

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 188

Expressing the sense of the Senate that additional assistance should be provided to the victims of Hurricane Floyd.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 24, 1999

Mr. EDWARDS (for himself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROBB, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. SPECTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that additional assistance should be provided to the victims of Hurricane Floyd.

Whereas from September 14 through 16, 1999, Hurricane Floyd menaced most of the southeastern seaboard of the United States, provoking the largest peacetime evacuation of eastern Florida, the Georgia coast, the South Carolina coast, and the North Carolina coast;

Whereas the evacuation caused severe disruptions to the businesses and lives of the people of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina;

Whereas in the early morning hours of September 16, 1999, Hurricane Floyd made landfall at Cape Fear, North Carolina, dumping up to 18 inches of rain on sections of

North Carolina only days after the heavy rainfall from Hurricane Dennis and producing the worst recorded flooding in North Carolina history;

Whereas after making landfall, Hurricane Floyd continued to move up the eastern seaboard causing flooding, tornadoes, and massive damage in Delaware, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, North Carolina, New York, and Connecticut;

Whereas portions of Delaware, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia have been declared to be Federal disaster areas under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.);

Whereas Hurricane Floyd is responsible for the known deaths of 65 people;

Whereas 45 people are confirmed dead in North Carolina, with many people still missing;

Whereas 4 people were killed in New Jersey, 2 people in New York, 6 people in Pennsylvania, 4 people in Virginia, 2 people in Delaware, 1 person in Connecticut, and 1 person in Vermont;

Whereas as the flood waters recede, the death toll is expected to increase;

Whereas the rainfall resulting from Hurricane Floyd has caused widespread flooding in North Carolina along the Tar River, the Neuse River, and the Cape Fear River, among other rivers, in Connecticut along the Still River, and in Virginia along the Nottoway River and the Blackwater River;

Whereas some of the rivers are expected to remain at flood stage for more than a week;

Whereas the floods are the worst seen in North Carolina in 80 years;

Whereas the flood level on the Tar River exceeds all previous records by 9 feet;

Whereas flood waters engulfed cities such as Tarboro, North Carolina, Franklin, Virginia, Bound Brook, New Jersey, and Danbury, Connecticut;

Whereas tens of thousands of people have fled to shelters scattered throughout North Carolina, South Carolina, New York, New Jersey, and Virginia;

Whereas thousands of people remain isolated, surrounded by water, in their homes in North Carolina and Virginia;

Whereas approximately 50,000 homes have been affected by the hurricane, and many of those homes will ultimately be condemned as uninhabitable;

Whereas water supplies in New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia have been severely disrupted, and, in many cases, wells and private water systems have been irreparably contaminated;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses have lost electric power, telephone, and gas service as a result of Hurricane Floyd;

Whereas there have been road washouts in virtually every State struck by Hurricane Floyd, including 900 road washouts in North Carolina alone;

Whereas many farmers have suffered almost total crop losses; and

Whereas small and large businesses throughout the region have been gravely affected: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

1 **SECTION 1. NEED FOR ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF HUR-**
2 **RICANE FLOYD.**

3 It is the sense of the Senate that—

4 (1) the victims of Hurricane Floyd deserve the
5 sympathies of the people of the United States;

6 (2) the President, the Director of the Federal
7 Emergency Management Agency, the Secretary of
8 Agriculture, the Secretary of Transportation, the
9 Secretary of Commerce, and the Director of the
10 Small Business Administration are to be commended
11 on their efforts to assist the victims of Hurricane
12 Floyd;

13 (3) the Governors of Connecticut, Florida,
14 Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North
15 Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Vir-
16 ginia are to be commended for their leadership and
17 coordination of relief efforts in their States;

18 (4) the National Guard, the Army, the Marine
19 Corps, the Navy, and the Coast Guard have provided
20 heroic assistance to the people of the afflicted areas
21 and are to be commended for their bravery;

22 (5) the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and
23 other private relief organizations have provided shel-
24 ter, food, and comfort to the victims of Hurricane
25 Floyd and are to be commended for their generosity
26 and invaluable aid; and

1 menting a program to provide disaster assistance to
2 the victims of Hurricane Floyd, including assistance
3 in the form of—

4 (A) direct economic assistance to agricul-
5 tural producers, small businesses, and displaced
6 persons;

7 (B) an expanded loan and debt restruc-
8 turing program;

9 (C) cleanup of environmental damage;

10 (D) small business assistance;

11 (E) repair or reconstruction of private
12 homes;

13 (F) repair or reconstruction of highways,
14 roads, and trails;

15 (G) provision of safe and adequate water
16 supplies; and

17 (H) restoration of essential utility services
18 such as electric power, telephone, and gas serv-
19 ice.

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