later, this message unfortunately hasn't been received by the liberal majority. Instead of working across the aisle and reforming the bill to include less government and more commonsense bipartisan principles, liberal leaders are talking about bending the rules and rushing this by way of a process called reconciliation. This is a legislative maneuver that requires fewer votes than the regular process.

So the American people should listen this afternoon. The liberal majority knows the American people do not want this bill. They are left with a tricky maneuver that ignores what people have been fighting for and saying since last summer. I urge citizens to make their voices heard.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

My sympathy to the family and friends of Charles Hamel of Chapin, South Carolina, a dedicated patriot.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SAM HOUSTON

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is Sam Houston's birthday. He was born in Virginia on March 2, 1793. He lived primarily in Tennessee, but he got to Texas as fast as he could.

Houston fought with Davy Crockett and Andrew Jackson during the Creek Indian wars of 1812. Later, he served as a Congressman and a Governor of Tennessee.

Sam spent time throughout his life living with the Cherokee Indians where the chief adopted him, naming him "the Raven." He finally pulled up stakes and took off for Texas to help the Texas cause for independence

against Mexico. In 1836, General Sam and the boys successfully led the Texi'ans at the Battle of San Jacinto against Mexico, and Texas became a free and independent nation.

Sam Houston was president of the Republic of Texas, and 9 years later, when Texas joined the Union, he became Governor and then a U.S. Senator. He is the only person in United States history to have served as a Governor and a Member of Congress from two States. The City of Houston and one of my grandsons, Barrett Houston, is named in his honor.

And that's just the way it is.

HAZARDS BILL REAUTHORIZATION

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3820, the Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2009, which we will be taking up later today.

This legislation reauthorizes and amends the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act and the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act, ensuring agencies as diverse as FEMA, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the National Institute of Science and Technology have continuing appropriate authorizations to research the causes and forecasting of natural disasters, as well as ways to limit their negative impact.

The recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile have certainly demonstrated the importance of developing improved methods of predicting and mitigating natural disasters. The contrast in outcomes between these two quakes has also demonstrated the clear benefit of preparedness and scientifically based building codes in containing casualties from a major disaster, if not the economic losses.

Nearly every part of the United States is susceptible to natural disasters in some form or another, and reauthorizing the programs in H.R. 3820 will ensure we remain at the forefront of this important research.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

NATURAL HAZARDS RISK REDUCTION ACT OF 2010

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3820) to reauthorize Federal natural hazards reduction programs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3820

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 “Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2010”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States faces significant risks from many types of natural hazards, including earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, and floods. Increasing numbers of Americans are living in areas prone to these hazards.

(2) Earthquakes occur without warning and can have devastating effects. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, two recent earthquakes, the Northridge Earthquake in 1994, and the Loma Prieta Earthquake in 1989, killed nearly 100 people, injured 12,757, and caused \$33 billion in damages. Nearly all States face some level of seismic risk. Twenty-six urban areas in 14 States have a significant seismic risk.

(3) Severe weather is the most costly natural hazard, measured on a per year basis. According to data from the National Weather Service over the last 10 years, tornadoes, thunderstorms, and hurricanes have caused an average of 226 fatalities and \$16 billion of property damage per year. The 2005 hurricane season was one of the most destructive in United States history, killing 1,836 people, and causing \$80 billion in damage.

(4) The United States Fire Administration reports that 38 percent of new home construction in 2002 was in areas adjacent to, or intermixed with, wildlands. Fires in the wildland-urban interface are costly. For example, the 2007 California Witch fire alone caused \$1.3 billion in insured property losses, according to the Insurance Services Office (ISO). In addition, Government Accountability Office reported in 2007 that the Federal spending for wildfire suppression between 2001 and 2005 was, on average, \$2.9 billion per year.

(5) Developing better knowledge about natural hazard phenomena and their effects is crucial to assessing the risks these hazards pose to communities. Instrumentation, monitoring, and data gathering to characterize earthquakes and wind events are important activities to increase this knowledge.

(6) Current building codes and standards can mitigate the damages caused by natural hazards. The Institute for Business and Home Safety estimated that the \$19 billion in damage caused by Hurricane Andrew in 1994 could have been reduced by half if such codes and standards were in effect. Research for the continuous improvement of building codes, standards, and design practices—and for developing methods to retrofit existing structures—is crucial to mitigating losses from natural hazards.

(7) Since its creation in 1977, the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) has supported research to develop seismic codes, standards, and building practices that have been widely adopted. The NEHRP Recommended Provisions for Seismic Regulations for New Buildings and Other Structures and the Guidance for Seismic Performance Assessment of Buildings are two examples.

(8) Research to understand the institutional, social, behavioral, and economic factors that influence how households, businesses, and communities perceive risk and prepare for natural hazards, and how well they recover after a disaster, can increase the implementation of risk mitigation measures.

(9) A major goal of the Federal natural hazards-related research and development effort should be to reduce the loss of life and damage to communities and infrastructure through increasing the adoption of hazard mitigation measures.

(10) Research, development, and technology transfer to secure infrastructure is vitally important. Infrastructure that supports electricity, transportation, drinking water, and other services is vital immediately after a disaster, and their quick return to function speeds the economic recovery of a disaster-impacted community.

TITLE I—EARTHQUAKES

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2010”.

SEC. 102. FINDINGS.

Section 2 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701) is repealed.

SEC. 103. DEFINITIONS.

Section 4 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7703) is amended by striking paragraphs (8) and (9).

SEC. 104. NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION PROGRAM.

Section 5 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7704) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—The activities of the Program shall be designed to—

“(A) research and develop effective methods, tools, and technologies to reduce the risk posed by earthquakes to the built environment, especially to lessen the risk to existing structures and lifelines;

“(B) improve the understanding of earthquakes and their effects on households, businesses, communities, buildings, structures, and lifelines, through interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research that involves engineering, natural sciences, and social sciences; and

“(C) facilitate the adoption of earthquake risk reduction measures by households, businesses, communities, local, State, and Federal governments, national standards and model building code organizations, architects and engineers, building owners, and others with a role in planning for disasters and planning, constructing, retrofitting, and insuring buildings, structures, and lifelines through—

“(i) grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and technical assistance;

“(ii) development of standards, guidelines, voluntary consensus standards, and other design guidance for earthquake hazards risk reduction for buildings, structures, and lifelines;

“(iii) outreach and information dissemination to communities on location-specific earthquake hazards and methods to reduce the risks from those hazards; and

“(iv) development and maintenance of a repository of information, including technical data, on seismic risk and hazards reduction.”; and

(B) by striking paragraphs (3) through (5);

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROGRAM AGENCIES.—

“(1) LEAD AGENCY.—The National Institute of Standards and Technology (in this section referred to as the ‘Institute’) shall be responsible for planning and coordinating the Program. In carrying out this paragraph, the Director of the Institute shall—

“(A) ensure that the Program includes the necessary components to promote the imple-

mentation of earthquake hazards risk reduction measures by households, businesses, communities, local, State, and Federal governments, national standards and model building code organizations, architects and engineers, building owners, and others with a role in preparing for disasters, or the planning, constructing, retrofitting, and insuring of buildings, structures, and lifelines;

“(B) support the development of performance-based seismic engineering tools, and work with the appropriate groups to promote the commercial application of such tools, through earthquake-related building codes, standards, and construction practices;

“(C) ensure the use of social science research and findings in informing research and technology development priorities, communicating earthquake risks to the public, developing earthquake risk mitigation strategies, and preparing for earthquake disasters;

“(D) coordinate all Federal post-earthquake investigations; and

“(E) when warranted by research or investigative findings, issue recommendations for changes in model codes to the relevant code development organizations, and report back to Congress on whether such recommendations were adopted.

“(2) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.—In addition to the lead agency responsibilities described under paragraph (1), the Institute shall be responsible for carrying out research and development to improve building codes and standards and practices for buildings, structures, and lifelines. In carrying out this paragraph, the Director of the Institute shall—

“(A) work, in conjunction with other appropriate Federal agencies, to support the development of improved seismic standards and model codes;

“(B) in coordination with other appropriate Federal agencies, work closely with standards and model code development organizations, professional societies, and practicing engineers, architects, and others involved in the construction of buildings, structures, and lifelines, to promote better building practices, including by—

“(i) developing technical resources for practitioners on new knowledge and standards of practice; and

“(ii) developing methods and tools to facilitate the incorporation of earthquake engineering principles into design and construction practices;

“(C) develop tools, technologies, methods, and practitioner guidance to feasibly and cost-effectively retrofit existing buildings and structures to increase their earthquake resiliency; and

“(D) work closely with national standards organizations, and other interested parties, to develop seismic safety standards and practices for new and existing lifelines.

“(3) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Emergency Management Agency (in this paragraph referred to as the ‘Agency’), consistent with the Agency’s all hazards approach, shall be responsible for facilitating the development and adoption of standards, model building codes, and better seismic building practices, developing tools to assess earthquake hazards, promoting the adoption of hazard mitigation measures, and carrying out a program of direct assistance to States and localities to mitigate earthquake risks to buildings, structures, lifelines, and communities.

“(B) DIRECTOR’S DUTIES.—The Director of the Agency shall—

“(i) work closely with other relevant Federal agencies, standards and model building code development organizations, architects,

engineers, and other professionals, to facilitate the development and adoption of standards, model codes, and design and construction practices to increase the earthquake resiliency of new and existing buildings, structures, and lifelines in the—

“(I) preparation, maintenance, and wide dissemination of design guidance, model building codes and standards, and practices to increase the earthquake resiliency of new and existing buildings, structures, and lifelines;

“(II) development of performance-based design guidelines and methodologies supporting model codes for buildings, structures, and lifelines; and

“(III) development of methods and tools to facilitate the incorporation of earthquake engineering principles into design and construction practices;

“(ii) develop tools, technologies, and methods to assist local planners, and others, to model and predict the potential impact of earthquake damage in seismically hazardous areas; and

“(iii) support the implementation of a comprehensive earthquake education and public awareness program, including the development of materials and their wide dissemination to all appropriate audiences, and support public access to locality-specific information that may assist the public in preparing for, mitigating against, responding to, and recovering from earthquakes and related disasters.

“(C) STATE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.—The Director of the Agency shall operate a program of grants and assistance to enable States to develop mitigation, preparedness, and response plans, compare inventories and conduct seismic safety inspections of critical structures and lifelines, update building and zoning codes and ordinances to enhance seismic safety, increase earthquake awareness and education, and encourage the development of multistate groups for such purposes. The Director shall operate such programs in coordination with the all hazards mitigation and preparedness programs authorized by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), in order to ensure that such programs are as consistent as possible. In order to qualify for assistance under this subparagraph, a State must—

“(i) demonstrate that the assistance will result in enhanced seismic safety in the State;

“(ii) provide 50 percent of the costs of the activities for which assistance is being given, except that the Director may lower or waive the cost-share requirement for these activities in exceptional cases of economic hardship; and

“(iii) meet such other requirements as the Director of the Agency shall prescribe.

“(D) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish the role and responsibility of the Federal Emergency Management Agency with regard to all hazards preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

“(4) UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—The United States Geological Survey (in this paragraph referred to as the ‘Survey’) shall conduct research and other activities necessary to characterize and identify earthquake hazards, assess earthquake risks, monitor seismic activity, and provide real-time earthquake information. In carrying out this paragraph, the Director of the Survey shall—

“(A) conduct a systematic assessment of the seismic risks in each region of the Nation prone to earthquakes, including, where appropriate, the establishment and operation of intensive monitoring projects on haz-

ardous faults, detailed seismic hazard and risk studies in urban and other developed areas where earthquake risk is determined to be significant, and engineering seismology studies;

“(B) work with officials of State and local governments to ensure that they are knowledgeable about the specific seismic risks in their areas;

“(C) develop standard procedures, in consultation with the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, for issuing earthquake alerts, including aftershock advisories, and, to the extent possible, ensure that such alerts are compatible with the Integrated Public Alerts and Warning System program authorized by section 202 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5132);

“(D) issue when justified, and notify the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency of, an earthquake prediction or other earthquake advisory, which may be evaluated by the National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council;

“(E) operate, as integral parts of the Advanced National Seismic Research and Monitoring System, a National Earthquake Information Center and a national seismic network, together providing timely and accurate information on earthquakes world-wide;

“(F) support the operation of regional seismic networks in areas of higher seismic risk;

“(G) develop and support seismic instrumentation of buildings and other structures to obtain data on their response to earthquakes for use in engineering studies and assessment of damage;

“(H) monitor and assess Earth surface deformation as it pertains to the evaluation of earthquake hazards and impacts;

“(I) work with other Program agencies to maintain awareness of, and where appropriate cooperate with, earthquake risk reduction efforts in other countries, to ensure that the Program benefits from relevant information and advances in those countries;

“(J) maintain suitable seismic hazard maps in support of building codes for structures and lifelines, including additional maps needed for performance-based design approaches, and, to the extent possible, ensure that such maps are developed consistent with the multihazard advisory maps authorized by section 203(k) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133(k));

“(K) conduct a competitive, peer-reviewed process which awards grants and cooperative agreements to complement and extend related internal Survey research and monitoring activities; and

“(L) operate, in cooperation with the National Science Foundation, a Global Seismographic Network for detection of earthquakes around the world and research into fundamental earth processes.

“(5) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—The National Science Foundation shall be responsible for funding basic research that furthers the understanding of earthquakes, earthquake engineering, and community preparation and response to earthquakes. In carrying out this paragraph, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall—

“(A) support multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research that will improve the resiliency of communities to earthquakes, including—

“(i) research that improves the safety and performance of buildings, structures, and lifelines, including the use of the large-scale experimental and computational facilities of the George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Engineering Earthquake Simulation;

“(ii) research to support more effective earthquake mitigation and response measures, such as developing better knowledge of

the specific types of vulnerabilities faced by segments of the community vulnerable to earthquakes, addressing the barriers they face in adopting mitigation and preparation measures, and developing methods to better communicate the risks of earthquakes and to promote mitigation; and

“(iii) research on the response of communities, households, businesses, and emergency responders to earthquakes;

“(B) support research to understand earthquake processes, earthquake patterns, and earthquake frequencies;

“(C) encourage prompt dissemination of significant findings, sharing of data, samples, physical collections, and other supporting materials, and development of intellectual property so research results can be used by appropriate organizations to mitigate earthquake damage;

“(D) work with other Program agencies to maintain awareness of, and where appropriate cooperate with, earthquake risk reduction research efforts in other countries, to ensure that the Program benefits from relevant information and advances in those countries; and

“(E) include to the maximum extent practicable diverse institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native-serving institutions, and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions.”; and

(3) in subsection (c)(1) by inserting “on Natural Hazards Risk Reduction established under section 301 of the Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2010” after “Interagency Coordinating Committee”.

SEC. 105. POST-EARTHQUAKE INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM.

Section 11 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7705e) is amended by striking “There is established” and all that follows through “conduct of such earthquake investigations.” and inserting “The Program shall include a post-earthquake investigations program, the purpose of which is to investigate major earthquakes so as to learn lessons which can be applied to reduce the loss of lives and property in future earthquakes. The lead Program agency, in consultation with each Program agency, shall organize investigations to study the implications of the earthquakes in the areas of responsibility of each Program agency. The investigations shall begin as rapidly as possible and may be conducted by grantees and contractors. The Program agencies shall ensure that the results of the investigations are disseminated widely.”.

SEC. 106. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7706) is amended—

(1) by adding at the end of subsection (a) the following:

“(9) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out this Act—

“(A) \$10,238,000 for fiscal year 2010;

“(B) \$10,545,000 for fiscal year 2011;

“(C) \$10,861,000 for fiscal year 2012;

“(D) \$11,187,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

“(E) \$11,523,000 for fiscal year 2014.”;

(2) by adding at the end of subsection (b) the following:

“(3) There are authorized to be appropriated to the United States Geological Survey for carrying out this Act—

“(A) \$90,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, of which \$36,000,000 shall be made available for completion of the Advanced National Seismic Research and Monitoring System;

“(B) \$92,100,000 for fiscal year 2011, of which \$37,000,000 shall be made available for completion of the Advanced National Seismic Research and Monitoring System;

“(C) \$94,263,000 for fiscal year 2012, of which \$38,000,000 shall be made available for completion of the Advanced National Seismic Research and Monitoring System;

“(D) \$96,491,000 for fiscal year 2013, of which \$39,000,000 shall be made available for completion of the Advanced National Seismic Research and Monitoring System; and

“(E) \$98,786,000 for fiscal year 2014, of which \$40,000,000 shall be made available for completion of the Advanced National Seismic Research and Monitoring System.”;

(3) by adding at the end of subsection (c) the following:

“(3) There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation for carrying out this Act—

“(A) \$64,125,000 for fiscal year 2010;

“(B) \$66,049,000 for fiscal year 2011;

“(C) \$68,030,000 for fiscal year 2012;

“(D) \$70,071,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

“(E) \$72,173,000 for fiscal year 2014.”; and

(4) by adding at the end of subsection (d) the following:

“(3) There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Institute of Standards and Technology for carrying out this Act—

“(A) \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

“(B) \$7,700,000 for fiscal year 2011;

“(C) \$7,931,000 for fiscal year 2012;

“(D) \$8,169,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

“(E) \$8,414,000 for fiscal year 2014.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 14 of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7708) is amended—

(1) by striking “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—”;

and

(2) by striking subsection (b).

TITLE II—WIND

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2010”.

SEC. 202. PURPOSE.

Section 202 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15701) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 202. PURPOSE.

“It is the purpose of the Congress in this title to achieve a major measurable reduction in losses of life and property from windstorms through the establishment and maintenance of an effective Windstorm Impact Reduction Program. The objectives of such Program shall include—

“(1) the education of households, businesses, and communities about the risks posed by windstorms, and the identification of locations, structures, lifelines, and segments of the community which are especially vulnerable to windstorm damage and disruption, and the dissemination of information on methods to reduce those risks;

“(2) the development of technologically and economically feasible design and construction methods and procedures to make new and existing structures, in areas of windstorm risk, windstorm resilient, giving high priority to the development of such methods and procedures for lifelines, structures associated with a potential high loss of life, and structures that are especially needed in times of disasters, such as hospitals and public safety and shelter facilities;

“(3) the implementation, in areas of major windstorm risk, of instrumentation to record and gather data on windstorms and the characteristics of the wind during those events, and continued research to increase the understanding of windstorm phenomena;

“(4) the development, publication, and promotion, in conjunction with State and local officials and professional organizations, of model building codes and standards and other means to encourage consideration of information about windstorm risk in making

decisions about land use policy and construction activity; and

“(5) the facilitation of the adoption of windstorm risk mitigation measures in areas of windstorm risk by households, businesses, and communities through outreach, incentive programs, and other means.”.

SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

Section 203(1) of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15702(1)) is amended by striking “Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy” and inserting “Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology”.

SEC. 204. NATIONAL WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION PROGRAM.

Section 204 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15703) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 204. NATIONAL WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION PROGRAM.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program.

“(b) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—The activities of the Program shall be designed to—

“(1) research and develop cost-effective, feasible methods, tools, and technologies to reduce the risks posed by windstorms to the built environment, especially to lessen the risk to existing structures and lifelines;

“(2) improve the understanding of windstorms and their impacts on households, businesses, communities, buildings, structures, and lifelines, through interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research that involves engineering, natural sciences, and social sciences; and

“(3) facilitate the adoption of windstorm risk reduction measures by households, businesses, communities, local, State and Federal governments, national standards and model building code organizations, architects and engineers, building owners, and others with a role in planning for disasters and planning, constructing, retrofitting, and insuring buildings, structures, and lifelines through—

“(A) grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and technical assistance;

“(B) development of hazard maps, standards, guidelines, voluntary consensus standards, and other design guidance for windstorm risk reduction for buildings, structures, and lifelines;

“(C) outreach and information dissemination to communities on site specific windstorm hazards and ways to reduce the risks from those hazards; and

“(D) development and maintenance of a repository of information, including technical data, on windstorm hazards and risk reduction;

“(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROGRAM AGENCIES.—

“(1) LEAD AGENCY.—The National Institute of Standards and Technology (in this section referred to as the ‘Institute’) shall be responsible for planning and coordinating the Program. In carrying out this paragraph, the Director of the Institute shall—

“(A) ensure that the Program includes the necessary components to promote the implementation of windstorm risk reduction measures by households, businesses, communities, local, State, and Federal governments, national standards and model building code organizations, architects and engineers, building owners, and others with a role in planning and preparing for disasters, and planning constructing, and retrofitting, and insuring buildings, structures, and lifelines;

“(B) support the development of performance-based engineering tools, and work with the appropriate groups to promote the commercial application of such tools, through

wind-related building codes, standards, and construction practices;

“(C) ensure the use of social science research and findings in informing the development of technology and research priorities, in communicating windstorm risks to the public, in developing windstorm risk mitigation strategies, and in preparing for windstorm disasters;

“(D) coordinate all Federal post-windstorm investigations; and

“(E) when warranted by research or investigative findings, issue recommendations for changes in model codes to the relevant code development organizations, and report back to Congress on whether such recommendations were adopted.

“(2) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.—In addition to the lead agency responsibilities described under paragraph (1), the Institute shall be responsible for carrying out research and development to improve model codes, standards, design guidance and practices for the construction and retrofit of buildings, structures, and lifelines. In carrying out this paragraph, the Director of the Institute shall—

“(A) support the development of instrumentation, data processing, and archival capabilities, and standards for the instrumentation and its deployment, to measure wind, wind loading, and other properties of severe wind and structure response;

“(B) coordinate with other appropriate Federal agencies to make the data described in subparagraph (A) available to researchers, standards and code developers, and local planners;

“(C) support the development of tools and methods for the collection of data on the loss of and damage to structures, and data on surviving structures after severe windstorm events;

“(D) improve the knowledge of the impact of severe wind on buildings, structures, lifelines, and communities;

“(E) develop cost-effective windstorm impact reduction tools, methods, and technologies;

“(F) work, in conjunction with other appropriate Federal agencies, to support the development of wind standards and model codes; and

“(G) in conjunction with other appropriate Federal agencies, work closely with standards and model code development organizations, professional societies, and practicing engineers, architects, and others involved in the construction of buildings, structures, and lifelines, to promote better building practices, including by—

“(i) supporting the development of technical resources for practitioners to implement new knowledge; and

“(ii) supporting the development of methods and tools to incorporate wind engineering principles into design and construction practices.

“(3) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—The Federal Emergency Management Agency, consistent with the Agency’s all hazards approach, shall support the development of risk assessment tools and effective mitigation techniques, assist with windstorm-related data collection and analysis, and support outreach, information dissemination, and implementation of windstorm preparedness and mitigation measures by households, businesses, and communities, including by—

“(A) working to develop or improve risk-assessment tools, methods, and models;

“(B) work closely with other appropriate Federal agencies to develop and facilitate the adoption of windstorm impact reduction measures, including by—

“(i) developing cost-effective retrofit measures for existing buildings, structures,

and lifelines to improve windstorm performance;

“(ii) developing methods, tools, and technologies to improve the planning, design, and construction of new buildings, structures, and lifelines;

“(iii) supporting the development of model wind codes and standards for buildings, structures, and lifelines; and

“(iv) developing technical resources for practitioners that reflect new knowledge and standards of practice; and

“(C) develop and disseminate guidelines for the construction of windstorm shelters.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish the role and responsibility of the Federal Emergency Management Agency with regard to all hazards preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

“(4) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall support atmospheric sciences research and data collection to improve the understanding of the behavior of windstorms and their impact on buildings, structures, and lifelines, including by—

“(A) working with other appropriate Federal agencies to develop and deploy instrumentation to measure speed and other characteristics of wind, and to collect, analyze, and make available such data;

“(B) working with officials of State and local governments to ensure that they are knowledgeable about, and prepared for, the specific windstorm risks in their area;

“(C) supporting the development of suitable wind speed maps and other derivative products that support building codes and other hazard mitigation approaches for buildings, structures, and lifelines, and, to the extent possible, ensure that such maps and other derivative products are developed consistent with the multihazard advisory maps authorized by section 203(k) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133(k));

“(D) conducting a competitive, peer-reviewed process which awards grants and cooperative agreements to complement the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's wind-related and storm surge-related research and data collection activities;

“(E) working with other appropriate Federal agencies and State and local governments to develop or improve risk-assessment tools, methods, and models; and

“(F) working with other appropriate Federal agencies to develop storm surge models to better understand the interaction between windstorms and bodies of water.

“(5) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—The National Science Foundation shall be responsible for funding basic research that furthers the understanding of windstorms, wind engineering, and community preparation and response to windstorms. In carrying out this paragraph, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall—

“(A) support multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research that will improve the resiliency of communities to windstorms, including—

“(i) research that improves the safety and performance of buildings, structures, and lifelines;

“(ii) research to support more effective windstorm mitigation and response measures, such as developing better knowledge of the specific types of vulnerabilities faced by segments of the community vulnerable to windstorms, addressing the barriers they face in adopting mitigation and preparation measures, and developing methods to better communicate the risks of windstorms and to promote mitigation; and

“(iii) research on the response of communities to windstorms, including on the effec-

tiveness of the emergency response, and the recovery process of communities, households, and businesses;

“(B) support research to understand windstorm processes, windstorm patterns, and windstorm frequencies;

“(C) encourage prompt dissemination of significant findings, sharing of data, samples, physical collections, and other supporting materials, and development of intellectual property so research results can be used by appropriate organizations to mitigate windstorm damage;

“(D) work with other Program agencies to maintain awareness of, and where appropriate cooperate with, windstorm risk reduction research efforts in other countries, to ensure that the Program benefits from relevant information and advances in those countries; and

“(E) include to the maximum extent practicable diverse institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native-serving institutions, and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions.”

SEC. 205. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 207 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15706) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

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

“(1) \$9,682,000 for fiscal year 2010;

“(2) \$9,972,500 for fiscal year 2011;

“(3) \$10,271,600 for fiscal year 2012;

“(4) \$10,579,800 for fiscal year 2013; and

“(5) \$10,897,200 for fiscal year 2014.

“(b) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation for carrying out this title—

“(1) \$9,682,000 for fiscal year 2010;

“(2) \$9,972,500 for fiscal year 2011;

“(3) \$10,271,600 for fiscal year 2012;

“(4) \$10,579,800 for fiscal year 2013; and

“(5) \$10,897,200 for fiscal year 2014.

“(c) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Institute of Standards and Technology for carrying out this title—

“(1) \$4,120,000 for fiscal year 2010;

“(2) \$4,243,600 for fiscal year 2011;

“(3) \$4,370,900 for fiscal year 2012;

“(4) \$4,502,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

“(5) \$4,637,100 for fiscal year 2014.

“(d) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for carrying out this title—

“(1) \$2,266,000 for fiscal year 2010;

“(2) \$2,334,000 for fiscal year 2011;

“(3) \$2,404,000 for fiscal year 2012;

“(4) \$2,476,100 for fiscal year 2013; and

“(5) \$2,550,400 for fiscal year 2014.”

TITLE III—INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL HAZARDS RISK REDUCTION

SEC. 301. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL HAZARDS RISK REDUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established an Interagency Coordinating Committee on Natural Hazards Risk Reduction, chaired by the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—In addition to the chair, the Committee shall be composed of—

(A) the directors of—

(i) the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(ii) the United State Geological Survey;

(iii) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(iv) the National Science Foundation;

(v) the Office of Science and Technology Policy; and

(vi) the Office of Management and Budget; and

(B) the head of any other Federal agency the Committee considers appropriate.

(2) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall not meet less than 2 times a year at the call of the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(3) GENERAL PURPOSE AND DUTIES.—The Committee shall oversee the planning and coordination of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program and the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, and shall make proposals for planning and coordination of any other Federal research for natural hazard mitigation that the Committee considers appropriate.

(4) STRATEGIC PLANS.—The Committee shall develop and submit to Congress, not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) a Strategic Plan for the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program that includes—

(i) prioritized goals for such Program that will mitigate against the loss of life and property from future earthquakes;

(ii) short-term, mid-term, and long-term research objectives to achieve those goals;

(iii) a description of the role of each Program agency in achieving the prioritized goals;

(iv) the methods by which progress towards the goals will be assessed;

(v) an explanation of how the Program will foster the transfer of research results onto outcomes, such as improved building codes;

(vi) a description of the role of social science in informing the development of the prioritized goals and research objectives; and

(vii) a description of how the George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation and the Advanced National Seismic Research and Monitoring System will be used in achieving the prioritized goals and research objectives; and

(B) a Strategic Plan for the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program that includes—

(i) prioritized goals for such Program that will mitigate against the loss of life and property from future windstorms;

(ii) short-term, mid-term, and long-term research objectives to achieve those goals;

(iii) a description of the role of each Program agency in achieving the prioritized goals;

(iv) the methods by which progress towards the goals will be assessed;

(v) an explanation of how the Program will foster the transfer of research results onto outcomes, such as improved building codes; and

(vi) a description of the role of social science in informing the development of the prioritized goals and research objectives.

(5) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, and at least once every two years thereafter, the Committee shall submit to the Congress—

(A) a report on the progress of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program that includes—

(i) a description of the activities funded for the previous two years of the Program, a description of how these activities align with the prioritized goals and research objectives established in the Strategic Plan, and the budgets, per agency, for these activities;

(ii) the outcomes achieved by the Program for each of the goals identified in the Strategic Plan;

(iii) a description of any recommendations made to change existing building codes that were the result of Program activities; and

(iv) a description of the extent to which the Program has incorporated recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction; and

(B) a report on the progress of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program that includes—

(i) a description of the activities funded for the previous two years of the Program, a description of how these activities align with the prioritized goals and research objectives established in the Strategic Plan, and the budgets, per agency, for these activities;

(ii) the outcomes achieved by the Program for each of the goals identified in the Strategic Plan;

(iii) a description of any recommendations made to change existing building codes that were the result of Program activities; and

(iv) a description of the extent to which the Program has incorporated recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction.

(6) **COORDINATED BUDGET.**—The Committee shall develop a coordinated budget for the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program and a coordinated budget for the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program. These budgets shall be submitted to the Congress at the time of the President's budget submission for each fiscal year.

(b) **ADVISORY COMMITTEES ON NATURAL HAZARDS REDUCTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall establish an Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction, an Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction, and other such advisory committees as the Director considers necessary to advise the Institute on research, development, and technology transfer activities to mitigate the impact of natural disasters.

(2) **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION.**—The Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction shall be composed of at least 11 members, none of whom may be employees of the Federal Government, including representatives of research and academic institutions, industry standards development organizations, emergency management agencies, State and local government, and business communities who are qualified to provide advice on earthquake hazards reduction and represent all related scientific, architectural, and engineering disciplines. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee shall be considered by Federal agencies in implementing the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program.

(3) **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION.**—The Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction shall be composed of at least 7 members, none of whom may be employees of the Federal Government, including representatives of research and academic institutions, industry standards development organizations, emergency management agencies, State and local government, and business communities who are qualified to provide advice on windstorm impact reduction and represent all related scientific, architectural, and engineering disciplines. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee shall be considered by Federal agencies in implementing the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program.

(4) **ASSESSMENTS.**—The Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction and the Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction shall offer assessments on—

(A) trends and developments in the natural, social, and engineering sciences and

practices of earthquake hazards or windstorm impact mitigation;

(B) the priorities of the Programs' Strategic Plans;

(C) the coordination of the Programs; and

(D) and any revisions to the Programs which may be necessary.

(5) **REPORTS.**—At least every two years, the Advisory Committees shall report to the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology on the assessments carried out under paragraph (4) and their recommendations for ways to improve the Programs. In developing recommendations for the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, the Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction shall consider the recommendations of the United States Geological Survey Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee.

(c) **COORDINATION OF FEDERAL DISASTER RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources of the National Science and Technology Council shall submit a report to the Congress identifying—

(1) current Federal research, development, and technology transfer activities that address hazard mitigation for natural disasters, including earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados, wildfires, floods, and the current budgets for these activities;

(2) areas of research that are common to two or more of the hazards identified in paragraph (1); and

(3) opportunities to create synergies between the research activities for the hazards identified in paragraph (1).

TITLE IV—NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION SAFETY TEAM ACT AMENDMENTS

SEC. 401. NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION SAFETY TEAM ACT AMENDMENTS.

The National Construction Safety Team Act (15 U.S.C. 7301 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 2(a)—

(A) by striking “a building or buildings” and inserting “a building, buildings, or infrastructure”; and

(B) by striking “To the maximum extent practicable, the Director shall establish and deploy a Team within 48 hours after such an event.” and inserting “The Director shall make a decision whether to deploy a Team within 72 hours after such an event.”;

(2) in section 2(b)(1), by striking “buildings” and inserting “buildings or infrastructure”;

(3) in section 2(b)(2)(A), by striking “building” and inserting “building or infrastructure”;

(4) in section 2(b)(2)(D), by striking “buildings” and inserting “buildings or infrastructure”;

(5) in section 2(c)(1), by striking “the United States Fire Administration and”;

(6) in section 2(c)(1)(G), by striking “building” and inserting “building or infrastructure”;

(7) in section 2(c)(1)(J)—

(A) by striking “building” and inserting “building or infrastructure”; and

(B) by inserting “and the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004” after “Act of 1977”;

(8) in section 4(a), by striking “investigating a building” and inserting “investigating building and infrastructure”;

(9) in section 4(a)(1)—

(A) by striking “a building” and inserting “a building or infrastructure”; and

(B) by striking “building” both of the other places it appears and inserting “building or infrastructure”;

(10) in section 4(a)(3), by striking “building” both places it appears and inserting “building or infrastructure”;

(11) in section 4(b), by striking “building” both places it appears and inserting “building or infrastructure”;

(12) in section 4(c)(1) and (2), by striking “building” both places it appears and inserting “building or infrastructure”;

(13) by amending section 4(d)(1) to read as follows:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a Team investigation shall have priority over any other investigation which is related to the purpose and duties set forth in section 2(b) and undertaken by any other Federal agency.”;

(14) in section 4(d)(3) and (4), by striking “building” both places it appears and inserting “building or infrastructure”;

(15) in section 4, by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) **INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTIGATIONS.**—With respect to an investigation relating to an infrastructure failure, a Federal agency with primary jurisdiction over the failed infrastructure which is conducting an investigation and asserts priority over the Team investigation shall have such priority. Such priority shall not otherwise affect the authority of the Team to continue its investigation under this Act.”;

(16) in section 7(a), by striking “on request and at reasonable cost”;

(17) in section 7(c), by striking “building” and inserting “building or infrastructure”;

(18) in section 8(1) and (4), by striking “building” both places it appears and inserting “building or infrastructure”;

(19) in section 9, by striking “the United States Fire Administration and”;

(20) in section 9(2)(C), by striking “building” and inserting “building or infrastructure”;

(21) in section 10(3), by striking “building” and inserting “building and infrastructure”;

(22) in section 11(a), by striking “the United States Fire Administration and”; and

(23) by striking section 12.

TITLE V—FIRE RESEARCH PROGRAM

SEC. 501. FIRE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

Section 16(a)(1) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278f(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “fires at the wildland-urban interface,” after “but not limited to,”; and

(2) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “fires at the wildland-urban interface,” after “types of fires, including”.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3820, the bill under consideration.

□ 1415

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3820, the Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2010. This bipartisan bill addresses a crucial need—securing our communities against earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados, and other natural phenomena.

As we saw last month in Haiti and just this past weekend in Chile, earthquakes can strike without warning, can cause massive damage and many, many casualties. Mitigation efforts, like advanced building codes, are crucial to preventing loss and injury. Preparation saves lives. The Chilean experience demonstrates the importance of preparation, of building codes, and of education.

H.R. 3820 reauthorizes two very important natural hazard mitigation programs—the Natural Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program and the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program.

Since Congress created the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, or NEHRP, in 1977, it has been used to study earthquake phenomena, to identify seismic hazards, and to develop building codes and practices to withstand earthquakes. This reauthorization will allow the U.S. Geological Survey, FEMA, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology to continue their efforts to develop and to promote earthquake mitigation measures.

Created in 2004, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, or NWIRP, is also a critical tool in countering the destructive forces of hurricanes, tornadoes, and other severe windstorms. Destructive windstorms are not limited to Florida, to the Gulf Coast, or to Tornado Alley in our Midwest. Two years ago, in my Pacific Northwest, we experienced 150-mile-per-hour winds, a storm which killed 18 people and which caused nearly \$200 million in damage. Just last week, gusts of up to 90 miles per hour were reported in the Northeast, knocking out power for more than 87,000 New Yorkers and others in Pennsylvania through the Mid-Atlantic. The purpose of NWIRP is to study wind hazards and to develop building codes and practices to prevent damage.

The adoption of mitigation measures is the crucial last step in preventing losses from natural disasters. H.R. 3820 includes provisions to develop ways to cost effectively retrofit existing structures and to secure lifelines as well as provisions for research to identify the best methods to encourage homeowners, businesses, and communities to plan for natural disasters and to adopt mitigation and education measures.

H.R. 3820 also brings greater coordination to Federal natural hazards R&D efforts. It directs the relevant agencies to develop a multihazards research agenda and to identify where common research approaches are appropriate across different types of hazards. This will enable a research agenda where the lessons learned in one disaster will be applied to help prevent damage in another and, therefore, save lives. It will use scarce taxpayer dollars more effectively and more efficiently.

I would like to thank the ranking member of the Technology and Innova-

tion Subcommittee, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, for his hard work and support in helping us bring this bill to the floor.

I would also like to recognize my friend and colleague, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, who is here on the floor with us today.

I would similarly like to thank the chairman of the full Science and Technology Committee, Mr. BART GORDON of Tennessee, and the ranking member, Mr. HALL of Texas, the unforgettable Mr. HALL.

H.R. 3820 is supported by the American Society of Civil Engineers. I urge my colleagues to vote for its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3820, the National Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2010.

Whether they come in the form of hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, or other phenomena, natural hazards are infrequent and inevitable, and as illustrated by recent events in Haiti and in Chile, can be devastating to life and property.

The infrequency of such events is, of course, no excuse for complacency in taking steps to address them. The programs authorized in this legislation are the Federal Government's primary means of advancing science and technology to mitigate the risks of natural hazards. This legislation authorizes two programs—the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, or NEHRP, and the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, NWIRP.

NEHRP was established in 1977 in response to growing concerns about the threat of damaging earthquakes. It is an agency effort consisting of four participating agencies: firstly, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, supporting problem-focused earthquake engineering research and development programs aimed at improving building design codes and construction standards; secondly, the National Science Foundation, NSF, supporting basic research in geoscience, engineering, economic, and social aspects of earthquakes; thirdly, the U.S. Geological Survey, USGS, conducting basic and applied Earth science and seismology research; fourthly, FEMA, which supports mitigation, response, education, outreach, and implementation of research results.

Similarly, the Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, created in 2004 and modeled after NEHRP, consists of four agencies—NIST, NSF and FEMA, as well as NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, which funds research in the atmospheric sciences—to better understand, predict, and respond to hurricanes, tornadoes, and other windstorms.

The goals and activities of these two programs are clear. From engineering research to improve the structural resiliency of buildings, to the development of model building codes and

standards, to recovery and response operations, the opportunities for leveraging earthquake mitigation and windstorm mitigation activities are numerous and substantial. Accordingly, the primary objective of this legislation is to establish an overarching coordination structure to improve communication, to exploit potential synergies, and to ensure that new knowledge developed from both programs can be translated into practice and, eventually, into decreased vulnerabilities.

Much progress has been made with the overall authorization levels in this bill, which have been reduced from prior authorization levels. In particular, at three of the four NEHRP agencies, authorized levels have been reduced to more realistic levels that still achieve its goals—a responsible approach given our ominous overall fiscal situation. At the fourth NEHRP agency, USGS, the authorization level has been modestly increased. This reflects a position by the lead authors of the bill that earthquake research should be a priority at USGS.

These two programs, if directed to the right priorities and implemented as a true, coordinated interagency effort, can become more effective and can be leveraged many times over.

I appreciate the hard work from my fellow members of the committee and staff to balance the need for minimizing the risk of these natural disasters with the fiscal reality of large deficits and debt.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the chairman of the Research and Science Education Subcommittee of the Science Committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

Mr. LIPINSKI. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I have a background as an engineer. I actually have a master's degree in systems engineering. I understand the need for understanding how systems work and for understanding what can be done in preparation so that, in the case of Mr. WU's bill, we can do the best that we can to mitigate, to avoid the problems, and to deal with what happens in the aftermath of earthquakes and windstorms.

I thank Mr. WU for this bill, and I thank Chairman GORDON also for moving this bill forward and for bringing it to the House floor. I thank the Republicans for their work, and I thank Mr. BROUN here today.

I think this is something that we often forget about until after a disaster strikes. With the earthquake in Chile, we've heard so much talk about the planning beforehand, about the requirements that buildings have to be designed in a certain way to withstand earthquakes, and about the lives that were saved. Probably tens of thousands of lives were saved from this. This was all through a type of planning that can come through this bill.

I think it is also important—and I see this so often, not just in the NSF, NIST, USGS, or NOAA. We see all these silos—all these departments, agencies—which are doing separate work, and they don't oftentimes enough coordinate the work that they are doing. So I think this bill does a very good job of making sure that we have the coordination when it comes to planning for earthquakes and for looking into what we can do about that for windstorms.

So I thank Mr. WU for introducing this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the hard work that my good friend from Oregon (Mr. WU) and my friend from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) have put into this bill. Certainly, as a fiscal conservative, I am concerned about how the agencies within the Federal Government coordinate their activities and coordinate their communications. I congratulate Mr. WU on trying to bring overarching communications between these four governmental agencies.

Just today on Fox and Friends news, they had a seismologist who was predicting just in the very near future a major earthquake which would affect Mr. WU's home State of Oregon, the State of Washington, as well as the State of California. We've seen a tremendous number of earthquakes recently, and, I think, having the Federal Government agencies coordinate their efforts to try to find some way to communicate between those is absolutely a much needed process. I congratulate Mr. WU on his efforts to do that.

So, having said all of that, Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, but I do just want to congratulate Mr. WU again on his hard work on this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. WU. I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia for his very kind remarks.

Madam Speaker, we do not and we actually should not agree all the time, because these are sincere differences which, I think, we reflect in our personal values and in the values of our constituents; but the legislation that we are dealing with today demonstrates this Congress' working at its best on those issues where we should be coming together, and we do.

I want to thank the gentleman. I want to thank Mr. SMITH and Mr. HALL on the minority side.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. WU. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I agree wholeheartedly.

I wish we could get together on health reform and could get together and do something that's right for the American people. I wish we could get together on an economic stimulus package. Folks on our side would very much like to do so. It is unfortunate that we have such a philosophical divide on many issues.

Mr. WU, I have enjoyed working with you on the Science and Technology Committee. I love your State. I did my internship in Portland, Oregon, and I know that's where you live, in that area. I wish we could get together on many issues. I congratulate you on your leadership and for bringing together a bipartisan bill so that people do get together at least on this issue.

I commit to you, as well as to my Democratic colleagues, to work to try to find some commonsense solutions, market-based solutions, to health reform and to getting our economy back on course and other things. I hope that we can work together on these.

□ 1430

Mr. WU. I thank the gentleman for his kind remarks. Sometimes the largest things start in small ways, and the longest journey starts with a small step, and perhaps we are taking that step today, Mr. BROUN.

Storms teach us all sorts of things, and personal effort and caring matter a lot. The snowstorms that paralyzed this city a couple of weeks ago in some respects are a metaphor for what has been going on with the political and policy mechanisms that also occupy this city.

I believe that in my home State, within a few hours of the storm being over, we would be out there starting to clean up, and we would be doing a reasonable job fairly soon. What happened here was paralysis for days at a time, schools closing for the rest of the week, and people complaining about the city not cleaning the streets.

But what I noticed was that in my neighborhood, folks did shovel their sidewalks, and it makes a big difference. Just take care of your own sidewalk, and maybe help your neighbor, if your neighbor is old or just not able to do these things for him or herself. In the second storm, I actually offered to pay my son a little bit of money to shovel the whole block. Shoveling the block was the second most important thing to do. I think the most important thing to do was to teach him civic virtue and what serving the broader good is all about.

This bill does serve the broader national good. The example of Chile demonstrates the importance of preparation. It demonstrates the importance of American technology, because the Chileans borrowed their designs from the United States. It also helps us understand where we need to get better, because their highways had a lot of collapses, just as our highways during the quake in Los Angeles unfortunately collapsed, and perhaps we can improve our designs for that.

Education is also a very, very important component of earthquake safety. In my State, it is estimated that we could have a 9.5 Richter scale quake, just like the world's largest quake ever recorded. That one was down in Peru and Chile, and it was 9.5 on the Richter scale. The scientists tell us that is

what can happen in the Pacific Northwest, and it actually has happened in the past.

Since the last ice age, these quakes have occurred every 200 to 1,000 years, and the average period was 300 years. We didn't know that this was going to go on. When I moved to Oregon, we didn't know anything about problems like this. But this is the problem of science.

Through research on tree roots which were buried in mud and research on Japanese records, we found out that the last such earthquake occurred in January of 1701, 309 years ago. So if the average period is 300 years, we are in that zone, and we ought to be prepared.

Education is key. Preparation is key. And it is not just the buildings, it is not just design, but it is also about educating people about what to do before the quake, what to do during the quake, what to do after the quake, and how do you prepare for a tsunami, how do you get out of the way.

It takes courage, and it takes overcoming fear, and there are different kinds of courage, and there are different kinds of fear. I know that some folks are concerned about what happens when we move to an all-hazards approach to these natural phenomena, and I can tell you that this Congress, this committee, Mr. BROUN and I, will stand united in providing the resources so that we can appropriately reduce risk across different phenomena, whether the risk is created by wind, by water, by earthquake, or by tsunami. That is the obligation of leadership, and we will provide the leadership to do that, because at the end of the day, the earthquakes, the wind and other hazards, they know no bounds, they know no geographic bounds, and they know no bounds with respect to age or income or any other hazard.

Madam Speaker, I ask all Members to vote in favor of this legislation.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3820, the "Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2010". This bill reauthorizes natural hazard risk reduction programs, in particular the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program and the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program.

Members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and I have been strong advocates for the reduction of the risks our Nation faces from natural hazards. I commend the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON), Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology, and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU), for bringing this bill before the House today and for the cooperative spirit in which they have worked with our committee on this legislation.

The "Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2010", and the programs it authorizes, will assist communities and citizens across the country in reducing their risk from several natural hazards, that, unfortunately, occur all too often in our Nation. Specifically, this legislation addresses the risks from three hazards: earthquakes, windstorms, and fires.

We have all recently seen the destruction that earthquakes can cause. On January 12,

2010, a catastrophic earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale struck the island nation of Haiti. This earthquake was the largest earthquake to hit Haiti in over 200 years. An estimated 230,000 people lost their lives in this disaster, which affected over three million people.

I have a deep, personal connection to the people of Haiti: before I went to work for people of Minnesota, I lived in Haiti for almost 3 years. Since that time, I have followed events in that nation and have maintained many good friendships with Haitian citizens. In fact, I was in Haiti shortly before the earthquake hit, in October 2009. When I accompanied Speaker PELOSI on a bipartisan, bicameral trip to Haiti last month, I was struck by visions of places I saw just three months prior that were unrecognizable as they lie in complete and utter ruin. These haunting images clearly demonstrate the power of an earthquake, and the importance of ensuring we do everything we can to protect our citizens from such devastation.

This past weekend, another devastating earthquake struck Chile. This earthquake is believed to be hundreds of times more powerful than the earthquake that struck Haiti, yet early reports seem to indicate that the loss of life and destruction—while no less tragic—was less severe than in Haiti. There are likely a number of reasons for the reduced damage, including where the earthquake struck. However, it must also be recognized that Chile is a nation that is at great risk of seismic activity and has taken significant steps to reduce the risk that earthquakes pose to that nation and its citizens.

H.R. 3820 also addresses risks due to windstorms and wildfires. In my district in Minnesota, we have been unfortunate to bear witness to the devastating effects of both of these hazards, and how they can be related. On July 4, 1999, a straight line windstorm, also known as a derecho, struck the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area and downed millions of trees. Not only did this devastate the wilderness area and its surroundings, it also created a huge fire hazard from the fallen timber.

The citizens of Minnesota made every effort to reduce the risk of the fire. Residents in the affected areas utilized Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, mitigation funds to install outdoor sprinkler systems to protect against wildfire. Unfortunately, although not unpredictably, in 2007, the Ham Lake Fire struck the area. The structures that had installed and maintained sprinkler systems were protected from the fire. This is another good example of how important it is to reduce the risk of natural hazards.

H.R. 3820 contains several amendments at the request of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure that will help ensure the earthquake, windstorm, and wildfire risk reduction programs authorized in this bill are consistent with FEMA's all-hazards approach. While the Federal Government currently administers risk reduction programs for earthquakes, floods, and windstorms as free-standing programs, it is important that such programs do not operate completely independently or in a "stove piped" manner. In the past, I have strongly opposed efforts by the Department of Homeland Security to channel Federal resources and focus away from all-hazards preparedness and response programs

into terrorism programs, because this approach would segment by particular risk.

Specifically, H.R. 3820, as amended, will require that the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program and the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program to be operated in coordination with the all-hazards mitigation and preparedness programs administered by FEMA and authorized by the Stafford Act. In this manner, States, communities, and citizens can utilize these programs in a coordinated manner. FEMA is already taking steps to coordinate among the agency's mitigation programs, by making the administrative requirements of its all-hazards and flood programs as consistent as possible. We anticipate FEMA will apply this sound approach to the programs authorized under this bill as well.

In addition, this legislation calls for the mapping of windstorm and earthquake risks. H.R. 3820, as amended, will require that, to the extent possible, these maps be developed consistent with the multi-hazard advisory maps authorized by the Stafford Act. It is not efficient or effective for communities to use separate maps identifying risk from each particular natural hazard the community may face. As hazard maps are now digitized, data for each type of risk can be easily superimposed on the same map, which will allow communities to use one common map in planning and identifying risks.

Finally, H.R. 3820 contains amendments to the National Construction Safety Teams Act and expands authority of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, to deploy teams to investigate infrastructure failure. NIST's current authority is limited to building collapse investigations. I am pleased that this bill, as amended, clarifies that the authority to deploy teams for infrastructure failure is limited to NIST's existing authority and expertise to investigate the structural causes of collapse, as well as building codes, and does not give NIST authority beyond that arena, such as a related transportation accident and incident investigation if there is also an infrastructure failure component. The amendment also ensures that if another Federal agency with jurisdiction over the infrastructure investigates the failure, such agency investigation will have priority over the NIST investigation. I look forward to continued work with the Committee on Science and Technology on this provision as we move ahead with this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3820, the "Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2010."

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3820, the Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2009. As a representative of a state that faces perhaps more natural hazard risk than any other—including not just from earthquakes, but also wildfires, windstorms, landslides, and tsunamis—I cannot overstate the importance of the programs authorized in this legislation, which are essential for protecting the lives and property of tens of millions of Californians.

Two tragedies over the past two months have shown us the dramatic difference that comes from being properly prepared for a natural disaster. The magnitude 7.0 earthquake in Haiti on January 12th struck a country that was woefully unprepared for such an event. Unreinforced buildings collapsed like houses of cards, and an almost unfathomable 200,000 people were killed. This past Sunday, a far-

stronger magnitude 8.8 earthquake hit Chile, and while this tragedy claimed the lives of over 700, the death toll was much lower than Haiti's because people were protected by buildings constructed to withstand that sort of shaking.

The United States has not suffered these sorts of staggering casualties from a seismic event in over a hundred years, in large part due to the work of the U.S. Geological Survey's Earthquake Hazard Program. We cannot predict when the next major earthquake will strike the United States. But we know where it is most likely. And we have been able to enact building codes in those areas to protect people in their homes and offices. We have conducted preparedness drills so people know what to do when the Big One hits. We have been able to engineer pipelines, power lines, and roads to survive a major quake, so we can rebuild and recover as quickly as possible. The U.S. Geological Survey has helped make this all possible.

This legislation reauthorizes the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program, of which the U.S. Geological Survey's Earthquake Hazard Program is a part. When this legislation was first reported out of the Science and Technology Committee, I was concerned about the cut in authorization levels to the U.S. Geological Survey, which I believed reflected the wrong message about the importance of this critical program. I am pleased to say that after a hearing in my subcommittee on January 20th, my good friends BART GORDON, Chairman of the Science and Technology Committee, and DAVID WU, chief sponsor of this legislation, worked with me to increase the authorization levels and put the Earthquake Hazard Program on the path for continued growth. I would also like to thank the ranking member of my subcommittee, DOUG LAMBORN of Colorado, for working with me in this endeavor, as well as all the scientists and engineers who wrote to me expressing their support for this program.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, but more importantly, I urge us all to help the people of Haiti and Chile in any way we can as they attempt to clean up and rebuild. The hopes and prayers of everyone in this Chamber are with them.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Subcommittee Chairman DAVID WU, Subcommittee Ranking Member ADRIAN SMITH, and Ranking Member RALPH HALL for their hard work on this very important legislation that will do so much to help protect our communities from natural disasters. I also want to recognize the work of the Natural Resources Committee as well as the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in arriving at the text we are considering today. Both Chairman RAHALL and Chairman OBERSTAR have been enormously helpful in getting this bill to the floor today. In addition, I want to recognize JIM COSTA, who chairs the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources at the Natural Resources Committee, and who has been a leader in working to protect our communities from earthquakes. At this time I would like to insert an exchange of letters between Chairman RAHALL and myself into the RECORD, and once again thank both Chairmen for their support.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, February 24, 2010.

Hon. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to work with you on H.R. 3820, the Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2009, which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Because of the continued cooperation and consideration that you have afforded me and my staff in developing these provisions, and knowing of your interest in expediting this legislation, I am willing to waive further consideration of H.R. 3820 by the Committee on Natural Resources at this time. Of course, this waiver is not intended to prejudice any future jurisdictional claims over the provisions of this legislation or similar language. I also reserve the right to seek to have conferees named from the Committee on Natural Resources on these provisions, and request your support if such a request is made.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 3820 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, February 24, 2010.

Hon. NICK J. RAHALL II
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN RAHALL: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3820, the Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2009. Your support for this legislation and your assistance in ensuring its timely consideration are greatly appreciated.

I agree that provisions in the bill are of jurisdictional interest to the Committee on Natural Resources. I acknowledge that by discharging the Committee on Natural Resources from further consideration of H.R. 3820, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction and I will fully support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Natural Resources has jurisdiction. A copy of our letters will be placed in the Committee Report on H.R. 3820 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

I value your cooperation and look forward to working with you as we move ahead with this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3820, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam 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.

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1097), supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1097

Whereas engineers use their professional, scientific, and technical knowledge and skills in creative and innovative ways to fulfill the needs of society;

Whereas engineers have helped to address the major technological and infrastructural challenges of our time, including providing water, defending the Nation, and developing clean energy technologies that are needed to power the American people into the future;

Whereas engineers are a crucial link in research, development, and the transformation of scientific discoveries into useful products and jobs, as the people of the United States look more than ever to engineers and their imagination, knowledge, and analytical skills to meet the challenges of the future;

Whereas engineers play a crucial role in developing the consensus engineering standards that promote global collaboration and support reliable infrastructures;

Whereas the sponsors of National Engineers Week are working together to transform the engineering workforce through greater inclusion of women and underrepresented minorities;

Whereas the 2009 National Academy of Engineering and National Research Council report entitled "Engineering in K-12 Education" highlighted the potential role for engineering in primary and secondary education as a method to improve learning and achievement in science and mathematics, increase awareness of engineering and the work of engineers, help students understand and engage in engineering design, build interest in pursuing engineering as a career, and increase technological literacy;

Whereas an increasing number of the approximately 2,000,000 engineers in the United States are nearing retirement;

Whereas National Engineers Week has developed into a formal coalition of more than 100 professional societies, major corporations, and Government agencies that are dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated engineering workforce, promoting literacy in science, technology, engineering, and math, and raising public awareness and appreciation of the contributions of engineers to society;

Whereas National Engineers Week is celebrated during the week of George Washington's birthday to honor the contributions that the first President, who was both a military engineer and a land surveyor, made to engineering; and

Whereas February 14, 2010, to February 20, 2010, has been designated as National Engineers Week by the National Engineers Week Foundation and its coalition members: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week to increase understanding of and interest in engineering careers and to promote technological literacy and engineering education; and

(2) continues to work with the engineering community to ensure that the creativity and

contributions made by engineers can be expressed through research, development, standardization, and innovation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WU. Madam 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 House Resolution 1097, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1097, supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week.

I would first like to thank my friend and colleague, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Research and Science Education, Mr. LIPINSKI, for introducing this resolution. As one of only a handful of engineers in Congress, Mr. LIPINSKI has and will continue to be a strong advocate for engineers and engineering on the Science and Technology Committee and in Congress.

National Engineers Week, which was held from February 14 to February 20, has grown into a formal coalition of more than 100 engineering, education, and cultural societies, major corporations, and government agencies. Its goal is to raise public awareness of the significant positive contributions to society by engineers and encourage students to become engineers.

This resolution supports the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week. It also pledges that the House of Representatives will work with the engineering community to make sure that the creativity and contribution of the engineering community can be expressed through research, development, standardization, education, and innovation.

This is a vitally important cause for our country's future well-being. As China and India graduate record numbers of engineers, the number of engineering graduates in the United States is stagnant. This is a troubling sign for our ability to maintain our edge as the world's technologic leader.

I might add that numbers alone do not tell the story. Quality, as well as quantity, counts, and traditionally we in this country have focused on quality and maintaining the best education system and the best professional and technical communities that we can, and we intend to maintain that lead in quality also.

We also need to continue to highlight the importance engineers play in our