

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1936

To require the Comptroller General to evaluate and issue a report on the structural and economic impacts of climate resiliency at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including recommendations on how to improve the building codes and standards that the Agency uses to prepare for climate change and address resiliency in housing, public buildings, and infrastructure such as roads and bridges.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2021

Mr. NEGUSE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General to evaluate and issue a report on the structural and economic impacts of climate resiliency at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including recommendations on how to improve the building codes and standards that the Agency uses to prepare for climate change and address resiliency in housing, public buildings, and infrastructure such as roads and bridges.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Climate Resilient Com-
3 munities Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. CLIMATE RESILIENCY REPORT BY GAO.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
6 date of enactment of this Act and every 5 years thereafter,
7 the Comptroller General shall evaluate and issue a report
8 to Congress on the economic benefits, including avoided
9 impacts on property and life, of the use of model, con-
10 sensus-based building codes, standards, and provisions
11 that support resilience to climate risks and impacts, in-
12 cluding—

- 13 (1) flooding;
- 14 (2) wildfires;
- 15 (3) hurricanes;
- 16 (4) heat waves;
- 17 (5) droughts;
- 18 (6) rises in sea level; and
- 19 (7) extreme weather.

20 (b) REPORT ISSUES.—The report required under
21 subsection (a) shall include the following:

- 22 (1) Assesses the status of adoption of building
23 codes, standards, and provisions within the States,
24 territories, and tribes at the State or jurisdictional
25 level; including whether the adopted codes meet or

1 exceed the most recent published edition of a na-
2 tional, consensus-based model code.

3 (2) Analysis of the extent to which pre-disaster
4 mitigation measures provide benefits to the nation
5 and individual States, territories and tribes, includ-
6 ing—

7 (A) an economic analysis of the benefits to
8 the design and construction of new resilient in-
9 frastructure;

10 (B) losses avoided, including economic
11 losses, number of structures (buildings, roads,
12 bridges), and injuries and deaths by utilizing
13 building codes and standards that prioritize re-
14 siliency; and

15 (C) an economic analysis of the benefits to
16 using hazard resistant building codes in rebuild-
17 ing and repairing infrastructure following a dis-
18 aster.

19 (3) An assessment of the building codes and
20 standards referenced or otherwise currently incor-
21 porated into Federal policies and programs, includ-
22 ing but not limited to grants, incentive programs,
23 technical assistance and design and construction cri-
24 teria, administered by the Federal Emergency Man-
25 agement Agency (FEMA), and—

1 (A) the extent to which such codes and
2 standards contribute to increasing climate resil-
3 iency;

4 (B) recommendations for how FEMA could
5 improve their use of codes and standards to
6 prepare for climate change and address resil-
7 iency in housing, public buildings, and infra-
8 structure such as roads and bridges; and

9 (C) how FEMA could increase efforts to
10 support the adoption of hazard resistant codes
11 by the States, territories, and tribes.

12 (4) Recommendations for FEMA on how to bet-
13 ter incorporate climate resiliency into efforts to re-
14 build after natural disasters.

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