

ways to solve old problems and address rising challenges. FEMA needs to be prepared to utilize this technology as it becomes more available to us.

This amendment makes sense. It will ensure that FEMA has the highest quality information when it works to determine the level of risk for vulnerable geographies. This language would not impose any additional financial burdens on FEMA.

As a member of the Science Committee, I made it one of my priorities to find ways to integrate emerging technologies into complex policy initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues to support my amendment.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. MATSUI. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Chairman, the Chair is prepared to accept the amendment. I want to thank the gentlewoman for her foresight and also for merging this new technology with the ability of FEMA to make better and more accurate mapping.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman very much for supporting my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 109-530.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 8 offered by Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

Page 24, after line 6 insert the following new paragraph:

“(5) EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The Director shall, after each update to a flood insurance program rate map, in consultation with the chief executive officer of each community affected by the update, conduct a program to educate each such community about the update to the flood insurance program rate map and the effects of the update.”

Page 24, line 7, redesignate paragraph (5) as paragraph (6).

Page 24, line 18, redesignate paragraph (6) as paragraph (7).

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 891, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, last year, our Nation was devastated with a series of natural disasters that negatively im-

pacted our economic and social structures. The South especially incurred severe flood damage to their infrastructure and local communities. The floods varied from severe, slow and fast rising but were consistent in destroying people's homes and businesses.

This past hurricane season brought forth a series of catastrophes that devastated southern communities, injuring people's livelihoods and souls. The wave of destruction was insurmountable to none ever experienced.

The amendment that I have, Mr. Chairman, is to amend the Act simply to indicate the responsibility we feel that FEMA has to reach out and educate our communities.

FEMA uses the information produced by the flood insurance studies to prepare a flood insurance rate map that depicts the spatial extent of special flood hazard areas and our thematic features related to flood risk assessment.

The rate map is the basis for floodplain management, mitigation and insurance activities of the insurance program. As a result, flood risks have been assessed at approximately 20,400 communities nationwide.

As it stands, FEMA currently has a regulatory function that calls for communities to implement local outreach. However, no such function exists to mitigate any outreach responsibility on FEMA. Neither the code nor the regulations require FEMA to proactively implement outreach programs to educate local landowners.

In response to this oversight, I offer this amendment that requires FEMA to conduct educational programs to better inform local communities of changes made in the flood insurance map.

Currently, H.R. 4973, the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2006, lacks a mandate that calls for FEMA to implement the initiatives necessary to reach out to local communities and educate property owners who are affected by the map update. Many homeowners do not know about changes in the map. The only thing they know is that, after they have suffered a severe flood, they are not covered.

I think this amendment is a necessary step to ensure that FEMA is made responsible to make the vital information available to everyone who might be a flood victim. I believe that this is a necessary step to protect the lives of innocent people who have no choice but to rely on this congressional body to implement necessary safeguards that protects their well-being.

I urge adoption of this amendment.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Chairman, we have reviewed the amendment and are prepared to accept it.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman very much.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan) having assumed the chair, Mr. BONILLA, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4973) to restore the financial solvency of the national flood insurance program, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PERMISSION TO OFFER AMENDMENT NO. 5 OUT OF SEQUENCE DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4973, FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during further consideration of H.R. 4973 pursuant to H. Res. 891, I may offer amendment No. 5 out of sequence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 891 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4973.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4973) to restore the financial solvency of the national flood insurance program, and for other purposes, with Mr. BONILLA (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 109-530 offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 109-530.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.