

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6911

To authorize assistance to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the people of Georgia, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

Mr. BERMAN (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. SHUSTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize assistance to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the people of Georgia, 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 “Stability and Democ-
5 racy for Georgia Act of 2008” or the “STAND for Geor-
6 gia Act of 2008”.

7 **SEC. 2. DECLARATIONS OF POLICY.**

8 Congress makes the following declarations:

1 (1) The United States condemns the attack on
2 the sovereign territory of Georgia by the military of
3 the Russian Federation in August 2008 in con-
4 travention of international law, including the United
5 Nations Charter and the Sochi Agreement of 1992
6 that governed the conduct of Russian peacekeepers
7 in the region of South Ossetia.

8 (2) The United States strongly supports the
9 sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and
10 is committed to working with the European Union
11 and other partners to achieve this objective.

12 (3) The United States appreciates the efforts of
13 the European Union, led by French President
14 Sarkozy, to negotiate a ceasefire agreement to re-
15 solve the conflict.

16 (4) The Russian Federation should fully with-
17 draw all troops to their pre-conflict positions.

18 (5) The United States condemns the Russian
19 Federation's recognition of the independence of
20 South Ossetia and Abkhazia, an act that violates
21 legal principles of territorial integrity and under-
22 mines the ceasefire agreement.

23 (6) In addition to independent monitors to ob-
24 serve the implementation of the ceasefire agreement,
25 an international peacekeeping force should be estab-

1 lished to prevent further violence in the conflict
2 zones of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

3 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES OF ASSISTANCE.**

4 The purposes of assistance authorized under this Act
5 are—

6 (1) to provide humanitarian relief to individuals
7 displaced internally in Georgia as a result of the Au-
8 gust 2008 conflict with the Russian Federation, as
9 well as those individuals who fled conflicts in or were
10 expelled from South Ossetia and Abkhazia in the
11 early 1990s;

12 (2) to respond to the direct request from the
13 Government of Georgia for assistance in the rebuild-
14 ing of its infrastructure following the August 2008
15 invasion of Georgia by the Russian Federation;

16 (3) to assist Georgia in strengthening its eco-
17 nomic and energy infrastructure;

18 (4) to strengthen Georgia's democratic institu-
19 tions; and

20 (5) to enhance the relationship between the
21 United States and Georgia.

22 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to
24 provide assistance for Georgia to support the activities de-
25 scribed in subsection (b).

1 (b) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—Activities that may be
2 supported by assistance under subsection (a) include the
3 following:

4 (1) URGENT HUMANITARIAN NEEDS.—To assist
5 efforts in meeting the urgent humanitarian needs of
6 the people of Georgia, including—

7 (A) provision of urgent medical care to in-
8 dividuals wounded during the August 2008 con-
9 flict with the Russian Federation;

10 (B) provision of short- and medium-term
11 housing facilities for individuals displaced by
12 the conflict;

13 (C) provision of assistance to facilitate the
14 voluntary return and resettlement of all inter-
15 nally displaced persons in conditions of security
16 and dignity; and

17 (D) reconstruction of civilian and adminis-
18 trative infrastructure, including police stations,
19 roads, schools, and hospitals damaged in the
20 conflict.

21 (2) RECONSTRUCTION.—To assist efforts in re-
22 construction of critical infrastructure destroyed dur-
23 ing the August 2008 conflict with the Russian Fed-
24 eration, including—

1 (A) provision of direct United States budg-
2 etary support to the Government of Georgia to
3 replace funds the Government of Georgia is ex-
4 pending to pay for emergency reconstruction
5 needs, including reconstruction needs relating
6 to transportation and energy infrastructure (in-
7 cluding international pipelines and power
8 grids); and

9 (B) provision of assistance to help address
10 environmental damage caused by bombing by
11 the military forces of the Russian Federation,
12 including the destruction of forest areas near
13 the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park.

14 (3) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.—To assist the
15 Government of Georgia in leading the economic re-
16 covery of Georgia, including—

17 (A) development of critical infrastructure
18 that enhances Georgia’s energy security and en-
19 courages diversification of Georgia’s foreign en-
20 ergy sources, including development of regional
21 natural gas storage facilities and the construc-
22 tion of hydroelectric plants;

23 (B) enhancement of bilateral trade between
24 the United States and Georgia;

(C) retention of Georgia's status as an attractive destination for foreign direct investment, through—

(i) establishment of national entrepreneurial programs to create jobs and stimulate small business growth; and

(ii) expansion of programs to enhance cooperation between United States and Georgian scientists and engineers.

(4) GOVERNANCE.—To assist efforts in strengthening civil society, democratic institutions, and independent media in Georgia.

(c) BROADCASTING.—Funds made available to carry out this Act may be used to extend broadcasting efforts by the Broadcasting Board of Governors to Georgia and to enhance Russian- and Georgian-language Internet and broadcast capacity for the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Inc.

SEC. 5. REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a report concerning the programs, projects, and activities carried out under this Act during the preceding fiscal year. The first report shall be transmitted not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and a subsequent

1 report shall be transmitted not later than October 31 of
2 the following year.

3 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report re-
4 quired under subsection (a) shall include the following:

5 (1) URGENT HUMANITARIAN NEEDS.—A de-
6 scription of the activities carried out under section
7 4(b)(1).

8 (2) RECONSTRUCTION.—A description of the
9 activities carried out under section 4(b)(2), including
10 a description of—

11 (A) the progress in reconstructing critical
12 infrastructure in Georgia;

13 (B) the use of funds by the Government of
14 Georgia provided through direct United States
15 budgetary support pursuant to this Act to pay
16 for emergency reconstruction needs, including—

17 (i) a project-by-project description of
18 how the funds were used;

19 (ii) the progress of reconstruction re-
20 lating to each project; and

21 (iii) the overall amount expended for
22 each project; and

23 (C) the progress in addressing environ-
24 mental damage caused by bombing by the mili-
25 tary forces of the Russian Federation.

1 (3) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.—A description
 2 of the activities carried out under section 4(b)(3),
 3 including an assessment of the progress in stabi-
 4 lizing and improving the economic situation in Geor-
 5 gia.

6 (4) GOVERNANCE.—A description of activities
 7 carried out under section 4(b)(4), including an as-
 8 sessment of the strength and development of demo-
 9 cratic institutions in Georgia and recommendations
 10 for other activities relating to governance in Georgia
 11 that could be supported by United States assistance.

12 (5) BROADCASTING.—A description of activities
 13 carried out under section 4(c).

14 (c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appro-
 15 priate congressional committees” means—

16 (1) the Committee on Appropriations and the
 17 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
 18 resentatives; and

19 (2) the Committee on Appropriations and the
 20 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

21 **SEC. 6. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts appropriated for
 23 fiscal year 2008 for the activities of the Department of
 24 State, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Over-
 25 seas Private Investment Corporation, and the United

1 States Agency for International Development, or otherwise
2 transferred to those agencies, \$470,000,000 is authorized
3 to be made available to carry out this Act.

4 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that—

6 (1) Congress strongly supports providing a total
7 of \$1,000,000,000 in assistance for Georgia to sup-
8 port the activities described in section 4, consistent
9 with President George W. Bush’s pledge of Sep-
10 tember 3, 2008;

11 (2) in order to provide this amount to fulfill the
12 President’s pledge, Congress is authorizing
13 \$470,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 to carry out this
14 Act and Congress is committed to authorizing the
15 remaining funds for fiscal year 2009 in a subsequent
16 Act of Congress; and

17 (3) any funds reprogrammed from amounts ap-
18 propriated for fiscal year 2008 to carry out the
19 FREEDOM Support Act (22 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.;
20 Public Law 102–511) or the Support for East Euro-
21 pean Democracy (SEED) Act of 1989 (22 U.S.C.
22 5401 et seq.; Public Law 101–179) should be re-
23 plenished through a subsequent Act of Congress.

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