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2D SESSION

S. 3691

To minimize the economic and social costs resulting from losses of life, property, well-being, business activity, and economic growth associated with extreme weather events by ensuring that the United States is more resilient to the impacts of extreme weather events in the short- and long-term, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 19, 2012

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To minimize the economic and social costs resulting from losses of life, property, well-being, business activity, and economic growth associated with extreme weather events by ensuring that the United States is more resilient to the impacts of extreme weather events in the short- and long-term, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening The Re-
3 siliency of Our Nation on the Ground Act” or the
4 “STRONG Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
7 ings:

8 (1) Extreme weather has serious economic costs
9 for Americans, American businesses, and State,
10 local, and tribal governments. Droughts, floods, hur-
11 ricanes, tornadoes, extreme heat, and extreme cold
12 cause death, result in loss of property and well-
13 being, especially among the most vulnerable popu-
14 lations, and negatively impact business activity and
15 economic growth.

16 (2) In the past 30 years, there have been more
17 than 130 weather-related disasters in the United
18 States that each generated at least \$1,000,000,000
19 in damages or more than \$880,000,000,000 in total
20 standardized loss. In addition, there have been many
21 other extreme weather events that generated less
22 than \$1,000,000,000 in damages, but still caused
23 immeasurable harm to the Nation’s citizens, infra-
24 structure, and economy.

25 (3) Hurricane Sandy, which devastated the
26 eastern United States in late October 2012, resulted

1 in more than 100 deaths, the evacuation of hundreds
2 of thousands of people from their homes, power out-
3 ages affecting more than 8,500,000 homes, massive
4 flooding, gasoline shortages, and a crippled regional
5 energy and transportation infrastructure. The esti-
6 mated total economic losses could exceed
7 \$70,000,000,000.

8 (4) Hurricane Katrina led to more than 1,800
9 deaths, property damage exceeding
10 \$80,000,000,000, more than \$120,000,000,000 in
11 Federal spending, and long-term impacts on the
12 economy and livelihoods of those living in the Gulf
13 Coast region.

14 (5) In 2011, one of the most severe and costly
15 years for weather and climate on record, extreme
16 weather hit every region in the United States, result-
17 ing in—

18 (A) prolonged droughts in the South and
19 the West;

20 (B) deadly floods in the Southeast and
21 Midwest;

22 (C) hundreds of devastating tornadoes
23 across the United States;

24 (D) Hurricane Irene in the Northeast;

1 (E) more than \$50,000,000,000 in weath-
2 er-related damages;

3 (F) 14 extreme weather events, which re-
4 sulted in more than \$1,000,000,000 in damages
5 each and caused a combined death toll of hun-
6 dreds of people; and

7 (G) many other extreme weather events
8 with lesser, but still significant, impacts.

9 (6) There have been many similar extreme
10 weather events in 2012. During the 10-month period
11 ending in October 2012, there have been—

12 (A) drought conditions in more than 60
13 percent of the contiguous United States at the
14 peak of the drought, including more than 2,200
15 counties that have received disaster designa-
16 tions from the Secretary of Agriculture due to
17 the drought;

18 (B) deadly floods in Minnesota, Tropical
19 Storm Debby in Florida, and Hurricane Isaac
20 in Louisiana;

21 (C) destructive wildfires on more than
22 9,000,000 acres across 37 States;

23 (D) power outages affecting more than
24 3,400,000 homes due to severe storms during
25 the summer; and

1 (E) deadly heat waves, highlighted by July
2 as the warmest month on record for the contig-
3 uous United States and more than 9,600 daily
4 high temperature records broken during June,
5 July, and August.

6 (7) These events and natural disaster trends,
7 when combined with the volatility of weather, ongo-
8 ing demographic changes, and development in high
9 risk areas, indicate that the negative impacts of ex-
10 treme weather events and natural disasters have the
11 potential to increase over time. The fact that a sig-
12 nificant number of people and assets continue to be
13 located in areas prone to volatile and extreme weath-
14 er indicates that these events will continue to be ex-
15 pensive and deadly if the United States fails to en-
16 hance its resiliency to such events. Recent studies
17 show that the intensity and frequency of some types
18 of, but not all, extreme weather events will likely in-
19 crease in the future.

20 (8) Economic savings can be achieved by con-
21 sidering the impacts of extreme weather over the
22 short- and long-term in the planning process. For
23 example, a review of the Federal Emergency Man-
24 agement Agency's hazard mitigation programs found
25 that every dollar spent on hazard mitigation yields

1 a savings of \$4 in future losses. Other studies point
2 to even higher levels of savings.

3 (9) There are several efforts currently under-
4 way at the Federal, regional, tribal, State, and local
5 levels that have helped lay the foundation for a fed-
6 erally coordinated effort to increase the Nation's re-
7 siliency to extreme weather events, such as the Hur-
8 ricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force, the Presi-
9 dential Policy Directive on National Preparedness
10 (referred to in this Act as "PPD-8"), the National
11 Preparedness System, the whole community ap-
12 proach led by the Department of Homeland Secu-
13 rity, and the Silver Jackets Program by the Army
14 Corps of Engineers. Other recent reports on this
15 subject include the National Academies of Sciences'
16 reports "Disaster Resilience: A National Imperative"
17 and "Building Community Disaster Resilience
18 through Public-Private Collaboration".

19 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to mini-
20 mize the economic and social costs and future losses of
21 life, property, well-being, business activity, and economic
22 growth by making the United States more resilient to the
23 impacts of extreme weather events over the short- and
24 long-term, thereby creating business and job growth op-
25 portunities by—

1 (1) ensuring that the Federal Government is
2 optimizing its use of existing resources and funding
3 to support State, local, and tribal officials, busi-
4 nesses, and the public to become more resilient, in-
5 cluding—

6 (A) encouraging the consideration of, and
7 ways to incorporate, extreme weather resilience
8 across Federal operations, programs, policies,
9 and initiatives;

10 (B) promoting improved coordination of
11 existing and planned Federal extreme weather
12 resilience and adaptation efforts that impact ex-
13 treme weather resilience and ensuring their co-
14 ordination with, and support of, State, local, re-
15 gional, and tribal efforts;

16 (C) minimizing Federal policies that may
17 unintentionally hinder or reduce resilience, such
18 as damaging wetlands or other critical green in-
19 frastructure, or lead Federal agencies to oper-
20 ate at cross purposes in achieving extreme
21 weather resilience; and

22 (D) building upon existing related efforts,
23 such as the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task
24 Force, the PPD–8, the National Preparedness
25 System, and the whole community approach;

1 (2) communicating the latest understanding
2 and likely short- and long-term human and economic
3 impacts and risks of extreme weather to businesses
4 and the public;

5 (3) supporting decisionmaking that improves
6 resilience by providing forecasts and projections,
7 data decision-support tools, and other information
8 and mechanisms; and

9 (4) establishing a consistent vision and strategic
10 plan for extreme weather resilience across the Fed-
11 eral Government.

12 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act:

14 (1) **EXTREME WEATHER.**—The term “extreme
15 weather” includes severe and unseasonable weather,
16 heavy precipitation, hurricanes, storm surges, torna-
17 does, other windstorms (including derechos), extreme
18 heat, extreme cold, and other qualifying weather
19 events as determined by the interagency group es-
20 tablished under section 4(a)(1).

21 (2) **RESILIENCE.**—The term “resilience” means
22 the ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, recover
23 from, and more successfully adapt to adverse events
24 in a timely manner.

1 **SEC. 4. EXTREME WEATHER RESILIENCE GAP AND OVER-**
2 **LAP ANALYSIS.**

3 (a) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—

5 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of
6 the Office of Science and Technology Policy (re-
7 ferred to in this section as the “Director”),
8 with input from the Department of Homeland
9 Security, shall establish and chair an inter-
10 agency working group with Cabinet-level rep-
11 resentation from all relevant Federal agencies.

12 (B) DUTIES.—The working group shall—

13 (i) come together to provide a stra-
14 tegic vision of extreme weather resilience;

15 (ii) conduct a gap and overlap anal-
16 ysis of Federal agencies’ current and
17 planned activities related to achieving
18 short- and long-term resilience to extreme
19 weather and its impacts on the Nation,
20 such as storm surge, flooding, drought,
21 and wildfires; and

22 (iii) develop a National Extreme
23 Weather Resilience Plan in accordance
24 with section 5(a).

25 (2) ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATION FROM EXEC-
26 UTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.—The inter-

1 agency working group established under paragraph
 2 (1) shall include representatives of the relevant of-
 3 fices and councils within the Executive Office of the
 4 President, including—

5 (A) the Office of Management and Budget;

6 (B) the National Security Staff;

7 (C) the Council of Economic Advisors;

8 (D) the Council on Environmental Quality;

9 and

10 (E) the Domestic Policy Council.

11 (3) CONSULTATION WITH STATE, LOCAL, AND
 12 TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal inter-
 14 agency working group established under para-
 15 graph (1) shall work closely with an advisory
 16 group to take into account the needs of State,
 17 local, and tribal entities across all regions of the
 18 United States. The advisory group shall consist
 19 of—

20 (i) 1 representative from the National
 21 Emergency Management Association;

22 (ii) 7 representatives from States and
 23 State associations; and

24 (iii) 8 representatives from local enti-
 25 ties and associations, including representa-

1 tion from a tribal nation and at least 1
2 major metropolitan area.

3 (B) KEY SECTORS.—The representatives
4 described in subparagraph (A) shall, in the ag-
5 gregate, represent all of the key sectors set
6 forth in subsection (b)(1).

7 (C) MEETINGS.—The Director shall meet
8 with the representatives described in subpara-
9 graph (A) not fewer than 9 times during the
10 development of—

11 (i) the gap and overlap analysis under
12 this section; and

13 (ii) the National Extreme Weather
14 Resilience Action Plan under section 5.

15 (4) COOPERATION BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In
16 carrying out the activities described in subsection
17 (b), Federal agency representatives participating in
18 the working group shall be forthright and shall fully
19 cooperate with the Office of Science and Technology
20 Policy.

21 (5) DETAILEES.—Upon the request of the Di-
22 rector, each agency or entity referred to in para-
23 graph (1) shall provide the working group with a
24 detailee, without reimbursement from the working
25 group, to support the activities described in sub-

1 section (b), section 5, and section 7(a). Such detailee
2 shall retain the rights, status, and privileges of his
3 or her regular employment without interruption.

4 (6) VOLUNTEER SERVICES.—Notwithstanding
5 section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the
6 working group may investigate and use such vol-
7 untary services as the working group determines to
8 be necessary.

9 (b) GAP AND OVERLAP ANALYSIS.—In conducting
10 the gap and overlap analysis required under subsection
11 (a)(1), Federal agency representatives shall—

12 (1) develop a Federal Government-wide working
13 vision for resilience to the impacts of extreme weath-
14 er events in the short- and long-term, in accordance
15 with the purpose set forth in section 2(b), through
16 an effort led by the Director and the interagency
17 working group, which includes goals and objectives
18 for key sectors. Key sectors shall include—

19 (A) agriculture;

20 (B) forestry and natural resources man-
21 agement;

22 (C) water management, including supply
23 and treatment;

24 (D) energy supply and transmission;

1 (E) infrastructure, including natural and
2 built forms of water and wastewater, transpor-
3 tation, coastal infrastructure, and other land-
4 scapes and ecosystems services;

5 (F) public health and healthcare delivery,
6 including mental health and hazardous mate-
7 rials management;

8 (G) communications, including wireless
9 communications;

10 (H) housing and other buildings;

11 (I) national security;

12 (J) emergency preparedness;

13 (K) insurance; and

14 (L) other sectors that the Director con-
15 siders appropriate;

16 (2) consider and identify the interdependencies
17 among the key sectors when developing the vision re-
18 ferred to in paragraph (1);

19 (3) create summaries of the existing and
20 planned efforts and programmatic work underway or
21 relevant to supporting State, local, and tribal stake-
22 holders in achieving greater extreme weather resil-
23 ience in the short and long term for each sector
24 identified under paragraph (1) and across the sec-
25 tors, specifically including summaries of—

1 (A) individual Federal agency programs,
2 policies, regulations, and initiatives, and re-
3 search and data collection and dissemination ef-
4 forts;

5 (B) areas of collaboration and coordination
6 across Federal agencies; and

7 (C) areas of coordination with State, local,
8 and tribal agencies, private entities, and re-
9 gional cooperation;

10 (4) identify specific Federal programs, statutes,
11 regulations, policies, and initiatives which may unin-
12 tentionally hinder resilience efforts, including an
13 analysis of disincentives, barriers, and incompatible
14 programs, policies, or initiatives across agencies and
15 sectors;

16 (5) examine how the severity and frequency of
17 extreme weather events at the local and regional
18 level may change in the future and communicate
19 these potential risks to stakeholders;

20 (6) work together to identify and evaluate exist-
21 ing Federal tools and data to describe, analyze, fore-
22 cast, and model the potential impacts identified
23 under paragraph (5) and develop recommendations
24 to strengthen their ability to provide reliable and ac-

1 curate forecasts at the national, regional, State, and
2 local levels;

3 (7) identify gaps and overlaps in Federal agen-
4 cy work, resources, and authorities that impair the
5 ability of the United States to meet the vision for
6 short- and long-term extreme weather resilience, by
7 comparing the goals and objectives identified for
8 each sector and across sectors with the summaries
9 identified in paragraph (3), specifically identifying
10 gaps relating to—

11 (A) individual Federal agency programs,
12 policies, and initiatives, and research data col-
13 lection and dissemination efforts;

14 (B) areas of collaboration and coordination
15 across Federal agencies; and

16 (C) areas of coordination with State, local,
17 and tribal agencies and private entities, and re-
18 gional cooperation;

19 (8) determine potential measures to address the
20 issues referred to in paragraph (4) and to address
21 the gaps and overlaps referred to in paragraph (7)
22 by—

23 (A) designating individual or multiple Fed-
24 eral agencies to address these gaps;

1 (B) building upon existing delivery mecha-
2 nisms;

3 (C) evaluating options for programs, poli-
4 cies, and initiatives that may particularly ben-
5 efit extreme weather resilience efforts, including
6 the role of ecosystem-based approaches;

7 (D) recommending modifications to exist-
8 ing Federal agency programs, statutes, regula-
9 tions, policies, and initiatives to better support
10 extreme weather resiliency;

11 (E) requesting new authorities and re-
12 source requirements, if needed; and

13 (F) identifying existing Federal Govern-
14 ment processes that can be built upon to ad-
15 dress the purpose of this Act; and

16 (9) establish, with the assistance of the General
17 Services Administration or such other Federal agen-
18 cy as the Director may designate, a Federal advisory
19 working group to provide ongoing collective input to
20 the process.

21 (c) WORKING GROUP.—The Federal advisory work-
22 ing group established pursuant to subsection (b)(9) shall
23 consist of relevant private sector, academic, State and
24 local government, tribal nation, regional organization, vul-
25 nerable population, and nongovernmental representatives,

1 with representation from each sector described in para-
2 graph (1). The Director may designate an existing Federal
3 advisory committee under which the working group would
4 operate independently, with the same rights and privileges
5 held by members of the advisory committee. The members
6 of the working group established pursuant to subsection
7 (b)(9) may not simultaneously serve as members of the
8 advisory committee designated pursuant to this sub-
9 section. The activities of the working group should com-
10 plement and not duplicate the stakeholder process con-
11 ducted under PPD–8.

12 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL EXTREME WEATHER RESILIENCE AC-**
13 **TION PLAN.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Based on the results of the gap
15 and overlap analysis conducted under section 4, the Direc-
16 tor, working with the interagency working group estab-
17 lished under such section, and considering the efforts de-
18 scribed in section 2(a)(9), shall develop a National Ex-
19 treme Weather Resilience Action Plan (referred to in this
20 section as the “Plan”)—

21 (1) to build upon existing Federal Government
22 processes referred to in section 4(b)(8)(F)—

23 (A) to address the results of the gap and
24 overlap analysis under section 4; and

1 (B) to incorporate the activities required
2 under subsection (c);

3 (2) to best utilize existing resources and pro-
4 grams through improved interagency coordination
5 and collaboration;

6 (3) to improve Federal coordination with exist-
7 ing regional entities, State, local and tribal govern-
8 ments, networks, and private stakeholders;

9 (4) to make data and tools accessible and un-
10 derstandable and to help facilitate information ex-
11 change for tribal, State, and local officials, busi-
12 nesses, and other stakeholders in a manner that ad-
13 dresses the needs expressed by these stakeholders;

14 (5) to facilitate public-private partnerships;

15 (6) to improve Federal agencies' economic ana-
16 lytical capacity to assess—

17 (A) the likelihood and potential costs of ex-
18 treme weather impacts by region and nation-
19 ally; and

20 (B) the relative benefits of potential resil-
21 ience measures to multiple stakeholders;

22 (7) to provide tools to stakeholders—

23 (A) to conduct analyses similar to those
24 described in paragraph (6); and

25 (B) to support decisionmaking;

1 (8) to support resiliency plans developed by
2 State and local governments, regional entities, and
3 tribal nations, to the extent possible; and

4 (9) to request further resources, if necessary, to
5 fill in gaps to enable national resilience to extreme
6 weather, including resilience of tribal nations and
7 particularly vulnerable populations, and the use of
8 green infrastructure and ecosystem-based solutions.

9 (b) COOPERATION.—Any Federal agency representa-
10 tive contacted by the Director, in the course of developing
11 the Plan, shall be forthright and shall fully cooperate with
12 the Office of Science and Technology Policy, as requested.

13 (c) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—

14 (1) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Plan shall include
15 specific Federal agency and interagency responsibil-
16 ities, identify potential new authorities, if necessary,
17 and employ risk analysis—

18 (A) to address the gaps identified through
19 the gap and overlap analysis; and

20 (B) to improve Federal interagency coordi-
21 nation and Federal coordination with State, re-
22 gional, local, and tribal partners.

23 (2) AVAILABLE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.—

24 (A) IDENTIFICATION.—The Director shall
25 identify—

1 (i) existing Federal grant programs
2 and other funding opportunities available
3 to support State, local, and tribal govern-
4 ment extreme weather resiliency planning
5 efforts; or

6 (ii) projects to advance extreme
7 weather resiliency.

8 (B) PUBLICATION.—The Director shall
9 publish the information described in subpara-
10 graph (A) in the information clearinghouse
11 identified in paragraph (3).

12 (C) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each partici-
13 pating agency shall—

14 (i) consider incorporating criteria or
15 guidance into existing relevant Federal
16 grant and other funding opportunities to
17 better support State, local, and tribal ef-
18 forts to improve extreme weather resil-
19 iency; and

20 (ii) evaluate and modify existing Fed-
21 eral funding opportunities, as appropriate,
22 to maximize the return on investment for
23 pre-disaster mitigation activities.

24 (3) INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE.—

25 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Plan shall—

1 (i) include the establishment of an on-
2 line, publicly available information clear-
3 ingshouse for use by Federal agencies, their
4 partners, and stakeholders to inform resil-
5 ience-enhancing efforts; and

6 (ii) build off and be complementary to
7 existing Federal efforts, including
8 data.gov.

9 (B) MAINTENANCE.—The coordinating en-
10 tity identified under paragraph (3) shall be re-
11 sponsible for establishing and maintaining the
12 information clearinghouse.

13 (C) INFORMATION SUPPLIED.—Informa-
14 tion shall be supplied as requested by Federal
15 agencies, their partners, academia, and private
16 stakeholders, in coordination with regional,
17 State, local, and tribal agencies.

18 (D) CONTENTS.—The information clear-
19 ingshouse established under this paragraph shall
20 include coordinated and systematic information
21 on—

- 22 (i) best or model practices;
23 (ii) data;
24 (iii) case studies;
25 (iv) indicators;

- 1 (v) scientific reports;
- 2 (vi) resilience and vulnerability assess-
- 3 ments;
- 4 (vii) guidance documents and design
- 5 standards;
- 6 (viii) incentives;
- 7 (ix) education and communication ini-
- 8 tiatives;
- 9 (x) decision support tools, including
- 10 risk management, short- and long-term
- 11 economic analysis, and predictive models;
- 12 (xi) planning tools;
- 13 (xii) public and private sources of as-
- 14 sistance; and
- 15 (xiii) such other information as the
- 16 coordinating entity considers appropriate.

17 (4) COORDINATING ENTITY.—The Plan shall

18 include the identification of a Federal agency, inter-

19 agency council, office, or program, which partici-

20 pated in the gap and overlap analysis and Plan de-

21 velopment. Such entity shall—

22 (A) coordinate the implementation of the

23 Plan;

24 (B) track the progress of such implementa-

25 tion; and

1 (C) transfer responsibilities to another
2 Federal agency, interagency council, office, or
3 program to serve as the coordinating entity if
4 the entities participating in the working group
5 agree that circumstances necessitate such a
6 change.

7 (5) RESILIENCY OFFICER.—Each Federal agen-
8 cy that assists with the gap and overlap analysis re-
9 quired under section 4 shall designate, from among
10 the agency’s senior management, a Senior Resiliency
11 Officer, who shall—

12 (A) facilitate the implementation of the
13 agency’s responsibilities under paragraph (1);

14 (B) monitor the agency’s progress and per-
15 formance in implementing its responsibilities
16 under paragraph (1);

17 (C) report the agency’s progress and per-
18 formance to the head of the agency and the co-
19 ordinating entity identified under paragraph
20 (3); and

21 (D) serve as the agency lead in ongoing co-
22 ordination efforts within the Federal agency
23 and between the coordinating entity, other Fed-
24 eral agencies, public and private partners, and
25 stakeholders.

1 (d) PUBLICATION.—

2 (1) DRAFT PLAN.—Not later than 420 days
3 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Di-
4 rector shall publish a draft of the Plan developed
5 under this section in the Federal Register.

6 (2) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.—During the
7 60-day period beginning on the date on which the
8 draft Plan is published under paragraph (1), the Di-
9 rector shall—

10 (A) solicit comment from the public; and

11 (B) conduct a briefing for Congress to ex-
12 plain the provisions contained in the draft Plan.

13 (3) FINAL PLAN.—Not later than 120 days
14 after the end of the public comment period described
15 in paragraph (2), the Director shall publish the final
16 Plan in the Federal Register.

17 (e) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 630 days
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director
19 shall begin implementing the final Plan published under
20 subsection (d)(3).

21 (f) FINANCING.—To the extent possible—

22 (1) Federal funding should be used to leverage
23 private sector financing for resilience building activi-
24 ties, consistent with the implementation of the Plan,
25 through public-private partnerships; and

1 (2) Federal grant and loan programs of the
2 Federal agencies participating in the interagency
3 working group for this effort shall consider extreme
4 weather resilience as a key factor when awarding
5 funding, including the projected extreme weather
6 risk to a project over the course of its expected life.

7 (g) TRIBAL, STATE, AND LOCAL RESPONSIBIL-
8 ITIES.—The Plan may not place new unfunded require-
9 ments on State or local governments.

10 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF OTHER ACTIVITIES.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Federal agencies are authorized
12 to develop tools and disseminate information to improve
13 extreme weather resilience in the key sectors set forth in
14 section 4(b)(1).

15 (b) OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POL-
16 ICY.—In conducting the gap and overlap analysis under
17 section 4 and developing the National Extreme Weather
18 Resilience Action Plan under section 5, the Director may
19 carry out additional activities in support of the purpose
20 of this Act.

21 **SEC. 7. REPORTS.**

22 (a) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE RE-
23 PORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enact-
24 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
25 States shall submit a report to Congress that—

1 (1) identifies existing Federal Government pro-
2 grams and policies related to disaster relief, re-
3 sponse, and recovery that impede improving short-
4 and long-term extreme weather resilience; and

5 (2) make recommendations for how the pro-
6 grams or policies could be structured differently to
7 better support short- and long-term resilience after
8 an extreme weather event.

9 (b) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall
11 submit a report to Congress that contains—

12 (1) the results of the gap and overlap analysis;

13 (2) the final National Extreme Weather Resil-
14 ience Action Plan;

15 (3) an update on the implementation of the
16 plan; and

17 (4) available resources for the sustained imple-
18 mentation of the plan.

19 (c) TRIENNIAL REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years
20 after the submission of the report under subsection (a),
21 and every 3 years thereafter, the coordinating entity iden-
22 tified under section 5(c)(3), in cooperation with the inter-
23 agency working group established under section 4(a), shall
24 submit a report to Congress that—

1 (1) contains an update of the National Extreme
2 Weather Resilience Action Plan;

3 (2) describes the progress of the plan's imple-
4 mentation;

5 (3) improves upon the original analysis as more
6 information and understanding about extreme
7 weather events becomes available;

8 (4) establishes criteria for prioritization of ac-
9 tivities described in the plan;

10 (5) reconsiders and makes changes to the plan
11 based on the availability of new information de-
12 scribed in paragraph (3); and

13 (6) identifies cost-effective changes to laws,
14 policies, or regulations that could advance the pur-
15 pose of this Act.

16 (d) FEMA REPORTS ON FUNDING.—

17 (1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

18 (A) The Federal Emergency Management
19 Agency grant programs are a key vehicle that
20 exists to fund activities related to resiliency
21 planning and projects.

22 (B) In order to ensure that the United
23 States becomes more resilient to extreme weath-
24 er, it is important to ensure that sufficient re-

1 sources are available to support resiliency ac-
2 tivities

3 (2) REPORTS.—At the end of each fiscal year,
4 the Director of the Federal Emergency Management
5 Agency (referred to in this paragraph as “FEMA”)
6 shall submit a report to Congress that—

7 (A) identifies the amounts that were made
8 available to the FEMA during such fiscal year
9 for State, local, and tribal entities to use for ac-
10 tivities that support the purposes of this Act;

11 (B) identifies the amounts disbursed by
12 FEMA to State, local, and tribal entities during
13 such fiscal year for such activities;

14 (C) describes the resources requested by
15 State, local, and tribal entities for activities
16 that support the purposes of this Act; and

17 (D) identifies the difference between the
18 amounts disbursed by FEMA and the amounts
19 requested from FEMA by State, local, and trib-
20 al entities.

21 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 (a) AMOUNTS FOR ANALYSIS, PLAN DEVELOPMENT
23 AND IMPLEMENTATION, AND REPORTS.—There are au-
24 thorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
25 essary for fiscal years 2013 through 2015—

1 (1) to conduct the gap and overlap analysis re-
2 quired under section 4;

3 (2) to conduct the activities required under sec-
4 tion 5, including the creation and maintenance of
5 the information clearinghouse; and

6 (3) to prepare the reports to Congress required
7 under subsections (b) and (c) of section 7.

8 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appro-
9 priated pursuant to subsection (a) shall remain available
10 for the purposes set forth in such subsection through De-
11 cember 31, 2015.

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