

I offered an amendment that was adopted by the Full Homeland Security Committee that would establish a fellowship program to attract STEM undergraduate and doctoral students to work at the Department of Homeland Security in exchange for tuition reimbursement assistance.

I co-sponsored the Veterans' STEM Education Program, the STEM Gateways Act, the National STEM Education Act, the Tax Incentive for Teacher Act, and the Women and Minorities in STEM Booster Act of 2014 all of which work towards bolstering the growth of STEM.

I also hosted the first Annual Congressional STEM Competition for my District, which challenged High School Students to design and/or create projects using Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics skills.

Houston is the 4th largest city in the United States and the 5th most populated metropolitan area in the nation.

The Houston region is one of the most important industrial bases in the world and was recently Manufacturers' New ranked the city first among other U.S. manufacturing cities.

Houston is also home to the largest medical complex in the world—the Texas Medical Center—and provides clinical health care, research and education at its 54 institutions.

The Houston Texas region lost 153,100 jobs during the Great Recession and gained 309,100 jobs during the recovery.

Only 3 other top metropolitan areas have done as well as Houston: Dallas at 158.9% recovery of jobs; Washington, DC at 144.2% of post recession job recovery and Boston had a 123.4% post recession jobs recovery.

The middle class of this decade is being determined by workers who get the right STEM education and job training today.

Brookings' Metropolitan Policy Program's report "The Hidden STEM Economy," reported that in 2011, 26 million jobs or 20 percent of all occupations required knowledge in 1 or more STEM areas.

Half of all STEM jobs are available to workers without a 4 year degree and these jobs pay on average \$53,000 a year, which is 10 percent higher than jobs with similar education requirements.

There will be STEM winners and losers, but not because the skills needed are too difficult to obtain, but because people are not aware of the jobs that are going unfilled today nor do they know what education or training will create job security for the next 2 to 3 decades.

A third of Houston jobs are in STEM-based fields.

Houston has the second largest concentrations of engineers (22.4 for every 1,000 workers according to the Greater Houston Partnership.)

Houston has 59,070 engineers the second largest populations in the nation.

STEM Jobs can be found in every sector of the economy. For example: Science

Houston has more than 400 software development companies and a ready customer base in the areas of energy, space science, biotechnology and leading technology research and development entities.

Houston has the Johnson Space Center, a \$1.5 billion complex housing one of NASA's largest Research and Development facilities that provides some of the nation's best high-tech professionals in science and engineering.

Mr. Speaker, in the past 10 years, growth in STEM jobs has been three times greater than non-STEM jobs.

In the next decade, almost all of the 30 fastest-growing jobs will require some STEM skills, yet 61 percent of middle school students would rather take out the garbage than do their math homework.

STEM jobs are expected to keep up an accelerated pace in the coming years leading to 1.8 million STEM-related job openings in 2018.

60 percent of U.S. employers are having difficulties finding qualified workers to fill vacancies at their companies.

In the current overall employment market, unemployed people outnumber job postings 3.6 to one. In the STEM occupation 4, job postings outnumbered unemployed people by 1.9 to one.

At all levels of educational attainment, STEM job holders earn 11 percent higher wages compared with their same-degree counterparts in other job.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting passage of H.R. 5031.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5031.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION ACT REAUTHORIZATION OF 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1786) to reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1786

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2014".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) *DIRECTOR.*—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".

(b) *LIFELINES.*—Section 203 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15702) is further amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

"(2) *LIFELINES.*—The term 'lifelines' means public works and utilities, including transportation facilities and infrastructure, oil and gas pipelines, electrical power and communication facilities and infrastructure, and water supply and sewage treatment facilities."

SEC. 3. NATIONAL WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION PROGRAM.

Section 204 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15703) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c) and inserting the following:

"(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—There is established the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, the purpose of which is to achieve major measurable reductions in the losses of life and property from windstorms through a coordinated Federal effort, in cooperation with other levels of government, academia, and the private sector, aimed at improving the understanding of windstorms and their impacts and developing and encouraging the implementation of cost-effective mitigation measures to reduce those impacts.

"(b) *RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROGRAM AGENCIES.*—

"(1) *LEAD AGENCY.*—The National Institute of Standards and Technology shall have the primary responsibility for planning and coordinating the Program. In carrying out this paragraph, the Director shall—

"(A) ensure that the Program includes the necessary components to promote the implementation of windstorm risk reduction measures by Federal, State, and local governments, national standards and model building code organizations, architects and engineers, and others with a role in planning and constructing buildings and lifelines;

"(B) support the development of performance-based engineering tools, and work with appropriate groups to promote the commercial application of such tools, including through wind-related model building codes, voluntary standards, and construction best practices;

"(C) request the assistance of Federal agencies other than the Program agencies, as necessary to assist in carrying out this Act;

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

"(E) when warranted by research or investigative findings, issue recommendations to assist in informing the development of model codes, and provide information to Congress on the use of such recommendations.

"(2) *NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.*—In addition to the lead agency responsibilities described under paragraph (1), the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall be responsible for carrying out research and development to improve model building codes, voluntary standards, and best practices for the design, construction, and retrofit of buildings, structures, and lifelines.

"(3) *NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.*—The National Science Foundation shall support research in—

"(A) engineering and the atmospheric sciences to improve the understanding of the behavior of windstorms and their impact on buildings, structures, and lifelines; and

"(B) economic and social factors influencing windstorm risk reduction measures.

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

"(5) *FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.*—The Federal Emergency Management Agency shall—

"(A) support—

"(i) the development of risk assessment tools and effective mitigation techniques;

"(ii) windstorm-related data collection and analysis;

"(iii) public outreach and information dissemination; and

"(iv) promotion of the adoption of windstorm preparedness and mitigation measures, including for households, businesses, and communities, consistent with the Agency's all-hazards approach; and

"(B) work closely with national standards and model building code organizations, in conjunction with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to promote the implementation of research results and promote better

building practices within the building design and construction industry, including architects, engineers, contractors, builders, and inspectors.”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c), and by striking subsections (e) and (f); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (c), as so redesignated, the following new subsections:

“(d) **BUDGET ACTIVITIES.**—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Director of the National Science Foundation, the Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall each include in their agency’s annual budget request to Congress a description of their agency’s projected activities under the Program for the fiscal year covered by the budget request, along with an assessment of what they plan to spend on those activities for that fiscal year.

“(e) **INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION.**—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established an Interagency Coordinating Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction, chaired by the Director.

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

“(A) the heads of—

“(i) the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

“(ii) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

“(iii) the National Science Foundation;

“(iv) the Office of Science and Technology Policy; and

“(v) the Office of Management and Budget; and

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

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

“(4) **GENERAL PURPOSE AND DUTIES.**—The Committee shall oversee the planning and coordination of the Program.

“(5) **STRATEGIC PLAN.**—The Committee shall develop and submit to Congress, not later than one year after the date of enactment of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2014, a Strategic Plan for the Program that includes—

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

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

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

“(D) the methods by which progress towards the goals will be assessed; and

“(E) an explanation of how the Program will foster the transfer of research results into outcomes, such as improved model building codes.

“(6) **PROGRESS REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2014, the Committee shall submit to the Congress a report on the progress of the Program that includes—

“(A) a description of the activities funded under 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;

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

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

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

“(7) **COORDINATED BUDGET.**—The Committee shall develop a coordinated budget for the Program, which shall be submitted to the Congress at the time of the President’s budget submission for each fiscal year.”.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION.

Section 205 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15704) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 205. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall establish an Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction, which 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 Program.

“(b) **ASSESSMENTS.**—The Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction shall offer assessments on—

“(1) trends and developments in the natural, engineering, and social sciences and practices of windstorm impact mitigation;

“(2) the priorities of the Program’s Strategic Plan;

“(3) the coordination of the Program; and

“(4) any revisions to the Program which may be necessary.

“(c) **COMPENSATION.**—The members of the Advisory Committee established under this section shall serve without compensation.

“(d) **REPORTS.**—At least every 2 years, the Advisory Committee shall report to the Director on the assessments carried out under subsection (b) and its recommendations for ways to improve the Program.

“(e) **CHARTER.**—Notwithstanding section 14(b)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App), the Advisory Committee shall not be required to file a charter subsequent to its initial charter, filed under section 9(c) of such Act, before the termination date specified in subsection (f) of this section.

“(f) **TERMINATION.**—The Advisory Committee shall terminate on September 30, 2016.

“(g) **CONFLICT OF INTEREST.**—An Advisory Committee member shall recuse himself from any Advisory Committee activity in which he has an actual pecuniary interest.”.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 207 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act 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) \$5,332,000 for fiscal year 2014; and

“(2) \$5,332,000 for fiscal year 2015.

“(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 2014; and

“(2) \$9,682,000 for fiscal year 2015.

“(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 2014; and

“(2) \$4,120,000 for fiscal year 2015.

“(d) **NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and At-

mospheric Administration for carrying out this title—

“(1) \$2,266,000 for fiscal year 2014; and

“(2) \$2,266,000 for fiscal year 2015.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1786, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1786, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2014, introduced by my Texas colleague, Congressman RANDY NEUGEBAUER, reauthorizes the activities of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program through 2015.

This important program supports Federal research and development efforts to help mitigate the loss of life and property due to wind-related hazards.

Millions of Americans live in areas vulnerable to hurricanes, tornadoes, and other windstorms.

According to the latest data in the National Science and Technology Council’s biennial report to Congress, in 2011, windstorms in the U.S. caused an estimated \$11 billion in total direct property losses, injured nearly 7,000 people, and took nearly 700 lives.

In Texas, we are all too familiar with the harm that excessive wind can cause. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Storm Prediction Center, 179 tornadoes and 1,586 windstorms were reported in Texas in just the last 2 years. The effects of these disasters can be felt for years.

Initially established in 2004, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program supports activities to improve our understanding of windstorms and their impacts and helps to develop and encourage the implementation of cost-effective mitigation measures.

H.R. 1786 establishes the National Institute of Standards and Technology as the lead agency for the program, improves coordination and planning of agency activities in a fiscally responsible way, and improves transparency for how much money is being spent on windstorm research.

I want to thank Representative NEUGEBAUER for his continued efforts to support this program. He and Representative FREDERICA WILSON worked together to ensure that H.R. 1786 was reported out of the Science Committee with bipartisan support.

I encourage my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, March 11, 2014.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
*Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology, Rayburn House Office Build-
ing, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning H.R. 1786, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of, 2013, as ordered reported by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on February 28, 2014. Thank you for working with us to incorporate mutually agreeable changes to provisions within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In order to expedite the House's consideration of H.R. 1786, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will forgo further action on this bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I request you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding, and would request that you insert our exchange of letters on this matter into the committee report on H.R. 1786 and the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, March 11, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
*Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER, Thank you for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1786, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2013, and for working with us to incorporate mutually agreeable changes to provisions within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I agree that forgoing further action on this bill does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your Committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the report filed on H.R. 1786 as well as in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Transportation Committee as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1786, legislation that would reauthorize

the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, or NWIRP.

As an Illinoisan, I know firsthand that windstorms are a threat to American lives and the economy. Last November, Illinois was struck by 24 tornadoes on one day, resulting in seven fatalities, hundreds of injuries, and significant economic damage.

While we cannot stop a hurricane or tornado from happening, there is much we can do to save both lives and property when windstorms and other natural disasters happen. In addition to responding quickly and with sufficient resources in the aftermath of a natural disaster, we must also invest in preparedness and resilience. Studies of FEMA's predisaster mitigation program have shown that for every dollar we invest in mitigation activities, we save \$3 to \$4 in recovery costs.

□ 1530

NWIRP is primarily a mitigation program. It has the potential to lessen the loss of life and economic damage by supporting research and development on windstorms and their impacts and helping to ensure that this research is translated into improved building codes and emergency plans. But NWIRP needs investments to reach that potential.

I was pleased that when this bill was considered in the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, we worked in a bipartisan manner to make several improvements to this bill. I want to thank my colleagues, Chairman SMITH and Mr. NEUGEBAUER, for working across the aisle in a smooth and productive process.

We worked together to increase the authorization for FEMA, the NWIRP agency tasked with translating the research conducted at other agencies into effective mitigation tools and techniques and helping communities across the Nation implement mitigation measures through outreach and partnership.

In addition, we worked together to add language to the bill addressing human factors in reducing windstorm impacts. This is not just a building engineering problem; it is also a social science and human response problem. People in the path of a windstorm have to make smart decisions, no matter what structure they are in. In order to design effective strategies to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster, we must take into account research in how people make decisions and respond to warnings during natural disasters.

We must also understand how different groups of people may respond differently so that we can tailor outreach and warnings appropriately. I was pleased we were able to strengthen the legislation by adding this important language on human factors.

Often, in a compromise like this one, you do not get everything you would like. I would have liked to see increases in the authorization levels

across the board. This bill includes a lower total authorization level than what was authorized for this program in fiscal year 2008. Nevertheless, I understand the need to reauthorize this important program.

Finally, I want to thank my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which I also serve on, for working with us on this bill since we share jurisdiction over this program.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER), who is a member of the Science Committee and also a sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Chairman SMITH's support of this legislation, as well as Ms. JOHNSON, the ranking member.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1786, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act. This is a very important piece of legislation because what we know is that tornadoes and tornadic-type winds have caused a huge amount of destruction and loss of life in our country.

Last year alone, there were over 1,300 recorded tornadoes in our country, causing over 70 deaths and over 1,500 injuries. These storms not only cost lives, but they also damaged property. The average is about \$4 million a year, except in 2011, when we saw a bad year for tornadoes. The damage was over \$28 billion. That is not just a natural disaster; it is national disaster as well.

Back in 1970, I had an opportunity firsthand to find out exactly how devastating these tornadoes can be. In my hometown of Lubbock, Texas, a tornado ripped through our community and killed 26 of our citizens. Fortunately, I was not injured. It was in an area that I lived at that time, and I had the opportunity to see firsthand the tremendous amount of devastation that can happen from these storms.

Very quickly, after that storm in 1970, Dr. Ernst Kiesling, with Texas Tech University, began to study these tornadic winds and to look at ways to build structures more effectively, to build shelters, and to really study the impacts that these storms have on building materials and what materials hold up the best.

We have been talking about statistics, but it is really about the lives of people that are impacted by these storms. When someone loses their home, they not only rebuild their home, but, in many cases, they are going to have to rebuild their lives, which is one of the primary reasons that I introduced this important piece of legislation.

What does it do? Basically, it begins to, as I mentioned earlier what was going on at Texas Tech, not only study the building materials and different types of wind activity and the material

in the structure and construction techniques that are used to apply those materials, but also to begin to have a better ability to predict how these storms form and, in the future, be able to give more warning, but just doing the research overall of how we can do better at predicting and also helping the American people do mitigation against these kinds of storms and understand the mechanics of them.

Basically, what this NWIRP does is take four agencies and pool them together in how they spend money for this important research. It takes NOAA, the National Science Foundation, FEMA, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or NIST, and basically makes sure that they are coordinating and sharing that information.

What is so important about using Federal tax dollars to do that research is to make sure that we are transforming that out into the general public. And so as we learn about these techniques and we begin to make suggestions of how building codes, building standards, and building techniques can be improved in the future, we thereby save lives and property down the road. That is an important part of this.

What we learned is that for every dollar that we spend in mitigation, we save \$4 in response down the road. And so not only is this a piece of legislation that will help save lives and property, but a really novel idea of saving the American taxpayers money at the same time.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation that is bipartisan. It passed out of the committee in a bipartisan way. It will save lives; it will save money; and it will save property. I encourage my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

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

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Home and Security Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 1786, the "National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2014."

I want to thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for their leadership in bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, Houston is vulnerable to hurricanes that traverse the Gulf of Mexico and we have experienced powerful storms during the past decade.

Hurricane Ike heavily impacted Houston and nearby city of Galveston in 2008, causing \$27.8 billion in damage, and killing 20.

Tropical storms in Texas are also known for being heavy rain producers as well as wind surge threats. For example, tropical storm Allison in 2001 dumped as much as 35 to 40 inches of rain, killing 41 people and causing \$9 billion in damage.

We are currently in the 2014 hurricane season and forecasters are expecting one to two major hurricanes.

This bill amends the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 to revise provisions governing the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP) as well as designates the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) as the entity with primary responsibility for Program planning and coordination.

Congress, under the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004, designated four agencies to compromise the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program including the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and National Science Foundation (NSF)

The federal agencies which compromised the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction will have the following respective responsibilities.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will have the primary responsibility for planning and coordinating the program, carry out research and development to improve model building codes, voluntary standards, and best practices for the design, construction, and retrofit of buildings, structures, and lifelines.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) will support research in engineering and atmospheric sciences and economic and social factors influencing windstorm risk reduction measures.

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

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will support the development of risk assessment tools and effective mitigation techniques, conduct public outreach and information dissemination, and promote the adoption of windstorm preparedness and mitigation measures.

The bill will also require the Committee to submit a progress report to Congress and to develop a coordinated budget for the Program which must be submitted at the time of the President's annual budget submission.

Finally, the bill allows the Director of NIST to establish an Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction which shall be composed of at least 7 members. This advisory committee will offer assessments and practices of wind storm impact mitigation.

This coordinated effort will greatly increase the efficiency and effectiveness of federal efforts to save lives in Houston and around the country as well as mitigate property loss.

The reasons for supporting this bill are obvious, and I ask my colleagues in the House to vote for its passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1786, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFICIENCY ACT

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5056) to improve the efficiency of Federal research and development, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5056

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 "Research and Development Efficiency Act".

SEC. 2. REGULATORY EFFICIENCY.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) high and increasing administrative burdens and costs in Federal research administration, particularly in the higher education sector where most federally sponsored research is performed, are eroding funds available to carry out basic scientific research;

(2) progress has been made over the last decade in streamlining the pre-award grant application process through Grants.gov, the Federal Government's website portal;

(3) post-award administrative costs have grown as Federal research agencies have continued to impose agency-unique compliance and reporting requirements on researchers and research institutions;

(4) facilities and administration costs at research universities can exceed 50 percent of the total value of Federal research grants, and it is estimated that nearly 30 percent of the funds invested annually in federally funded research is consumed by paperwork and other administrative processes required by Federal agencies; and

(5) it is a matter of critical importance to American competitiveness that administrative costs of federally funded research be streamlined so that a higher proportion of taxpayer dollars flow into direct research activities.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish a working group under the authority of the National Science and Technology Council, to include the Office of Management and Budget. The working group shall be responsible for reviewing Federal regulations affecting research and research universities and making recommendations on how to—

(1) harmonize, streamline, and eliminate duplicative Federal regulations and reporting requirements; and

(2) minimize the regulatory burden on United States institutions of higher education performing federally funded research while maintaining accountability for Federal tax dollars.

(c) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In carrying out the responsibilities under subsection (b), the working group shall take into account input and recommendations from non-Federal stakeholders, including federally funded and nonfederally funded researchers, institutions of higher education, scientific disciplinary societies and associations, nonprofit research institutions, industry, including small businesses, federally funded research and development centers, and others with a stake in ensuring effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability in the performance of scientific research.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Director shall report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,