

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3683

To ensure that a declaration for a major disaster or emergency is made on a timely basis, rural areas receive assistance, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 30, 2024

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. RISCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To ensure that a declaration for a major disaster or emergency is made on a timely basis, rural areas receive assistance, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Making Aid for Local
5 Disasters Equal Now Act” or the “MALDEN Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. RURAL ASSISTANCE.**

7 Section 326(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
8 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5165d(c))
9 is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (3)(D) by striking “and” at
2 the end;

3 (2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
4 graph (6); and

5 (3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(4) with respect to a rural area impacted by
8 a wildfire, work in coordination with the State or
9 Tribal emergency management agency to provide
10 guidance to the emergency manager of the rural
11 area on developing a recovery team, including—

12 “(A) by providing resources to help prevent
13 flooding, mudslides, rockslides or any other nat-
14 ural disaster that could result after a wildfire;
15 and

16 “(B) by identifying available resources for
17 both short-term and long-term recovery, includ-
18 ing resources to help prevent a future natural
19 disaster within the burned area;

20 “(5) in a case in which a request for assistance
21 to an individual or household in a rural area under
22 section 408 is denied, work in coordination with the
23 affected State or Tribal emergency management
24 agency to make case workers available to the resi-

- 1 dents impacted by the major disaster or emergency;
- 2 and”.

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