

105TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. J. RES. 35

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 3, 1998

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Granting the consent of Congress to the Pacific Northwest
Emergency Management Arrangement.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL CONSENT.**

4 Congress consents to the Pacific Northwest Emer-
5 gency Management Arrangement entered into between the
6 States of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, and the
7 Province of British Columbia and the Yukon Territory.

8 The arrangement is substantially as follows:

9 “PACIFIC NORTHWEST EMERGENCY
10 MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT

11 “Whereas, Pacific Northwest emergency management
12 arrangement between the government of the States of
13 Alaska, the government of the State of Idaho, the gov-

1 ernment of the State of Oregon, the government of
2 the State of Washington, the government of the State
3 of the Providence of British Columbia, and the gov-
4 ernment of Yukon Territory hereinafter referred to
5 collectively as the ‘Signatories’ and separately as a
6 ‘Signatory’;

7 “Whereas, the Signatories recognize the importance
8 of comprehensive and coordinated civil emergency pre-
9 paredness, response and recovery measures for natu-
10 ral and technological emergencies or disasters, and for
11 declared or undeclared hostilities including enemy at-
12 tack;

13 “Whereas, the Signatories further recognize the bene-
14 fits of coordinating their separate emergency pre-
15 paredness, response and recovery measures with that
16 of contiguous jurisdictions for those emergencies, dis-
17 asters, or hostilities affecting or potentially affecting
18 any one or more of the Signatories in the Pacific
19 Northwest; and

20 “Whereas, the Signatories further recognize that re-
21 gionally based emergency preparedness, response and
22 recovery measures will benefit all jurisdictions within
23 the Pacific Northwest, and best serve their respective
24 national interests in cooperative and coordinated
25 emergency preparedness as facilitated by the Consult-

1 ative Group on Comprehensive Civil Emergency and
2 Management established in the Agreement Between
3 the government of the United States of America and
4 the government of Canada on Cooperation and Com-
5 prehensive Civil Emergency Planning and Manage-
6 ment signed at Ottawa, Ontario, Canada on April 28,
7 1986: Now, therefore, be it is hereby agreed by and
8 between each and all of the Signatories hereto as fol-
9 lows:

10 “ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11 “(1) An advisory committee named the Western Re-
12 gional Emergency Management Advisory Committee (W-
13 REMAC) shall be established which will include one mem-
14 ber appointed by each Signatory.

15 “(2) The W-REMAC will be guided by the agreed-
16 upon Terms of Reference-Annex A.

17 “PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

18 “(3) Subject to the laws of each Signatory, the follow-
19 ing cooperative principles are to be used as a guide by
20 the Signatories in civil emergency matters which may af-
21 fect more than one Signatory:

22 “(A) The authorities of each Signatory may
23 seek the advice, cooperation, or assistance of any
24 other Signatory in any civil emergency matter.

25 “(B) Nothing in the arrangement shall derogate
26 from the applicable laws within the jurisdiction of

1 any Signatory. However, the authorities of any Sig-
2 natory may request from the authorities of any other
3 signatory appropriate alleviation of such laws if their
4 normal application might lead to delay or difficulty
5 in the rapid execution of necessary civil emergency
6 measures.

7 “(C) Each Signatory will use its best efforts to
8 facilitate the movement of evacuees, refugees, civil
9 emergency personnel, equipment or other resources
10 into or across its territory, or to a designated stag-
11 ing area when it is agreed that such movement or
12 staging will facilitate civil emergency operations by
13 the affected or participating Signatories.

14 “(D) In times of emergency, each Signatory will
15 use its best efforts to ensure that the citizens or
16 residents of any other Signatory present in its terri-
17 tory are provided emergency health services and
18 emergency social services in a manner no less favor-
19 able than that provided to its own citizens.

20 “(E) Each Signatory will use discretionary
21 power as far as possible to avoid levy of any tax, tar-
22 iff, business license, or user fees on the services,
23 equipment, and supplies of any other Signatory
24 which is engaged in civil emergency activities in the
25 territory of another Signatory, and will use its best

1 efforts to encourage local governments or other ju-
2 risdictions within its territory to do likewise.

3 “(F) When civil emergency personnel, con-
4 tracted firms or personnel, vehicles, equipment, or
5 other services from any Signatory are made available
6 to or are employed to assist any other Signatory, all
7 providing Signatories will use best efforts to ensure
8 that charges, levies, or costs for such use or assist-
9 ance will not exceed those paid for similar use of
10 such resources within their own territory.

11 “(G) Each Signatory will exchange contact lists,
12 warning and notification plans, and selected emer-
13 gency plans and will call to the attention of their re-
14 spective local governments and other jurisdictional
15 authorities in areas adjacent to intersignatory
16 boundaries, the desirability of compatibility of civil
17 emergency plans and the exchange of contact lists,
18 warning and notification plans, and selected emer-
19 gency plans.

20 “(H) The authority of any Signatory conduct-
21 ing an exercise will ensure that all other signatories
22 are provided an opportunity to observe, and/or par-
23 ticipate in such exercises.

1 “COMPREHENSIVE NATURE

2 “(4) This document is a comprehensive arrangement
3 on civil emergency planning and management. To this end
4 and from time to time as necessary, all Signatories shall—

5 “(A) review and exchange their respective con-
6 tact lists, warning and notification plans, and se-
7 lected emergency plans; and

8 “(B) as appropriate, provide such plans and
9 procedures to local governments, and other emer-
10 gency agencies within their respective territories.

11 “ARRANGEMENT NOT EXCLUSIVE

12 “(5) This is not an exclusive arrangement and shall
13 not prevent or limit other civil emergency arrangements
14 of any nature between Signatories to this arrangement.
15 In the event of any conflicts between the provisions of this
16 arrangement and any other arrangement regarding emer-
17 gency service entered into by two or more States of the
18 United States who are Signatories to this arrangement,
19 the provisions of that other arrangement shall apply, with
20 respect to the obligations of those States to each other,
21 and not the conflicting provisions of this arrangement.

22 “AMENDMENTS

23 “(6) This Arrangement and the Annex may be
24 amended (and additional Annexes may be added) by ar-
25 rangement of the Signatories.

1 “CANCELLATION OR SUBSTITUTION

2 “(7) Any Signatory to this Arrangement may with-
3 draw from or cancel their participation in this Arrange-
4 ment by giving sixty days, written notice in advance of
5 this effective date to all other Signatories.

6 “AUTHORITY

7 “(8) All Signatories to this Arrangement warrant
8 they have the power and capacity to accept, execute, and
9 deliver this Arrangement.

10 “EFFECTIVE DATE

11 “(9) Notwithstanding any dates noted elsewhere, this
12 Arrangement shall commence April 1, 1996.”.

13 **SEC. 2. INCONSISTENCY OF LANGUAGE.**

14 The validity of the arrangements consented to by this
15 Act shall not be affected by any insubstantial difference
16 in their form or language as adopted by the States and
17 provinces.

18 **SEC. 3. RIGHT TO ALTER, AMEND, OR REPEAL.**

19 The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby
20 expressly reserved.

Passed the Senate July 31, 1998.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,
Secretary.