

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6435

To ensure that a declaration for a major disaster or emergency is made on a timely basis, rural areas receive assistance, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To ensure that a declaration for a major disaster or emergency is made on a timely basis, rural areas receive assistance, 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 “Making Aid for Local
5 Disasters Equal Now Act” or the “MALDEN Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. RURAL ASSISTANCE.**

7 Section 326(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
8 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5165d(e))
9 is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (3)(D) by striking “and” at
2 the end;

3 (2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
4 graph (6); and

5 (3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(4) with respect to a rural area impacted by
8 a wildfire, work in coordination with the State or
9 Tribal emergency management agency to provide
10 guidance to the emergency manager of the rural
11 area on developing a recovery team, including—

12 “(A) by providing resources to help prevent
13 flooding, mudslides, rockslides or any other nat-
14 ural disaster that could result after a wildfire;
15 and

16 “(B) by identifying available resources for
17 both short-term and long-term recovery, includ-
18 ing resources to help prevent a future natural
19 disaster within the burned area;

20 “(5) in a case in which a request for assistance
21 to an individual or household in a rural area under
22 section 408 is denied, work in coordination with the
23 affected State or Tribal emergency management
24 agency to make case workers available to the resi-

- 1 dents impacted by the major disaster or emergency;
- 2 and”.

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