



HOW H.R. 4 AND DRRRA BETTER PREPARE COMMUNITIES FOR FUTURE DISASTERS: **WILDFIRE & EARTHQUAKE**

At some point, every community in America will face disaster. Fortunately, the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) as included in H.R. 4 ensures that our communities nationwide will be better prepared.

Our goal in this bill is to protect our neighbors' lives and property and help them better recover from future disasters.

The best way to protect our communities is to prepare in advance. This bill increases our ability to prepare before disaster strikes.

The federal government will always be there in the wake of wildfires and earthquakes to rescue those in danger and to help everyone put their lives back together.

I think we would all agree that money is better spent preventing and minimizing damage rather than recovering afterward.

And it costs less to prepare our communities than to help them recover. In general, every \$1 spent on predisaster mitigation will save us \$4 to \$8 in costs avoided in recovery.

Some examples of how the DRRRA helps better prepare and protect our communities:

- Expands mitigation funding for areas affected by a fire and makes funds available for local projects to protect communities against wildfire, such as (Secs. 603 and 604):
 - Vegetation management/fuel control
 - Installation of fire-resistant roofing and other building materials
 - Creation of fire buffers around vulnerable buildings
 - Stabilization efforts in the wake of a fire to protect fire-affected areas against mudslides
- Extends federal funding to mitigate the risk of earthquake hazards (Sec 634).
 - Eligible projects include those related to local earthquake early warning systems
- General provisions:
 - Ensures improved planning and preparedness for special needs facilities such as nursing homes (Sec 607)
 - Gives local communities more control over their own recovery (Sec 606)
 - Ensures assistance supports individuals with disabilities (Sec 611)
 - Streamlines the process to apply for disaster assistance and makes the system more transparent for applicants (Sec. 622)
 - Clarifies and facilitates the ability of food banks and other relief organizations to assist disaster relief efforts (Sec. 626)