

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, American Sustainable Business Council, National Taxpayers Union, Niskanen Center, Coalition to Reduce Spending, Taxpayers Protection Alliance, Reinsurance Association of America, National Wildlife Federation, CERES, National Housing Conference, Taxpayers for Common Sense, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Parks Conservation Association, The Nature Conservancy, Evangelical Environmental Network, League of Conservation Voters, American Meteorological Society, Sierra Club, PennFuture, Defenders of Wildlife, Union of Concerned Scientists, U.S. Green Building Council, Environmental and Energy Study Institute, American Rivers, Environmental Defense Fund, Small Business Majority, Marstel-Day, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety, Alaska Wilderness League, International Code Council, American Bird Conservancy, National Farmers Union, National Association of Clean Water Agencies, National Leased Housing Association, UPS, Natural Hazard Mitigation Association, Friends Committee on National Legislation, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, The Weather Coalition, Citizens' Climate Lobby, Lehigh Valley Chapter, American Camp Association, American Geophysical Union, Emerald Cities Collaborative, Nestle Waters North America, The American Institute of Architects, CH2M Hill, Unilever, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Restore America's Estuaries, National Weather Service Employees Organization

115th Cosponsors: Cartwright, Crist, Curbelo, Deutch, Dent, Farenthold, Lance, Peters, Wasserman Schultz

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

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 2017 High Risk List, an accounting of the most pressing fiscal exposures the federal government faces. 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.

GAO report findings:

In its report, the GAO found that:

- The federal government is not well organized to address the fiscal exposure caused by extreme weather events;
- Despite some progress, there is no comprehensive program to monitor and independently validate the effectiveness of agency measures to address the challenges posed to federal insurance programs by extreme weather events; and
- There is no 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 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 the recommendations listed in GAO's high risk report and institutionalizes executive orders which seek to address 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 at Jeremy.Marcus@mail.house.gov or 202 225 5546