

HR 4177: 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*

115th Cosponsors (22): Connolly, Crist, Cummings, Curbelo, Deutch, Dent, Farenthold, Faso, Garamendi, González Colón, Gosar, Holmes Norton, Lance, Lowenthal, Lynch, Carolyn Maloney, Meadows, Peters, Raskin, Wasserman Schultz, Webster, Welch

114th Cosponsors (29) H.R. 3190: Adams, Beatty, Blumenauer, Capuano, Castor, Connolly, Cummings, Delaney, Dent, Farenthold, Fitzpatrick, Garamendi, Hastings, Higgins, Honda, Huffman, Kind, Lance, Lieu, Loeb sack, Lowenthal, Maloney, Norton, Peters, Pingree, Polis, Quigley, Schiff, Van Hollen

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. From 2010-2016, extreme weather events resulted in:

- 422 presidential major disaster declarations;
- 74 events that each inflicted at least \$1 billion in damage; and
- A total of 1,646 fatalities and \$316 billion in economic losses in 44 states caused by these 74 events.

The federal government is not well organized to address the fiscal exposure caused by extreme weather events, and does not focus on pre-disaster mitigation or fully budget for recovery activities after extreme weather events. Despite the progress made through the National Planning Frameworks and groups like the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group, there is no comprehensive program to monitor and independently validate the effectiveness of agency measures to address the challenges posed to federal programs by extreme weather events, and there is no systematic method to distribute information to state and local governments.

Our government needs a strategic approach with strong leadership and the authority to address resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management that encompasses the entire range of related federal activities and better positions the government to effectively and efficiently respond to these issues.

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

This legislation is a common-sense solution that 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 existing extreme weather mitigation and resilience efforts to increase agency planning and preparedness by:

- Creating an interagency oversight council to implement government-wide resilience, preparedness, and risk management priorities and 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; and
- Establishing a regional coordination plan to ensure greater coordination and information sharing 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 (Jeremy.Marcus@mail.house.gov, 202-225-5546) or Erin Dykstra (Erin.Dykstra@mail.house.gov, 202-225-5546) in Congressman Cartwright's office.