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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. NEUGEBAUER (for himself and Ms. WILSON of Florida) introduced the
following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction
Program, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Windstorm
5 Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 (a) DIRECTOR.—Section 203(1) of the National
8 Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C.

1 15702(1)) is amended by striking “Director of the Office
2 of Science and Technology Policy” and inserting “Director
3 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology”.

4 (b) LIFELINES.—Section 203 of the National Wind-
5 storm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15702)
6 is further amended—

7 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
8 (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

9 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
10 lowing new paragraph:

11 “(2) LIFELINES.—The term ‘lifelines’ means
12 public works and utilities, including transportation
13 facilities and infrastructure, oil and gas pipelines,
14 electrical power and communication facilities and in-
15 frastructure, and water supply and sewage treat-
16 ment facilities.”.

17 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION PRO-**
18 **GRAM.**

19 Section 204 of the National Windstorm Impact Re-
20 duction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15703) is amended—

21 (1) by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c) and
22 inserting the following:

23 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Na-
24 tional Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, the purpose
25 of which is to achieve major measurable reductions in the

1 losses of life and property from windstorms through a co-
2 ordinated Federal effort, in cooperation with other levels
3 of government, academia, and the private sector, aimed
4 at improving the understanding of windstorms and their
5 impacts and developing and encouraging the implementa-
6 tion of cost-effective mitigation measures to reduce those
7 impacts.

8 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROGRAM AGENCIES.—

9 “(1) LEAD AGENCY.—The National Institute of
10 Standards and Technology shall have the primary
11 responsibility for planning and coordinating the Pro-
12 gram. In carrying out this paragraph, the Director
13 shall—

14 “(A) ensure that the Program includes the
15 necessary components to promote the imple-
16 mentation of windstorm risk reduction meas-
17 ures by Federal, State, and local governments,
18 national standards and model building code or-
19 ganizations, architects and engineers, and oth-
20 ers with a role in planning and constructing
21 buildings and lifelines;

22 “(B) support the development of perform-
23 ance-based engineering tools, and work with ap-
24 propriate groups to promote the commercial ap-
25 plication of such tools, including through wind-

1 related model building codes, voluntary stand-
2 ards, and construction best practices;

3 “(C) request the assistance of Federal
4 agencies other than the Program agencies, as
5 necessary to assist in carrying out this Act;

6 “(D) coordinate all Federal post-windstorm
7 investigations; and

8 “(E) when warranted by research or inves-
9 tigative findings, issue recommendations to as-
10 sist in informing the development of model
11 codes, and provide information to Congress on
12 the use of such recommendations.

13 “(2) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND
14 TECHNOLOGY.—In addition to the lead agency re-
15 sponsibilities described under paragraph (1), the Na-
16 tional Institute of Standards and Technology shall
17 be responsible for carrying out research and develop-
18 ment to improve model building codes, voluntary
19 standards, and best practices for the design, con-
20 struction, and retrofit of buildings, structures, and
21 lifelines.

22 “(3) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—The
23 National Science Foundation shall support research
24 in—

1 “(A) engineering and the atmospheric
2 sciences to improve the understanding of the
3 behavior of windstorms and their impact on
4 buildings, structures, and lifelines; and

5 “(B) economic and social factors influ-
6 encing windstorm risk reduction measures.

7 “(4) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC
8 ADMINISTRATION.—The National Oceanic and At-
9 mospheric Administration shall support atmospheric
10 sciences research to improve the understanding of
11 the behavior of windstorms and their impact on
12 buildings, structures, and lifelines.

13 “(5) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
14 AGENCY.—The Federal Emergency Management
15 Agency shall—

16 “(A) support—

17 “(i) the development of risk assess-
18 ment tools and effective mitigation tech-
19 niques;

20 “(ii) windstorm-related data collection
21 and analysis;

22 “(iii) public outreach and information
23 dissemination; and

24 “(iv) promotion of the adoption of
25 windstorm preparedness and mitigation

1 measures, including for households, busi-
2 nesses, and communities, consistent with
3 the Agency’s all-hazards approach; and

4 “(B) work closely with national standards
5 and model building code organizations, in con-
6 junction with the National Institute of Stand-
7 ards and Technology, to promote the implemen-
8 tation of research results and promote better
9 building practices within the building design
10 and construction industry, including architects,
11 engineers, contractors, builders, and inspec-
12 tors.”;

13 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
14 section (c), and by striking subsections (e) and (f);
15 and

16 (3) by inserting after subsection (c), as so re-
17 designated, the following new subsections:

18 “(d) BUDGET ACTIVITIES.—The Director of the Na-
19 tional Institute of Standards and Technology, the Director
20 of the National Science Foundation, the Director of the
21 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and
22 the Director of the Federal Emergency Management
23 Agency shall each include in their agency’s annual budget
24 request to Congress a description of their agency’s pro-
25 jected activities under the Program for the fiscal year cov-

1 ered by the budget request, along with an assessment of
2 what they plan to spend on those activities for that fiscal
3 year.

4 “(e) INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON
5 WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION.—

6 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an
7 Interagency Coordinating Committee on Windstorm
8 Impact Reduction, chaired by the Director.

9 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—In addition to the chair,
10 the Committee shall be composed of—

11 “(A) the heads of—

12 “(i) the Federal Emergency Manage-
13 ment Agency;

14 “(ii) the National Oceanic and Atmos-
15 pheric Administration;

16 “(iii) the National Science Founda-
17 tion;

18 “(iv) the Office of Science and Tech-
19 nology Policy; and

20 “(v) the Office of Management and
21 Budget; and

22 “(B) the head of any other Federal agency
23 the chair considers appropriate.

24 “(3) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall meet
25 not less than 2 times a year at the call of the Direc-

1 tor of the National Institute of Standards and Tech-
2 nology.

3 “(4) GENERAL PURPOSE AND DUTIES.—The
4 Committee shall oversee the planning and coordina-
5 tion of the Program.

6 “(5) STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Committee shall
7 develop and submit to Congress, not later than one
8 year after the date of enactment of the National
9 Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of
10 2015, a Strategic Plan for the Program that in-
11 cludes—

12 “(A) prioritized goals for the Program that
13 will mitigate against the loss of life and prop-
14 erty from future windstorms;

15 “(B) short-term, mid-term, and long-term
16 research objectives to achieve those goals;

17 “(C) a description of the role of each Pro-
18 gram agency in achieving the prioritized goals;

19 “(D) the methods by which progress to-
20 wards the goals will be assessed; and

21 “(E) an explanation of how the Program
22 will foster the transfer of research results into
23 outcomes, such as improved model building
24 codes.

1 “(6) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than 18
2 months after the date of enactment of the National
3 Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of
4 2015, the Committee shall submit to the Congress a
5 report on the progress of the Program that in-
6 cludes—

7 “(A) a description of the activities funded
8 under the Program, a description of how these
9 activities align with the prioritized goals and re-
10 search objectives established in the Strategic
11 Plan, and the budgets, per agency, for these ac-
12 tivities;

13 “(B) the outcomes achieved by the Pro-
14 gram for each of the goals identified in the
15 Strategic Plan;

16 “(C) a description of any recommendations
17 made to change existing building codes that
18 were the result of Program activities; and

19 “(D) a description of the extent to which
20 the Program has incorporated recommendations
21 from the Advisory Committee on Windstorm
22 Impact Reduction.

23 “(7) COORDINATED BUDGET.—The Committee
24 shall develop a coordinated budget for the Program,
25 which shall be submitted to the Congress at the time

1 of the President's budget submission for each fiscal
2 year.”.

3 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WINDSTORM**
4 **IMPACT REDUCTION.**

5 Section 205 of the National Windstorm Impact Re-
6 duction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15704) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 **“SEC. 205. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WIND-**
9 **STORM IMPACT REDUCTION.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National In-
11 stitute of Standards and Technology shall establish an Ad-
12 visory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction, which
13 shall be composed of at least 7 members, none of whom
14 may be employees of the Federal Government, including
15 representatives of research and academic institutions, in-
16 dustry standards development organizations, emergency
17 management agencies, State and local government, and
18 business communities who are qualified to provide advice
19 on windstorm impact reduction and represent all related
20 scientific, architectural, and engineering disciplines. The
21 recommendations of the Advisory Committee shall be con-
22 sidered by Federal agencies in implementing the Program.

23 “(b) ASSESSMENTS.—The Advisory Committee on
24 Windstorm Impact Reduction shall offer assessments on—

1 “(1) trends and developments in the natural,
2 engineering, and social sciences and practices of
3 windstorm impact mitigation;

4 “(2) the priorities of the Program’s Strategic
5 Plan;

6 “(3) the coordination of the Program; and

7 “(4) any revisions to the Program which may
8 be necessary.

9 “(c) COMPENSATION.—The members of the Advisory
10 Committee established under this section shall serve with-
11 out compensation.

12 “(d) REPORTS.—At least every 2 years, the Advisory
13 Committee shall report to the Director on the assessments
14 carried out under subsection (b) and its recommendations
15 for ways to improve the Program.

16 “(e) CHARTER.—Notwithstanding section 14(b)(2) of
17 the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), the
18 Advisory Committee shall not be required to file a charter
19 subsequent to its initial charter, filed under section 9(c)
20 of such Act, before the termination date specified in sub-
21 section (f) of this section.

22 “(f) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Committee shall
23 terminate on September 30, 2017.

24 “(g) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—An Advisory Com-
25 mittee member shall recuse himself from any Advisory

1 Committee activity in which he has an actual pecuniary
2 interest.”.

3 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 Section 207 of the National Windstorm Impact Re-
5 duction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15706) is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 **“SEC. 207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 “(a) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGEN-
9 CY.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Fed-
10 eral Emergency Management Agency for carrying out this
11 title—

12 “(1) \$5,332,000 for fiscal year 2015;

13 “(2) \$5,332,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

14 “(3) \$5,332,000 for fiscal year 2017.

15 “(b) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—There are
16 authorized to be appropriated to the National Science
17 Foundation for carrying out this title—

18 “(1) \$9,682,000 for fiscal year 2015;

19 “(2) \$9,682,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

20 “(3) \$9,682,000 for fiscal year 2017.

21 “(c) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND
22 TECHNOLOGY.—There are authorized to be appropriated
23 to the National Institute of Standards and Technology for
24 carrying out this title—

25 “(1) \$4,120,000 for fiscal year 2015;

1 “(2) \$4,120,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

2 “(3) \$4,120,000 for fiscal year 2017.

3 “(d) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMIN-
4 ISTRATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to
5 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for
6 carrying out this title—

7 “(1) \$2,266,000 for fiscal year 2015;

8 “(2) \$2,266,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

9 “(3) \$2,266,000 for fiscal year 2017.”.