

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 762

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding community-based civil defense and power generation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 2012

Mr. BARTLETT (for himself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding community-based civil defense and power generation.

Whereas the United States has become increasingly more dependent on electronic delivery systems to power daily needs and provide for the common defense;

Whereas these systems would be rendered useless or their functions significantly reduced in the event of a “high impact low-frequency” event such as a cyber attack, coordinated physical attack on electric grid and communications assets, or the electromagnetic pulse (EMP) effects of either a 100-year solar storm or high-altitude nuclear burst;

Whereas the 2010 North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) report, “High-Impact Low-Frequency Vulnerabilities to the Bulk American Power System”, discusses the wide range of threats that could disrupt, damage, or destroy sufficient amounts of the power grids to cause widespread death and economic disruption;

Whereas the January 2010 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) report, “Electromagnetic Pulse: Effects on the U.S. Power Grid”, provides detail into the vulnerability of power grids from the electromagnetic pulse (EMP) effects of extreme space weather and high-altitude nuclear effects and intentional electromagnetic interference;

Whereas the Congressional EMP Commission reports of 2004 and 2008 outline the interdependent nature of all critical infrastructure, especially to power and telecommunications and their vulnerability to the EMP effects of extreme space weather and high-altitude nuclear bursts;

Whereas the National Defense University hosted a series of workshops and an energy security exercise in October 2011 with broad participation of Federal, State, local government, and the private sector highlighting the need for greater local sustainability in light of a prolonged nationwide power loss;

Whereas the Hoover-Brookings joint report on distributed power shows that the value of local power generation for security applications is either cost competitive or approaching competitiveness as new innovations come to market;

Whereas, on March 30, 2012, the United States Department of Homeland Security published the “National Prepared-

ness Report” (Report) seeking to create “an all-of-nation” approach to preparedness;

Whereas the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was assigned as the National Preparedness Report Coordinator, “Efforts to improve national preparedness have incorporated the whole community, which includes individuals, communities, the private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations, and Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial governments.”;

Whereas the “National Preparedness Report” focuses on a catastrophic planning framework known as “Maximums of Maximums”, which centers on collaborative, whole community planning for worst-case scenarios that exceed government capabilities and therefore focus on more local and individual efforts for survival and recovery;

Whereas these high-impact, low-frequency events would cause regional or nationwide collapse of critical infrastructure that could last months or longer, it is incumbent on the Federal Government to reassess its civilian civil defense strategies to include local governments and individual citizens; and

Whereas it is in the interest of national security and local community viability that every community and institution begin to reestablish its ability to generate at least 20 percent of its own power for its critical infrastructure and services in order to provide its citizens with food and water: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) encourages every community to develop its
3 own “civil defense program” working with citizens,
4 leaders, and institutions ranging from local fire

1 halls, schools, and faith-based organizations, to cre-
2 ate sustainable local infrastructure and planning ca-
3 pacity so that it might mitigate high-impact sce-
4 narios and be better prepared to survive and recover
5 from these worst-case disaster scenarios and be bet-
6 ter able to affordably and sustainably meet the
7 needs of the community in times of peace and tran-
8 quility;

9 (2) encourages every citizen to develop an indi-
10 vidual emergency plan to prepare for the absence of
11 government assistance for extended periods;

12 (3) encourages each local community to foster
13 the capability of providing at least 20 percent of its
14 own critical needs such as local power generation,
15 food, and water, while protecting local infrastructure
16 whenever possible from the threats that threaten
17 centralized infrastructure, and do so with the ur-
18 gency and importance inherent in an all-of-nation
19 civil defense program developed by citizens and their
20 local communities; and

21 (4) encourages State governments and Federal
22 agencies to support the ability of local communities
23 to become stronger, self-reliant, and better able to

- 1 assist neighboring communities in times of great
- 2 need.

