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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To provide that a project to replace or improve a communications facility following a major disaster or an emergency declared by the President is not subject to requirements to prepare certain environmental or historical preservation reviews, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide that a project to replace or improve a communications facility following a major disaster or an emergency declared by the President is not subject to requirements to prepare certain environmental or historical preservation reviews, 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 “Connecting Commu-
5 nities Post Disasters Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF NEPA AND NHPA TO COVERED**
2 **COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS.**

3 (a) NEPA EXEMPTION.—A Federal authorization
4 with respect to a covered project may not be considered
5 a major Federal action under section 102(2)(C) of the Na-
6 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
7 4332(2)(C)).

8 (b) NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT EX-
9 EMPTION.—A covered project may not be considered an
10 undertaking under section 300320 of title 54, United
11 States Code.

12 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY.—The term
14 “communications facility” has the meaning given the
15 term “communications facility installation” in sec-
16 tion 6409(d) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job
17 Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(d)).

18 (2) COVERED PROJECT.—The term “covered
19 project” means a project that—

20 (A) is to be carried out within an area for
21 which the President has declared a major dis-
22 aster or an emergency under the Robert T.
23 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
24 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.);

1 (B) is to be carried out not later than 5
2 years after the date on which the President
3 made such declaration; and

4 (C) replaces a communications facility
5 damaged by such disaster or emergency or
6 makes improvements to a communications facil-
7 ity in such area that could reasonably be con-
8 sidered as necessary for recovery from such dis-
9 aster or emergency or to prevent or mitigate
10 any future disaster or emergency.

11 (3) FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION.—The term
12 “Federal authorization”—

13 (A) means any authorization required
14 under Federal law with respect to a covered
15 project; and

16 (B) includes any permits, special use au-
17 thorizations, certifications, opinions, or other
18 approvals as may be required under Federal law
19 with respect to a covered project.