

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4830

To require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to quickly and fairly address the abundance of surplus temporary housing units stored by the Federal Government across the Nation at taxpayer expense.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 18, 2007

Mr. Ross introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to quickly and fairly address the abundance of surplus temporary housing units stored by the Federal Government across the Nation at taxpayer expense.

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; DEFINITIONS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “FEMA Accountability Act of 2007”.

6 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act, the following defini-
7 tions apply:

1 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
2 trator” means the Administrator of FEMA.

3 (2) FEMA.—The term “FEMA” means the
4 Federal Emergency Management Agency.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds that—

7 (1) more than 19,000 temporary housing units
8 purchased by FEMA sit unused at a storage site lo-
9 cated in Hope, Arkansas, and FEMA spends
10 \$25,000 each month to store these temporary hous-
11 ing units;

12 (2) FEMA purchased these temporary housing
13 units to aid disaster victims during the 2005 hurri-
14 cane season;

15 (3) FEMA spends in excess of \$3,000,000 each
16 year to store, secure, and maintain temporary hous-
17 ing units at 17 storage sites across the Nation;

18 (4) it is anticipated that the number of tem-
19 porary housing units in FEMA inventory will con-
20 tinue to increase as disaster victims find permanent
21 housing;

22 (5) many of the unused temporary housing
23 units currently in the FEMA inventory are not mis-
24 sion-ready or may contain elevated levels of form-
25 aldehyde; and

1 (6) FEMA has had ample time to assess the
2 need for on-hand temporary housing units.

3 **SEC. 3. STORAGE, SALE, TRANSFER, AND DISPOSAL OF**
4 **HOUSING UNITS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 months after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
7 complete an assessment of the number of temporary hous-
8 ing units purchased by FEMA that the Administrator
9 finds necessary to stock to respond to major disasters oc-
10 ccurring after the date of enactment of this Act.

11 (b) PLAN.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months
13 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
14 trator shall establish a plan for—

15 (A) permanently storing the temporary
16 housing units that the Administrator finds nec-
17 essary to stock under subsection (a);

18 (B) selling, transferring, or otherwise dis-
19 posing of the temporary housing units that the
20 Administrator finds are in excess of the number
21 that the Administrator finds necessary to stock
22 under subsection (a) and are in usable condi-
23 tion; and

1 (C) disposing of the temporary housing
2 units that the Administrator finds are not in
3 usable condition.

4 (2) EXCEPTION.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator
6 submits to Congress a written certification that
7 the Administrator is unable to determine the
8 safe level of exposure to formaldehyde for pur-
9 poses of travel trailers, the Administrator may
10 exclude from the plan established under para-
11 graph (1) any travel trailer that the Adminis-
12 trator determines may contain formaldehyde.

13 (B) DURATION.—The authority to exclude
14 travel trailers under this paragraph shall termi-
15 nate on the date on which the Environmental
16 Protection Agency or other appropriate depart-
17 ment or agency promulgates regulations regard-
18 ing exposure levels for formaldehyde that are
19 applicable to travel trailers.

20 (3) APPLICABILITY OF DISPOSAL REQUIRE-
21 MENTS.—The plan established under paragraph (1)
22 shall be subject to the requirements of section
23 408(d)(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
24 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
25 5174(d)(2)) and other applicable provisions of law.

1 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 9 months
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
3 shall implement the plan described in subsection (b).

4 (d) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
5 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit
6 to Congress a report on the status of the distribution, sale,
7 transfer, or other disposal of the unused temporary hous-
8 ing units purchased by FEMA.

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