

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 7276  
OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Desert Locust Control  
3 Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

5       It is the policy of the United States to prioritize ef-  
6 ferts to control the ongoing desert locust outbreak in East  
7 Africa and other affected regions, mitigate the impacts on  
8 food security, economic productivity, and political sta-  
9 bility, improve interagency coordination to prevent future  
10 outbreaks, and promote resilience in affected countries.

**11 SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

12       Congress finds the following:

13           (1) The United States Agency for International  
14       Development reports that countries in East Africa  
15       are currently suffering the worst desert locust out-  
16       break in decades, which will devour crops and pas-  
17       ture and destroy local livelihoods across the region.

1           (2) As of June 2020, there were more than 26  
2 million people experiencing acute food insecurity in  
3 Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania,  
4 Uganda, Sudan, and Djibouti, and these numbers  
5 are projected to increase if the desert locust out-  
6 break is not controlled.

7           (3) As the desert locust outbreak continues,  
8 there may be insufficient resources to continue to  
9 conduct aerial spraying and without such resources  
10 the current outbreak could develop into a plague by  
11 the end of 2020.

12           (4) The desert locust outbreak in East Africa,  
13 particularly in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, is neg-  
14 atively impacting food security, local livelihoods and  
15 economic productivity, and may threaten political  
16 stability in the region.

17           (5) Proactive investments now to control the  
18 desert locust outbreak could reduce the need for a  
19 much larger United States humanitarian response  
20 effort later, as well as support economic and political  
21 stability and build resilience in affected countries.

22           (6) In order to optimize the United States re-  
23 sponse to the desert locust outbreak, an interagency  
24 working group should be established to develop and  
25 implement a comprehensive, strategic plan to control

1 the desert locust outbreak in East Africa and other  
2 affected regions, mitigate impacts on food security,  
3 economic productivity, and political stability and  
4 prevent future outbreaks.

5 **SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish  
7 an interagency working group to coordinate the United  
8 States response to the ongoing desert locust outbreak in  
9 East Africa and other affected regions, including the de-  
10 velopment of a comprehensive, strategic plan to control the  
11 outbreak, mitigate the impacts on food security, economic  
12 productivity, and political stability, and prevent future  
13 outbreaks.

14 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The interagency working  
16 group shall be composed of the following:

17 (A) Two representatives from the United  
18 States Agency for International Development.

19 (B) One representative from each of the  
20 following:

21 (i) The United States Mission to the  
22 United Nations Agencies for Food and Ag-  
23 riculture.

24 (ii) The National Security Council.

25 (iii) The Department of State.

1 (iv) The Department of Defense.

2 (v) The Department of Agriculture.

3 (vi) Any other relevant Federal de-  
4 partment or agency.

5 (2) CHAIR.—The President shall designate one  
6 of the representatives from the United States Agen-  
7 cy for International Development described in para-  
8 graph (1)(A) to serve as chair of the interagency  
9 working group.

10 (c) DUTIES.—The interagency working group shall—

11 (1) assess the scope of the desert locust out-  
12 break in East Africa and other affected regions, in-  
13 cluding its impact on food security, economic pro-  
14 ductivity, and political stability in affected countries;

15 (2) assess the impacts of restrictions relating to  
16 the coronavirus disease 2019 (commonly referred to  
17 as “COVID-19”) pandemic;

18 (3) monitor the effectiveness of ongoing assist-  
19 ance efforts to control the desert locust outbreak  
20 and mitigate its impacts and identify gaps and op-  
21 portunities for additional support to such programs;

22 (4) review the effectiveness of regional and mul-  
23 tilateral efforts to control the desert locust outbreak  
24 and the coordination among relevant United States  
25 Government agencies, regional governments, and

1 international organizations, including the World  
2 Food Programme and the United Nations Food and  
3 Agriculture Organization; and

4 (5) not later than 90 days after the establish-  
5 ment of the interagency working group under sub-  
6 section (a), develop and submit to the President and  
7 the appropriate congressional committees a com-  
8 prehensive, strategic plan to control the desert locust  
9 outbreak, including a description of efforts to—

10 (A) improve coordination among relevant  
11 United States Government agencies, regional  
12 governments, and international organizations,  
13 including the World Food Programme and the  
14 United Nations Food and Agriculture Organiza-  
15 tion;

16 (B) ensure delivery of necessary assets  
17 control the desert locust outbreak and humani-  
18 tarian and development assistance to address  
19 and mitigate impacts to food security, economic  
20 productivity, and political stability; and

21 (C) to the extent practicable, prevent and  
22 mitigate future desert locust and other, similar  
23 destructive insect outbreaks (such as Fall  
24 Armyworm) outbreaks in Africa and other parts

1           of the world, which require a humanitarian re-  
2           sponse.

3           (d) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP SUPPORT.—The  
4 interagency working group shall continue to meet not less  
5 than semi-annually to facilitate implementation of the  
6 comprehensive, strategic plan required by subsection  
7 (c)(5).

8           (e) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on the  
9 date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of  
10 this Act, or at such time as there is no longer an upsurge  
11 in the desert locust outbreak in East Africa, whichever oc-  
12 curs earlier.

13          (f) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-  
14 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-  
15 sional committees” means—

16           (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the  
17           Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
18           resentatives; and

19           (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and  
20           the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

