

We have to do more to prevent these fires from starting. Oregon's leaders in wildfire prevention tell me they need the resources to get an engine to every home that needs one, and they need to know that the water will flow when they need it.

To protect us, the government must protect them, especially when it comes to funding. I will work in Congress to ensure our responders have the resources they need and our families are supported in the aftermath of these devastating events.

RECOGNIZING LOS ANGELES RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY WILDFIRES

(Ms. SÁNCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize all of the residents of Los Angeles and the surrounding areas who have been affected by these disastrous wildfires.

My district is indeed lucky that we have not been directly affected, but our neighbors are hurting badly. Families have lost their livelihoods, their homes, and their communities.

I am proud to honor these organizations in my own district who have reached out a helping hand in these difficult times. Firefighters, small business owners, hotels, and social service workers from California's 38th District have volunteered their time and services to those in need.

I am honored to represent such a caring community. During tragedies like these, we truly see the best of humanity. I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle can learn from these folks in my district who are providing relief unconditionally to their friends and neighbors. Congress should do the same.

DISASTER RELIEF

(Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, for 2 weeks we have watched brutal, orange flames engulf homes, leaving ash and heartache in their wake for both rich and poor southern Californians. Four months ago, North Carolina confronted horrifying destruction from Hurricane Helene.

While we can never put all the pieces back together and we can never replace all that has been taken by fire or flood, we as lawmakers have a duty to ensure the American people can rebuild.

Disaster relief is a lifeline. Disaster relief through FEMA, started by President Carter, gets food, water, power, and shelter to survivors.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ida in my State, my home county of Montgomery County received more than \$30 million for cleanup and repair. Even so, 3½ years later claims hang in limbo.

Some families still cannot return home.

FEMA is working nonstop to support victims in more than 100 disasters. As these natural disasters become more and more frequent, we pray for these communities. Yet faith without works is dead. We must commit to fully funding FEMA and the extraordinary work they do with no strings attached. That is what it is to be Americans.

PASSING AID TO ASSIST CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

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

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, my heart is heavy seeing the devastation across southern California. My thoughts and prayers are with the families who have lost loved ones and whose homes, businesses, and schools have been destroyed.

Arizona is no stranger to devastating wildfires. Anyone in the West will tell you that climate change is making wildfires more frequent and more dangerous, not just in California but everywhere.

This body has a real immediate duty to address the threat of worsening wildfires, and I have introduced legislation to get State and local governments emergency FEMA resources to fight wildfires and protect people and property.

Our first priority is to help those fleeing to safety and to aid the firefighters and first responders, including the brave fire crews from Arizona cities, the State, and our Tribal nations.

When Arizona communities have been impacted by wildfires, floods, or other extreme weather events, the Federal Government has delivered aid without conditions.

When our neighbors in the South, in Florida, North Carolina, and Louisiana, were hit by storms, the Federal Government delivered without conditions.

Now Congress must pass emergency disaster aid for our neighbors in California without conditions.

RECOGNIZING OREGON FIRE STRIKE TEAMS

(Ms. SALINAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Oregon fire strike teams who have deployed to southern California to help contain the ongoing wildfires.

These fires are leaving a historic path of destruction in their wake. Already at least 25 people have died, thousands of homes and businesses have burned to the ground, and many more people have been displaced.

As Oregonians, we know firsthand the devastation of wildfires. It makes

sense that we would lend a hand to our neighbors to the south. The Oregon fire marshal has sent 21 strike teams and 370 individual firefighters to California to help contain these blazes.

We are already hearing stories of their heroism. Just last week, a Marion County strike team was able to quickly act and save a family's home when it caught fire.

We owe a debt of gratitude to these courageous men and women who are working 24-hour shifts away from their families and putting their lives on the line to help folks who are suffering right now.

I will continue to support our firefighters and deliver the pay and benefits they have earned. I am thankful for these heroes from Oregon and for all those working day in and day out to stop these deadly blazes.

CONGRATULATING BAYONNE MODEL UNITED NATIONS TEAM

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the talented students of Bayonne High School Model United Nations team who returned from Dubai this week where they represented our community and our great State at the Harvard Model United Nations conference.

Under the leadership of Colleen Rushnak, these young men and women are learning the critical skills of leadership, problem-solving, and international diplomacy. I had the opportunity to visit with them recently and couldn't be prouder that they represented us on the global stage.

Congratulations to the Fighting Bees. You made our entire community proud.

SUPPORTING RELIEF FOR CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

(Ms. SIMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman CHU for organizing the California delegation in support of our fellow Californians who are grieving as a result of the devastating fires in southern California.

Our hearts break as tens of thousands of folks have lost everything. As our hearts break, we know that in this Chamber we have to work. That is our obligation.

I have spoken to fire chiefs in my district, and I am so thankful that our fire departments in Oakland, Alameda, and Berkeley have traveled to southern California to support.

I especially want to thank Oakland's chief, Damon Covington, and others who have stepped up to meet this moment, to go into the fire and to protect fellow Americans. The devastation of

these fires is unprecedented. Just as we have come together to fight these fires, we must come together to bring real relief to families again who have lost everything.

In our country's history, the Federal Government has never placed restrictions and conditions on emergency disaster aid to our people.

STRENGTHENING AND PROMOTING INNOVATION IN THE NATION'S CYBERSECURITY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-13)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LUTTRELL) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order that takes additional steps to deal with the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015 (Blocking the Property of Certain Persons Engaging in Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities), as amended by Executive Order 13757 of December 28, 2016 (Taking Additional Steps to Address the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities), and further amended by Executive Order 13984 of January 19, 2021 (Taking Additional Steps To Address the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities).

Significant malicious cyber-enabled activities continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. To address this continuing national emergency and protect against the growing and evolving threat of malicious cyber-enabled activities against the United States and United States allies and partners, including the increasing threats by foreign actors of unauthorized access to critical infrastructure, ransomware, and cyber-enabled intrusions and sanctions evasion, section 9 of the Executive Order I have issued updates the criteria to be used by the Secretary of the Treasury in designating a person for sanctions for engaging in specified malicious cyber-enabled activities and related conduct.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 16, 2025.

ADDRESSING CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS). Under the Speaker's an-

nounced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, we see it every year, especially in the West. When fire season hits, it can be very devastating. Some years were better than others. In the northern part of the State that I represent and some of my colleagues in surrounding States, we got hit pretty hard in the forested areas, some of the grassland areas, et cetera.

As you know right now, southern California, the Los Angeles area, is taking it really badly with the annual Santa Ana winds. It is an extraordinary amount of wind and strength of the winds, driving the fire to a point that hasn't been seen in at least 60 years in that area. It is devastating towns and causing unmeasurable damage so far.

The fires are still raging. It is by the grace of God that maybe the wind will stop. Maybe it will shift somewhat and give the firefighters a better chance to get ahead of it. We know they are valiantly fighting. As it is right now firefighters are coming from all over the State and neighboring States as well, to weigh in on that with the aircraft, the equipment, and the firefighters on the ground to make the stand.

It is going to be extremely difficult until the winds die down. We pray for rain to help them out as well. It is not unfamiliar for me in my northern California district with several large fires in the last 6 years. We have had the Paradise, California, fire known as the Camp fire, which burned many acres. Importantly, 90 percent of the town was burned down, and 85 people lost their lives with that.

Other towns in my own district were consumed as well in later fires in Greenville and Canyon Dam. In a little town called Doyle, it blew right through part of that. It happens year after year.

It really boils down to: What are we doing for preparedness? What are we doing to treat the lands and have the conditions that we need to be more successful? You are not going to prevent fire completely. You are going to have it. When one occurs, you need to be able to have a fighting chance, and our firefighters have the ability to do that.

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Mr. Speaker, joining me today during this Special Order is my colleague from

Oregon (Mr. BENTZ). We share that Oregon-California border, and we frequently encounter many of the same issues on fire, on forestry, on water and water issues.

Mr. Speaker, to tell his story about what has been going on in Oregon, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ).

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing me to join this Special Order today and discuss this horrid and tragic situation in Southern California, truly a national emergency.

Note that I call this a national emergency. Why? Because soon Congress will be sending hundreds of billions of dollars to California to help clean up this mess and rebuild.

The most basic level of common sense demands that we not send billions upon billions to California without first looking carefully at the causes of this catastrophe, and when they are identified, making sure these causes will be addressed and resolved.

The sad benefit that will come from understanding the cause of these southern California fires and also of understanding why California's fire protection systems failed isn't limited to California. Every State is facing hotter and dryer conditions. Every State must do a far better job adapting to these conditions. We need to look at what causes these horrific fires, what they did wrong or what we do wrong in trying to put them out, and then apply those lessons accordingly.

You might ask why these questions were not asked and answered in any of the other fires that we have been suffering that were referred to by Congressman LAMALFA a few minutes ago. We have certainly had enough up in Oregon and northern California, but people in positions of authority perhaps haven't been listening. Perhaps it is because those affected didn't have the political clout or perhaps the actions that needed to be taken such as cleaning up our forests are viewed as politically incorrect.

There is little doubt that this time around those who have been hurt in southern California are politically powerful, and they can do something about this, and we want them to. That means doing something about adapting to warmer, hotter, and dryer.

There is a separation, I guess, in how we approach our response to changing climate. One approach is to invest billions, as California has done, in mitigation, that is reducing CO₂, and the other is to recognize it is going to stay this way for a very long time.

It was said by members of the climate commission at Oregon State University that if we stopped all CO₂ production today, our climate would not improve for between 30 and 40 years. During this period of time, we are going to see a repeat of what we are seeing in southern California unless we do something about it.

What is that something?

Well, the first thing to do is recognize that the money you put into mitigation is not going to be available for