

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

FEMA IMPROVEMENT, REFORM, AND EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2022

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 482, S. 3092.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3092) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to improve the provision of certain disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “FEMA Improvement, Reform, and Efficiency Act of 2022” or the “FIRE Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Agency;

(2) the term “Agency” means the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(3) the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(4) the term “emergency” means an emergency declared or determined to exist by the President under section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191);

(5) the terms “Indian tribal government”, “local government”, and “State” have the meanings given such terms in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122); and

(6) the term “major disaster” means a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170).

SEC. 3. REPORT ON RELOCATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit a report regarding the use of relocation assistance under sections 203, 404, and 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133, 5170c, 5172) for wildfire risk to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Any information on relocation projects that have been carried out due to fire risks or denied by the Agency, including the number and value of projects either carried out or denied.

(2) A discussion of the possible benefits or disadvantages of providing relocation assistance that may reduce, but not eliminate, the risk of loss due to wildfires.

(3) A discussion of how the Agency may optimize relocation assistance when entire States or geographic areas are considered subject to a fire risk.

(4) An analysis of whether other mitigation measures are more cost-effective than relocation assistance when the applicant is applying to move from a high-risk to a medium-risk or low-risk area with respect to wildfires.

(5) An analysis of the need for the Federal Government to produce wildfire maps that identify high-risk, moderate-risk, and low-risk wildfire zones.

(6) An analysis of whether other mitigation measures promote greater resilience to wildfires when compared to relocation or, if additional data is required in order to carry out such an analysis, a discussion of the additional data required.

(7) A discussion of the ability of States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments to demonstrate fire risk, and whether the level of this ability impacts the ability of States, local governments, or Indian tribal governments to access relocation assistance, including an assessment of existing fire mapping products and capabilities and recommendations on redressing any gaps in the ability of the Agency to assist States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments in demonstrating fire risk.

(8) An evaluation of—

(A) the scope of the data available to the Agency regarding historical wildfire losses;

(B) how such data is utilized in benefit-cost analysis determinations by the Agency;

(C) what additional data, if any, may be pertinent to such determinations; and

(D) what, if any, alternative methods may be relevant to the determination of cost effectiveness.

(9) A discussion of the extent to which the decision process for relocation assistance appropriately considers the change in future risks for wildfires due to a changing climate.

(10) An analysis of whether statutes and regulations regarding relocation assistance by the Agency present barriers for States, local governments, or Indian tribal governments trying to access funding to reduce wildfire risk.

(11) An analysis of—

(A) how, if at all, the Agency has modified policies and procedures to determine the eligibility of proposed relocation or mitigation projects with respect to wildfires;

(B) the cost effectiveness of such projects, in light of the increasing losses and obligations for wildfires in recent years; and

(C) the effectiveness of any modifications described in subparagraph (A).

(12) An analysis of how, if at all, recent changes in the availability of fire insurance has resulted in modifications of policy or procedure with respect to determining the cost efficacy of relocation assistance for wildfires.

(13) An analysis of how to define repetitive loss and repetitively damaged properties in the context of wildfires.

(14) A discussion of whether any legislative, regulatory, or policy changes are necessary for the Agency to better implement relocation assistance to reduce risk from wildfires.

(15) Other related issues that the Administrator determines appropriate.

SEC. 4. RED FLAG WARNINGS AND PREDISASTER ACTIONS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in coordination with the National Weather Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall—

(1) conduct a study of, develop recommendations for, and initiate a process for the use of Red Flag Warnings and similar weather alert and notification methods, including the use of emerging technologies, to establish—

(A) plans and actions, consistent with law, that can be implemented prior to a wildfire event, including pre-impact disaster declarations and surge operations, that can limit the impact, duration, or severity of the fire; and

(B) mechanisms to increase interagency collaboration to expedite the delivery of disaster assistance; and

(2) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a comprehensive report regarding the study described in paragraph (1), including any recommendations of the Administrator, and the

activities of the Administrator to carry out paragraph (1).

SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE FOR WILDFIRE DAMAGE.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress regarding—

(1) the application for assistance and consistency of assistance provided by the Agency in response to wildfires; and

(2) the kinds of damage that result from wildfires.

SEC. 6. GAO REPORT ON GAPS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that examines—

(1) gaps in the policies of the Agency related to wildfires, when compared to other hazards;

(2) disparities in regulations and guidance issued by the Administrator, including any oversight of the programs of the Agency, when addressing impacts of wildfires and other hazards;

(3) ways to shorten the period of time between the initiating of and the distribution of assistance, reimbursements, and grants;

(4) the effectiveness of the programs of the Agency in addressing wildfire hazards;

(5) ways to improve the ability of the Agency to assist States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against wildfire hazards;

(6) revising the application process for assistance relating to wildfires to more effectively assess uninsured and underinsured losses and serious needs; and

(7) ways to improve the disaster assistance programs of agencies other than the Agency.

SEC. 7. CRISIS COUNSELING CULTURAL COMPETENCY.

Section 416 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5183) is amended—

(1) by striking “The President” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The President”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) CULTURAL COMPETENCY.—The President shall, in consultation with affected States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments and cultural experts, ensure that any individual providing professional counseling services to victims of a major disaster as authorized under subsection (a), including those working for nonprofit partners and recovery organizations, is appropriately trained to address—

“(1) cultural competency and respectful care practices; and

“(2) impacts from major disasters in communities, and to individuals, with socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.”.

SEC. 8. CASE MANAGEMENT CULTURAL COMPETENCY.

Section 426 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189d) is amended—

(1) by striking “The President” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The President”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) CULTURAL COMPETENCY.—The President shall, in consultation with affected States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments and cultural experts, ensure that any individual providing case management services to victims of a major disaster as authorized under subsection (a), including those working for nonprofit partners and recovery organizations, is appropriately trained to address—

“(1) cultural competency and respectful care practices; and

“(2) impacts from major disasters in communities, and to individuals, with socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.”.

SEC. 9. STUDY AND PLAN FOR DISASTER HOUSING ASSISTANCE.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall—

(1) conduct a study and develop a plan, consistent with law, under which the Agency will address providing housing assistance to survivors of major disasters or emergencies when presented with challenges such as—

(A) the lack of proof of ownership or ownership documentation;

(B) the presence of multiple families within a single household; and

(C) the near loss of a community, with the majority of homes destroyed in that community, including as a result of a wildfire, earthquake, or other event causing a major disaster; and

(2) make recommendations for legislative changes needed to address—

(A) the unmet needs of survivors of major disasters or emergencies who are unable to document or prove ownership of the household;

(B) the presence of multiple families within a single household; and

(C) the near loss of a community, with the majority of homes destroyed in that community, including as a result of a wildfire, earthquake, or other event causing a major disaster.

(b) **COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.**—The Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that provides a detailed discussion of the plans developed under subsection (a)(1) and the recommendations of the Administrator under subsection (a)(2).

(c) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 30 days after submission of the report and recommendations under subsection (b), the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the findings and any recommendations made pursuant to this section.

SEC. 10. REIMBURSEMENT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress regarding the extent to which the Agency is using housing solutions proposed by a State or local government to reduce the time or cost required to implement housing solutions after a major disaster.

SEC. 11. WILDFIRE INSURANCE STUDY BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES.

(a) **STUDY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study of—

(A) potential solutions to address the availability and affordability of insurance for wildfire perils in all regions of the United States, including consideration of a national all natural hazards insurance program;

(B) the ability of States, communities, and individuals to mitigate wildfire risks, including the affordability and feasibility of such mitigation activities;

(C) the current and potential future effects of land use policies and building codes on the potential solutions;

(D) the reasons why many properties at risk of wildfire lack insurance coverage;

(E) the role of insurers in providing incentives for wildfire risk mitigation efforts;

(F) the state of catastrophic insurance and reinsurance markets and the approaches in providing insurance protection to different sectors of the population of the United States;

(G) the role of the Federal Government and State and local governments in providing incentives for feasible wildfire risk mitigation efforts and the cost of providing assistance in the absence of insurance;

(H) the state of modeling and mapping wildfire risk and solutions for accurately and adequately identifying future wildfire risk;

(I) approaches to insuring wildfire risk in the United States; and

(J) such other issues that may be necessary or appropriate for the report.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—The agreement to conduct the study described in subsection (a) shall re-

quire that, in conducting the study, the National Academy of Sciences shall consult with State insurance regulators, consumer organizations, representatives of the insurance and reinsurance industry, policyholders, and other organizations and experts, as appropriate.

(b) **SUBMISSION.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress the results of the study commissioned under subsection (a).

SEC. 12. INCREASED CAP FOR EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS BASED ON REGIONAL COST OF LIVING.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress regarding the benefits and drawbacks of establishing a maximum amount for assistance provided for an emergency that is based on the cost of living in the region in which the emergency occurs.

SEC. 13. FACILITATING DISPOSAL OF TEMPORARY TRANSPORTABLE HOUSING UNITS TO SURVIVORS.

Section 408(d)(2)(B)(i) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(d)(2)(B)(i)) is amended by inserting “, with priority given to a survivor of a major disaster who suffered a property loss as a result of the major disaster” after “any person”.

SEC. 14. DEADLINE ON CODE ENFORCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT COST ELIGIBILITY.

Section 406(a)(2)(D) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172(a)(2)(D)) is amended by striking “180 days” and inserting “1 year”.

SEC. 15. PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR TRIBAL UPGRADES TO EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTERS.

Section 614(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196c(a)) is amended by inserting “and Indian tribal governments” after “grants to States”.

Mr. PADILLA. I further ask that the Padilla amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to, the committee-reported substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5934) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

On page 19, line 16, strike “Red Flag” and all that follows through “technologies,” on line 18 and insert “forecasts and data, including information that supports the Red Flag Warnings of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and similar weather alert and notification methods.”.

On page 21, line 19, strike “CULTURAL COMPETENCY” and insert “EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION”.

On page 22, strike lines 2 through 15 and insert the following:

“(b) **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION.**—The President shall, in consultation with affected States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments and cultural experts, ensure that any individual providing professional counseling services to victims of a major disaster as authorized under subsection (a), including those working for nonprofit partners and recovery organizations, is appropriately trained to address impacts from major disasters in communities, and to individuals, with socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.”.

SEC. 8. CASE MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION.

On page 22, strike line 23 and all that follows through page 23, line 9, and insert the following:

“(b) **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION.**—The President shall, in consultation with affected States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments and cultural experts, ensure that any individual providing case management services to victims of a major disaster as authorized under subsection (a), including those working for nonprofit partners and recovery organizations, is appropriately trained to address impacts from major disasters in communities, and to individuals, with socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.”.

On page 25, strike line 8 and all that follows through page 27, line 8, and insert the following:

SEC. 11. INCREASED CAP FOR EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS BASED ON REGIONAL COST OF LIVING.

On page 27, strike lines 15 and 16 and insert the following:

SEC. 12. FACILITATING DISPOSAL OF TEMPORARY TRANSPORTABLE HOUSING UNITS TO SURVIVORS.

On page 28, strike lines 1 through 12 and insert the following:

SEC. 13. DEADLINE ON CODE ENFORCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT COST ELIGIBILITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 406(a)(2)(D) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172(a)(2)(D)) is amended by striking “180 days” and inserting “1 year”.

(b) **APPLICABILITY.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 14. PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR TRIBAL UPGRADES TO EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 614(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196c(a)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “and Indian tribal governments” after “grants to States”; and

(2) by striking “State and local” and inserting “State, local, and Tribal”.

(b) **APPLICABILITY.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 3092), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3092

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 “FEMA Improvement, Reform, and Efficiency Act of 2022” or the “FIRE Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Agency;

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(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

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(4) the term “emergency” means an emergency declared or determined to exist by the President under section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191);

(5) the terms “Indian tribal government”, “local government”, and “State” have the meanings given such terms in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122); and

(6) the term “major disaster” means a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170).

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(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Any information on relocation projects that have been carried out due to fire risks or denied by the Agency, including the number and value of projects either carried out or denied.

(2) A discussion of the possible benefits or disadvantages of providing relocation assistance that may reduce, but not eliminate, the risk of loss due to wildfires.

(3) A discussion of how the Agency may optimize relocation assistance when entire States or geographic areas are considered subject to a fire risk.

(4) An analysis of whether other mitigation measures are more cost-effective than relocation assistance when the applicant is applying to move from a high-risk to a medium-risk or low-risk area with respect to wildfires.

(5) An analysis of the need for the Federal Government to produce wildfire maps that identify high-risk, moderate-risk, and low-risk wildfire zones.

(6) An analysis of whether other mitigation measures promote greater resilience to wildfires when compared to relocation or, if additional data is required in order to carry out such an analysis, a discussion of the additional data required.

(7) A discussion of the ability of States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments to demonstrate fire risk, and whether the level of this ability impacts the ability of States, local governments, or Indian tribal governments to access relocation assistance, including an assessment of existing fire mapping products and capabilities and recommendations on redressing any gaps in the ability of the Agency to assist States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments in demonstrating fire risk.

(8) An evaluation of—

(A) the scope of the data available to the Agency regarding historical wildfire losses;

(B) how such data is utilized in benefit-cost analysis determinations by the Agency;

(C) what additional data, if any, may be pertinent to such determinations; and

(D) what, if any, alternative methods may be relevant to the determination of cost effectiveness.

(9) A discussion of the extent to which the decision process for relocation assistance appropriately considers the change in future risks for wildfires due to a changing climate.

(10) An analysis of whether statutes and regulations regarding relocation assistance by the Agency present barriers for States, local governments, or Indian tribal govern-

ments trying to access funding to reduce wildfire risk.

(11) An analysis of—

(A) how, if at all, the Agency has modified policies and procedures to determine the eligibility of proposed relocation or mitigation projects with respect to wildfires;

(B) the cost effectiveness of such projects, in light of the increasing losses and obligations for wildfires in recent years; and

(C) the effectiveness of any modifications described in subparagraph (A).

(12) An analysis of how, if at all, recent changes in the availability of fire insurance has resulted in modifications of policy or procedure with respect to determining the cost efficacy of relocation assistance for wildfires.

(13) An analysis of how to define repetitive loss and repetitively damaged properties in the context of wildfires.

(14) A discussion of whether any legislative, regulatory, or policy changes are necessary for the Agency to better implement relocation assistance to reduce risk from wildfires.

(15) Other related issues that the Administrator determines appropriate.

SEC. 4. RED FLAG WARNINGS AND PREDISASTER ACTIONS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in coordination with the National Weather Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall—

(1) conduct a study of, develop recommendations for, and initiate a process for the use of forecasts and data, including information that supports the Red Flag Warnings of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and similar weather alert and notification methods, to establish—

(A) plans and actions, consistent with law, that can be implemented prior to a wildfire event, including pre-impact disaster declarations and surge operations, that can limit the impact, duration, or severity of the fire; and

(B) mechanisms to increase interagency collaboration to expedite the delivery of disaster assistance; and

(2) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a comprehensive report regarding the study described in paragraph (1), including any recommendations of the Administrator, and the activities of the Administrator to carry out paragraph (1).

SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE FOR WILDFIRE DAMAGE.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress regarding—

(1) the application for assistance and consistency of assistance provided by the Agency in response to wildfires; and

(2) the kinds of damage that result from wildfires.

SEC. 6. GAO REPORT ON GAPS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that examines—

(1) gaps in the policies of the Agency related to wildfires, when compared to other hazards;

(2) disparities in regulations and guidance issued by the Administrator, including any oversight of the programs of the Agency, when addressing impacts of wildfires and other hazards;

(3) ways to shorten the period of time between the initiating of and the distribution of assistance, reimbursements, and grants;

(4) the effectiveness of the programs of the Agency in addressing wildfire hazards;

(5) ways to improve the ability of the Agency to assist States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against wildfire hazards;

(6) revising the application process for assistance relating to wildfires to more effectively assess uninsured and underinsured losses and serious needs; and

(7) ways to improve the disaster assistance programs of agencies other than the Agency.

SEC. 7. CRISIS COUNSELING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION.

Section 416 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5183) is amended—

(1) by striking “The President” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The President”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION.—The President shall, in consultation with affected States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments and cultural experts, ensure that any individual providing professional counseling services to victims of a major disaster as authorized under subsection (a), including those working for nonprofit partners and recovery organizations, is appropriately trained to address impacts from major disasters in communities, and to individuals, with socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.”.

SEC. 8. CASE MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION.

Section 426 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189d) is amended—

(1) by striking “The President” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The President”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION.—The President shall, in consultation with affected States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments and cultural experts, ensure that any individual providing case management services to victims of a major disaster as authorized under subsection (a), including those working for nonprofit partners and recovery organizations, is appropriately trained to address impacts from major disasters in communities, and to individuals, with socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.”.

SEC. 9. STUDY AND PLAN FOR DISASTER HOUSING ASSISTANCE.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall—

(1) conduct a study and develop a plan, consistent with law, under which the Agency will address providing housing assistance to survivors of major disasters or emergencies when presented with challenges such as—

(A) the lack of proof of ownership or ownership documentation;

(B) the presence of multiple families within a single household; and

(C) the near loss of a community, with the majority of homes destroyed in that community, including as a result of a wildfire, earthquake, or other event causing a major disaster; and

(2) make recommendations for legislative changes needed to address—

(A) the unmet needs of survivors of major disasters or emergencies who are unable to document or prove ownership of the household;

(B) the presence of multiple families within a single household; and

(C) the near loss of a community, with the majority of homes destroyed in that community, including as a result of a wildfire, earthquake, or other event causing a major disaster.

(b) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.—The Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that provides a detailed discussion of the plans developed under subsection (a)(1) and the recommendations of the Administrator under subsection (a)(2).

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after submission of the report and recommendations under subsection (b), the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the findings and any recommendations made pursuant to this section.

SEC. 10. REIMBURSEMENT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress regarding the extent to which the Agency is using housing solutions proposed by a State or local government to reduce the time or cost required to implement housing solutions after a major disaster.

SEC. 11. INCREASED CAP FOR EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS BASED ON REGIONAL COST OF LIVING.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress regarding the benefits and drawbacks of establishing a maximum amount for assistance provided for an emergency that is based on the cost of living in the region in which the emergency occurs.

SEC. 12. FACILITATING DISPOSAL OF TEMPORARY TRANSPORTABLE HOUSING UNITS TO SURVIVORS.

Section 408(d)(2)(B)(i) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(d)(2)(B)(i)) is amended by inserting “, with priority given to a survivor of a major disaster who suffered a property loss as a result of the major disaster” after “any person”.

SEC. 13. DEADLINE ON CODE ENFORCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT COST ELIGIBILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 406(a)(2)(D) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172(a)(2)(D)) is amended by striking “180 days” and inserting “1 year”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 14. PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR TRIBAL UPGRADES TO EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 614(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196(a)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “and Indian tribal governments” after “grants to States”; and

(2) by striking “State and local” and inserting “State, local, and Tribal”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to discuss and explain the matter we just took action on. It is relative to wildfires. All across the Western United States, historic wildfires continue to grow both more frequent and more severe. Every year, in recent years, entire communities have been destroyed by wildfires in a matter of hours. We have seen this in California, New Mexico, and Colorado. Families are forced to flee with only the belongings they could quickly pack into their vehicles.

Last year, I visited the incident command center in Quincy, CA, to see

firsthand the real-time response to the devastating Dixie fire. Separately, I met with local leaders in Santa Rosa, CA, to hear about problems with recovery from previous catastrophic wildfires.

So my bill—the bill we just took action on, the FEMA Improvement, Reform, and Efficiency Act or the FIRE Act—will help ensure FEMA better addresses the unique and increasing danger of wildfires.

FEMA's current procedures and requirements don't always work for postwildfire recovery needs. And this bill will close those gaps.

I give a lot of credit to FEMA. They have gotten pretty good at anticipating and responding to other types of disasters. We are seeing it, as we speak, with the hurricane impact in Florida. They do the same with tornadoes, floods, other disasters.

In all these scenarios, we know that it begins with preparation. The FIRE Act will begin the process of allowing FEMA to predeploy resources during times of extremely high risk. In the West, we know it as red flag warnings.

When it is hot, conditions are dry, and the wind kicks up, it is a recipe for disaster. And so to have FEMA be able to deploy in advance—just as they do already during hurricane warnings, as we are seeing in Florida at this very moment—is a smart thing to do.

Then, as communities rebuild after a devastating wildfire, this bill will work to ensure that FEMA takes wildfire-specific issues into account, like melted infrastructure and burned trees. It will also help local governments work with FEMA to more effectively relocate critical infrastructure away from fire-prone areas.

Now, in the aftermath of a fire, the bill will help provide better housing assistance, case management, and crisis counseling for survivors with a focus on equity for underserved communities and Tribal governments. Oftentimes these underserved communities and Tribal governments suffer the disproportionate impact of these wildfires.

So with the FIRE Act, we will be able to better prepare for and respond to the unique challenges of wildfires in California and throughout the Western United States.

The FIRE Act passed out of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee by a voice vote on February 2 of this year. And I want to take a moment to thank both Chairman PETERS and Ranking Member PORTMAN and their staffs who contributed to this bill, as well as our partners at FEMA.

This is an overdue, commonsense bill to help communities on the frontlines of our wildfire crisis. And I thank my colleagues for joining me in supporting it.

With that, I yield the floor.

AFFORDABLE INSULIN ACT—
MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

ENERGY

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I am constantly struggling that when people say there is no consensus in Washington, DC, there is often consensus. It is just a question of a different means by which to achieve the goals and consensus. If I were to say that we would want to have increased national security, lower global greenhouse gas emissions, a booming economy, and energy security, everybody would agree. The difference is how we achieve those means. And so what this process is, is to give the American people the opportunity to judge what is the best set of policies that will allow us to achieve that which we are speaking of.

Clearly, there is a nexus, a connection—you put them all together—between energy security, national security, the economy of our country and the economy of a family, and whether or not a country is lowering or increasing its contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions. This talk will be about that nexus between energy security, national security, global greenhouse gas emissions—how do we decrease them—and the economy of our country and the economy of a family.

Now, I am from Louisiana—I think that is pretty well known; the senior Senator from Louisiana—and we are privileged to host many of the facilities of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, that connection between energy security and national security.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve, for those who do not know, is where we have salt domes full of oil, millions of barrels, so that if ever there is another embargo, like there was in 1973, where Middle Eastern countries were attempting to punish the United States, we would have enough in our Strategic Petroleum Reserve so that we could draw from and we could preserve our national security and our economic security—again, that nexus between energy security, national security, and the economy of a country and the economy of a family.

President Biden has decided to drain the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to lower the price of gasoline. I am all for lowering the price of gasoline, but if you think about it, drawing oil from a Strategic Petroleum Reserve is basically the same as pumping it out of the ground if it is in West Texas or off the coast of Louisiana. One is just oil that has been produced and put in a salt dome, and the other is being produced naturally.

So rather than increasing production on Federal lands, the President made the decision to just draw from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Unfortunately, we are now at the lowest level of reserves since 1984. To the degree—and it is a great degree—that our national security depends upon being energy independent, we have lowered our