

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 634

Expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to the victims of the devastating landslide on March 22, 2014, extending the thanks of those who took quick action to provide aid and comfort to the victims of the landslide, commending the resiliency of the affected communities for their strength, and committing to provide the necessary resources and to stand by the people of the affected communities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 20, 2014

Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, and Mr. REICHERT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to the victims of the devastating landslide on March 22, 2014, extending the thanks of those who took quick action to provide aid and comfort to the victims of the landslide, commending the resiliency of the affected communities for their strength, and committing to provide the necessary resources and to stand by the people of the affected communities.

Whereas on March 22, 2014, a massive landslide near Oso, Washington, in Snohomish County, destroyed homes,

damaged public infrastructure, and blocked the Stillaguamish River;

Whereas on March 22, 2014, the Washington Emergency Operations Center activated and Snohomish County, Washington, and Washington State proclaimed a state of emergency;

Whereas on March 31, 2014, Governor Inslee requested a major disaster declaration;

Whereas on April 2, 2014, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared Snohomish County in the State of Washington, as well as the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Reservation, Stillaguamish Indian Reservation, and Tulalip Indian Reservation, as eligible for FEMA's Public Assistance Program;

Whereas on April 2, 2014, President Barack Obama declared Washington State in a state of major disaster and approved the request made by Governor Inslee for Federal disaster assistance;

Whereas 43 people have lost their lives, and many more were injured that day and in subsequent recovery and cleanup efforts;

Whereas within a matter of seconds, 1.3 square miles of earthen material rushed down the mountainside, burying people in their homes under 40 feet of mud, turning cars into scrap metal, depositing hazardous material and other debris in the trees, river, and soil, and forever affecting the lives of thousands of people;

Whereas in small rural towns such as Oso, Darrington, and Arlington, where this landslide occurred, the impact of a disaster reaches far beyond the number of individuals

who lost a family member or whose property was destroyed;

Whereas the landslide engulfed 42 homes completely, and many more homes were damaged by flooding and debris;

Whereas crops such as hay, Christmas trees, pasture land, and dairies were damaged;

Whereas sheep farms, and other livestock were lost;

Whereas this tragedy marks the third highest number of natural disaster related fatalities occurring in Washington State ever, and the deadliest landslide in its history;

Whereas the suffering and distress of these communities is ongoing, particularly for those who lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods;

Whereas the local emergency responders, National Guard, FEMA, and many citizens from the affected communities have risked their lives to save others;

Whereas the first responders in the affected communities, and countless volunteers immediately came to the aid of those affected by the storms;

Whereas those in the community offered their homes, their time, and their unwavering support to those affected;

Whereas many tribes, businesses, faith-based organizations, and other volunteer organizations and charities have supplied the victims of the tragedy generously with food, water, financial support, and shelter; and

Whereas hundreds of volunteers and government employees from across the United States have committed time and resources to help with recovery efforts: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) expresses condolences to the victims of the
2 devastating landslide on March 22, 2014;

3 (2) extends thanks to the first responders, fire-
4 fighters, law enforcement personnel, volunteers, and
5 medical personnel who took quick action to provide
6 aid and comfort to the victims of the landslide;

7 (3) commends the resiliency of the affected
8 communities for their strength; and

9 (4) commits to provide the necessary resources
10 and to stand by the people of the affected commu-
11 nities.

○