

Reyes	Serrano	Tierney
Ross	Sherman	Towns
Rothman	Skelton	Udall (CO)
Roybal-Allard	Slaughter	Udall (NM)
Rush	Smith (WA)	Van Hollen
Ryan (OH)	Snyder	Velázquez
Sabo	Solis	Vislosky
Salazar	Spratt	Wasserman
Sánchez, Linda	Stark	Schultz
T.	Strickland	Waters
Sanders	Stupak	Watson
Schakowsky	Tancredo	Watt
Schiff	Tanner	Waxman
Schwartz (PA)	Tauscher	Wexler
Scott (GA)	Thompson (CA)	Woolsey
Scott (VA)	Thompson (MS)	Wu

NOT VOTING—19

Baker	Emerson	Oliver
Berkley	Hyde	Sanchez, Loretta
Brady (TX)	Maloney	Taylor (MS)
Butterfield	McCrery	Weiner
Buyer	Melancon	Young (AK)
Conaway	Napolitano	
Cubin	Oberstar	

□ 1156

Mr. RAHALL and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. LANGEVIN changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM ENHANCED BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT OF 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3669) to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the national flood insurance program.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3669

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Flood Insurance Program Enhanced Borrowing Authority Act of 2005”.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN BORROWING AUTHORITY.

The first sentence of subsection (a) of section 1309 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “; except that, through September 30, 2008, clause (2) of this sentence shall be applied by substituting ‘\$3,500,000,000’ for ‘\$1,500,000,000’”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr.

NEY) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY).

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 3669, the National Flood Insurance Program Enhanced Borrowing Authority Act of 2005.

This is an important bill. This legislation increases FEMA’s borrowing authority for flood insurance by \$2 billion and will go a long way in helping the Department’s flood insurance response. This bill will ensure the program has sufficient funding on a cash basis in the short term. It will also allow FEMA to continue payment of the initial claims resulting from Hurricane Katrina while the administration further evaluates the extent of the damage and the most appropriate means to cover all potential claims.

□ 1200

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Federal and local governments now face the Herculean task of coordinating the relocation of thousands upon thousands of individuals and families whose lives have been torn apart by devastation and rising floodwaters.

There are more than 78,000 people now in shelters who will be requiring short-term and long-term-range housing solutions. In fact, today we had a roundtable with the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), and this very issue was talked about and the magnitude of it and the importance of it and the urgency of it.

In addition, it has been estimated that up to 360,000 residential mortgages could be negatively affected by the damage caused by the hurricane across the gulf region. Conservative estimates on residential and commercial property damage are in the range of \$20 billion.

Floods have been and continue to be one of the most destructive and most costly natural hazards to our Nation. During this past year alone, there have been three major floods in my area in Ohio. All three of these incidents qualified for Federal relief, granted by the President. Recent flooding in January this year resulted in historic levels in several local dams, and in Tuscarawas County, a community I represent, 7,000 people were displaced and forced to evacuate. So I have witnessed firsthand what floods can do. But I will tell my colleagues that, of course, the magnitude of what is going on down south is beyond belief.

Last Congress, the Committee on Financial Services spent considerable time and effort on legislation to reauthorize and reform the National Flood Insurance Program. On June 30, 2004, President Bush signed into law the

Flood Insurance Reform Act. This legislation reauthorizes the National Flood Insurance Program, NFIP, through September 2008.

The major goal of the Flood Insurance Reform Act last Congress was to reauthorize and reform the program with an eye toward maintaining the financial viability of the NFIP. While some provisions were included to address administrative and procedural concerns regarding it, we did not focus on issues that were procedural in nature such as the filing of claims, the timeliness of response to the claims filing, policyholder education, and insurance agent sales and training. Consequently, the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity has continued to review the National Flood Insurance Program in an effort to determine what changes need to be made to address the program’s shortcomings.

In addition to a request for a GAO study, our subcommittee has conducted three hearings this year on this important program, including a field hearing 2 weeks ago in rural Ohio. As the damage assessments and insurance claims begin to come in from the gulf coast region, we will be continuing our oversight of the NFIP and to look for possible legislative solutions that make this program as efficient and responsive as it can be.

The National Flood Insurance Program is a valuable tool in addressing the losses incurred to this country due to floods. It assures that businesses and families have access to affordable flood insurance that would not be available on the open market. Clearly, we need to continue our review of this program and to take steps to make sure it is meeting the needs of those for whom it was intended.

In times like these, it is more important than ever for Americans to stand united in helping our fellow citizens. The House of Representatives will continue to stand with the people of the gulf coast and our colleagues who represent those areas throughout this effort, and we encourage Americans who want to help to contact charitable organizations in their areas.

America has overcome challenges in the past. As Members of the House and, specifically, the Committee on Financial Services, we are prepared to roll up our sleeves and do the hard work to overcome this tragedy. Increasing FEMA’s borrowing authority for the National Flood Insurance Program is just one step in the process of helping those who have been affected by Katrina’s waters.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman OXLEY) for his expeditious work in sending this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Chairman BAKER), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE), the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS), and especially