

110TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6851

To authorize assistance to facilitate trade with, reconstruction efforts, and economic recovery in the Republic of Georgia, which are necessitated by the destruction of critical infrastructure and disruption of domestic and regional commerce during the August 2008 war between Georgia and the Russian Federation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, 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 authorize assistance to facilitate trade with, reconstruction efforts, and economic recovery in the Republic of Georgia, which are necessitated by the destruction of critical infrastructure and disruption of domestic and regional commerce during the August 2008 war between Georgia and the Russian Federation.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Republic of Georgia Enhanced Trade Assistance, Eco-
4 nomic Recovery, and Reconstruction Act of 2008”.

5 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
6 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

Sec. 3. Assistance to facilitate trade with the Republic of Georgia and certain
other countries.

Sec. 4. Assistance for reconstruction efforts and economic recovery in the Re-
public of Georgia.

Sec. 5. Authorization of appropriations.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

9 (1) Since establishing its independence from the
10 former Soviet Union in 1991, the Republic of Geor-
11 gia has been a staunch ally of the United States
12 which aspires to membership in western multilateral
13 institutions and has provided crucial support to the
14 United States through the provision of military per-
15 sonnel to bolster the United States-led alliance in
16 the Iraqi conflict.

17 (2) The Republic of Georgia has achieved sig-
18 nificant progress in democratization and market re-
19 form efforts, but advances in these areas have now
20 been severely set back due to the conflict with the
21 Russian Federation.

1 (3) As a result of the Russian Federation's
2 intervention in the open warfare that broke out in
3 South Ossetia on August 7, 2008, and Russia's
4 bombing of sections of Georgia's economic infra-
5 structure, including bridges, railroads, radar sites,
6 and ports, Georgia's economy and the flow of goods,
7 services, and communications have been severely dis-
8 rupted.

9 (4) The destruction of villages and civilian
10 houses during and following the conflict has led to
11 the displacement of the tens of thousands of inter-
12 nally displaced persons.

13 (5) The Georgian people have suffered depriv-
14 ation of their basic needs as a result of the conflict
15 and their suffering will increase absent urgent as-
16 sistance to improve living conditions in the country
17 and help in restoring the economy.

18 (6) Regional trade, such as the transport of oil
19 by rail from the Caspian Sea to the port of Poti, a
20 crucial energy transport link to the West operating
21 alongside the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, which
22 bypasses Russia, has also been impeded as a result
23 of damage to Georgia's transportation and energy
24 infrastructure.

1 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE TO FACILITATE TRADE WITH THE RE-**
2 **PUBLIC OF GEORGIA AND CERTAIN OTHER**
3 **COUNTRIES.**

4 The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Com-
5 merce shall cooperate in working with the Governments
6 of the Republic of Georgia, Ukraine, Turkey, Latvia, Lith-
7 uania, Estonia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia, to enhance and
8 expand trade, business, and economic opportunities with
9 such countries, including through the existing free trade
10 zone at the Georgian port of Poti and the Enhanced Part-
11 nership in Northern Europe (e-PINE).

12 **SEC. 4. ASSISTANCE FOR RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS AND**
13 **ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN THE REPUBLIC OF**
14 **GEORGIA.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as possible, but not later
16 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
17 the Secretary of State shall provide assistance to the Gov-
18 ernment of the Republic of Georgia for—

19 (1) the reconstruction of critical and other es-
20 sential infrastructure in Georgia that was damaged
21 or destroyed during the August 2008 conflict with
22 the Russian Federation; and

23 (2) the recovery of the Georgian economy.

24 (b) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance provided
25 under subsection (a) may include financial and technical
26 assistance and donations. Such assistance may be applied

1 to the energy, transportation, communications, maritime,
2 aviation, health, education, and housing infrastructure,
3 and any other areas determined to be important to the
4 reconstruction of the Georgian infrastructure and the re-
5 covery of the Georgian economy.

6 (c) INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—
7 The Secretary of the Treasury is directed to instruct the
8 United States Executive Director at the International
9 Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-
10 national Monetary Fund, and the European Bank for Re-
11 construction and Development to use the voice and vote
12 of the United States to urge the respective institution and
13 other member countries to expand assistance for the re-
14 construction and development of Georgia.

15 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
17 priated to carry out this Act \$500,000,000.

18 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant
19 to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a)
20 are authorized to remain available until expended.

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