

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 962

Expressing support for assisting East African countries afflicted by the plague of desert locusts.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2020

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Ms. BASS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for assisting East African countries afflicted by the plague of desert locusts.

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development reports that East Africa is currently suffering the worst locust outbreak in decades, which will devour crops and pasture across that region;

Whereas there are more than 25 million people experiencing severe food insecurity in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Sudan, and untold more will be at risk if the locusts, currently in their most vulnerable state, are not controlled using airborne pesticides, before they mature into full grown locusts;

Whereas the World Food Programme (WFP) reports that there may be insufficient resources to conduct aerial

spraying to address the outbreak of desert locusts that is currently devastating East Africa;

Whereas the locust situation in the Horn of Africa, particularly in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia represents an unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods;

Whereas a relatively small investment now to help eradicate the locusts will obviate or ameliorate the need for a much larger United States emergency aid effort later;

Whereas Executive Director for the WFP David Beasley recently stated “Do nothing now and WFP will need up to 15 times that amount—more than US \$1 billion—to assist people devastated by losing crops and livelihoods.”;

Whereas United States Ambassador to the United Nations food agencies in Rome Kip Tom has been coordinating efforts between the WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), offering support for locust eradication efforts and calling attention to areas which FAO needs to better address, including the safe application of pesticides, management of weak supply chains, coordination of aerial eradication campaigns, and use of digital surveillance tools;

Whereas air assets capable of being deployed to support locust control efforts in East Africa potentially include the United States Air Force 910 Airlift Wing, based in Youngstown, Ohio, and those of contractors whose planes are routinely used by the United States Government; and

Whereas prioritization of responses to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and travel restrictions resulting from the pandemic have created additional logistical challenges to locust eradication efforts, includ-

ing delays in procurement and delivery of material: Now,
therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the coordination efforts of United
3 States Ambassador to the United Nations food agen-
4 cies in Rome Kip Tom between the World Food Pro-
5 gramme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Orga-
6 nization (FAO); and

7 (2) calls upon the President to—

8 (A) elevate locust eradication efforts
9 among relevant United States Government
10 agencies to immediately address the emerging
11 food security crisis in East Africa;

12 (B) allocate appropriate air assets to sup-
13 port locust eradication efforts in East Africa;
14 and

15 (C) direct the Administrator of the United
16 States Agency for International Development to
17 immediately mobilize personnel from the Office
18 of Foreign Disaster Assistance to determine
19 further types of assistance the United States
20 may provide in East Africa.

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