

105<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

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**H. CON. RES. 298**

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

Expressing deepest condolences to the State and people of Florida for the losses suffered as a result of the wild land fires occurring in June and July 1998, expressing support to the State and people of Florida as they overcome the effects of the fires, and commending the heroic efforts of firefighters from across the Nation in battling the fires.

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2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 298

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## **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

Whereas during June and July 1998, wild land fires destroyed approximately 500,000 acres of land in northeast and central Florida, having an aggregate value of more than \$276,000,000;

Whereas the fires have affected 67 counties in the State of Florida;

Whereas the President of the United States issued a major disaster declaration for the State of Florida;

Whereas the fires have damaged at least 367 homes and 33 businesses;

Whereas the fires have caused business closures and have aggravated drought conditions, which will have a long-term impact on the economy of the region;

Whereas the fires have caused injuries to at least 95 people, the majority of whom are firefighters;

Whereas approximately 7,000 firefighters from 46 States have braved extreme conditions to assist firefighters in Florida in fighting the fires;

Whereas many agencies of or established by the Federal Government, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Forest Service, the Department of Defense, the Department of Transportation, AmeriCorps, the Small Business Administration, the General Services Administration, the National Guard, the American National Red Cross, and the Civil Air Patrol, have contributed vital support functions in response to the fires; and

Whereas many State and local government agencies have also contributed vital support functions in response to the fires: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3            (1) expresses deepest condolences to the State  
4            and people of Florida for the losses suffered as a re-  
5            sult of the wild land fires occurring in June and  
6            July 1998;

1           (2) expresses support to the State and people of  
2 Florida as they overcome the effects of the fires;

3           (3) commends the heroic efforts of firefighters  
4 from across the Nation in battling the fires; and

5           (4) commends the many agencies of or estab-  
6 lished by the Federal Government and the many  
7 State and local government agencies that have con-  
8 tributed vital support functions in response to the  
9 fires.

Passed the House of Representatives July 20, 1998.

Attest:

*Clerk.*