

# **H.R. 3190: The PREPARE Act**

**Congressman Matt Cartwright and Congressman Leonard Lance**

## ***Identifying Financial Risks to the Government, Creating Plans, and Disseminating Information***

**Endorsing Organizations Include:** R Street, Taxpayers for Common Sense, Niskanen Center, National Taxpayers Union, Coalition to Reduce Spending, Taxpayers Protection Alliance, Emerald Cities Collaborative, American Sustainable Business Council, National Housing Conference, Reinsurance Association of America, National Wildlife Federation, CERES, National Parks Conservation Association, Evangelical Environmental Network, American Meteorological Society, The Nature Conservancy, Defenders of Wildlife, Small Business Majority, Marstel-Day, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety, International Code Council, National Leased Housing Association, UPS, Natural Hazard Mitigation Association, Friends Committee on National Legislation, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, The Weather Coalition, American Camp Association, American Geophysical Union, Nestle Waters North America, The American Institute of Architects, CH2M, Unilever, The Pew Charitable Trusts

**114th Cosponsors (23):** Blumenauer, Capuano, Connolly, Dent, Farenthold, Fitzpatrick, Garamendi, Hastings, Higgins, Honda, Huffman, Kind, Lance, Lieu, Loeb sack, Lowenthal, Norton, Peters, Pingree, Polis, Quigley, Schiff, Van Hollen

### **Problem:**

Extreme weather events are complex, crosscutting problems that pose risks to many economic and environmental systems—including agriculture, infrastructure, ecosystems, and human health—and present a significant financial risk to the federal government. In fact, the GAO has placed the threats posed by extreme weather in its 2015 High Risk List, an accounting of the most pressing fiscal exposures the federal government faces. In the past four years, extreme weather events resulted in:

- 253 presidential major disaster declarations
- 42 events that each inflicted at least \$1 billion in damage
- 1,286 fatalities and \$227 billion in economic losses in 44 states caused by these 42 events

### **GAO report findings:**

GAO in its 2015 High Risk Report found that:

- The federal government is not well organized to address the fiscal exposure caused by extreme weather events.
- There are no programs to monitor and independently validate the effectiveness and sustainability of agency measure to address the challenges posed to federal insurance programs by extreme weather events.
- There is not a systematic method to distribute information to State and local governments.

Based on these findings, it is clear that the federal government needs a strategic approach with strong leadership and the authority to address resilience, preparedness, and risk management that encompasses the entire range of related federal activities and better positions the government to respond to these issues.

### **The PREPARE Act (Preparedness and Risk management for Extreme weather Patterns Assuring Resilience and Effectiveness):**

This legislation will address the need to protect our nation's assets and citizens from the enormous risks posed by extreme weather by increasing government effectiveness at no cost to the taxpayer. The Act builds off the recommendations listed in GAO's high risk report and institutionalizes executive orders which seek to address agency planning and preparedness by:

- Creating an oversight and governance structure and a process that requires agencies to implement government-wide resilience, preparedness, and risk management priorities and elevating the role of OMB to ensure proper funding and implementation for these initiatives.
- Working with local and State planners to identify regional issues and facilitating the adoption of resilience, preparedness, and risk management best practices.
- Establishing a regional coordination plan to ensure greater coordination among the many regional efforts to ensure cost-effectiveness, complementarity, and optimal reach to regional, local, and sectorial decision-makers and stakeholders.

I urge your support for this important legislation. For more information, contact Jeremy Marcus at [Jeremy.Marcus@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jeremy.Marcus@mail.house.gov) or 202 225 5546