

Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller. Impact on the Private Sector: Craig Cammarata.

Estimate Approved By: Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As I noted at the beginning of the debate, 169 scientists, all experts in the field, oppose this bill because its policies will impede the national forest recovery process. The preponderance of scientific literature supports this assumption in their opinion. The letter concludes with the following: "Science provides the best insight into the real consequences of our policies and actions."

I could not agree more. There seems to be a disconnect between the policy recommended in this bill and the consensus among the scientific community. For that reason, I cannot support the underlying legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to close what I consider to be about 50 minutes of bipartisan support for this particular rule and the underlying bill.

This bill, indeed, would give us the rehabilitation tools to combine science and research, preapproved action, and protection of our firefighters, which is why the professionals who know and work and run our forests are all in support of this particular bill and this action. And knowing our goal is to get green and not black forests, and healthy trees not dead stumps, I urge all my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1145

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 4200.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

#### FOREST EMERGENCY RECOVERY AND RESEARCH ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 816 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4200.

□ 1145

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4200) to improve the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to promptly implement recovery treatments in response to catastrophic events affecting Federal lands under their jurisdiction, including the removal of dead and damaged trees and the implementation of reforestation treatments, to support the recovery of non-Federal lands damaged by catastrophic events, to revitalize Forest Service experimental forests, and for other purposes, with Mr. FOLEY in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall not exceed 1 hour, with 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources, 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture, and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON), the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am delighted today to bring H.R. 4200 to the House for its consideration. I have spoken on it during the debate on the rule. This legislation is extraordinarily important for America to become a better steward of her forests.

Our Committee on the Forest and Forest Health has traveled the Nation's forests. We have listened to the experts from the scientific community. We have listened to the experts in the fire-fighting community. We have held field hearings where we have heard from tribal leaders who manage forestlands and move quickly after catastrophic events. We have met with State foresters who, in many cases, are in after a major forest fire or blowdown in a matter of days, if not weeks, doing what we propose to allow your Federal Land Management Agencies to do. You see, every other manager of Federal forest does what we are trying to put in place here.

We do require that environmental laws be followed. We do provide for administrative appeal and litigation. What we require is that the underlying

forest plans be followed. And if those forest plans say you can't harvest here and you have to do this sort of retention there for snags and habitat, then you have to do that. We don't change any of that. We require a site-specific evaluation, so it isn't a one-size-fits-all plan. We don't do that from here. We just say, whatever your plan called for, whatever the scientists on the ground say needs to be done, let us give our Federal land managers the authority to move quicker than they can move today if an emergency exists.

It is precisely what we expect out of our Federal Emergency Management Agency and, yes, demand: quick action after a hurricane in southern States, let us say, to clean up, to restore, to prevent erosion, to fix roads, to do the things that Americans expect and actually think are being done.

We want to protect our watersheds, and this legislation will help us do that.

The timber that comes out, if that is what the decision is, will have value. Today, when it takes 2 to 3 years to harvest a burned, dead tree that bugs have been in, that rot has occurred and nobody bids on it, it has no value, or very little by then. What the Congressional Budget Office found, unlike what my colleague from New Mexico said is, what they found is by passing this legislation, we would actually act quicker and the trees wouldn't have deteriorated, and the receipts to the Federal Government would be up 40 percent, not that we would harvest that many more trees necessarily. But you do it while they still have value. And that makes sense to the taxpayers and the forests.

Mr. Chairman, at this time I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota, the chairman of the Forest Committee and the Agriculture Committee, Mr. GUTKNECHT.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 4200, the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act. We have heard so far this morning some people say that this bill is about somehow suspending the laws of science. But I would argue this bill is really about restoring some common sense, and we have heard some excellent testimony by Members of both sides of the aisle.

In Minnesota we have the Superior National Forest. It covers about 3 million acres in northeastern Minnesota. It is not in my district, but I have had the opportunity, as chairman of the Forestry Subcommittee of the Agriculture Committee, to go up there on several occasions. Now, the forest itself is beautiful. It is perhaps one of the most beautiful national forests in the entire galaxy. But you don't have to visit there very long to understand the sense of frustration among the locals in the way that we manage that forest.

In a State that is dominated by public timberland, the national forests in Minnesota have a reputation of being