

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 499

To provide for the development of a global tsunami detection and warning system, to improve existing communication of tsunami warnings to all potentially affected nations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2005

Mr. SHAYS (for himself, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. MCNULTY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mrs. MCCARTHY, and Mr. OWENS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for the development of a global tsunami detection and warning system, to improve existing communication of tsunami warnings to all potentially affected nations, 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 “Global Tsunami Detec-
5 tion and Warning System Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF TSUNAMI**
2 **SENSORS.**

3 (a) RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECRETARY OF COM-
4 MERCE.—The Secretary of Commerce shall—

5 (1) identify deficiencies in the existing system
6 of worldwide seismic stations that can identify in
7 real or near real time potentially tsunamigenic
8 earthquakes in any location in the Pacific, Atlantic,
9 or Indian Oceans and associated seas;

10 (2) work with the Secretary of State to enlist
11 international cooperation in deploying seismic sen-
12 sors to eliminate such deficiencies;

13 (3) work with the Secretary of the Interior,
14 through the Director of the United States Geological
15 Survey to identify and implement any additions or
16 improvements to the United States' maintained net-
17 work of seismic stations that are necessary to im-
18 prove real time or near real time signal acquisition
19 and processing capability for detection of potentially
20 tsunamigenic seismic events;

21 (4) identify tsunami sensors, such as those de-
22 veloped by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
23 Administration and deployed under its Deep Ocean
24 Assessment and Report of Tsunamis Project, or
25 other appropriate ocean-based sensors, that can be
26 deployed to detect potential tsunamis generated by

1 any type of disturbance, including earthquake, un-
2 derwater landslide, above water landslide, eruption
3 of an explosive volcano, and meteor impact;

4 (5) identify the number and location of such
5 sensors that must be deployed throughout the Atlan-
6 tic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans, and associated seas,
7 and any other bodies of water of concern, to provide
8 a system offering complete global coverage for detec-
9 tion of a tsunami, taking into consideration and co-
10 ordinating with any regional systems in place or
11 under development through other nations in the af-
12 fected regions;

13 (6) procure and deploy such sensors;

14 (7) establish the measurement system, forecast
15 system, and communication system and infrastruc-
16 ture needed to receive and process the signals gen-
17 erated by such tsunami sensors, by building on exist-
18 ing infrastructure at existing Centers of the Na-
19 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
20 such as the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center and
21 West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Center; and

22 (8) disseminate tsunami forecasts and warnings
23 as necessary to all potentially affected nations.

24 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days
25 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary

1 of Commerce shall submit to Congress a report on the
2 progress made in carrying out the requirements of sub-
3 section (a).

4 **SEC. 3. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL TSU-**
5 **NAMI DETECTION AND WARNING.**

6 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CONVENING CON-
7 FERENCE.—It is the sense of Congress that the President,
8 in consultation with the leaders of nations described in
9 section 4(a)(1), should undertake to convene, within 180
10 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, an inter-
11 national conference on global tsunami detection and warn-
12 ing for the purposes of—

13 (1) supporting the common objective of such
14 nations of preventing or reducing the toll of human
15 loss from future tsunami-related natural disasters in
16 the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans and associ-
17 ated seas; and

18 (2) seeking international agreement on the most
19 effective means for deploying and funding a global
20 tsunami detection and warning system.

21 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ALTERNATIVE AC-
22 TION.—It is further the sense of Congress that a con-
23 ference described in subsection (a) would not be necessary
24 if, as determined by the President after consultation with
25 the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce,

1 satisfactory international agreement as described in para-
2 graph (2) of that subsection has been reached within 90
3 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 4. NETWORK OF NATIONS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY**
5 **TSUNAMIS.**

6 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR STRATEGY.—The Secretary
7 of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce,
8 shall prepare and implement a comprehensive strategy to
9 achieve the following objectives:

10 (1) Identify all coastal nations that have the po-
11 tential to be adversely affected by tsunamis, particu-
12 larly the nations that border the Pacific, Indian, and
13 Atlantic Oceans, and associated seas.

14 (2) Identify appropriate organizations, agencies,
15 and contacts within the governments of those na-
16 tions for disseminating tsunami warnings by work-
17 ing with—

18 (A) the United Nations Educational, Sci-
19 entific, and Cultural Organization; and

20 (B) other appropriate organizations.

21 (3) Develop, with cooperating nations and their
22 agencies and organizations, a structure for a Global
23 Tsunami Warning System that has an appropriate
24 number of regional operational headquarters.

1 (4) Identify, with cooperating nations and their
2 agencies and organizations, and establish an appro-
3 priate chain of command structure to ensure that
4 warnings of potential or approaching tsunamis are
5 directed to the appropriate contacts in potentially af-
6 fected countries in a timely manner through the
7 Global Tsunami Warning System network.

8 (5) Implement, with cooperating nations and
9 their agencies and organizations, a tsunami fore-
10 casting system that includes tsunami early detection
11 and monitoring instrumentation integrated with
12 modeling technology essential to producing real-time
13 tsunami forecasts.

14 (6) Utilize the forecasts developed under the
15 tsunami forecasting system to form appropriate
16 warnings, and rapidly disseminate such warnings to
17 potentially affected nations.

18 (7) Develop an appropriate warning commu-
19 nications system involving telephone, Internet, radio,
20 fax, and other appropriate means to convey warn-
21 ings as rapidly as possible to all potentially affected
22 nations.

23 (8) Work in partnership with the nations identi-
24 fied as described in paragraph (1), as needed, to de-
25 velop, establish, and maintain appropriate edu-

1 cational and response planning partnerships to en-
2 sure that tsunami warnings are properly interpreted
3 by officials in other nations and that coastal commu-
4 nities respond appropriately to tsunami warnings.

5 (9) Seek funding assistance from participating
6 nations to fund the sensor systems identified under
7 section 4 and the ongoing operation and mainte-
8 nance of such systems.

9 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
11 of State shall submit to Congress a report on the strategy
12 required under subsection (a). The report shall include the
13 following:

14 (1) The strategy.

15 (2) The progress made on implementing the
16 strategy.

17 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated to
19 carry out this Act as follows:

20 (1) For fiscal year 2005, \$30,000,000.

21 (2) For each of fiscal years 2006 through 2014,
22 \$7,500,000.

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