

emergency contingent of that participating jurisdiction and to representatives of deceased members of those forces if the members sustain injuries or are killed while rendering aid pursuant to this compact, in the same manner and on the same terms as if the injury or death were sustained within their own jurisdiction.

“ARTICLE IX—REIMBURSEMENT

“Any participating jurisdiction rendering aid in another jurisdiction pursuant to this compact shall, if requested, be reimbursed by the participating jurisdiction receiving such aid for any loss or damage to, or expense incurred in, the operation of any equipment and the provision of any service in answering a request for aid and for the costs incurred in connection with those requests. An aiding participating jurisdiction may assume in whole or in part any such loss, damage, expense, or other cost or may loan such equipment or donate such services to the receiving participating jurisdiction without charge or cost. Any 2 or more participating jurisdictions may enter into supplementary agreements establishing a different allocation of costs among those jurisdictions. Expenses under article VIII are not reimbursable under this section.

“ARTICLE X—IMPLEMENTATION

“(a) This compact is effective upon its execution or adoption by any 1 State and 1 province, and is effective as to any other jurisdiction upon its execution or adoption thereby: subject to approval or authorization by the United States Congress, if required, and subject to enactment of provincial or State legislation that may be required for the effectiveness of the Memorandum of Understanding.

“(b) Additional jurisdictions may participate in this compact upon execution or adoption thereof.

“(c) Any participating jurisdiction may withdraw from this compact, but the withdrawal does not take effect until 30 days after the governor or premier of the withdrawing jurisdiction has given notice in writing of such withdrawal to the governors or premiers of all other participating jurisdictions. The action does not relieve the withdrawing jurisdiction from obligations assumed under this compact prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

“(d) Duly authenticated copies of this compact in the French and English languages and of such supplementary agreements as may be entered into shall, at the time of their approval, be deposited with each of the participating jurisdictions.

“ARTICLE XI—SEVERABILITY

“This compact is construed to effectuate the purposes stated in Article I. If any provision of this compact is declared unconstitutional or the applicability of the compact to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability of the compact to other persons and circumstances are not affected.

“ARTICLE XII—CONSISTENCY OF LANGUAGE

“The validity of the arrangements and agreements consented to in this compact shall not be affected by any insubstantial difference in form or language as may be adopted by the various states and provinces.”

**SEC. 2. INCONSISTENCY OF LANGUAGE.**

The validity of the arrangements consented to by this Act shall not be affected by any insubstantial difference in their form or language as adopted by the States and provinces.

**SEC. 3. RIGHT TO ALTER, AMEND, OR REPEAL.**

The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material in the RECORD on this joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support today of S.J. Res. 44, “Granting the Consent of Congress to the State and Province Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding”, a bill introduced by Senator KOHL of Wisconsin.

This bill is non-controversial and passed the Senate in September under unanimous consent with the full support of the National Emergency Management Association.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, this legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

S.J. Res. 44 gives our northern states the ability to enter into an agreement with Canadian provinces to facilitate cross border emergency management assistance through mutual aid.

The purpose of this legislation is to provide mutual assistance among entities that have entered into these agreements for the management of any emergency or disaster when requested.

This bill will allow states to coordinate relief efforts with their Canadian counterparts in order to better respond to any disaster that may impact both jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, my Congressional district is very familiar with the financial and emotional impact that a natural disaster can cause to our communities.

We must ensure that we leverage all of our resources to better prepare, coordinate, and respond to any such disasters when they arise.

I strongly support the passage of this legislation and look forward to the President signing it into law.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of S.J. Res. 44, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This resolution provides the consent of Congress for a Memorandum of Understanding reached among a number U.S. states and Canadian provinces to provide for mutual assistance in managing an emergency or disaster.

This MOU, which includes states in the upper Midwest and the provinces of central Canada, is very similar to existing cross-border agreements in the Northeast and Pacific Northwest.

These agreements provide for the sharing of personnel, equipment and other resources in an emergency or disaster, whether natural or man-made.

In the past, they have provided a framework for U.S. crews to help their Canadian counterparts clear roads after blizzards and to deploy search and rescue teams.

Mr. Speaker, as all of us know, disasters do not respect political boundaries, and it is in our interest to allow our states to coordinate emergency preparedness efforts with our close friends and allies to the north.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, S.J. Res. 44.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3159, de novo;

H.R. 4057, de novo;

S. 3202, de novo.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

FOREIGN AID TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 3159) to direct the President, in consultation with the Department of State, United States Agency for International Development, Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the Department of Defense, to establish guidelines for United States foreign assistance programs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.