

standards, demographics, structural characteristics, smoke and fire dynamics, costs, and associated injuries and deaths.

Additionally, the bill also requires the U.S. Fire Administration to issue a report in coordination with Federal, State, and local authorities on their findings, and to provide recommendations to Federal, State, and local officials to implement to prevent similar fires from occurring in the future.

This bill passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support in May of this year. The Senate amendment added language to ensure that the U.S. Fire Administration would not affect or diminish the authorities of other Federal agencies when investigating major fires and would not grant the administrator authority to investigate a major fire for the purpose of an enforcement action or criminal prosecution.

This bill incorporates stakeholder and agency feedback and is endorsed by the Fire Department of New York, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, and the National Fire Protection Association.

I thank Representative TORRES for introducing and leading the original bill, as well as the original cosponsors from our committee: Representatives STEVENS, MEIJER, and GONZALEZ. I also thank Senator PETERS for his work on the Senate amendment.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYERS. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, I am ready to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I rise again in support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 7077, the Empowering the U.S. Fire Administration Act.

As I previously mentioned, the U.S. Fire Administration has valuable and lifesaving resources in preventing, responding to, and investigating fires. This amendment would ensure that State and local governments have access to these resources and that the U.S. Fire Administration has the authority needed to conduct onsite investigations of major fires without diminishing the authorities of other Federal agencies or negatively affecting ongoing or potential criminal investigations.

We cannot afford to let any more tragic and preventable fires like the one in Representative TORRES' district happen in the future.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYERS. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative BICE for joining me in presenting this bill today. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7077, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 7077.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FLOOD LEVEL OBSERVATION, OPERATIONS, AND DECISION SUPPORT ACT

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 558) to establish a national integrated flood information system within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 558

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Flood Level Observation, Operations, and Decision Support Act” or the “FLOODS Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. National Integrated Flood Information System.
- Sec. 4. Observations and modeling for total water prediction.
- Sec. 5. Service coordination hydrologists at River Forecast Centers of the National Weather Service.
- Sec. 6. Improving National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration communication of future flood risks and hazardous flash flood events.
- Sec. 7. Freshwater monitoring along the coast.
- Sec. 8. Tornado warning improvement.
- Sec. 9. Hurricane forecast improvement program.
- Sec. 10. Weather and water research and development planning.
- Sec. 11. Forecast communication coordinators.
- Sec. 12. Estimates of precipitation frequency in the United States.
- Sec. 13. Interagency Committee on Water Management and Infrastructure.
- Sec. 14. National Weather Service hydrologic research fellowship program.
- Sec. 15. Identification and support of consistent, Federal set of forward-looking, long-term meteorological information.
- Sec. 16. Gap analysis on availability of snow-related data to assess and predict flood and flood impacts.
- Sec. 17. Availability to the public of flood-related data.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) STATE.—The term “State” means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL INTEGRATED FLOOD INFORMATION SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish a system, to be known as the “National Integrated Flood Information System”, to better inform and provide for more timely decision making to reduce flood-related effects and costs.

(b) SYSTEM FUNCTIONS.—The Administrator, through the National Integrated Flood Information System, shall—

(1) provide an effective flood early warning system that—

(A) collects and integrates information on the key indicators of floods and flood impacts, including streamflow, reservoir release and diversion, precipitation, soil moisture, snow water equivalent, land cover, and evaporative demand;

(B) makes usable, reliable, and timely forecasts of floods;

(C) assesses the severity of flood conditions and effects;

(D) provides information described in subparagraph (A), forecasts described in subparagraph (B), and assessments described in subparagraph (C) at the national, regional, and local levels, as appropriate; and

(E) communicates flood forecasts, flood conditions, and flood impacts to appropriate entities engaged in flood planning, preparedness, and response and post-event flood extent, including—

(i) decision makers at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal levels of government; and

(ii) the public;

(2) provide timely data, information, and products that reflect differences in flood conditions among localities, regions, watersheds, and States;

(3) coordinate and integrate, through interagency agreements as practicable, Federal research and monitoring in support of the flood early warning information system provided under paragraph (1);

(4) use existing forecasting and assessment programs and partnerships;

(5) make improvements in seasonal precipitation and temperature, subseasonal precipitation and temperature, and flood water prediction; and

(6) continue ongoing research and monitoring activities relating to floods, including research activities relating to—

(A) the prediction, length, severity, and impacts of floods and improvement of the accuracy, timing, and specificity of flash flood warnings;

(B) the role of extreme weather events and climate variability in floods; and

(C) how water travels over and through surfaces.

(c) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Administrator, through the National Integrated Flood Information System, may—

(1) engage with the private sector to improve flood monitoring, forecasts, land and topography data, and communication, if the Administrator determines that such engagement is appropriate, cost effective, and beneficial to the public and decision makers described in subsection (b)(1)(E)(i);

(2) facilitate the development of 1 or more academic cooperative partnerships to assist in carrying out the functions of the National

Integrated Flood Information System described in subsection (b);

(3) use and support monitoring by citizen scientists, including by developing best practices to facilitate maximum data integration, as the Administrator considers appropriate;

(4) engage with, and leverage the resources of, entities within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act, such as the National Weather Service with respect to forecast and warning functions, the National Integrated Drought Information System, the Regional Climate Center, and the National Mesonet Program, to improve coordination of water monitoring, forecasting, and management; and

(5) engage with and support water monitoring by the United States Geological Survey—

(A) to improve the availability and continuity of streamflow data at critical locations through the deployment of rapid deployment gages and the flood-hardening of at-risk streamflow gauges; and

(B) to increase storm surge monitoring data through the deployment of additional storm surge sensors.

(d) CONSULTATION.—In developing and maintaining the National Integrated Flood Information System, the Administrator shall consult with relevant Federal, State, local, and Tribal government agencies, research institutions, and the private sector.

(e) COOPERATION FROM OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Each Federal agency shall cooperate as appropriate with the Administrator in carrying out this section.

SEC. 4. OBSERVATIONS AND MODELING FOR TOTAL WATER PREDICTION.

(a) PARTNERSHIPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish partnerships with 1 or more institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) to evaluate observations that would improve total water prediction.

(2) PRIORITY OBSERVATIONS.—In establishing partnerships under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall prioritize partnerships to evaluate observations from uncrewed aerial systems.

(b) MAINTAINED OBSERVATIONS.—If the Administrator determines that incorporating additional observations improves total water prediction, the Administrator shall, to the extent practicable, continue incorporating those observations.

(c) MODELING IMPROVEMENTS.—The Administrator shall advance geographic coverage, resolution, skill, and efficiency of coastal oceanographic modeling, including efforts that improve the coupling of and interoperability between hydrological models and coastal ocean models.

SEC. 5. SERVICE COORDINATION HYDROLOGISTS AT RIVER FORECAST CENTERS OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.

(a) DESIGNATION OF SERVICE COORDINATION HYDROLOGISTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Weather Service (in this section referred to as the “Director”) shall designate at least 1 service coordination hydrologist at each River Forecast Center of the National Weather Service.

(2) PERFORMANCE BY OTHER EMPLOYEES.—Performance of the responsibilities outlined in this section is not limited to the service coordination hydrologist position.

(b) PRIMARY ROLE OF SERVICE COORDINATION HYDROLOGISTS.—The primary role of the service coordination hydrologist shall be to carry out the responsibilities required by this section.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), consistent with the analysis described in sec-

tion 409 of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-25; 131 Stat. 112), and in order to increase impact-based decision support services, each service coordination hydrologist designated under subsection (a) shall, with respect to hydrology—

(A) be responsible for providing service to the geographic area of responsibility covered by the River Forecast Center at which the service coordination hydrologist is employed to help ensure that users of products and services of the National Weather Service can respond effectively to improve outcomes from flood events;

(B) liaise with users of products and services of the National Weather Service, such as the public, academia, media outlets, users in the hydropower, transportation, recreation, and agricultural communities, and forestry, land, fisheries, and water management interests, to evaluate the adequacy and usefulness of the products and services of the National Weather Service;

(C) collaborate with such River Forecast Centers and Weather Forecast Offices and Federal, State, local, and Tribal government agencies as the Director considers appropriate in developing, proposing, and implementing plans to develop, modify, or tailor products and services of the National Weather Service to improve the usefulness of such products and services;

(D) engage in interagency partnerships with Federal, State, local, and Tribal government agencies to explore the use of forecast-informed reservoir operations to reduce flood risk;

(E) ensure the maintenance and accuracy of flooding call lists, appropriate office flooding policy or procedures, and other flooding information or dissemination methodologies or strategies; and

(F) work closely with Federal, State, local, and Tribal emergency and floodplain management agencies, and other agencies relating to disaster management, to ensure a planned, coordinated, and effective preparedness and response effort.

(2) OTHER STAFF.—The Director may assign a responsibility set forth in paragraph (1) to such other staff as the Director considers appropriate to carry out such responsibility.

(d) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a service coordination hydrologist designated under subsection (a) may, with respect to hydrology—

(A) work with a State agency to develop plans for promoting more effective use of products and services of the National Weather Service throughout the State;

(B) identify priority community preparedness objectives;

(C) develop plans to meet the objectives identified under subparagraph (B); and

(D) conduct flooding event preparedness planning and citizen education efforts with and through various State, local, and Tribal government agencies and other disaster management-related organizations.

(2) OTHER STAFF.—The Director may assign a responsibility set forth in paragraph (1) to such other staff as the Director considers appropriate to carry out such responsibility.

SEC. 6. IMPROVING NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION COMMUNICATION OF FUTURE FLOOD RISKS AND HAZARDOUS FLASH FLOOD EVENTS.

(a) ASSESSMENT OF FLASH FLOOD WATCHES AND WARNINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall—

(A) conduct an assessment of—

(i) the flash flood watches and warnings of the National Weather Service; and

(ii) the information delivery to support preparation and responses to floods; and

(B) submit to Congress a report on the findings of the Administrator with respect to the assessment required by subparagraph (A).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required by paragraph (1)(A) shall include the following:

(A) An evaluation of whether the watches, warnings, and information described in paragraph (1)(A) effectively—

(i) communicate risk to the general public;

(ii) inform action to prevent loss of life and property;

(iii) inform action to support flood preparation and response; and

(iv) deliver information in a manner designed to lead to appropriate action.

(B) Subject to subsection (b)(2), such recommendations as the Administrator may have for—

(i) legislative and administrative action to improve the watches and warnings described in paragraph (1)(A)(i); and

(ii) such research as the Administrator considers necessary to address the focus areas described in paragraph (3).

(3) FOCUS AREAS.—The assessment required by paragraph (1)(A) shall focus on the following areas:

(A) Ways to communicate the risks posed by hazardous flash flood events to the public that are most likely to result in informed decision making regarding the mitigation of those risks.

(B) Ways to provide actionable geographic information to the recipient of a watch or warning for a flash flood, including partnering with emergency response agencies, as appropriate.

(C) Evaluation of information delivery to support the preparation for and response to floods.

(4) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the assessment required by paragraph (1)(A), the Administrator shall consult with—

(A) individuals in the academic sector, including individuals in the field of social and behavioral sciences;

(B) other weather services;

(C) media outlets and other entities that distribute the watches and warnings described in paragraph (1)(A)(i);

(D) floodplain managers and emergency planners and responders, including State, local, and Tribal emergency management agencies;

(E) other government users of the watches and warnings described in paragraph (1)(A)(i), including the Federal Highway Administration; and

(F) such other Federal agencies as the Administrator determines rely on watches and warnings regarding flash floods for operational decisions.

(5) NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—The Administrator shall engage with the National Academy of Sciences, as the Administrator considers necessary and practicable, including by contracting with the National Research Council to review the scientific and technical soundness of the assessment required by paragraph (1)(A), including the recommendations under paragraph (2)(B).

(6) METHODOLOGIES.—In conducting the assessment required by paragraph (1)(A), the Administrator shall use such methodologies as the Administrator considers are generally accepted by the weather enterprise, including social and behavioral sciences.

(b) IMPROVEMENTS TO FLASH FLOOD WATCHES AND WARNINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Based on the assessment required by subsection (a)(1)(A), the Administrator shall make such improvements to the watches and warnings described in that subsection as the Administrator considers necessary—

(A) to improve the communication of the risks posed by hazardous flash flood events; and

(B) to provide actionable geographic information to the recipient of a watch or warning for a flash flood.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS.**—In conducting the assessment required by subsection (a)(1)(A), the Administrator shall ensure that any recommendation under subsection (a)(2)(B) that the Administrator considers a major change—

(A) is validated by social and behavioral science using a generalizable sample;

(B) accounts for the needs of various demographics, vulnerable populations, and geographic regions;

(C) responds to the needs of Federal, State, local, and Tribal government partners and media partners; and

(D) accounts for necessary changes to federally operated watch and warning propagation and dissemination infrastructure and protocols.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **WATCH; WARNING.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the terms “watch” and “warning”, with respect to a hazardous flash flood event, mean products issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, intended for use by the general public—

(i) to alert the general public to the potential for or presence of the event; and

(ii) to inform action to prevent loss of life and property.

(B) **EXCLUSION.**—The terms “watch” and “warning” do not include technical or specialized meteorological and hydrological forecasts, outlooks, or model guidance products.

(2) **WEATHER ENTERPRISE.**—The term “weather enterprise” has the meaning given that term in section 2 of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8501).

SEC. 7. FRESHWATER MONITORING ALONG THE COAST.

(a) **DATA AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT.**—The Administrator shall assess the availability of short- and long-term data on large-scale freshwater flooding into oceans, bays, and estuaries, including data on—

- (1) flow rate, including discharge;
- (2) conductivity;
- (3) oxygen concentration;
- (4) nutrient load;
- (5) water temperature; and
- (6) sediment load.

(b) **DATA NEEDS ASSESSMENT.**—The Administrator shall assess the need for additional data to assess and predict the effect of the flooding and freshwater discharge described in subsection (a).

(c) **INVENTORY OF DATA NEEDS.**—Based on the assessments required by subsections (a) and (b), the Administrator shall create an inventory of data needs with respect to the flooding and freshwater discharge described in subsections (a) and (b).

(d) **PLANNING.**—In planning for the collection of additional data necessary for ecosystem-based modeling of the effect of the flooding and freshwater discharge described in subsections (a) and (b), the Administrator shall use the inventory created under subsection (c).

SEC. 8. TORNADO WARNING IMPROVEMENT.

Section 103 of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8513) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) **INNOVATIVE OBSERVATIONS.**—The Under Secretary shall ensure that the program pe-

riodically examines the value of incorporating innovative observations, such as acoustic or infrasonic measurements, observations from phased array radars, and observations from mesonets, with respect to the improvement of tornado forecasts, predictions, and warnings.”.

SEC. 9. HURRICANE FORECAST IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

Section 104(b) of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8514(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) evaluating and incorporating, as appropriate, innovative observations, including acoustic or infrasonic measurements.”.

SEC. 10. WEATHER AND WATER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING.

Section 105(2) of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8515(2)) is amended by inserting “and flood-event” after “operational weather”.

SEC. 11. FORECAST COMMUNICATION COORDINATORS.

Section 1762(f)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (15 U.S.C. 8521(f)(1)) is amended, in the second sentence, by striking “may” and inserting “shall”.

SEC. 12. ESTIMATES OF PRECIPITATION FREQUENCY IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.**—The term “Freely Associated States” means the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, which have each entered into a Compact of Free Association with the United States.

(2) **UNITED STATES.**—The term “United States” means the 50 States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Freely Associated States.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall establish a program, to be known as the “NOAA Precipitation Frequency Atlas of the United States”, to compile, estimate, analyze, and communicate the frequency of precipitation in the United States.

(c) **FUNCTIONS.**—The NOAA Precipitation Frequency Atlas of the United States—

(1) shall better inform the public and provide information on—

(A) temporal and spatial distribution of heavy precipitation;

(B) analyses of seasonality in precipitation; and

(C) trends in annual maximum series data; and

(2) may serve as the official source of the Federal Government on estimates of precipitation frequency and associated information with respect to the United States.

(d) **REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **COVERAGE.**—The NOAA Precipitation Frequency Atlas of the United States shall include such estimates of the frequency of precipitation in the United States as the Administrator determines appropriate.

(2) **FREQUENCY.**—Such estimates—

(A) shall be conducted not less frequently than once every 10 years; and

(B) may be conducted more frequently if determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(3) **PUBLICATION.**—Such estimates and methodologies used to conduct such estimates shall be—

(A) subject to an appropriate, scientific process, as determined by the Administrator; and

(B) published on a publicly accessible website of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(e) **PARTNERSHIPS.**—The Administrator may partner with other Federal agencies, members of the private sector, academic cooperative partnerships, or nongovernment associations to assist in carrying out the functions described in subsection (c).

(f) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out this section, the Administrator may consult with relevant Federal, State, local, Tribal, and Territorial government agencies, research institutions, and the private sector, as the Administrator determines necessary.

(g) **COORDINATION.**—In carrying out this section, the Administrator may coordinate with other Federal agencies.

(h) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, from amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this Act, \$3,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2030.

SEC. 13. INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON WATER MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a committee, to be known as the “Interagency Committee on Water Management and Infrastructure” (in this section referred to as the “Water Policy Committee”).

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Water Policy Committee shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) The Administrator.
- (2) The Secretary of the Interior.
- (3) The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.
- (4) The Secretary of Agriculture.
- (5) The Secretary of Commerce.
- (6) The Secretary of Energy.
- (7) The Secretary of the Army.
- (8) The heads of such other agencies as the co-chairs consider appropriate.

(c) **CO-CHAIRS.**—The Water Policy Committee shall be co-chaired by the Secretary of the Interior and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(d) **MEETINGS.**—The Water Policy Committee shall meet not less frequently than 6 times each year, at the call of the co-chairs.

(e) **GENERAL PURPOSE AND DUTIES.**—The Water Policy Committee shall ensure that agencies and departments across the Federal Government that engage in water-related matters, including water storage and supplies, water quality and restoration activities, water infrastructure, transportation on United States rivers and inland waterways, and water forecasting, work together where such agencies and departments have joint or overlapping responsibilities to—

(1) improve interagency coordination among Federal agencies and departments on water resource management and water infrastructure issues;

(2) coordinate existing water-related Federal task forces, working groups, and other formal cross-agency initiatives, as appropriate;

(3) prioritize managing the water resources of the United States and promoting resilience of the water-related infrastructure of the United States, including—

(A) increasing water storage, water supply reliability, and drought resiliency;

(B) improving water quality, source water protection, and nutrient management;

(C) promoting restoration activities;

(D) improving water systems, including with respect to drinking water, desalination, water reuse, wastewater, and flood control; and

(E) improving water data management, research, modeling, and forecasting;

(4) improve interagency coordination of data management, access, modeling, and visualization with respect to water-related matters;

(5) promote integrated planning for Federal investments in water-related infrastructure to enhance coordination and protect taxpayer investment; and

(6) support workforce development and efforts to recruit, train, and retain professionals to operate and maintain essential drinking water, wastewater, flood control, hydropower, water delivery, and water storage facilities in the United States.

(f) **CROSS-AGENCY PRIORITY RESEARCH NEEDS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Water Policy Committee shall develop and submit to Congress a list of research needs that includes needs for cross-agency research and coordination.

SEC. 14. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HYDROLOGIC RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Assistant Administrator” means the Assistant Administrator for Weather Services of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) **DECISION SUPPORT SERVICES.**—The term “decision support services” means information, including data and refined products, that supports water resources-related decision-making processes.

(3) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(4) **NOAA LINE OFFICES.**—The term “NOAA line offices” means the following offices of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:

- (A) The National Ocean Service.
- (B) The National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service.
- (C) The National Marine Fisheries Service.
- (D) The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.
- (E) The Office of Marine and Aviation Operations.

(b) **HYDROLOGIC RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Administrator shall establish a hydrologic research fellowship program (in this section referred to as the “program”) for qualified individuals.

(2) **QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL.**—For purposes of this section, a qualified individual is an individual who is—

- (A) a citizen of the United States; and
- (B) enrolled in a research-based graduate program, at an institution of higher education, in a field that advances the research priorities developed by the Assistant Administrator under paragraph (7), such as—

- (i) hydrology;
- (ii) earth sciences;
- (iii) atmospheric sciences;
- (iv) computer sciences;
- (v) engineering;
- (vi) environmental sciences;
- (vii) geosciences;
- (viii) urban planning; or
- (ix) related social sciences.

(3) **AWARD GUIDELINES.**—Fellowships under the program shall be awarded pursuant to guidelines established by the Assistant Administrator.

(4) **SELECTION PREFERENCE.**—In selecting qualified individuals for participation in the program, the Assistant Administrator shall give preference to applicants from historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions.

(5) **PLACEMENT.**—The program shall support the placement of qualified individuals in po-

sitions within the executive branch of the Federal Government where such individuals can address and advance the research priorities developed by the Assistant Administrator under paragraph (7).

(6) **FELLOWSHIP TERM.**—A fellowship under the program shall be for a period of up to 2 years.

(7) **FELLOWSHIP RESEARCH PRIORITIES.**—The Assistant Administrator, in consultation with representatives from the NOAA line offices, the United States Geological Survey, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Army Corps of Engineers, as appropriate, shall develop and publish priorities for the conduct of research by fellows, which may include the following:

(A) Advance the collaborative development of a flexible community-based water resources modeling system.

(B) Apply artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities to advance existing hydrologic modeling capabilities.

(C) Support the evolution and integration of hydrologic modeling within an Earth Systems Modeling Framework.

(D) Improve visualizations of hydrologic model outputs.

(E) Advance the state of coupled freshwater and salt water modeling and forecasting capabilities.

(F) Advance understanding and process representation of water quality parameters.

(G) Advance the assimilation of in-situ and remotely sensed observations and data.

(H) Support the integration of social science to advance decision support services.

(I) Develop methods to study groundwater sustainability and estimate the efficiency of recharge management.

(c) **DIRECT HIRING.**—

(1) **AUTHORITY.**—During fiscal year 2022 and any fiscal year thereafter, the head of any Federal agency may appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of that title, to a position with the Federal agency a recipient of a fellowship under the program who—

(A) earned a degree from a program described in subsection (b)(2)(B);

(B) successfully fulfilled the requirements of the fellowship within the executive branch of the Federal Government; and

(C) meets qualification standards established by the Office of Personnel Management.

(2) **EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY.**—The direct hire authority provided by this subsection shall be exercised with respect to an individual described in paragraph (1) not later than 2 years after the date on which the individual completed the fellowship under the program.

SEC. 15. IDENTIFICATION AND SUPPORT OF CONSISTENT, FEDERAL SET OF FORWARD-LOOKING, LONG-TERM METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **EXTREME WEATHER.**—The term “extreme weather” includes observed or anticipated severe and unseasonable atmospheric conditions, including drought, heavy precipitation, hurricanes, tornadoes and other windstorms (including derechos), large hail, extreme heat, extreme cold, flooding, sustained temperatures or precipitation that deviate substantially from historical averages, and any other weather event that the Administrator determines qualifies as extreme weather.

(2) **LONG-TERM.**—The term “long-term” shall have such meaning as the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, in consultation with the Administrator, considers appropriate for purposes of this section.

(3) **OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL TRENDS.**—The term “other environmental trends” means wildfires, coastal flooding, inland flooding, land subsidence, rising sea levels, and any other challenges relating to changes in environmental systems over time that the Administrator determines qualify as environmental challenges other than extreme weather.

(b) **IDENTIFICATION AND SUPPORT OF CONSISTENT, FEDERAL SET OF FORWARD-LOOKING, LONG-TERM METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION.**—The Administrator shall identify, and support research that enables, a consistent, Federal set of forward-looking, long-term meteorological information that models future extreme weather events, other environmental trends, projections, and up-to-date observations, including mesoscale information as determined appropriate by the Administrator.

SEC. 16. GAP ANALYSIS ON AVAILABILITY OF SNOW-RELATED DATA TO ASSESS AND PREDICT FLOOD AND FLOOD IMPACTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior, and the Army Corps of Engineers, shall conduct an analysis of gaps in the availability of snow-related data to assess and predict floods and flood impacts, including data on the following:

- (1) Snow water equivalent.
- (2) Snow depth.
- (3) Snowpack temperature.
- (4) Snow and mixed-phase precipitation.
- (5) Snow melt.
- (6) Rain-snow line.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on—

- (1) the findings of the gap analysis required by subsection (a); and
- (2) opportunities for additional collaboration among Federal agencies to collect snow-related data to better assess and predict floods and flood impacts.

SEC. 17. AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC OF FLOOD-RELATED DATA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall make flood-related data available to the public on the website of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(b) **COST.**—The Administrator may make the data under subsection (a) freely accessible or available at a cost that does not exceed the cost of preparing the data.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) and the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 558, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 558, the Flood Level Observation,

Operations, and Decision Support Act or FLOODS Act.

Flooding is the most common weather-related natural disaster in the United States. It affects every State in the Nation, with 99 percent of U.S. counties having experienced a flooding event in the last 25 years.

Unfortunately, climate change is predicted to increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather events and sea level rise, which will, in turn, increase flooding in the future.

This bill would establish a National Integrated Flood Information System to coordinate and integrate flood research at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA. The bill would designate a service coordination hydrologist at each National Weather Service River Forecast Center and would leverage existing work within NOAA and through partnerships to improve timely decision-making. It would improve observations and modeling for total water prediction through partnerships with other Federal agencies and academia and create a fellowship for graduate students in hydrologic fields to work at Federal agencies. Additionally, this bill amends the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act to improve NOAA's tornado warning and hurricane forecasting programs.

Section 13 of the FLOODS Act would also codify the interagency Water Subcabinet established under Executive Order 13956 through the Interagency Committee on Water Management and Infrastructure established in this bill. This existing interagency body plays a key role in ensuring Federal agencies can efficiently and effectively manage water resources in America. Codifying this body not only shows Congress' support for these ongoing efforts, but also ensures the work will continue unimpeded. Congress does not intend this act to require the creation of an additional Federal interagency committee that would be duplicative of, or even in conflict with, the existing interagency Water Subcabinet.

Overall, this bill would improve the coordination and communication of flood events by NOAA, as well as improve tornado warning and hurricane forecasting. These measures will protect lives and property, especially in regions at high risk of flooding.

I thank Senator WICKER for sponsoring this bill, and I also thank and recognize my colleague on the Science Committee, Representative SHERRILL, for her leadership on the issue of flooding and for leading the House companion of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the passage of this important legislation so we can send it to the President's desk, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I, too, rise in support of the Flood Level Observation,

Operations, and Decision Support, or FLOODS Act, that we are considering here today.

This legislation establishes and authorizes a number of activities that will improve the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's forecasting and communication of flood, tornado, and hurricane events.

These extreme weather events occur across the country and impact millions of Americans each year. According to the National Weather Service, a typical year in the U.S. sees 26,000 thunderstorms, 5,000 floods, 1,300 tornadoes, and 6 Atlantic Basin hurricanes.

My home State of Oklahoma is right in the middle of Tornado Alley. We are home to 86,000 farms that feed and clothe our State, Nation, and world. Entire families' livelihoods depend on weather patterns, so it is especially important that severe weather and excessive flooding is accurately predicted and quickly communicated.

One of the most important factors in any farmer's operation is precipitation. It is common sense that too little rain results in a drought. But people often overlook that too much rain also presents problems for crop production.

Precisely predicting extreme precipitation that can cause flooding—whether it is over the course of an entire season or from a single extreme weather event—helps farmers determine what crops to plant, where they are planted, and when to harvest.

But Oklahoma isn't the only State subject to the dangers of flooding. Coastal States face different challenges and have different factors that can drive their precipitation.

The variability in weather across our country means there are no one-size-fits-all solutions. A mix of Federal and local services is ideal.

That leads to many bodies seeking different data. S. 558 establishes a National Integrated Flood Information System—purposely modeled after the National Integrated Drought Information System—to coordinate and integrate flood research at NOAA.

It also establishes partnerships with institutions of higher education and Federal agencies to improve total water predictions and establishes an interagency committee to ensure coordination of Federal departments with joint or overlapping responsibilities in water management.

In one of the first Science, Space, and Technology Committee hearings this Congress, we discussed this bill along with the idea of a Federal climate service.

I am pleased to see that in the bill before us today, my colleagues heeded my caution against increasing Federal bureaucracy by establishing new services. Instead, this legislation focuses on what we know works: enabling our established agencies to collect and acquire the data they need to be successful.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues who worked across the aisle to

ensure this bill reached bipartisan, bicameral consensus; I urge the passage of this bill; and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, once again, I have no more speakers on this bill, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, the FLOOD Act will be another arrow in the quiver when it comes to increasing knowledge that will help us adapt to changes in the environment.

The National Integrated Flood Information System and an interagency committee created by this legislation are critical to that effort. But that is just the beginning. The legislation also sets the stage for weather prediction innovation through things like the National Weather Service hydraulic research fellowship program, and a directive to make flood-related data available to the public.

My colleagues and I on the Science Committee had hoped this legislation would also be accompanied by a House-produced bill called the PRECIP Act that focuses more directly on precipitation data improvements. But under good-faith negotiations, we will pass the FLOODS Act today and see the PRECIP Act moved through another vehicle by the end of this Congress.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues in this Chamber and across the Capitol to continue to work with us to see this plan through, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, again, I thank my friend from Oklahoma for presenting this with me. I wish we could do everything this way, but it is a very nice thing.

Madam Speaker, as you know, I am privileged to represent one of the most environmentally friendly districts in the country right across the river. We never get 6 feet of snow. I can't remember a drought. We get the occasional vestiges of a hurricane and a tornado once every 10 years that rips up somebody's garage. But it floods all the time. Not only does it flood on the river, it floods 2 miles up the river as all the storm sewers back up, storm sewers that were built in the 1930s or the 1910s that can't handle the rain that we have right now.

When they reintroduced earmarks, we discovered with 1,000 nonprofits it was difficult to pick a nonprofit for 10 earmarks. So we went to our local governments, Alexandria, Falls Church, and Arlington, and said: What do you need?

Every one of them asked for flood relief.

□ 1430

This is one of those rare instances where an environmental bill has a huge impact, even on my own district, and I

know it has a much greater impact on so many places around the country. I think about poor Iowa that was under water for most of a year.

Madam Speaker, I am thrilled to be able to present this with Representative BICE in a bipartisan way, and I urge my colleagues to support S. 558.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 558, the "Flood Level Observation, Operations, and Decision Support Act," or "FLOODS Act."

I am the proud sponsor of H.R. 1438, the House companion to the "FLOODS Act" being considered today. In New Jersey, we are all too familiar with the devastation of flooding both from historic weather events like Hurricane Irene, Superstorm Sandy, and most recently Tropical Storm Ida, as well as more localized high-intensity rainfall events that don't get headlines, like the five inches of sudden rainfall that caused flash flooding in Parsippany, New Jersey, last October. Protecting our communities from these events, both large and small, means giving our forecasters, local planners, and first responders up-to-date data on where to expect precipitation and flooding and in what amounts.

Sadly, my constituents know the life-and-death impact of not having precise and accurate information ahead of flooding. When we experienced horrendous flooding in the wake of Tropical Storm Ida, we tragically lost 27 lives across New Jersey. In Woodland Park in my district, a woman was swept away by the flooding—brave residents at the scene tried to rescue her, but the current was too strong and they themselves had to be rescued. In another part of my district, I heard from a mother who, along with her young children, had to be rescued from her home late at night during Ida after she had been told only hours earlier that the storm would pass well to the west of her home. Knowing the precise location of precipitation and likely flooding makes all the difference.

As Chairwoman of the Science Committee's Subcommittee on Environment, I have examined how to prevent flooding from occurring and how to be resilient to flooding that does occur. However, while mitigation and resiliency solutions such as nature-based infrastructure can help address these issues, they cannot fix the root issue of flood prevention without the data necessary to map and estimate the location and nature of the flooding threat. This bill provides vital data and tools to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and ultimately to local stakeholders.

The FLOODS Act establishes a National Integrated Flood Information System that improves the coordination and integration of flood research at NOAA, designates a service coordination hydrologist at each National Weather Service River Forecast Center, and leverages existing work across NOAA to improve timely decision making related to flooding events. Further, it improves observations and modeling for total water prediction—a crucial component to understanding mechanisms that cause flooding—through partnerships with other federal agencies and academia. This bill continues to develop the nations' STEM workforce by creating a fellowship for graduate students in hydrologic fields to work at federal agencies. Additionally, this bill takes steps to

improve coordination and communication for hurricane forecasts, tornado warnings, and other extreme weather events.

But one of the most important things needed to improve resilience to flooding is accurate estimation of precipitation. This bill directs NOAA to update its precipitation frequency estimates, known as Atlas 14. Atlas 14 estimates are essential for protecting lives and taxpayer dollars, as they directly assist emergency planning. Atlas 14 estimates are often based on precipitation data records that are in many cases decades old. We worked closely with our colleagues on the Senate Commerce Committee to reconcile the Atlas 14 language in this bill and another bill I led this Congress, H.R. 1437, the PRECIP Act. The importance of making updates to Atlas 14—and subsequently keeping those estimates up-to-date—has become more apparent, even since we first introduced this bill. We encourage NOAA to update the Atlas 14 estimates as frequently as practicable, more often than the 10-year minimum requirement in this bill. And as the impacts of climate change on extreme precipitation become impossible to ignore, we further encourage the agency to consider assumptions of non-stationarity when developing Atlas 14 estimates, in line with the language in my PRECIP Act as introduced.

It is important, now more than ever, to have authoritative data and a coordinated response to flooding events as the climate crisis worsens for New Jerseyans, and the entire nation. The measures in this legislation are essential to protect our homes and families from flooding risks. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this bill so we can send it to the President's desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER), that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 558.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NARA) MODERNIZATION ACT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8665) "to amend title 44, United States Code, to remove pronouns from such title that reference the Archivist, and for other purposes."

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8665

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Modernization Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS.

Title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 710, by striking "his approval" and inserting "approval by the President";

(2) in section 711, by striking "he shall" and inserting "the Director shall";

(3) in section 2108—

(A) by striking "transferred to him" and inserting "transferred to the Archivist";

(B) by striking "appear to him" and inserting "appear to the head of the Federal agency";

(C) by striking "his custody" and inserting "the custody of the head of the Federal agency";

(D) by striking "he concurs," and inserting "the Archivist concurs";

(E) by striking "his successor in function", each place it appears, and inserting "the successor in function of the head of the agency"; and

(F) by striking "he determines" and inserting "the Archivist determines";

(4) in section 2109—

(A) by striking "to him" and inserting "to the Archivist"; and

(B) by striking "He may" and inserting "The Archivist may";

(5) in section 2110—

(A) by striking "he considers" and inserting "the Archivist considers"; and

(B) by striking "his custody" and inserting "the custody of the Archivist";

(6) in section 2112—

(A) by striking "he may", each place it appears, and inserting "the Archivist may";

(B) by striking "in him" and inserting "in the Archivist";

(C) by striking "his custody" and inserting "the custody of the Archivist"; and

(D) by striking "his control" and inserting "the control of the Archivist";

(7) in section 2307, by striking "his designee" and inserting "the designee of the Archivist";

(8) in section 2903, by striking "by him" and inserting "by the Archivist";

(9) in section 3308, by striking "he may" and inserting "the Archivist may";

(10) in section 3310, by striking "he considers" and inserting "the Archivist considers"; and

(11) in section 3311—

(A) by striking "his legal custody" and inserting "the legal custody of the head of the agency of the United States Government";

(B) by striking "his opinion" and inserting "the opinion of such head of such agency";

(C) by striking "he shall" and inserting "such official shall"; and

(D) by striking "he disposed" and inserting "such official disposed".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HERRELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.