

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4573

To direct the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral development institutions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to cancel immediately and completely Haiti's debts to such institutions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2010

Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. COHEN, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. FILLNER, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. FARR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral development institutions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to cancel immediately and completely Haiti's debts to such institutions, 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 “Debt Relief for Earth-
5 quake Recovery in Haiti Act of 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude
9 earthquake struck the country of Haiti.

10 (2) Casualty estimates, still being compiled, as
11 well as infrastructure damage, including to roads,
12 ports, hospitals, and residential dwellings, place this
13 earthquake as the worst cataclysm to hit Haiti in
14 over two centuries.

15 (3) An estimated 3,000,000 people have been
16 directly affected by the disaster in Haiti, nearly one-
17 third of the country’s population, who are currently
18 at risk of long-term displacement and vulnerability.

19 (4) The destruction of infrastructure, particu-
20 larly to the port, airport, roads, and telecommuni-
21 cations, continues to hinder the immediate delivery
22 of humanitarian assistance in Haiti.

23 (5) Haiti is the poorest, least developed country
24 in the Western Hemisphere, and prior to the earth-

1 quake was ranked 149 out of 182 countries on the
2 United Nations Human Development Index.

3 (6) Prior to the earthquake, Haiti was still in
4 the process of recovering from a ruinous recent se-
5 ries of hurricanes and tropical storms, food short-
6 ages and rising commodity prices, and political in-
7 stability, but was showing encouraging signs of im-
8 provement.

9 (7) President Obama vowed the “unwavering
10 support” of the United States and pledged a “swift,
11 coordinated and aggressive effort to save lives and
12 support the recovery in Haiti”.

13 (8) The response to the tragedy from the global
14 community has been overwhelmingly positive.

15 (9) The initial emergency response of the men
16 and women of the United States Government, led by
17 the United States Agency for International Develop-
18 ment and United States Southern Command, has
19 been swift and resolute.

20 (10) Individuals, businesses, and philanthropic
21 organizations across the United States and through-
22 out the international community have responded in
23 support of Haiti and its populace during this time
24 of crisis.

1 (11) Throughout this terrible calamity, the Hai-
2 tian people continue to demonstrate unwavering re-
3 silience, dignity, and courage.

4 (12) Once proper surveys and assessments are
5 conducted, the initial and crucial emergency relief
6 response will likely move to a comprehensive mission
7 requiring sustained assistance from the United
8 States and the international community for recon-
9 struction and development efforts.

10 (13) The Government of Haiti cannot afford to
11 invest in reconstruction and development efforts,
12 while continuing to make payments on debts owed to
13 multilateral financial institutions like the Inter-
14 national Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank,
15 and the Inter-American Development Bank and to
16 other international creditors.

17 (14) Prior to the earthquake, debt service pay-
18 ments to multilateral financial institutions and other
19 international creditors already were a tremendous
20 burden that interfered with the ability of the Gov-
21 ernment of Haiti to meet the needs of its people.

22 (15) On June 30, 2009, the World Bank an-
23 nounced that Haiti qualified for and received \$1.2
24 billion in debt relief from the IMF, the World Bank,
25 and other multilateral financial institutions.

1 (16) In order to qualify for debt relief, the Gov-
2 ernment of Haiti successfully developed and imple-
3 mented a comprehensive Poverty Reduction Strategy
4 Paper, under the direction of the IMF and the
5 World Bank.

6 (17) According to the U.S. Department of the
7 Treasury, despite previous debt relief, Haiti still
8 owes a total of \$709 million in debts to multilateral
9 financial institutions, including \$447 million to the
10 Inter-American Development Bank, \$165 million to
11 the IMF, \$39 million to the World Bank, and \$58
12 million to the International Fund for Agricultural
13 Development.

14 (18) According to the IMF, Haiti owed Ven-
15 ezuela \$167 million and Taiwan \$92 million at the
16 end of September, 2008; furthermore, the amounts
17 of these debts may have grown since that time.

18 (19) The cancellation of Haiti's debts to multi-
19 lateral financial institutions and other international
20 creditors will allow the Government of Haiti to use
21 its meager resources for essential reconstruction and
22 development efforts.

1 **SEC. 3. CANCELLATION OF HAITI'S DEBTS TO INTER-**
2 **NATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.**

3 Title XVI of the International Financial Institutions
4 Act (22 U.S.C. 262p et seq.) is amended by adding at
5 the end the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 1628. CANCELLATION OF HAITI'S DEBTS TO INTER-**
7 **NATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.**

8 “The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the
9 United States Executive Directors at the International
10 Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruc-
11 tion and Development (World Bank), the Inter-American
12 Development Bank, and other multilateral development in-
13 stitutions (as defined in section 1701(c)(3)) to use the
14 voice, vote, and influence of the United States to—

15 “(1) cancel immediately and completely all
16 debts owed by Haiti to such institutions;

17 “(2) suspend Haiti's debt service payments to
18 such institutions until such time as the debts are
19 canceled completely; and

20 “(3) provide additional assistance from such in-
21 stitutions to Haiti in the form of grants so that
22 Haiti does not accumulate additional debts.”.

23 **SEC. 4. CANCELLATION OF HAITI'S DEBTS TO OTHER**
24 **CREDITORS.**

25 The Secretary of the Treasury shall commence imme-
26 diate efforts to urge other bilateral, multilateral, and pri-

- 1 vate creditors to cancel immediately and completely all
- 2 debts owed by Haiti to such creditors.

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