

possible, in order to enable them to "hit the ground running" on this critical matter once they gather again in Sacramento in December. It is my intention to do everything within my power to make this information available to the decisionmakers who will need it to help bring some relief to the long-suffering electricity consumers in San Diego and elsewhere throughout California.

I greatly appreciate and thank you in advance for your attention to this request, and your anticipated affirmative response. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly with any questions or to further discuss this important matter.

Sincerely,

BRIAN BILBRAY,
Member of Congress.

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chairman BLILEY and leadership for working with me to bring this resolution to the floor. H. Res. 650 is a simple, straightforward resolution that expresses the sense of Congress that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission release it's completed report on the California electricity crisis before November 1, 2000.

FERC has been investigating the electricity market place in California as a result of unexpected rate volatility this summer. San Diego and Orange Counties were the first in the nation to experience the effects of an unregulated electricity market.

After speaking with the Commission and writing a letter, a copy of which is included for the record, requesting that the completed report be released as soon as possible, I introduced H. Res. 650 to ensure that the report be made public sooner rather than later, so that all interested parties can examine, analyze and make respond to the report as quickly as possible. The initial report is complete. Why not let the public have access to it now?

The consumers in southern California have had a difficult time this summer, and the crisis is not over. The entire State of California will be facing these hardships unless consumers, industry, utilities, generators, legislators, the Governor, and regulators—both FERC and the California Public Utility Commission—come together to fix the flaws in the California electricity market. Until the FERC report is released, all of these interested parties are in limbo.

Help San Diego. Help California. Vote for H. Res. 650

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 20, 2000.

Chairman JAMES J. HOECKER,
*Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN HOECKER: I am writing regarding the "Order Announcing Expedited Procedures for Addressing California Market Issues" issued October 19, 2000—the result of the staff fact-finding investigation you commissioned on July 26, 2000, of the conditions of the electric bulk power markets in various regions of the country, particularly California.

I commend you for initiating this process, the results of which will surely be critical in developing a strategy for moving beyond the crisis we are now enduring in California. It is my understanding that the results of this investigation are complete; however, they are not currently scheduled for public release until November 9, 2000.

Given the time-sensitive nature of the electricity crisis in California, with small businesses closing and consumers suffering, I

would strongly urge you to make the results of your investigation public immediately, so that this information can be put to use as soon as possible in developing sound remedies for the adverse situation to which California electricity consumers have been subjected. Additionally, with the State legislature set to reconvene in December, it would seem to make sense to provide California's legislators with this information as soon as possible, in order to enable them to "hit the ground running" on this critical matter once they gather again in Sacramento in December. It is my intention to do everything within my power to make this information available to the decisionmakers who will need it to help bring some relief to the long-suffering electricity consumers in San Diego and elsewhere throughout California.

I greatly appreciate and thank you in advance for your attention to this request, and your anticipated affirmative response. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly with any questions or to further discuss this important matter.

Sincerely,

BRIAN BILBRAY,
Member of Congress.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 650, which encourages the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to make public its findings and recommendations regarding the electricity crisis in California.

While I have no substantive objection to H. Res. 650, I'm disappointed that the Majority party failed to bring forward comprehensive electricity legislation this Congress which would help prevent another crisis next year.

According to industry figures, power transactions across the national grid have jumped from 200,000 transactions in 1997 to over 1.5 million projected for this year. Reliability of energy, therefore, is likely to get worse without comprehensive action.

We must have open and non-discriminatory access to transmission lines. We must ensure the reliability of the electricity market. And we must take action to stem the threat to stable prices caused by market manipulation.

If the leadership of this Congress had been willing to take a first step, we could have considered H.R. 4941, the National Electric Reliability Act, which I'm proud to cosponsor. The bill would create an independent organization to ensure the reliability of the interstate transmission grids. This legislation has already passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Yet this House failed to consider any of these measures. Now it's likely that price spikes, power market abuses, and reliability problems will continue, especially in my state and in places like San Diego where there have been such problems. What a dismal outcome.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution. For those who come from states who haven't yet felt the impact of higher energy prices, the failure of this House to take meaningful steps to ensure reliable electricity, prevent price spikes, and protect against market power abuses in the electricity market will come home to your state and your constituents as well.

Mark my words. We'll be back here next Congress in a crisis mode because of the House leadership's failure to take on the hard challenges this issue confronts us with.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THUNE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 650.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

MAKING IN ORDER ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2000, CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. I ask unanimous consent that on Friday, October 27, 2000, it be in order to consider the call of the Private Calendar.

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

There was no objection.

FIRE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 655) providing for the consideration of the bill H.R. 1550 and the Senate amendment thereto.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 655

Resolved, That, upon the adoption of this resolution, the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill H.R. 1550 together with the Senate amendment thereto, and to have concurred in the Senate amendment with amendments as follows: In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

TITLE I—UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Fire Administration Authorization Act of 2000".

SEC. 102. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 17(g)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (G);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (H) and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(I) \$44,753,000 for fiscal year 2001, of which \$3,000,000 is for research activities, and \$250,000 may be used for contracts or grants to non-Federal entities for data analysis, including general fire profiles and special fire analyses and report projects, and of which \$6,000,000 is for anti-terrorism training, including associated curriculum development, for fire and emergency services personnel;

“(J) \$47,800,000 for fiscal year 2002, of which \$3,250,000 is for research activities, and \$250,000 may be used for contracts or grants to non-Federal entities for data analysis, including general fire profiles and special fire analyses and report projects, and of which \$7,000,000 is for anti-terrorism training, including associated curriculum development, for fire and emergency services personnel; and

“(K) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2003, of which \$3,500,000 is for research activities, and \$250,000 may be used for contracts or grants to non-Federal entities for data analysis, including general fire profiles and special fire analyses and report projects, and of which \$8,000,000 is for anti-terrorism training, including associated curriculum development, for fire and emergency services personnel.”.

None of the funds authorized for the United States Fire Administration for fiscal year 2002 may be obligated unless the Administrator has verified to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that the obligation of funds is consistent with the strategic plan transmitted under section 103 of this Act.

SEC. 103. STRATEGIC PLAN.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than April 30, 2001, the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration shall prepare and transmit to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a 5-year strategic plan of program activities for the United States Fire Administration.

(b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a comprehensive mission statement covering the major functions and operations of the United States Fire Administration in the areas of training; research, development, test and evaluation; new technology and non-developmental item implementation; safety; counterterrorism; data collection and analysis; and public education;

(2) general goals and objectives, including those related to outcomes, for the major functions and operations of the United States Fire Administration;

(3) a description of how the goals and objectives identified under paragraph (2) are to be achieved, including operational processes, skills and technology, and the human, capital, information, and other resources required to meet those goals and objectives;

(4) an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of, opportunities for, and threats to the United States Fire Administration;

(5) an identification of the fire-related activities of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Department of Defense, and other Federal agencies, and a discussion of how those activities can be coordinated with and contribute to the achievement of the goals and objectives identified under paragraph (2);

(6) a description of objective, quantifiable performance goals needed to define the level of performance achieved by program activities in training, research, data collection and analysis, and public education, and how these performance goals relate to the general goals and objectives in the strategic plan;

(7) an identification of key factors external to the United States Fire Administration and beyond its control that could affect significantly the achievement of the general goals and objectives;

(8) a description of program evaluations used in establishing or revising general goals and objectives, with a schedule for future program evaluations;

(9) a plan for the timely distribution of information and educational materials to State and local firefighting services, including volunteer, career, and combination services throughout the United States;

(10) a description of how the strategic plan prepared under this section will be incorporated into the strategic plan and the performance plans and reports of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(11)(A) a description of the current and planned use of the Internet for the delivery of training courses by the National Fire Academy, including a listing of the types of courses and a description of each course's provisions for real time interaction between instructor and students, the number of students enrolled, and the geographic distribution of students, for the most recent fiscal year;

(B) an assessment of the availability and actual use by the National Fire Academy of Federal facilities suitable for distance education applications, including facilities with teleconferencing capabilities; and

(C) an assessment of the benefits and problems associated with delivery of instructional courses using the Internet, including limitations due to network bandwidth at training sites, the availability of suitable course materials, and the effectiveness of such courses in terms of student performance;

(12) timeline for implementing the plan; and

(13) the expected costs for implementing the plan.

SEC. 104. RESEARCH AGENDA.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, in consultation with the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, representatives of trade, professional, and non-profit associations, State and local firefighting services, and other appropriate entities, shall prepare and transmit to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing the United States Fire Administration's research agenda and including a plan for implementing that agenda.

(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify research priorities;

(2) describe how the proposed research agenda will be coordinated and integrated with the programs and capabilities of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Department of Defense, and other Federal agencies;

(3) identify potential roles of academic, trade, professional, and non-profit associations, and other research institutions in achieving the research agenda;

(4) provide cost estimates, anticipated personnel needs, and a schedule for completing the various elements of the research agenda;

(5) describe ways to leverage resources through partnerships, cooperative agreements, and other means; and

(6) discuss how the proposed research agenda will enhance training, improve State and local firefighting services, impact standards and codes, increase firefighter and public safety, and advance firefighting techniques.

(c) USE IN PREPARING STRATEGIC PLAN.—The research agenda prepared under this section shall be used in the preparation of the strategic plan required by section 103.

SEC. 105. SURPLUS AND EXCESS FEDERAL EQUIPMENT.

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 33. SURPLUS AND EXCESS FEDERAL EQUIPMENT.

“The Administrator shall make publicly available, including through the Internet, information on procedures for acquiring surplus and excess equipment or property that may be useful to State and local fire, emergency, and hazardous material handling service providers.”.

SEC. 106. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH FEDERAL FACILITIES.

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, as amended by section 105, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 34. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH FEDERAL FACILITIES.

“The Administrator shall make publicly available, including through the Internet, information on procedures for establishing cooperative agreements between State and local fire and emergency services and Federal facilities in their region relating to the provision of fire and emergency services.”.

SEC. 107. NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TRAINING IN COUNTERTERRORISM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Fire Administration shall conduct an assessment of the need for additional capabilities for Federal counterterrorism training of emergency response personnel.

(b) CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.—The assessment conducted under this section shall include—

(1) a review of the counterterrorism training programs offered by the United States Fire Administration and other Federal agencies;

(2) an estimate of the number and types of emergency response personnel that have, during the period between January 1, 1994, and October 1, 1999, sought training described in paragraph (1), but have been unable to receive that training as a result of the oversubscription of the training capabilities; and

(3) a recommendation on the need to provide additional Federal counterterrorism training centers, including—

(A) an analysis of existing Federal facilities that could be used as counterterrorism training facilities; and

(B) a cost-benefit analysis of the establishment of such counterterrorism training facilities.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall prepare and submit to the Congress a report on the results of the assessment conducted under this section.

SEC. 108. WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE FIRE SAFETY RESEARCH PROGRAM.

From the funds authorized to be appropriated by the amendments made by section 102, \$1,000,000 may be expended for the Worcester Polytechnic Institute fire safety research program.

SEC. 109. INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.

Upon the conclusion of the research under a research grant or award of \$50,000 made with funds authorized by this title (or any amendments made by this title), the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration shall make available through the Internet home page of the Administration a brief summary of the results and importance of such research grant or award. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require or permit the release of any information prohibited by law or regulation from being released to the public.

SEC. 110. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS AND REPEALS.

(a) 1974 ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (b) of section 10 (15 U.S.C. 2209) and redesignating subsection (c) of that section as subsection (b);

(B) by striking sections 26 and 27 (15 U.S.C. 2222; 2223);

(C) by striking “(a) The” in section 24 (15 U.S.C. 2220) and inserting “The”; and

(D) by striking subsection (b) of section 24.

(2) REFERENCES TO SECRETARY.—The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 4 (15 U.S.C. 2203)—

(i) by inserting “and” after the semicolon in paragraph (7);

(ii) by striking paragraph (8); and

(iii) by redesignating paragraph (9) as paragraph (8);

(B) by striking “Secretary” and inserting “Director”—

(i) in section 5(b) (15 U.S.C. 2204(b));

(ii) each place it appears in section 7 (15 U.S.C. 2206);

(iii) the first place it appears in section 11(c) (15 U.S.C. 2210(c));

(iv) in section 15(b)(2), (c), and (f) (15 U.S.C. 2214(b)(2), (c), and (f));

(v) the second place it appears in section 15(e)(1)(A) (15 U.S.C. 2214(e)(1)(A));

(vi) in section 16 (15 U.S.C. 2215);

(vii) the second place it appears in section 19(a) (42 U.S.C. 290a(a));

(viii) both places it appears in section 20 (15 U.S.C. 2217); and

(ix) in section 21(c) (15 U.S.C. 2218(c)); and

(C) in section 15, by striking “Secretary’s” each place it appears and inserting “Director’s”.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.—Section 12 of the Act of February 14, 1903 (15 U.S.C. 1511) is amended—

(1) by inserting “and” after “Census;” in paragraph (5);

(2) by striking paragraph (6); and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (6).

SEC. 111. NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY CURRICULUM REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, in consultation with the Board of Visitors and representatives of trade and professional associations, State and local firefighting services, and other appropriate entities, shall conduct a review of the courses of instruction available at the National Fire Academy to ensure that they are up-to-date and complement, not duplicate, courses of instruction offered elsewhere. Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall prepare and submit a report to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) examine and assess the courses of instruction offered by the National Fire Academy;

(2) identify redundant and out-of-date courses of instruction;

(3) examine the current and future impact of information technology on National Fire Academy curricula, methods of instruction, and delivery of services; and

(4) make recommendations for updating the curriculum, methods of instruction, and delivery of services by the National Fire Academy considering current and future needs, State-based curricula, advances in information technologies, and other relevant factors.

SEC. 112. REPEAL OF EXCEPTION TO FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENT.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 4 of Public Law 103-195 (107 Stat. 2298) is hereby repealed.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall take effect 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 113. NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) PURPOSES.—Section 151302 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) primarily—

“(A) to encourage, accept, and administer private gifts of property for the benefit of the National Fallen Firefighters’ Memorial and the annual memorial service associated with the memorial; and

“(B) to, in coordination with the Federal Government and fire services (as that term is defined in section 4 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2203)), plan, direct, and manage the memorial service referred to in subparagraph (A);”;

(2) by inserting “and Federal” in paragraph (2) after “non-Federal”;

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking “State and local” and inserting “Federal, State, and local”; and

(B) by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(4) by striking “firefighters.” in paragraph (4) and inserting “firefighters;”;

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) to provide for a national program to assist families of fallen firefighters and fire departments in dealing with line-of-duty deaths of those firefighters; and

“(6) to promote national, State, and local initiatives to increase public awareness of fire and life safety.”.

(b) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—Section 151303 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (f) and (g) and inserting the following:

“(f) STATUS AND COMPENSATION.—

“(1) Appointment to the board shall not constitute employment by or the holding of an office of the United States.

“(2) Members of the board shall serve without compensation.”; and

(2) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (g).

(c) OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—Section 151304 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “not more than 2” in subsection (a); and

(2) by striking “are not” in subsection (b)(1) and inserting “shall not be considered”.

(d) SUPPORT BY THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Section 151307(a)(1) of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “The Administrator” and inserting “During the 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Fire Administration Authorization Act of 2000, the Administrator”; and

(2) by striking “shall” in subparagraph (B) and inserting “may”.

TITLE II—EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act of 2000”.

SEC. 202. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—Section 12(a)(7) of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7706(a)(7)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” after “1998.”; and

(2) by striking “1999.” and inserting “1999; \$19,861,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, of which \$450,000 is for National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program-eligible efforts of an established multi-state consortium to reduce the unacceptable threat of earthquake damages in the New

Madrid seismic region through efforts to enhance preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation; \$20,705,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002; and \$21,585,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003.”.

(b) UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—Section 12(b) of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7706(b)) is amended—

(1) by inserting after “operated by the Agency.” the following: “There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior for purposes of carrying out, through the Director of the United States Geological Survey, the responsibilities that may be assigned to the Director under this Act \$48,360,000 for fiscal year 2001, of which \$3,500,000 is for the Global Seismic Network and \$100,000 is for the Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee established under section 210 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act of 2000; \$50,415,000 for fiscal year 2002, of which \$3,600,000 is for the Global Seismic Network and \$100,000 is for the Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee; and \$52,558,000 for fiscal year 2003, of which \$3,700,000 is for the Global Seismic Network and \$100,000 is for the Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee.”;

(2) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (1);

(3) by striking “1999,” at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting “1999.”; and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) \$9,000,000 of the amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2001;

“(4) \$9,250,000 of the amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2002; and

“(5) \$9,500,000 of the amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2003.”.

(c) REAL-TIME SEISMIC HAZARD WARNING SYSTEM.—Section 2(a)(7) of the Act entitled “An Act To authorize appropriations for carrying out the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes” (111 Stat. 1159; 42 U.S.C. 7704 nt) is amended by striking “1999.” and inserting “1999; \$2,600,000 for fiscal year 2001; \$2,710,000 for fiscal year 2002; and \$2,825,000 for fiscal year 2003.”.

(d) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—Section 12(c) of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7706(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking “1998, and” and inserting “1998.”; and

(2) by inserting after “1999.” the following: “There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation \$19,000,000 for engineering research and \$11,900,000 for geosciences research for fiscal year 2001; \$19,808,000 for engineering research and \$12,406,000 for geosciences research for fiscal year 2002; and \$20,650,000 for engineering research and \$12,933,000 for geosciences research for fiscal year 2003.”.

(e) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.—Section 12(d) of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7706(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking “1998, and”; and inserting “1998.”; and

(2) by striking “1999.” and inserting “1999, \$2,332,000 for fiscal year 2001, \$2,431,000 for fiscal year 2002, and \$2,534,300 for fiscal year 2003.”.

SEC. 203. REPEALS.

Section 10 and subsections (e) and (f) of section 12 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7705d and 7706 (e) and (f)) are repealed.

SEC. 204. ADVANCED NATIONAL SEISMIC RESEARCH AND MONITORING SYSTEM.

The Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 13. ADVANCED NATIONAL SEISMIC RESEARCH AND MONITORING SYSTEM.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the United States Geological Survey shall establish and operate an Advanced National Seismic Research and Monitoring System. The purpose of such system shall be to organize, modernize, standardize, and stabilize the national, regional, and urban seismic monitoring systems in the United States, including sensors, recorders, and data analysis centers, into a coordinated system that will measure and record the full range of frequencies and amplitudes exhibited by seismic waves, in order to enhance earthquake research and warning capabilities.

“(b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act of 2000, the Director of the United States Geological Survey shall transmit to the Congress a 5-year management plan for establishing and operating the Advanced National Seismic Research and Monitoring System. The plan shall include annual cost estimates for both modernization and operation, milestones, standards, and performance goals, as well as plans for securing the participation of all existing networks in the Advanced National Seismic Research and Monitoring System and for establishing new, or enhancing existing, partnerships to leverage resources.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(1) EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION.—In addition to amounts appropriated under section 12(b), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior, to be used by the Director of the United States Geological Survey to establish the Advanced National Seismic Research and Monitoring System—

“(A) \$33,500,000 for fiscal year 2002;

“(B) \$33,700,000 for fiscal year 2003;

“(C) \$35,100,000 for fiscal year 2004;

“(D) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2005; and

“(E) \$33,500,000 for fiscal year 2006.

“(2) OPERATION.—In addition to amounts appropriated under section 12(b), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior, to be used by the Director of the United States Geological Survey to operate the Advanced National Seismic Research and Monitoring System—

“(A) \$4,500,000 for fiscal year 2002; and

“(B) \$10,300,000 for fiscal year 2003.”

SEC. 205. NETWORK FOR EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING SIMULATION.

The Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 14. NETWORK FOR EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING SIMULATION.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall establish the George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation that will upgrade, link, and integrate a system of geographically distributed experimental facilities for earthquake engineering testing of full-sized structures and their components and partial-scale physical models. The system shall be integrated through networking software so that integrated models and databases can be used to create model-based simulation, and the components of the system shall be interconnected with a computer network and allow for remote access, information sharing, and collaborative research.

“(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts appropriated under section 12(c), there are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation for the George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation—

“(1) \$28,200,000 for fiscal year 2001;

“(2) \$24,400,000 for fiscal year 2002;

“(3) \$4,500,000 for fiscal year 2003; and

“(4) \$17,000,000 for fiscal year 2004.”

SEC. 206. BUDGET COORDINATION.

Section 5 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7704) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (A) of subsection (b)(1) and redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (F) of subsection (b)(1) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) BUDGET COORDINATION.—

“(1) GUIDANCE.—The Agency shall each year provide guidance to the other Program agencies concerning the preparation of requests for appropriations for activities related to the Program, and shall prepare, in conjunction with the other Program agencies, an annual Program budget to be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget.

“(2) REPORTS.—Each Program agency shall include with its annual request for appropriations submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a report that—

“(A) identifies each element of the proposed Program activities of the agency;

“(B) specifies how each of these activities contributes to the Program; and

“(C) states the portion of its request for appropriations allocated to each element of the Program.”

SEC. 207. REPORT ON AT-RISK POPULATIONS.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and after a period for public comment, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall transmit to the Congress a report describing the elements of the Program that specifically address the needs of at-risk populations, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, non-English-speaking families, single-parent households, and the poor. Such report shall also identify additional actions that could be taken to address those needs and make recommendations for any additional legislative authority required to take such actions.

SEC. 208. PUBLIC ACCESS TO EARTHQUAKE INFORMATION.

Section 5(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7704(b)(2)(A)(ii)) is amended by inserting “, and development of means of increasing public access to available locality-specific information that may assist the public in preparing for or responding to earthquakes” after “and the general public”.

SEC. 209. LIFELINES.

Section 4(6) of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7703(6)) is amended by inserting “and infrastructure” after “communication facilities”.

SEC. 210. SCIENTIFIC EARTHQUAKE STUDIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the United States Geological Survey shall establish a Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee.

(b) ORGANIZATION.—The Director shall establish procedures for selection of individuals not employed by the Federal Government who are qualified in the seismic sciences and other appropriate fields and may, pursuant to such procedures, select up to ten individuals, one of whom shall be designated Chairman, to serve on the Advisory Committee. Selection of individuals for the Advisory Committee shall be based solely on established records of distinguished service, and the Director shall ensure that a reasonable cross-section of views and expertise is represented. In selecting individuals to serve on the Advisory Committee, the Director shall seek and give due consideration to rec-

ommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, professional societies, and other appropriate organizations.

(c) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee shall meet at such times and places as may be designated by the Chairman in consultation with the Director.

(d) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall advise the Director on matters relating to the United States Geological Survey’s participation in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, including the United States Geological Survey’s roles, goals, and objectives within that Program, its capabilities and research needs, guidance on achieving major objectives, and establishing and measuring performance goals. The Advisory Committee shall issue an annual report to the Director for submission to Congress on or before September 30 of each year. The report shall describe the Advisory Committee’s activities and address policy issues or matters that affect the United States Geological Survey’s participation in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.Res. 655.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this resolution amends H.R. 1550, and in doing so makes technical corrections to H.R. 1550 and S. 1639, both of which were passed by the Senate on October 18. I had hoped that the House could have sent these bills to the President, but, regrettably, errors in the Senate-passed versions mean that they will have to be sent back to the Senate.

In the interests of time, this resolution incorporates these two bills into titles I and II respectively of H.R. 1550.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the leadership for making the time available to consider this resolution, and I hope our colleagues in the Senate will move expeditiously to pass H.R. 1550, as amended by this resolution, and send it to the President for his signature before the Congress adjourns.

Mr. Speaker, titles I and II represent compromises worked out between the Senate and the House and are very similar to the comparable bills that passed the House by overwhelming majorities during the first session of this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, title I reauthorizes training, research, data collection, and analysis and public education programs at the United States Fire Administration. H.R. 1550 represents the big step in getting this agency back on track,

especially in research. The bill authorizes a total of \$142.6 million over fiscal years 2001 through 2003. The bill also requires USFA to certify that funds obligated in fiscal year 2002 are consistent with the strategic plan required in title I.

In addition to the increased authorizations for research funding, the bill also requires the agency to establish research priorities and to develop a plan for implementing a research agenda.

Mr. Speaker, title II of the bill, which authorizes the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, makes technical changes to S. 1639.

Earthquakes are a national problem. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, 39 States are subject to serious earthquake risk, and 75 million people in the United States live in urban areas with moderate to high earthquake risk.

Four agencies participated in NEHRP, the Federal Emergency Management Administration, the USGS, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. For fiscal year 2001, title II authorizes \$104.1 million for the base activities in these agencies.

In addition, title II authorizes two new projects, each of which grew out of congressional direction. The Advanced National Seismic Research and Monitoring System will update the Nation's aging seismic monitoring network. The bill authorizes \$185 million over 5 years for USGS for equipment and operation.

Mr. Speaker, the George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation, named after the distinguished late ranking minority Member and chairman of the Committee on Science and originator of NEHRP, will link more than 30 earthquake engineering research facilities and upgrade and expand major earthquake testing facilities. Title II provides NSF with a 4-year authorization totalling \$74.1 million for this program.

Mr. Speaker, finally, the bill authorizes funding for studying the New Madrid fault.

Through its emphasis on monitoring, research and mitigation, H.R. 1550 will help the Nation prepare for the inevitable and save lives and property. I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Basic Research; the gentlewoman from Texas, (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), the ranking minority member of the subcommittee; the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), the ranking minority member of the Committee on Science, for all of their work in helping craft a fine bill.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution to amend H.R. 1550 represents a sensible, long-term investment that will pay for itself many times over in saved lives and reduced property losses. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HALL of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program I think deserve everything that the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) has recommended. I think they deserve the support of this House, because their missions are very important to the safety of every American anywhere.

I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Committee on Basic Research, and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), who is the ranking Democratic member of the subcommittee, for their good work in developing H.R. 1550.

Also I want to acknowledge the leadership of the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), chairman of the Committee on Science, for moving the legislation forward and for so ably setting it forth before us tonight.

Mr. Speaker, actually, title I of H.R. 1550 will give the Fire Administration the resources it needs to carry out its important mission and will also ensure that the agency conducts a strategic planning necessary to ensure that the resources provided are spent effectively.

In addition, title II of the bill reauthorizes the funding of Federal research and geosciences, social sciences and engineering that has contributed to saving countless lives, personal property and critical infrastructures. This continued support will allow for even greater strides in innovative areas that the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, the United States Geological Survey, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institutes of Science and Technology are currently exploring.

The U.S. Fire Administration is a small agency with a very large role. The funding provided by this bill will be used to improve the skills of the firefighters and emergency response personnel. The funds will help to increase the public awareness of fire safety. Finally, Mr. Speaker, the funds will support research required to improve the equipment available for suppressing fires and protecting firefighters.

The funding authorizations provided cover fiscal year 2001 through the year 2003. The fiscal year 2001 authorization is right at the President's request. The increases in authorization levels for the other two outyears will provide resources needed to accommodate new responsibilities at the Fire Administration for counterterrorism, training, and to reinvigorate the agency's research activities.

Mr. Speaker, title II of H.R. 1550 reauthorizes the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977. In addition to authorizing increased funding for the base earthquake program, and I am proud to announce this, the bill au-

thorizes, one, the George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation; and, two, the Advanced Seismic Research and Monitoring System; and, three, a study on elements of the earthquake program that address the needs of at-risk populations.

Mr. Speaker, the George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation is an effort by the National Science Foundation to modernize the earthquake engineering research facilities.

Mr. Speaker, it is an effort that I think my good friend, the late George Brown, would have applauded; and I am overjoyed that this bill honors the 30-plus years of advocacy of the late George E. Brown, Jr. on earthquake mitigation and preparedness in this fashion.

It is truly fitting that Representative Brown, one of the original drafters of the 1977 earthquake bill and a man whose name remains synonymous with earthquake preparedness and mitigation during his time in this Congress, is equated with the improvement in the earthquake infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support H.R. 1550 and commend the measure to the House for its very favorable consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH).

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) noted in his remarks, this bill represents the combination of two good bills that will go a long ways towards reducing the risk of damage to property and injury to Americans due to fire or earthquakes.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Basic Research, it was my privilege to introduce the two bills that have become the two titles of this legislation today.

H. Res. 655 really, as I see it, is legislative substitute of a conference committee. So it moves the process a long a little faster. It incorporates the agreed-to changes by the Senate and by the House.

Mr. Speaker, title I is the Fire Administration Authorization Act of 2000. Since its creation in 1974, the Fire Administration has had a notable, positive impact on communities across the country. Between 1986 and 1995, for example, fire deaths decreased 30 percent, and the adjusted dollar loss associated with fire decreased 13 percent.

Mr. Speaker, much of this decrease can be traced to the research sponsored by the USFA. Now, I think we need a renewed effort to reduce damage and loss by fire and support our first responders.

We passed exceptional help in the Defense authorization bill this year and plan to appropriate \$100 million for a new grant program for fire departments. All of this legislation demonstrates our commitment to the 1.2 million men and women of the fire service, 80 percent of whom serve as volunteers.

This bill authorizes a total of \$142.6 million for the Fire Administration for the next 3 years, including nearly \$10 million for research, but it does more than authorize increased funding.

It also requires the Fire Administration to develop a strategic plan, and ties obligations for Fiscal Year 2001 to that plan. I believe that while it is important for the Federal Emergency Management Agency to incorporate the Fire Administration into its Federal-disaster planning, it is also important for the Fire Administration to establish strategic priorities of its own that, when taken in the aggregate, can have a huge impact in reduced life and property loss from fire.

In addition to the substantial increase authorized for research, this legislation also directs the Fire Administration to establish a research agenda. Coupled with the increased money, this research agenda will compel the Fire Administration to set priorities and give research a more central role in its activities.

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Title II of this legislation is the Earthquakes Hazard Reduction Authorization Act of 2000. The National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program called NEHRP has enjoyed strong bipartisan support. Again, the primary purpose of NEHRP is simple: to save lives and property. But while the goal may be stated simply, really getting a grip on the problems earthquakes pose is a more difficult challenge.

Since its inception in 1977, NEHRP has done a credible job of contributing to our store of knowledge about the causes and effects of earthquakes, and it has reduced our vulnerability to them through engineering research and new building designs. The Program's monitoring component also holds the promise of providing real-time warning to citizens and a wealth of data to researchers. Indeed, improving earthquake warnings by just a few seconds can mean the difference between life and death. This bill reauthorizes the base NEHRP programs at \$104 million for FY 2001, \$108 million for FY 2002, and \$113 million for FY 2003.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by saying 39 States are exposed to a significant earthquake risk, and about 75 million people live in urban areas with moderate to high earthquake risk. The programs authorized in this bill will enable us to have better warnings and be better prepared for the inevitable earthquakes in our future.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER); and I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), the full committee ranking member; and certainly the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), the ranking member of the subcommittee; and all

of my colleagues on the Subcommittee on Basic Research for their efforts in bringing this bill forward.

I would also like to recognize the efforts of our late ranking member. As was commented on by both the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), Representative George E. Brown, Jr. was the originator of the NEHRP program, and he believed strongly in the need for earthquake research and preparedness. I am pleased that this bill will authorize the Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation in his name. I urge my colleagues to once again support this important legislation.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), who is the ranking democratic member of the Subcommittee on Basic Research.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program have long enjoyed the bipartisan support of the Congress because of their vital mission, to improve safety for all citizens.

I would like to acknowledge the collegial approach taken by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Basic Research, in developing H.R. 1550. It has been a pleasure working with him on the bill. I also want to thank the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), and the ranking democratic member, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), for their efforts to bring it before the House for its consideration tonight.

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 was intended to address a serious problem affecting the safety of all Americans. Much progress has been made during the past 25 years in public education about fire safety and improvement in the effectiveness of fire services and the wider use of home fire safety devices. Nevertheless, the United States still has one of the highest fire death rates among advanced nations.

In 1997, 4,000 Americans died and nearly 24,000 were injured in fires. Moreover, the approximately 2 million fires reported each year result in direct property loss estimated at well over \$8 billion, with a total direct and indirect cost reaching \$100 billion annually.

The bill before the House seeks to reinvigorate the efforts of the fire administration. I am pleased that it endorses the President's fiscal year 2000 proposal and brings the budget level to \$50 million by fiscal year 2003.

Although this is a 12 percent increase over 3 years, it still pales compared to the scale of activity originally contemplated for the agency. Nevertheless, H.R. 1550 is a good start. We are improving the level of resources the fire administration needs to carry out

its important mission. It will enable the agency to increase support for its critical responsibility for firefighter training through the National Fire Academy. The budget growth will enable the agency to reverse the steep decline in support for fire research and for public education programs. Regarding public education, the fire administration must enlarge and improve its efforts to reduce losses, and I will put my complete remarks in the record.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to specifically express my support for title II of H.R. 1550 which authorizes the national earthquake hazard reduction program. Through the efforts of the scientists and engineers funded by NEHRP programs, we now have maps that inform engineers, architects and builders of seismic hazards. We have model building codes, and we have a greater understanding of the science of earthquake hazards and the response of buildings to the seismic movement.

Advances such as early warning of seismic events, more structurally sound buildings, regional analysis of seismic risk, mobile research centers and widespread use of Internet and other telecommunications capability are going to make a marked reduction in the earthquakes.

As my former colleague, the gentleman from California, Mr. Brown, would say, there are still challenges we must face and assessments that must be made periodically to make sure that we are doing everything we can to ensure the safety and security of the American people. There are still earthquake-prone communities that have not adopted appropriate building codes; monitoring in earthquake-prone areas is still done with less than state-of-the-art equipment, and disparities in earthquake losses due to age, socioeconomic status, and physical limitations still exist. Fortunately, I feel that the bill before us today will help us meet these needs.

In addition to authorizing increased funding for the base program, the bill authorizes the Advanced Seismic Research and Monitoring System to upgrade and expand our seismic monitoring, and the Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation to modernize earthquake engineering research facilities. The full title of the network for the earthquake engineering simulation is actually the George E. Brown, Jr. Network and Earthquake Engineering Simulation, in recognition of one of this legislative body's most active and vigilant champions of initiative preparedness; the late Representative George E. Brown, Jr.

Mr. Brown began the crusade for earthquake preparedness and mitigation in the 1960s at a time in which many people labeled him as an alarmist, but as we all know, Mr. Brown was always a step ahead in his view of the world around us. Through his works and through him serving as one of the original drafters of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977, Mr.

Brown has improved the lives of countless Americans that reside in seismically active or potentially active regions of the country. Therefore, it is only fitting that this recognition be given to a man who served as one of the greatest contributors to the current earthquake hazards reduction infrastructure.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me say that H.R. 1550 is a good bill that comes to the floor at this time, and it is with bipartisan support, and I am pleased to recommend that all of the Members support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Fire Administration and The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program have long enjoyed the bipartisan support of the Congress because of their vital mission to improve the safety of all our citizens.

I would like to acknowledge the collegial approach taken by Mr. SMITH, the chairman of the Basic Research Subcommittee, in developing H.R. 1550. It has been a pleasure working with him on the bill. I also want to thank the chairman of the committee, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and the Ranking Democratic Member, Mr. HALL, for their efforts in bringing it before the House for its consideration today.

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 was intended to address a serious problem affecting the safety of all Americans. Much progress has been made during the past 25 years in public education about fire safety, improvement in the effectiveness of fire services, and the wider use of home fire safety devices.

Nevertheless, the United States still has one of the highest fire death rates among advanced nations. In 1997, 4,000 Americans died and nearly 24,000 were injured in fires. Moreover, the approximately 2 million fires reported each year result in direct property losses estimated at well over \$8 billion, with total direct and indirect costs reaching \$100 billion annually.

The bill before the House seeks to reinvigorate the efforts of the Fire Administration. I am pleased that it endorses the President's fiscal year 2001 proposal and brings the budget level to \$50 million by fiscal year 2003. Although this is a 12 percent increase over three years, it still pales compared to the scale of activity originally contemplated for the agency.

Nevertheless, H.R. 1550 is a good start for providing the level of resources the Fire Administration needs to carry out its important mission. It will enable the agency to increase support for its critical responsibility for firefighter training through the National Fire Academy. Moreover, the budget growth will enable the agency to reverse the steep decline in support for fire research and for public education programs.

Regarding public education, the Fire Administration must enlarge and improve its efforts to reduce losses for the population groups most at risk from fire death and injury. We know that the elderly, the very young, and the poor are the most vulnerable. I included language in the report accompanying the original House-passed version of the bill tasking the Fire Administration to carefully assess whether research and additional data collection activities could improve understanding of the factors that lead to increased fire risk. Effective, targeted fire prevention campaigns can be developed only from a sound knowledge base.

In addition to resources, the bill provides for the agency to develop a management plan and establish the program priorities that will help to ensure the increased resources are used to maximum effect. An important component of the plan is the requirement for consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the fire service organizations to establish a prioritized set of research goals.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to specifically express my support of Title II of HR 1550, which reauthorizes the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). Through the efforts of the scientists and engineers funded by NEHRP programs, we now have maps that inform engineers, architects, and builders of seismic hazards; we have model building codes; and we have a greater understanding of the science of earthquake hazards and the response of buildings to seismic movement.

Advances such as early warning of seismic events, more structurally sound buildings, regional analysis of seismic risk, mobile research centers, and widespread use of the Internet and other telecommunications capabilities are going to make marked reductions in the impacts of earthquakes.

However, as my former colleague Mr. Brown of California would say, there are still challenges we must face and assessments that must be made periodically to make sure that we are doing everything we can to ensure the safety and security of the American people.

There are still earthquake-prone communities that have not adopted appropriate building codes; monitoring in earthquake-prone areas is still done with less than state-of-the-art equipment, and disparities in earthquake losses due to age, socioeconomic status, and physical limitations still exist.

Fortunately, I feel that the bill before us today will help us meet these needs.

In addition to authorizing increased funding for the base program, the bill authorizes (1) the "Advanced Seismic Research and Monitoring System" to upgrade and expand our seismic monitoring, and (2) the "Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation" to modernize earthquake engineering research facilities.

The full title of the Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation is actually the George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation in recognition of one of this legislative body's most active and vigilant champions of earthquake preparedness; the late Representative George E. Brown, Jr.

Mr. Brown began the crusade for earthquake preparedness and mitigation in the 1960's, at a time in which many people labeled him an alarmist. But as we all know Mr. Brown was always a step ahead in his view of the world around us. Through his works—including serving as one of the original drafters of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977—Mr. Brown has improved the lives of countless Americans that reside in seismically active, or potentially active, regions of the country.

Therefore, it is only fitting that this recognition be given to a man who served as one of the greatest contributors to the current "earthquake hazard reduction" infrastructure.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me say that H.R. 1550 is a good bill that comes to the Floor

with bipartisan support and that authorizes programs that advance public safety. I am pleased to recommend the measure to my colleagues for their approval.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THUNE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 655.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

OMNIBUS INDIAN ADVANCEMENT ACT

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5528) to authorize the construction of a Wakpa Sica Reconciliation Place in Fort Pierre, South Dakota, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5528

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 "Omnibus Indian Advancement Act".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY IRRIGATION WORKS

Sec. 101. Findings.

Sec. 102. Conveyance and operation of irrigation works

Sec. 103. Relationship to other laws.

TITLE II—NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Findings.

Sec. 203. Housing assistance.

Sec. 204. Loan guarantees for Native Hawaiian housing.

TITLE III—COUSHATTA TRIBE OF LOUISIANA LAND TRANSACTIONS

Sec. 301. Approval not required to validate land transactions.

TITLE IV—WAKPA SICA RECONCILIATION PLACE

Sec. 401. Findings.

Sec. 402. Definitions.

Subtitle A—Reconciliation Center

Sec. 411. Reconciliation center.