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No. 2

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 4, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JO ANN EMERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We thank You for the joy, excitement, and ceremony of yesterday, when the 113th Congress convened. It was a celebration of the ongoing American experiment of participatory democracy.

Today begins, if not in full force, the work of the Congress, when the difficulties facing our Nation and some communities, especially, come into focus. We ask again an abundance of Your wisdom for the Members of the peoples' House.

May we be forever grateful for the blessings our Nation enjoys and appropriately generous with what we have to help those among us who are in need.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. GARRETT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GARRETT. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KING of New York led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged concurrent resolution:

S. CON. RES. 3

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Friday, January 4, 2013 through Monday, Janu-

ary 21, 2013, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12:00 noon on Monday, January 21, 2013, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Friday, January 4, 2013, through Saturday, January 5, 2013, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Monday, January 14, 2013, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TEMPORARY INCREASE IN BORROWING AUTHORITY FOR NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. GARRETT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 41) to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the National Flood Insurance Program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 41

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

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H39

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY INCREASE IN BORROWING AUTHORITY FOR NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM.

(a) Section 1309(a) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a)) is amended by striking “\$20,725,000,000” and inserting “\$30,425,000,000”.

(b) The amount provided by this section is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010, and as an emergency pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARRETT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend the remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

The list of cosponsors to this legislation submitted this morning should be treated as original cosponsors, reflecting their intent to, in fact, be on the legislation when it was introduced last night.

I rise today to continue the process of this House of seeking to aid and help those American citizens who have been devastated by Hurricane Sandy. This storm has left literally millions without power, thousands without homes, and the total area is destroyed.

So the piece of legislation before us today is very simple. It temporarily increases FEMA's borrowing authority for carrying out the National Flood Insurance Program. And so this legislation is really vital to ensure that the homeowners in my State of New Jersey, as well as in New York and Connecticut and any other affected areas, will be able to continue to have their contractual flood insurance policies with the NFIP honored.

So by temporarily increasing this borrowing authority, it will provide to both homeowners and insurance companies handling the claims that the Federal Government will meet its contractual obligations. People who have been devastated by the storm will be able to continue to move forward and onward with their lives.

I want to take a moment just to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRIMM), who led a group of Members and other volunteers to help clean and repair some of the devastated areas. I was pleased to personally join the gentleman in their volunteer activity.

While we witnessed much devastation and destruction, we also saw deter-

mination and friendly faces of local residents and volunteers from across the country who are committed to restoring and rebuilding this area.

So while it's easy for Members to come to the floor and vote for a piece of legislation to help the area, it's a lot more difficult to be on the ground physically working, scrubbing, lifting, building, and cleaning. And while the Congress can and does help, it is the hard work, the grit, and the determination of the citizens of the area and the volunteers and the workers from all over the country that will ultimately be the driving force in this area.

So to conclude, I again commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRIMM) for his efforts, and the others around who have volunteered in this effort, and look forward to continue to work with him and others in the area, both here in Congress, for the people of New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut and the affected area.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I'm pleased that today on this floor, though it may be a little late, that we'll finally act on a piece of legislation that's vital to the Superstorm Sandy disaster relief legislation to increase the borrowing authority by FEMA on behalf of the National Flood Insurance Program.

By increasing financing by \$9.7 billion, this bill will enable the provisions of a central relief of 120,000 flood victims who have waited for far too long for the payment on the claims.

□ 1010

I support today's bill as an important step for recovery from Superstorm Sandy. When taken as a whole, the House's actions today, I believe, still are slow—67, 68 days have gone by—and I know we've got some commitments, but we're moving forward, and I'm hopeful that we will get the full entitlement that the individuals from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut vitally need. Some of the programs, of course, that need essential funding include the Army Corps of Engineers, who worked to protect New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut shorelines in coastal communities, and the Small Business Administration so they can provide loans to help small businesses.

But let me, before I yield back my time, take some special time to thank Mr. GARRETT. I want to thank every member of the New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey delegation for working collectively together to try to make sure that our people—because this is an issue that affects the American people—that our people receive the kind of aid that they need. I particularly want to say to my friends Mr. GRIMM and Mr. KING of New York, and I've seen several times that they've sat and worked together collectively with our Governor, whom I also want to give a

special thank-you to, Governor Mario Cuomo, and Governor Chris Christie from New Jersey, for working cooperatively, not as a Democrat or a Republican, but working as an elected official to come together to the aid of people who need aid, aid from a terrible storm.

And so I'm hopeful as we move forward—we do the \$9 billion today, and do what we need to do by January 15—that we get certain things done and finally the people of this region receive the kind of aid that they need.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. I thank the gentleman for his comments and also recognize that this legislation helps not only those people in his neck of the woods, but across the country, as we resume the money in the fund for FEMA and for the Flood Insurance Program.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING), the chairman of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. HENSARLING. There's no doubt that Hurricane Sandy rendered unspeakable damage to both lives and property on our east coast. It represents truly one of the great natural disasters of recent history.

For millions of our fellow citizens, the devastation has been unspeakable and unfathomable. It is time, obviously, to rebuild homes, buildings, and lives. For the victims who paid for flood insurance policies with the National Flood Insurance Program, their claims need to be paid, and paid now.

But, Madam Speaker, here's the tragic reality: The National Flood Insurance Program is broke. It is beyond broke. It is now taxpayer-bailout broke. Regrettably, not unlike our Nation, broke, trillions in debt—debt to the Chinese, the shameful bill sent to our children and grandchildren.

So right here, right now, Madam Speaker, Members are faced with a tragic choice of not paying contractual claims to victims who paid premiums or adding \$9.7 billion to an insane national debt that threatens our national security, our economic well-being, and our children's future. Emergency bills like this should not come to the floor without offsets to pay for it or structural reforms to ensure that taxpayer bailouts are never needed again. Regrettably, less than 24 hours into a new Congress, there is simply not time for this.

As many in this body know, I have long been critical of the National Flood Insurance Program. For more than four decades, this experiment in government-provided flood insurance has proven to be ineffective, inefficient, and indisputably costly to hard-working American taxpayers.

Last Congress, we passed a reauthorization bill with modest reforms to begin eliminating outdated subsidies and get the program on a path towards actuarial soundness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GARRETT. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HENSARLING. But Sandy has hit before many of these provisions could take effect.

As chairman of the Financial Services Committee, I wish to inform all Members in this Congress our committee will take up legislation to transition to a private, innovative, competitive, sustainable flood insurance market, one that serves the needs of all of our countrymen but ends the unsustainable taxpayer bailouts once and for all. A great fiscal tragedy of today should never become an even greater fiscal tragedy for our children tomorrow.

Mr. MEEKS. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from New York, Mrs. CAROLYN MALONEY.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentleman for his leadership and for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the victims of Superstorm Sandy can wait no longer. It's been 11 weeks. Haven't they suffered and waited long enough? The people whom we represent, who sent us to Washington to serve and who are now not merely crying out for help but screaming for assistance, demand that we act without further delay and pass this bill to immediately increase the borrowing authority of FEMA and carry out the intended purpose of the National Flood Insurance Program. That help is, embarrassingly, overdue. Right now, if we fail to act and do not pass this bill, there's a total of 120,000 flood insurance claim payments that will be delayed and not paid.

This bill before us now will temporarily increase the borrowing authority for the National Flood Insurance Program by \$9.7 billion—much more is needed—and a vote has been promised of \$51 billion on January 15. That absolutely needs to happen. Funds for Katrina passed this House in less than 2 weeks. We have been waiting for 11 weeks. Funds for Ike and Gustav passed very quickly. Again, the northeast corridor has been waiting for 11 weeks.

It should not take much imagination to appreciate what it's like at this very moment for those who have been waiting who have been affected by the flooding caused by the superstorm. For 11 weeks, they have been waiting while this body sat on a bill that should have long ago been signed, sealed, and its help delivered to those in desperate need. They wait for the billions that they need to rebuild. They need it for the transportation system. They need it to make sure that this doesn't happen again and to prevent floods in the future. They wait, many shivering tonight in the cold of New York, where temperatures are, again, below freezing. They are in homeless shelters and hotels, staying with friends. They are waiting.

This body needs to act, and needs to act today. It is long overdue.

They wait on us to act, their lives on hold. They dream of re-building their homes, their

businesses, their lives. And all the while we sit here comfortably and have failed to act.

They wait for our colleagues across the aisle to at long at last listen hear their cries and to the demands of decency. They wait for us to treat the storm tossed victims of an unprecedented natural disaster at least as well as we have always treated others when tragedy struck. They are becoming the forgotten while we bicker.

They wait for the help only this bill can bring.

How long must those suffering wait for help? I say no longer!!

It is with strong conviction and urgent concern that I support the bill currently before us, and urge my colleagues to act NOW and pass this bill.

Mr. GARRETT. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), who recognizes that the people from the area have not been waiting. Their insurance claims have been paid from day one. We are just here today to ensure that those payments continue, going forward.

Mr. KING of New York. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation. This legislation is the first necessary step that's needed to provide the assistance and relief and aid that the people of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut require after the most devastating storm in the history of our region, in many ways, one of the top two or three, unfortunately, most severe storms in the history of our Nation.

This legislation is essential because people are suffering, and the suffering increases each day. And as I said, this is the first major step that we're taking. Hopefully, this process will be completed on January 15.

I want to thank the leadership of both parties for coming together on this.

I want to emphasize that this legislation is vital. This is not a handout. This is not something we're looking for as a favor. What we're asking for is to be treated the same as victims in all other storms, all other natural disasters have been treated.

Also, I think it's important to lay out, because this is part of a process, that, in the legislation that was originally going to be introduced in this House, there was never an earmark in the bill; there was never any extraneous spending the bill. I think it's important for the Members in both parties to realize that. The House of Representatives' bill was always targeted toward victims of Hurricane Sandy. It does not go beyond that. It's important to lay that out.

It's also important to realize that, again, as we are talking here today and as the vote goes forward and as we go forward toward January 15, the real suffering is out there. My own neighborhood in Seaford, homes are devastated. There's a woman who lost two sons in 9/11. She lost her home now. This is a crisis of unimaginable proportions unless you're there. The national

media is not following it, but if you went to these homes, if you saw the suffering that's going on, if you saw the people who don't have food and shelter, you would realize how horrible this is.

So it's important we act. It's important we put past recriminations behind us. Let's all stand together as one, all as Americans, Democrats and Republicans. I think Governor Christie and Governor Cuomo have set that model and that tone in New York and New Jersey. So let's follow their example here. Let's go forward standing as one.

Again, I urge my colleagues to strongly support this legislation today and also as we go forward on January 15.

□ 1020

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I'd like to now yield 1 minute to a young man who has been a leader in this from New Jersey, the Honorable FRANK PALLONE.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from New York.

Madam Speaker, this action by the House Republican leadership is too little and too late. I have to say I'm still very upset—and I think it was deplorable—that the Speaker did not bring this bill up and the whole package that addresses Hurricane Sandy relief in the lame-duck session in the last 2 days of Congress. It would have been passed; we had the votes. It would have been on the President's desk; he would have signed it; and we would have started to rebuild the shore.

Now we have another delay. I don't know how many weeks—it's 9 weeks, 10 weeks, whatever it is. I have no idea what the Senate is going to do. My understanding is that the Senate is mired in filibuster over the next 3 weeks and isn't even coming back until after the inauguration. So that means we could be waiting another 3 weeks. The rest of the package—which is the most important part of it—might not even come up until we return after a week's break. We're going to be on recess, and then we come back on the 15th and—hopefully—the rest of the package comes out that day. But that means now that we have three separate votes on this package that could have been passed and signed into law over the last couple of days—three separate votes. It is not acceptable, Madam Speaker.

Mr. GARRETT. I yield 1½ minutes to the other young gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 41. I want to thank leadership for posting it today, and especially thank Chairman SCOTT GARRETT for authoring this critically important legislation, boosting the NFIP's borrowing authority by \$9.7 billion, and I'm very proud to be a cosponsor.

Madam Speaker, the devastation unleashed by Sandy is without precedent, and the impacted communities are in

dire need of comprehensive assistance. Nowhere is this more evident than in the sheer magnitude of the housing damage and the subsequent housing need.

According to Governor Christie's office, Sandy damaged or destroyed 346,000 housing units. Of that number, some 72,397 were covered by the National Flood Insurance Program, whose owners have submitted claims and are awaiting the insurance payout for comprehensive repairs. Thus far, only 18 percent have received funds pursuant to their claims. Over 80 percent of my constituents are waiting in limbo—an intolerable situation that is making a bad situation worse. Moreover, Madam Speaker, throughout the region there are a total of 115,000 insurance claims related to Sandy; many of them are waiting as well.

This is must-pass legislation. We have an obligation—we have a duty to meet this compelling need and contractual obligation. This legislation takes us in that direction. Again, I want to thank Chairman GARRETT for his leadership.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I apparently missed it earlier; I want to thank Mr. GARRETT especially for his request earlier to make sure that we included on this bill every Member from the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut delegations as sponsors of this bill, and every member of the committee. I want to thank the ranking member, Ms. WATERS, for agreeing to be an original cosponsor on this bill. It shows that we're all working at this together. And I want to thank Mr. GARRETT for his cooperation in allowing everybody from this delegation, both Democrats and Republicans, to be a part of this bill.

Now I'd like to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished whip of the Democratic Conference, the individual who walked with me in Breezy Point and up and down Rockaway Beach, the Honorable STENY HOYER.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to congratulate all of the Members who represent New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and other jurisdictions who have been united in a bipartisan way to say, let us reach out; let us act now to help those who have been savaged by Sandy.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill that will help ensure flood insurance benefits will be available for those still struggling to recover from Superstorm Sandy. But I agree with FRANK PALLONE: while it is never too late to do the right thing, it is late that we are doing this thing—and we are doing only the bare minimum, because the flood insurance will expire. But FRANK PALLONE is absolutely right, the Senate, hopefully, can act by unanimous consent—hopefully—on this small portion. But as we did in Katrina, we should have acted almost immediately to meet the pain and suffering and loss of the citizens—our fel-

low citizens, our fellow Americans—who were the victims of Sandy, but should not have been the victims of our delay.

I support this legislation. I urge the Speaker and all of us on both sides of the aisle to ensure that on the 15th of this month we act for the balance of the initial dollars that will be available to assist those who have had this loss.

I will be very supportive on the 15th. I know that the people of Connecticut, of New Jersey, of New York, of Pennsylvania, and of all America will hold the Speaker and all of us to the promise that no later than the 15th of this month—some 11 days from today—that we will make a full contribution to those people.

Mr. GARRETT. I once again yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), who also recognizes that there have been absolutely no victims of delay when it comes to the flood insurance program because their payments have been made continuously because that program has been funded and we continue to fund it today.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank my colleague from New Jersey for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it's been 70 days, and the residents of the Northeast have been—many of them—living in misery and heartache. I'm pleased that we are taking this step to support the National Flood Insurance Program, which has met the needs of Americans across our Nation when there has been flooding crises. We in the Northeast have been facing this crisis now for 70 days. I'm glad that this essential program is going to be supported.

There are about 125,000, from what I understand, Sandy-related claims that can be met by raising this cap, and I think it's good that we're about to do that. This, as others have said, is the first step of what we need to do to sort of rebuild lives, to put aside the misery that so many families and businesses have been suffering for this length of time. It's the right step.

On January 15, we will be considering a much larger supplemental, a total of \$60 billion, which will meet the needs—not all the needs—of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and the region. There are considerable needs. But the National Flood Insurance Program is a good program. It needs supports. This is a good first step. Let's get about it, and let's do it in a bipartisan manner.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the ranking member and the fighter for small businesses throughout America, the honorable NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ.

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, Hurricane Sandy has devastated New York, and thousands and thousands of my constitu-

ents lost their homes and their businesses. It is a shame—an embarrassment for this institution—that the House Republican leadership continues playing games with this essential assistance more than 2 months after the storm struck.

It is indefensible that as Americans continue to suffer from Sandy's impact, that the House majority could not get their act together to bring the entire aid, Senate-passed package to a vote. Talk about “fiddling while New York City burns.”

This is also the case with today's legislation. While I fully support providing FEMA with additional funding, it is just another sign of the majority's dysfunction. With FEMA just days away from being unable to pay flood claims, the Republicans argue among themselves about what to do. That is a sad situation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MEEKS. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 20 seconds.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. So today we're talking about flood insurance.

□ 1030

The job creators in our community are getting nothing. We, as an institution, come together when there are natural disasters across this Nation. My constituents deserve nothing less.

Hurricane Sandy has devastated New York and it is a shame—an embarrassment for this institution—that the House Republican leadership continues playing games with this essential assistance more than two months after the storm struck. It is indefensible that as Americans continue to suffer from Sandy's impact that the House majority could not get their act together to bring the entire aid Senate-passed package to a vote. Talk about “fiddling while New York City burns.”

And this is also the case with today's legislation. While I fully support providing FEMA with additional funding for the National Funding Insurance Program, it is just another sign of the majority's dysfunction. With FEMA just days away from being unable to pay flood claims, the Republicans argued among themselves about what to do. This is a sad situation for those Americans that count on their government to have their backs after a disaster.

While this bill will help homeowners insured through the Flood Insurance program, it does nothing for our small businesses and infrastructure needs. Providing this broader assistance is so overdue that it is a disgrace, and even more so now, we are in the dawn of the 113th Congress, and about to vote on just a sliver of what was promised. To many who are already suffering from the impact of Sandy, this feels like a punch to the gut. And while I would have rather voted earlier this week on the entire \$60 billion package approved by the Senate, the House majority has given us no choice. I hope that the additional funding to help our residents and small businesses—and to repair our infrastructure—will be brought to a vote as quickly as possible.

Mr. GARRETT. I'm now pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York, who has actually led the efforts on the ground putting the shoulder to the grindstone, so to speak, to

actually help and restore some of these people's homes.

Mr. GRIMM. Madam Chair, I'd like to just take 15 seconds to tell Chairman GARRETT how much I appreciate his bringing this bill to the floor today. He and his wife came to my district. He came to Midland Beach and was in one of the homes, several of the homes, that were completely devastated, pulling out moldy sheetrock and bringing a little hope to people in complete despair. For that, I will eternally be grateful. And I really do thank my chairman for that compassion in letting the people, even outside of his own district, know that he's there and he cares about them.

I would also like to share with you: I called someone this morning from Staten Island that lives in New Dorp Beach. They have a teenaged son named Dylan. And they haven't been back in their home since the storm. And I asked, "How are your two sons doing?" And they said, "They are doing great, but Dylan, he hasn't gone back to the house to help with the construction because he gets choked up." And it's that that I want to emphasize here. These are human beings—human beings, children—that have been completely displaced. And it's up to us to get them back on their feet.

So today is one of those steps that I'm proud to be a part of and tell Dylan that he's going to be okay, we're getting him back in his house. And I would ask that as we go forward with the other parts of Sandy relief that my colleagues will stand with me and tell Dylan that he's going to be okay and we're going to get him back in his house.

With that, again, I want to thank all of my colleagues across the aisle. It's been a pleasure to work with you, and we have a lot of work to do. And I want to thank Chairman GARRETT one more time. Thank you, Chairman.

Mr. MEEKS. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished ranking member from the Appropriations Committee and a hard fighter, the one and only NITA LOWEY.

Mrs. LOWEY. I thank the distinguished, distinguished ranking member, Mr. MEEKS, for your eloquence, as always.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, and I would like to thank Chairman GARRETT for introducing this legislation and for his efforts to bring it to the floor with bipartisan support.

The National Flood Insurance Program has hit its limit. Without an increase in borrowing authority, it will be unable to pay for claims as early as next week. And that means that 120,000 flood insurance claims payments will be delayed, nearly all of which are due to Hurricane Sandy.

However, this bill is just not enough. It's not adequate. In December, the Senate passed an emergency assistance package to aid in the Sandy recovery, which included this legislation. Earlier

this week, I expected, as did my colleagues, that the House would vote on a complete emergency assistance package to aid those in Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York who have lost homes, businesses, and their livelihoods. Sadly, the 112th Congress ended without action, and now we are starting over on important legislation which is absolutely critical to help storm-affected areas that should have and could have been signed. We know that there's no reason it wasn't signed in 2012.

However, we have now been promised a vote on the Sandy emergency assistance package by January 15, and families in my district and throughout the region are looking to Congress and asking, "Why are you making it so difficult for us to rebuild? Why are you making us wait to rebuild?"

Today's legislation is a start, but only a first step, toward providing relief for those who suffered as a result of Hurricane Sandy. We don't need a piecemeal approach. That is not the way that Congress acts. We need a comprehensive Sandy recovery bill passed today.

We hold you to your commitment of January 15 and not a day later. We need this complete bill.

Mr. GARRETT. At this time, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. RUNYAN), who has seen firsthand the devastation to our State.

Mr. RUNYAN. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman GARRETT for yielding some time.

Madam Speaker, it's been 68 days since Hurricane Sandy devastated the Northeast and over 2 months of suffering for my constituents. While it is unfortunately long overdue, I'm pleased that we're finally here acting to help the people of New Jersey recover. This hurricane has caused billions of dollars in damage, uprooting individuals and families from their homes, forcing businesses to close and resulting in job loss and revenue loss.

My constituents need help now recovering. I've witnessed firsthand the devastation in places like Seaside Heights, Normandy Beach, Lavallette and Silverton, and I can honestly say that these places look like war zones after the storm. Whole communities have been wiped out.

Governor Christie estimated the damage in New Jersey to be over \$36 billion. I applaud his swift action on Sandy recovery and join him and all local, State, and Federal leaders in New Jersey to ensure that all relief funds get to New Jersey families and businesses as quickly as possible. This includes adequate funding for the flood insurance program we are voting on today, and I urge passage of this essential legislation.

Mr. MEEKS. At this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey, a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. BILL PASCRELL.

Mr. PASCRELL. You would think, Madam Chair, that we're having a

Sadie Hawkins dance here today and we're patting each other on the back. The real sponsor of this legislation are the people who have been hurt. And let's be honest about it. It took only 10 days after Katrina until President Bush signed \$60 billion in Katrina aid passed by the Congress of the United States.

How dare you come to this floor and make people think everything is okay. In fact, one of the gentlemen from New Jersey said that we've not waited at all. Well, the insurance runs out in 1 week. What were we going to do, wait for 1 week and then act? We wouldn't even be here. Who the heck are you kidding?

So we all come together very nicely this morning for breakfast and eggs. And we know what has happened over the last 10 days. This is a total, total disaster in helping those people that we are pompously saying today and pontificating about we're helping them. Isn't that wonderful? What are our jobs? We're not doing anybody favors. That's why we were sent here. Try it once in a while. Democracy—you may like it.

Madam Speaker, it's now been 68 days since Hurricane Sandy landed. By the time the rest of the \$60 billion in aid requested by Govs. Christie and Cuomo comes up for a vote, as the Speaker has promised, on Jan. 15th, it will be nearly 80. Who knows how much longer after that until the new Senate gives their approval?

\$60 billion in Katrina aid was passed by Congress and signed by President Bush just 10 days after that storm.

Why is there a double standard? People in New Jersey, in my district, are suffering and they cannot afford to wait a day longer for the aid that they are entitled to as taxpayers of this nation? If we had just voted on Wednesday, it could already be on the way.

I'm pleased that today we are approving more funding for the National Flood Insurance Program, which is going to run dry within a week, but we need to approve the rest of this aid as soon as possible. To not do so would be cruel and unconscionable.

But this is only the beginning of rebuilding the most important economic region of our country.

Two weeks after Katrina, this House passed a serious tax relief measure dedicated to helping those that our disaster aid programs cannot reach, on a voice vote. I and many bipartisan cosponsors, introduced similar measure in the last Congress.

I call upon the Speaker to bring this legislation up for a vote as soon as possible. There are thousands of individuals, small businesses, municipalities and utilities that need our help to rebuild, and it's our responsibility to deliver.

Mr. GARRETT. At this point, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) who realizes it's not just what we do on the floor but it's also the volunteering and the dedication to help these people as well.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I want to thank the chairman for recognizing me. I just want to say that I support this bill not because I support the increased borrowing that we are doing

for our flood insurance program of \$9.7 billion, but it is a contractual agreement that we owe to these policyholders to pay these claims. It's not their fault that we in the government are not good managers of our money.

In 1968, when this policy and this program was put into place, it had a borrowing authority of \$1.5 billion. It wasn't until Katrina that we raised that borrowing authority up to \$20 billion. We still owe \$20 billion. We're now raising that borrowing authority to \$30 billion. In 2017, which is 4½ years away, the borrowing authority goes back to \$1.5 billion. Now I'm sure we'll address that at 11:59 on September 30 of 2017.

But I'd like to ask both sides, on both sides of the aisle, let's start working on that now. This cost to the government is \$17,063 for every policyholder who has flood insurance. The average premium is about \$600. We have paid people 10 and 20 and 30 times for claims that live in the same house in the same floodplain.

I had an amendment to the flood insurance bill that said if you had two claims due to flood and you did not take the payout, then you would have to pay a rate-based premium. It didn't pass.

□ 1040

We've got to get into reality what this flood insurance program is for. It's mandatory. If you have a government-backed loan and you live in a floodplain that's likely to flood in 100 years, you have to have the insurance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GARRETT. I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. We need to make sure that what we're doing is something that can manage itself without continually having to raise the borrowing authority for this part of our government.

With that, I do support the bill. It's a congressional obligation that we have to these policyholders. I ask that everyone support it.

Mr. MEEKS. At this time, I yield 1 minute to the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Honorable ELIOT ENGEL from the great State of New York.

Mr. ENGEL. I thank my friend from New York, and I rise in strong support of this legislation.

I must say Tuesday night when I found out that we were not taking this legislation up in the previous Congress, it was the angriest I've been since I've been a Member of Congress.

In the last 20 years, this is the longest that people affected by natural disasters have waited for Congress to provide them the needed relief. It's really not acceptable. I have voted for aid for all areas of the country, wherever there has been a natural disaster. The Northeast now deserves the same. I would remind my colleagues that New York has been a donor State. We give

more to the Federal Government than we take back. Now we need help. Politics should not be played with the help that we need.

We should be supporting the entire package. I'm sorry we are not voting for the entire package today. As was mentioned before, we now have to wait for the Senate to pass whatever we pass. This could have been done and gone on Tuesday night, and the aid would have been speeding to the people. This simply is not acceptable, and I hope there's no further delay.

My constituents are suffering. The people of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut are suffering. Congress needs to get out of the way now and send not only this \$9.7 billion in flood insurance, but the entire package.

Mr. GARRETT. First of all, I yield myself 15 seconds just to set the record straight.

With regard to the legislation before us, which is a flood insurance program, the aid under this program is going and has been going to the recipients in the affected area because there was funding in this program before. What we're doing right now is to make sure that that aid will continue to go to those people who have contracts for insurance.

With that, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON), who also is very familiar with the devastation that was caused to constituents.

Mr. GIBSON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the legislation.

Indeed, as was intimated moments ago, in the summer of 2011, my district was struck by Hurricanes Irene and Lee. We came together as a body to support my constituents; and with that assistance provided, we are in the process of rebuilding—and still rebuilding. I might add. Now we come together in the wake of this devastating natural disaster, Sandy. My State, along with our neighbor States, was struck again. Making certain that our communities have the resources they need has brought me to the floor today again to advocate for New York families, businesses, and farms.

Today's vote is a step forward, the National Flood Insurance Program exists for circumstances like this, but more remains. We must come together at the outset of this legislative session to address both the immediate recovery needs and the longer-term rebuilding efforts. I'm committed to this recovery effort. I'm proud of the work our delegations have achieved to date. We need to continue that.

I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for bringing this bill to the floor today, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. GARRETT. Madam Speaker, I inquire as to the time remaining on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 4¼ min-

utes remaining, and the gentleman from New York has 6¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. MEEKS. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

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

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, the delay in helping the victims of Hurricane Sandy is obviously inexcusable and unjust, but it's equally obvious that the time has come to do what we can to help solve the problem. That's why I'm for the passage of this bill today. It will, in fact, help flood insurance claims be honored and paid so that people can go about the work of rebuilding their homes.

We've heard about the January 15 vote that is coming on the rest of the plan. I think we shouldn't be holding out false hope about that because here's the reality: I'm certain we will vote on January 15. Of course, the Constitution says the other body has to vote too. They have to start all over again, and then the President has to sign the bill.

It is my strong hope that the leadership between now and January 15 will reach out to the leadership of the other body and try to prenegotiate a bill that the Senate would quickly and expeditiously take up so we can solve this problem.

The House taking a vote on January 15 is lovely. It is also utterly meaningless if the other body does not act.

Mr. GARRETT. At this time, I yield 2 minutes to a gentleman from a State which is not immune to natural disasters, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, today we're doing the important thing, the critical thing. I wish today that this had been what we'd voted on in the previous session, to recharge the flood insurance that needs to be there so that men and women in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and the like will not question whether or not their country can provide them with the resources that are expected to be there in the time of a natural disaster like that.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to say that January 15 is critical; and as the previous speaker said, we do need to prenegotiate with the Senate. We need to get the pork out. None of that pork we're talking about is in New York, New Jersey, or Connecticut. In fact, it's as far away as Alaska. The pork that we will not vote on today is, in fact, the pork that was in this bill from the Senate. My hope is that we will see on January 15 a negotiated and clean bill that only deals with the men and women and families on the eastern seaboard that need to be taken care of.

I think that it's the President's responsibility and our responsibility and the Senate's responsibility when we do emergency supplementals to make them only about the emergency. I believe today we are buying a little bit of

time; but I think for people on the eastern seaboard who are suffering, that time is running out and all of our leaders need to make sure that the next vote, the vote on January 15, as the previous speaker said, will be a vote that will be prenegotiated, that will run through the Senate, and will deal only with the people suffering on the eastern seaboard.

Mr. KING of New York. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ISSA. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. KING of New York. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I think it's important to point out that the House bill never contained any of those extraneous provisions. When the bill came over here, our leadership agreed that all that was taken out so that there was nothing about any other State other than those directly affected by Sandy.

Mr. ISSA. I reclaim my time to say the gentleman is absolutely right.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GARRETT. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. ISSA. Had we been able to pass what we intended to be the House bill and send it back to the Senate and the Senate would have then taken that up, although they had left town, we could have done this in the previous Congress.

The gentleman from New York has been a champion to make sure that's clearly understood. I want to be an equal champion that, in fact, whether it's Louisiana or California, when the next earthquake occurs or now our friends and colleagues from the eastern seaboard actually as far south as where we stand, we do need to make sure—we owe them that. And I want to thank the gentleman from New York for, in fact, working so hard to make sure that we do get to a clean bill.

With that, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I rise in support of Hurricane Sandy relief wherever it is needed.

I want to offer my voice of support to the people of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and all others impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Its devastation was vast.

Yesterday, President Obama declared Cuyahoga County, Ohio a federal disaster area as a result of the damage of Hurricane Sandy.

Cuyahoga County private, nonprofit groups, local governments and State agencies are eligible for more than \$17 million to cover the cost of storm-related work caused by Hurricane Sandy on Oct. 29 and 30, the Federal Emergency Management Agency announced Thursday.

Cuyahoga County was the only one of Ohio's 88 counties to be eligible for the money from FEMA's Public Assistance Program.

Additionally, Hurricane Sandy did over \$13 million in damage to the Lake Erie Ports of Cleveland and Lorain. Storm swells on Lake Erie were massive as the system rolled through and caused extensive damage. While the property damage and displacement was nothing compared to what our citizens in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut experienced and are living with, Congress must address these emergency needs brought on by Mother Nature. It is incumbent upon this Congress to rebuild and restore the might of our Nation's communities so severely impacted by natural disasters.

Mr. MEEKS. I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York on the Judiciary Committee, the Honorable JERRY NADLER.

□ 1050

Mr. NADLER. I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

Madam Speaker, obviously, I support this bill today to replenish the hurricane insurance fund, which would otherwise run dry for the entire country next week, but it does not excuse the callous action of the House leadership the other night for taking the \$60 billion of relief off the table. Now we're told we'll get a vote on the 15th, and I hope they're as good as their word, although they haven't been in the past. Even so, it will take God knows how long for the Senate because the bill they had passed is now dead, this being a new Congress. That action the other night delayed relief for the long suffering people, for the businessowners whose businesses are going under, for the homeowners whose homes are suffering from mold. All of this was delayed by at least 3 weeks, maybe longer, on top of the fact that we had gone already 9 weeks—Katrina was 10 days—with a lack of aid, and now it will be another 3 or 4 or 5.

This is the most callous action I've ever seen. The leadership of this House should be condemned for it. I hope they have the determination to make sure that this, indeed, comes to a vote on the 15th, that it passes and that the Senate is induced to match it quickly. That would be the least that decency would demand.

Mr. GARRETT. In recognizing that some on the other side of the aisle can't take "yes" for an answer, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey, the Honorable Mr. SIREs.

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, as I sat here, I was thinking that maybe there is a bias against the northeastern States of this country. This devastation can happen to any State, and no one State has the money to make sure that the people who were injured in this storm can move forward. I would remind all those Members who are not here supporting this bill that this could happen to your State. As I sat here and supported Alabama, as I supported Mississippi, as I supported Texas, I was hoping that, by now, with regard to the northeastern part of the

country, this Congress would have acted. It has been 77 days. These people are hurting. People in my district still can't get back to their homes, and here we are. In the last Congress, we just didn't do anything about it. Now we are moving forward, and hopefully, on January 15, we can get the rest of this money so that the people who are suffering in all of these States that were hit by this storm can get their lives back together again.

Mr. GARRETT. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, for his initial floor debate.

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, my name is SEAN PATRICK MALONEY. I'm new here. I don't know all the rules of Washington, but it sure seems like the rule here is to put off until tomorrow what should be done today—even when our fellow Americans are suffering.

A long time ago, I learned from my mom and dad, Jim and Joan Maloney, and our parish priest, Father Bill Nolan, a much better rule. It's called "the golden rule." Americans by all parties live by it. The people of New York, New Jersey, and the Hudson Valley live by it. Bart and Diana Tyler of Kelloggs & Lawrence Hardware Store in Katonah, sure live by it. They led storm victims by flashlight through the darkened aisles of their hardware store for critical supplies at the hour of maximum danger and greatest need, and they consoled them as if they were their own family. Bart and Diana didn't make their neighbors wait 68 days for help, and they didn't say they could do more later. They acted with speed and with caring.

This new Congress can start anew today. We can act with speed and caring. We don't need to wait. I urge my colleagues to bring this additional relief to the floor as soon as possible and to support the bill today.

Mr. GARRETT. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 2¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. MEEKS. I yield 30 seconds to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman very much, and I thank the proponent of this legislation. It is obviously needed.

I come from the gulf region. We lost thousands and thousands and thousands from hurricanes. Hurricane Ike saw this Congress give us \$3 billion. I stand here today to remind you that a police officer died, a 13-year-old died from debris falling on her, and a mother saw her two children drawn from her hands and drowned in Hurricane Sandy. It is long overdue.

I stand here as someone who has been a beneficiary, who has cried with those

who have lost. I demand that this money be passed today, but more importantly, I demand that we pass the total amount of money right now, today. Let's help the American people. Let's help those impacted by Sandy. Let's help my fellow Americans.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 41, "To Temporarily Increase The Borrowing Authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Carrying Out National Flood Insurance Program."

I urge this new 113th Congress to start the New Year off right by acting swiftly in support of legislation to fund disaster relief assistance for the victims of Superstorm Sandy.

Since this historic storm devastated the east coast in late October, the people impacted by the storm, particularly those in the Tri-State area of New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut, have been waiting patiently for the federal government to act as they continue to engage in efforts to rebuild their communities.

However, the time for patience has long since expired, and these Americans can no longer wait for Congress to act.

68 days have passed since the storm surged onto the shores of Atlantic City, New Jersey. It has been a long 67 days for families without a home, and for businesses without a storefront or customers. For 67 days, these neighborhoods have struggled to pick up the pieces and put their communities back together, and Congress must step in—immediately—to lend a helping hand.

As the representative for the 18th District in Texas, I know the massive and protracted destruction that storms like this can cause both to property and, more importantly, to the lives of citizens who are left to rebuild their lives and restore all that they have lost.

After the initial disaster response and search and rescue phases, we must begin to rebuild, a process that calls for a long-term commitment from officials in state, local, and federal government.

We can all recall Hurricane Ike in 2008, which heavily impacted many constituents in my district. At least 74 people lost their lives in the State of Texas, with 28 in Harris County and 17 in Galveston. Over 200,000 homes in the Houston-Galveston region were left damaged or destroyed as a result of Ike.

Congress appropriated \$3 billion to Texas to help finance the infrastructure and housing recovery, which included individual and household assistance, disaster unemployment assistance, public assistance grants to state and local government and nonprofit organizations to pay for debris removal, emergency protective measures and road repairs, and low-interest disaster loans provided by the Small Business Administration.

My visits to the affected areas fundamentally evidenced the need for long-term recovery and to get people back on their feet. My constituents and others in the affected areas needed and greatly appreciated the federal assistance they received, and so now that Americans in other parts of our nation need our help, we must move in a bipartisan fashion to provide it.

As a nation, we continue to mourn the loss of at least 125 people in the United States and a total of 253 people due to Superstorm Sandy (60 in New York, 48 New York City; 34 in New Jersey; 16 in Pennsylvania, 7 in West Virginia).

As devastating as Hurricane Ike was, the damage to property it caused (an estimated \$29.5 billion) the costs associated with Superstorm Sandy are expected to be significantly higher. While we do not yet know the final numbers, the total amount of property damage resulting from Superstorm Sandy exceeds \$62 billion. In terms of dollars of property destruction, this ranks Superstorm Sandy second only to Hurricane Katrina (\$128 billion, adjusted for inflation)(note: Hurricane Ike ranks 3rd).

Food, shelter and clothing are basic necessities, and right now far too many people are without access to them during these holidays and in brutally cold weather. With more cold weather in sight, things are not going to get any easier for residents of those communities.

Economic conditions in many affected communities are stagnant; stalled because the federal government has yet to provide funding. It took 10 days for Congress to approve roughly \$50 billion in aid for Katrina, but Congress has not provided aid for those affected by Sandy for more than two months.

We need to restore a sense of calm and stability in the lives of people affected by Superstorm Sandy. We need to ensure that small businesses in the affected areas are able to rebound as expeditiously as possible so that they can get the local economies moving again.

I am encouraged that relief for Superstorm Sandy has received bipartisan support, but now we must follow through with action. We know that disasters affect all of us at one point or another, and we must come together as one nation to give people access to relief that, realistically, only the federal government can provide. However, this should have been done no less than 5 days after the horrible Hurricane Sandy—now we are only during half way—let's vote today on the full 60 billion dollars in relief today. Let's not watch people die and people are suffering after hurricane! We can not wait until January 15, 2013—now is the time to help the people suffering in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

Mr. GARRETT. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from New York have any additional speakers?

Mr. MEEKS. I have one additional speaker.

Mr. GARRETT. I have no further requests for time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has the right to close.

Mr. MEEKS. I yield 1 minute to the ranking member of the Financial Services Committee, a fighter for the people, the gentlelady from the great State of California, the Honorable MAXINE WATERS.

Ms. WATERS. Thank you very much, Congressman MEEKS.

I am so proud of the Members of this Congress from both sides of the aisle who have been real advocates—who have been on television, who have been fighting. Members on the opposite side of the aisle have criticized their own leadership for the delay.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am from California. I have witnessed earth-

quake disaster. I have been involved in trying to help with Katrina and in making sure that the people who were the victims of Katrina were compensated, were taken care of. This is unconscionable that this has had to take so long. I watched Congressman MEEKS up in Rockaway. I watched the people who cried. I watched the people who begged for help, who begged for assistance.

This is so late in coming, so I support this bill today. I am one of the co-authors of the flood insurance reauthorization bill, along with Mrs. BIGGERT, who reauthorized flood insurance for another 5 years. Let's put the money in it. Let's do what is right. Let's take care of this disaster.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) has 1¼ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) has 2¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. MEEKS. I yield myself the remaining time.

It's 70 days. It is unprecedented that this region has not been treated like the other regions when they were in need of help. It's 70 days. Now we are going with this bill today, and what we are receiving is a promissory note, a promissory note that on January 15 we will be able to say to the people from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut who were victimized by this storm that their United States Congress—their House of Representatives—is going to be by their side.

So we have a promissory note. I will be concerned until we have the votes that are necessary for the people of this region and until the promissory note has been put into the bank and stamped with sufficient funds. The people have been suffering. They have suffered long enough. They need to hear from their government that their government is with them just as it has been with everybody else in this country.

I, for one, wherever the disaster may be, want to say that we've got the support. To this Congress, let's make sure we put forward this promissory note because I don't think a Democrat or a Republican can go back home after January 15 and say that the promissory check has bounced. We have to come back collectively and say to the people who are suffering that they, in fact, have been helped by their government, by their people.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the remaining time.

In closing, I thank all of those who have come to the floor to address this situation.

For those of us who live in the affected area, our heart goes out to the families—the moms, the dads, the little children, the senior citizens—who have lost everything: homes that have just been inundated with water so they're not recognizable anymore; homes that have to be totally knocked down or homes that have to be totally

refurbished, stripped down to their studs and started from the foundations back up again to rebuild them; homes that have been simply washed out to sea and will never be seen again; homes that have been destroyed; trees that have crashed through homes; electricity that has been out for weeks. Our heart goes out to the people who have suffered so much and for so long and who continue to suffer.

I commend Members from both sides of the aisle for coming to the floor today to support this legislation.

I also thank those people, the volunteers, who took it upon themselves without any government mandate or edict or pay, or what have you, to go out and to rescue these people and to work for these people day in and day out—from the very beginning, the OEM people, the management people, the fire department, the rescue squad, and just rank-and-file folks who came out and tried to help and continue to do so. They've run the food banks, groups liked Samaritan's Purse. They've been out there on the front lines and have supported these people in their hours of need.

□ 1100

And I extend an invitation to every single Member of Congress who has come to the floor and said that they, too, support these people, to put on their work shoes and their work boots and their jackets and to get out of this Congress and to get out of this city and to go into the affected area, and not just give speeches and not just pass legislation of other people's money, but to actually come to our State and to join us in the field and actually do the work that's necessary to get done. And so I extend that invitation to each and every one, and I look forward to hearing from each and every one of you, and I ask for your support of this legislation.

I extend an invitation to Ms. WATERS to work further on the legislation with regard to flood insurance because we heard the number earlier—this is a nonsustainable program. We're taking in something like 75 cents and we're paying out about a buck in claims. That can't go on. We need to work together on this, and I look forward to that, and I look for a "yes" vote on this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of House rules.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 41. I am a cosponsor of this must-pass bill and I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

FEMA announced yesterday that its ability to pay claims under the National Flood Insurance Program would be exhausted by the second week of January. Congress must act now to approve additional borrowing authority and

bring much-needed relief to the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have suffered in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy flood-related damages to their homes and property.

While I strongly support passage of H.R. 41, I want to reiterate that our fellow citizens affected by Hurricane Sandy have already waited far too long for help from Congress. In other natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, Congress acted swiftly, and aid reached those in need. And yet earlier this week, the 112th Congress adjourned before passing a much-needed disaster relief package. The Senate had already acted to pass a well-constructed aid package bill. The only reason that this bill is not law today is that House leadership refused to act.

This devastating storm has left many people hurting in many different ways—shopkeepers, homeowners, fisherman, hotel and restaurant owners—and has damaged the entire economy. The Senate-passed Sandy relief package responds to this variety of needs and concerns. I urge Speaker BOEHNER to bring the Senate disaster relief package to the floor without delay.

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask all of my colleagues to support H.R. 41, a bipartisan proposal to replenish the National Flood Insurance Fund which will increase its borrowing authority and allow the program to continue paying claims from those affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Without the enactment of this bill, the NFIP might reach its ceiling and could no longer pay out claims. The families in my district and the States of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut are suffering.

Even as I am excited that we are considering this bill today, I am disappointed that there were seventy days of inaction by Congress. Congress has a history of providing assistance to the American people in times of disaster and devastation—in this country, we help our neighbors.

Since 1989, Congress has approved \$290 billion in disaster relief aid. Indeed, only two weeks after Hurricane Katrina devastated parts of the Gulf Coast, Congress appropriated \$62 billion in disaster aid. Those impacted by Superstorm Sandy have been waiting for more than two months, and cannot afford to wait any longer. The recovery depends on this emergency funding.

Again, I ask that all of my colleagues support the first portion of the Superstorm Sandy Disaster Relief package. Through enactment of this critical bill, many home and business owners flooded out by Superstorm Sandy will soon be able to get flood insurance payments.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of HR 41, a measure to increase by \$9.7 billion the borrowing authority of the National Flood Insurance Program, enabling the program to continue paying the tens of thousands of claims related to the destruction caused by Hurricane Sandy.

Across this country from the Appalachians to the Great Lakes to northern coast of Maine, dozens of people have lost their lives, the homes of thousands of families were destroyed and millions of people have suffered from the cold and exposure of winter because they lost power. The suffering touched the people of my state of Maryland as well—hitting hardest the county of Somerset, where the poverty rate is among the highest in the State and where more than 500 homes were affected by the storm.

After more than two months of waiting, it is only now that the House has chosen to act. And by only considering a bill to increase the Flood Insurance Program's borrowing authority by \$9.7 billion, we are only making a down payment on the problem. There are estimates that the full cost of recovery will be more than \$60 billion.

I had hoped that we would have voted for a relief package during the last Congress. But it is only now that the House Leadership is bringing Sandy legislation to the floor. In the meantime, the people affected by the hurricane have had to wait and will continue waiting as the Senate passes what we pass here today.

Delaying for months the aid for the victims of Hurricane Sandy is unjust and I am disappointed that we are not meeting today to consider a bill to address the full cost of the Hurricane's destruction.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the swift passage of this bill so that those suffering around the country can get the relief they so desperately need. I also hope the Republican leadership follows through on its promise to consider additional legislation on this subject when the Congress reconvenes later this month.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 41, to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of FEMA for carrying out the National Flood Insurance Program.

This bill would provide FEMA with an additional \$9.7 billion in emergency funding to immediately assist those affected by the storm.

In late October 2012, Hurricane Sandy struck the East Coast of the United States, affecting millions of Americans and killing over 100.

The economic cost of the storm is still being assessed, but it has been estimated to be in excess of \$60 billion, which would make it the second-costliest storm in history, after Hurricane Katrina.

Our nation has a responsibility to rebuild the areas that were devastated by this terrible tragedy and I am committed to making sure that Congress helps provide the necessary resources to help those individuals and communities which were harmed by this disaster.

It is important to recall that four years ago, Congress, with my strong support, provided nearly \$23 billion in disaster relief for communities like our own due to the devastation from Hurricane Ike.

I stand with my colleagues from the East Coast, especially from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut to get the funding necessary to aid the recovery from Hurricane Sandy. As Americans, we all have a responsibility to help each other during times of need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 41.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GARRETT. 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, this 15-minute vote on the motion to suspend

the rules on H.R. 41 will be followed by a 5-minute on approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 354, nays 67, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 7]

YEAS—354

Aderholt	Ellison	Langevin
Alexander	Ellmers	Lankford
Amodei	Emerson	Larsen (WA)
Andrews	Engel	Larson (CT)
Bachmann	Enyart	Latham
Bachus	Eshoo	Latta
Barber	Esty	Lee (CA)
Barletta	Farenthold	Levin
Barrow	Farr	Lipinski
Barton	Fattah	LoBiondo
Bass	Fitzpatrick	Loebsack
Beatty	Fleischmann	Lofgren
Becerra	Forbes	Long
Bera	Fortenberry	Lowenthal
Bilirakis	Foster	Lowe
Bishop (GA)	Frankel (FL)	Lucas
Bishop (NY)	Frelinghuysen	Luetkemeyer
Bishop (UT)	Fudge	Lujan Grisham
Black	Gabbard	(NM)
Bonamici	Galleo	Lujan, Ben Ray
Boustany	Garamendi	(NM)
Brady (PA)	Garcia	Lummis
Brady (TX)	Gardner	Lynch
Braley (IA)	Garrett	Maffei
Brooks (IN)	Gerlach	Maloney,
Brown (FL)	Gibbs	Carolyn
Brownley (CA)	Gibson	Maloney, Sean
Buchanan	Gingrey (GA)	Marino
Bucshon	Granger	Markey
Burgess	Grayson	Matheson
Bustos	Green, Al	Matsui
Butterfield	Green, Gene	McCarthy (CA)
Calvert	Griffin (AR)	McCarthy (NY)
Camp	Griffith (VA)	McCaul
Campbell	Grijalva	McCollum
Cantor	Grimm	McDermott
Capito	Guthrie	McHenry
Capps	Gutierrez	McIntyre
Capuano	Hahn	McKeon
Cárdenas	Hall	McKinley
Carney	Hanabusa	McMorris
Carson (IN)	Hanna	Rodgers
Carter	Harper	McNerney
Cartwright	Hartzler	Meehan
Cassidy	Hastings (FL)	Meeks
Castor (FL)	Hastings (WA)	Meng
Castro (TX)	Heck (NV)	Messer
Chaffetz	Heck (WA)	Mica
Chu	Hensarling	Michaud
Cicilline	Herrera Beutler	Miller (FL)
Clarke	Higgins	Miller (MI)
Clay	Himes	Miller, George
Cleaver	Hinojosa	Moore
Coble	Holt	Moran
Coffman	Honda	Murphy (FL)
Cohen	Horsford	Murphy (PA)
Cole	Hoyer	Nadler
Collins (NY)	Huffman	Napolitano
Connolly	Huizenga (MI)	Neal
Conyers	Hunter	Negrete McLeod
Cook	Hurt	Noem
Cooper	Israel	Nolan
Costa	Issa	Nugent
Courtney	Jackson Lee	Nunes
Cramer	Jeffries	Nunnelee
Crawford	Johnson (GA)	O'Rourke
Crenshaw	Johnson (OH)	Olson
Crowley	Johnson, E. B.	Owens
Cuellar	Johnson, Sam	Pallone
Culberson	Jones	Pascrell
Cummings	Joyce	Pastor (AZ)
Davis (CA)	Kaptur	Paulsen
Davis, Danny	Keating	Payne
Davis, Rodney	Kelly	Pelosi
DeFazio	Kennedy	Perlmutter
DeGette	Kildee	Peters (CA)
Delaney	Kilmer	Peters (MI)
DeLauro	Kind	Peterson
DelBene	King (IA)	Pingree (ME)
Denham	King (NY)	Pittenger
Dent	Kingston	Pitts
Deutch	Kinzinger (IL)	Pocan
Diaz-Balart	Kirkpatrick	Poe (TX)
Dingell	Kline	Polis
Doggett	Kuster	Posey
Doyle	Labrador	Price (NC)
Duckworth	LaMalfa	Quigley
Edwards	Lance	Radel

Rahall	Scott (VA)	Tonko
Rangel	Scott, Austin	Tsongas
Reed	Scott, David	Turner
Reichert	Serrano	Upton
Renacci	Sessions	Valadao
Rice (SC)	Sewell (AL)	Van Hollen
Richmond	Shea-Porter	Vargas
Rigell	Sherman	Veasey
Roby	Shimkus	Vela
Rogers (AL)	Shuster	Velázquez
Rogers (KY)	Simpson	Visclosky
Rogers (MI)	Sinema	Wagner
Rohrabacher	Sires	Walberg
Rooney	Slaughter	Walden
Ros-Lehtinen	Smith (NE)	Walorski
Roskam	Smith (NJ)	Walz
Ross	Smith (TX)	Wasserman
Ruiz	Southerland	Schultz
Runyan	Speier	Waters
Ruppersberger	Stewart	Watt
Rush	Stivers	Waxman
Ryan (OH)	Stockman	Webster (FL)
Sánchez, Linda	Swalwell (CA)	Welch
T.	Takano	Westmoreland
Sanchez, Loretta	Terry	Whitfield
Sarbanes	Thompson (CA)	Wittman (FL)
Scalise	Thompson (MS)	Wittman
Schakowsky	Thompson (PA)	Wolf
Schiff	Tiberi	Womack
Schneider	Tierney	Yarmuth
Schock	Tipton	Young (FL)
Schrader	Titus	Young (IN)

NAYS—67

Amash	Gohmert	Perry
Barr	Goodlatte	Petri
Benishek	Gosar	Pompeo
Bentivolio	Gowdy	Price (GA)
Blackburn	Graves (GA)	Roe (TN)
Bridenstine	Graves (MO)	Rokita
Brooks (AL)	Harris	Rothfus
Broun (GA)	Holding	Royce
Chabot	Hudson	Ryan (WI)
Collins (GA)	Huelskamp	Salmon
Conaway	Hultgren	Schweikert
Cotton	Jenkins	Sensenbrenner
Daines	Jordan	Stutzman
DeSantis	Lamborn	Thornberry
DesJarlais	Marchant	Weber (TX)
Duffy	Massie	Wenstrup
Duncan (SC)	McClintock	Williams
Duncan (TN)	Meadows	Wilson (SC)
Fincher	Mullin	Woodall
Fleming	Mulvaney	Yoder
Flores	Neugebauer	Yoho
Foxx	Palazzo	
Franks (AZ)	Pearce	

NOT VOTING—8

Bonner	Miller, Gary	Smith (WA)
Clyburn	Ribble	Young (AK)
McGovern	Schwartz	

□ 1122

Messrs. GOWDY, FLEMING, FINCHER, DESJARLAIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Messrs. ROE of Tennessee, NEUGEBAUER, WEBER of Texas, GRAVES of Missouri and BARR changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. ROONEY, HALL, and RUSH changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 17

Resolved, That following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE: Mr. Goodlatte; Mr. King of Iowa; Mr. Neugebauer; Mr. Rogers of Alabama; Mr. Conaway; Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania; Mr. Gibbs; Mr. Austin Scott of Georgia; Mr. Tipton; Mr. Southerland; Mr. Crawford; Mrs. Roby; Mr. DesJarlais; Mr. Gibson; Mrs. Hartzler; Mr. Ribble; Mrs. Noem; Mr. Benishek; Mr. Denham; Mr. LaMalfa; Mr. Hudson; Mr. Rodney Davis of Illinois; Mr. Collins of New York; and Mr. Yoho.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mr. Young of Florida; Mr. Wolf; Mr. Kingston; Mr. Frelinghuysen; Mr. Latham; Mr. Aderholt; Mrs. Emerson; Ms. Granger; Mr. Simpson; Mr. Culberson; Mr. Crenshaw; Mr. Carter; Mr. Alexander; Mr. Calvert; Mr. Bonner; Mr. Cole; Mr. Diaz-Balart; Mr. Dent; Mr. Graves of Georgia; Mr. Yoder; Mr. Womack; Mr. Nunnelee; Mr. Fortenberry; Mr. Rooney; Mr. Fleischmann; Ms. Herrera Beutler; Mr. Joyce; and Mr. Valadao.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Thornberry; Mr. Jones; Mr. Forbes; Mr. Miller of Florida; Mr. Wilson of South Carolina; Mr. LoBiondo; Mr. Bishop of Utah; Mr. Turner; Mr. Kline; Mr. Rogers of Alabama; Mr. Franks of Arizona; Mr. Shuster; Mr. Conaway; Mr. Lamborn; Mr. Wittman; Mr. Hunter; Mr. Fleming; Mr. Coffman; Mr. Rigell; Mr. Gibson; Mrs. Hartzler; Mr. Heck of Nevada; Mr. Runyan; Mr. Austin Scott of Georgia; Mr. Palazzo; Mrs. Roby; Mr. Brooks of Alabama; Mr. Nugent; Mrs. Noem; Mr. Cook; Mr. Bridenstine; Mr. Wenstrup; and Mrs. Walorski.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE: Mr. Petri; Mr. McKeon; Mr. Wilson of South Carolina; Ms. Foxx; Mr. Price of Georgia; Mr. Marchant; Mr. Hunter; Mr. Roe of Tennessee; Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania; Mr. Walberg; Mr. Salmon; Mr. Guthrie; Mr. DesJarlais; Mr. Rokita; Mr. Bucshon; Mr. Gowdy; Mr. Barletta; Mrs. Roby; Mr. Heck of Nevada; Mrs. Brooks of Indiana; Mr. Hudson; and Mr. Messer.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE: Mr. Hall; Mr. Barton; Mr. Whitfield; Mr. Shimkus; Mr. Pitts; Mr. Walden; Mr. Terry; Mr. Rogers of Michigan; Mr. Murphy of Pennsylvania; Mr. Burgess; Mrs. Blackburn; Mr. Gingrey of Georgia; Mr. Scalise; Mr. Latta; Mrs. McMorris Rodgers; Mr. Harper; Mr. Lance; Mr. Cassidy; Mr. Guthrie; Mr. Olson; Mr. McKinley; Mr. Gardner; Mr. Pompeo; Mr. Kinzinger of Illinois; Mr. Griffith of Virginia; Mr. Bilirakis; Mr. Johnson of Ohio; Mr. Long; and Mrs. Ellmers.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: Mr. Bachus; Mr. King of New York; Mr. Royce; Mr. Lucas; Mr. Gary G. Miller of California; Mrs. Capito; Mr. Garrett; Mr. Neugebauer; Mr. McHenry; Mr. Campbell; Mrs. Bachmann; Mr. McCarthy of California; Mr. Pearce; Mr. Posey; Mr. Fitzpatrick; Mr. Westmoreland; Mr. Luetkemeyer; Mr. Huizenga of Michigan;