To enhance the Federal Government’s planning and preparation for extreme weather and the Federal Government’s dissemination of best practices to respond to extreme weather, thereby increasing resilience, improving regional coordination, and mitigating the financial risk to the Federal Government from such extreme weather, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 31, 2017

Mr. Cartwright (for himself, Mr. Lance, Mr. Curbelo of Florida, Mr. Deutch, Mr. Dent, Mr. Farenthold, Ms. Norton, Mr. Crist, Mr. Peters, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Mr. Garamendi, Mr. Connolly, Mr. Cummings, and Mr. Lowenthal) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To enhance the Federal Government’s planning and preparation for extreme weather and the Federal Government’s dissemination of best practices to respond to extreme weather, thereby increasing resilience, improving regional coordination, and mitigating the financial risk to the Federal Government from such extreme weather, and for other purposes.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the
“Preparedness and Risk Management for Extreme Weather-
er Patterns Assuring Resilience and Effectiveness Act of
2017” or the “PREPARE Act of 2017”.

(b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents for
this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Interagency Council on Extreme Weather Resilience, Preparedness, and Risk Identification and Management.
Sec. 3. Agency planning for extreme weather-related risks.
Sec. 4. Website.
Sec. 5. Requesting adequate funding.
Sec. 6. Inventory.
Sec. 7. Meetings.
Sec. 8. Progress updates.
Sec. 9. Definitions.
Sec. 10. Requirement to include agency extreme weather plan in agency performance plan.
Sec. 11. Sunset and repeal.

SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON EXTREME WEATHER
RESILIENCE, PREPAREDNESS, AND RISK
IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT.

(a) Establishment.—There is hereby established a
council to be known as the “Interagency Council on Ex-
treme Weather Resilience, Preparedness, and Risk Identifi-
cation and Management”.

(b) Membership.—The Interagency Council shall be
composed of the following:
(1) Senior officials, to be appointed by the President, including representation from the following:

(A) The Council on Environmental Quality.

(B) The Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(C) The National Security Council.

(D) The Office of Management and Budget.

(E) The Department of Transportation.

(F) The Environmental Protection Agency.

(G) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(H) The Department of Energy.


(K) The Department of Defense.

(L) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(M) The Department of Agriculture.

(N) The Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(O) The Department of Justice.
(2) Senior officials, to be appointed by the President, who have relevant policy expertise and policy responsibilities, including in the following areas:

(A) Economic policy and risk analysis.
(B) Foreign affairs.
(C) Defense and intelligence.
(D) Homeland security.
(E) Energy.
(F) Environmental protection.
(G) Natural resources.
(H) Coasts, oceans, rivers, and floodplains.
(I) Agriculture.
(J) Health.
(K) Transportation and infrastructure.
(L) Housing.
(M) Education.
(N) Extreme weather data analysis or meteorological science.
(O) Social science.
(P) Strategic planning.
(Q) Urban and land use planning.
(R) Other areas the President determines appropriate.

(c) Co-Chairpersons.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—The Interagency Council shall be co-chaired by the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. The President may appoint one or more additional members as co-chairs, as appropriate.

(2) DUTIES.—The co-chairpersons shall—

(A) oversee the Interagency Council’s response to the Government Accountability Office’s recommendations under subsection (f)(5);

(B) use the evaluation framework and performance metrics developed pursuant to subsection (f)(6) to evaluate agency progress in meeting the goals and implementing the priorities described in subsection (f)(1)(A); and

(C) work to ensure that sufficient resources are available for agencies to—

(i) meet the goals and implement the priorities described in subsection (f)(1)(A); and

(ii) implement the recommendations developed under subsection (f)(2).

(d) ADMINISTRATION.—The co-chairpersons of the Interagency Council (or staff designed by the co-chairpersons) shall provide administrative support and addi-
tional resources, as appropriate, to the Interagency Coun-
cil to the extent permitted by law and within existing ap-
propriations. The Interagency Council co-chairpersons
shall determine the amount of funding and personnel nec-
essary for the Interagency Council to carry out its duties
and the amount of funding and personnel each agency rep-
resented on the Interagency Council should contribute in
order for the Interagency Council to carry out such duties.
Agencies shall, upon the request of the co-chairpersons of
the Interagency Council, make available personnel, admin-
istrative support services, and information to the Inter-
agency Council.

(e) Structure.—

(1) Steering Committee.—The co-chair-
persons of the Interagency Council shall designate a
subset of members of the Interagency Council to
serve on a steering committee. Such steering com-
mittee shall assist the Interagency Council in deter-
mining its priorities and its strategic direction.

(2) Working Groups.—The co-chairpersons of
the Interagency Council and its steering committee
may establish working groups as needed.

(f) Duties of the Interagency Council.—

(1) Goals and Priorities.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—The Interagency Council shall establish Governmentwide goals and priorities for extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management. In establishing such goals and priorities, the Interagency Council shall consider the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, agency continuity of operations plans, the National Preparedness Goal, the National Preparedness Report, the National Global Change Research Plan, the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group’s National Mitigation Investment Strategy (if available), State and local mitigation plans, and all relevant provisions of the Government Accountability Office’s High-Risk Series.

(B) COORDINATION.—In executing the duties pursuant to this subsection, the Interagency Council shall coordinate with other groups in the Federal Government focused on extreme weather mitigation and recovery (including the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group, the Recovery Support Functions Leaders Group, and the Emergency Support Functions Leaders Group), to avoid duplication
among Federal activities to the extent prac-
ticable.

(C) Incorporation into Agency Activities.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Interagency Council shall, in order to ensure that information relating to extreme weather re-
silience, preparedness, and risk identification and management is incorporated into everyday agency activities—

(i) work with agencies to assist such agencies in considering the goals and prior-
ities described in subparagraph (A) in agency strategic, programmatic, and budg-
et planning;

(ii) identify details to be included in agency extreme weather plans; and

(iii) work to identify and communicate localized extreme weather and natural haz-
ard risk to the extent possible using the best available information regarding risk,
and encourage the development of thor-
ough, updated maps, models, and tools to measure and evaluate risk.

(2) Priority Interagency Federal Ac-
tions.—The Interagency Council shall develop, rec-
ommend, coordinate, and track implementation of priority interagency Federal Government actions related to extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management.

(3) SUPPORT REGIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL ACTIONS.—The Interagency Council shall support regional, State, and local action to assess extreme weather-related vulnerabilities and cost effectively increase extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management of communities, critical economic sectors, natural and built infrastructure, and natural resources, including by—

(A) conducting inventories under section 6;

(B) convening meetings under section 7;

(C) providing guidance to agencies to produce tools and products that enhance extreme weather resilience planning, risk knowledge, and actions for use in all levels of government, including guidance on how to prioritize funding in order to produce such tools and products; and

(D) reviewing State and local mitigation plans.

(4) METEOROLOGICAL AND EXTREME WEATHER SCIENCE.—The Interagency Council shall facilitate
the integration of meteorological and extreme weather science, in addition to other scientific disciplines such as physical, natural, and social science that the Council determines to be appropriate, in the policies risk evaluation and communication, and planning of agencies and the private sector, including by—

(A) promoting the development of innovative, actionable, and accessible Federal extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management-related information, data, tools, and examples of successful actions at appropriate scales for decisionmakers; and

(B) providing such information, data, tools, and examples to the agency or agencies designated under section 4 to include on the website established and maintained or designated pursuant to such section.

(5) High-risk report recommendations.—The Interagency Council shall assess the specific recommendations relating to extreme weather in all relevant provisions of the Government Accountability Office’s High-Risk Series, identify the feasibility of revising Federal programs to implement such recommendations, and develop a plan to address such
recommendations when feasible that does not duplicate the National Preparedness Goal.

(6) Framework and performance metrics.—The Interagency Council shall use existing and emerging science to develop or adopt—

(A) a framework for evaluating the progress and success of extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management-related efforts that is complementary to and not duplicative of any local or national indicator system developed as part of the National Preparedness Goal; and

(B) performance metrics that allow tracking of the actions taken and progress made toward meeting the goals and implementing the priorities described in paragraph (1)(A).

(7) Recommendations for the CEQ and OMB.—The Interagency Council shall provide to the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Department of Homeland Security recommendations on how agencies should—

(A) develop or update agency extreme weather plans;
(B) remove barriers to State and local extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management, in agency regulations, guidance, and policies; and

(C) avoid duplication among Federal activities to the extent practicable.

(8) PUBLIC INPUT AND COMMENT.—The Interagency Council shall solicit and incorporate public input and comment as appropriate into the decisions of the Interagency Council.

(9) INVENTORY AND MEETINGS.—The Interagency Council shall conduct inventories under section 6 and convene meetings under section 7.

(10) DEFINITION OF EXTREME WEATHER.—The Interagency Council shall consider and may update, not less frequently than every two years, in consultation with appropriate scientific bodies, the definition of “extreme weather” and what other weather events (in addition to those described in section 9(3)) qualify as extreme weather for purposes of this Act. The definition of “extreme weather” shall be published and updated, as necessary, on the website of the Council and in the Federal Register.
(11) Other duties.—The Interagency Council shall carry out any other duties the co-chairpersons of the Interagency Council determine appropriate.

(12) Public information.—The Interagency Council shall—

(A) make information available online—

(i) for tracking implementation of agency extreme weather plans and Governmentwide goals and priorities described in paragraph (1)(A);

(ii) on recommendations relating to extreme weather in all relevant provisions of the Government Accountability Office’s High-Risk Series; and

(iii) on the results of the Council’s efforts to identify nationwide and localized risks (including updated mapping efforts);

and

(B) make such High-Risk Series and the reports submitted under paragraph (13) available as the Council determines appropriate.

(13) Annual report.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter (concurrently with the United States Global Change Research Program Annual Re-

(A) describes how the goals and priorities described in paragraph (1)(A) are being met and implemented using—

(i) the performance metrics developed under paragraph (6)(B); and

(ii) information on—

(I) agency expenditures, broken down by program activity level if practicable, that are directly related to extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management, including extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management of Federal facilities; and

(II) the effectiveness of such expenditures, along with associated financial impacts and community, infrastructure, and environmental bene-
fits, to the extent such data are available;

(B) provides recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of such implementation and sets benchmarks to meet;

(C) describes the progress of the regional coordination efforts described in sections 6, 7, and 8; and

(D) includes a summary of public comments solicited under paragraph (8) and any action the Interagency Council took to respond to such comments.

(g) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out paragraphs (2) through (12) of subsection (f), the Interagency Council shall consult with agencies, State and local governments, academic and research institutions, and the private and nonprofit sectors.

(h) OMB GUIDANCE.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, taking into consideration the recommendations provided by the Interagency Council under subsection (f)(7), shall issue guidance to agencies on—

(1) developing agency extreme weather plans, which shall incorporate existing agency reports,
where appropriate, to prevent duplication and reduce
overlap; and

(2) developing agency regulations, guidance,
and policies to remove barriers to State and local ex-
treme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk
identification and management.

SEC. 3. AGENCY PLANNING FOR EXTREME WEATHER-RE-
LATED RISKS.

(a) AGENCY EXTREME WEATHER RESILIENCE, PRE-
pAREDNESS, AND RISK IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGE-
MENT PLANS.—

(1) AGENCY SUBMISSION.—Not later than 1
year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
every 2 years thereafter, the head of each agency, in
coordination with the Director of the Federal Emer-
gency Management Agency to avoid duplication with
the National Planning Frameworks, shall submit to
the Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
et and to the Interagency Council a comprehensive
plan that integrates consideration of extreme weath-
er into such agency’s operations and overall mission
objectives (hereinafter referred to as an “agency ex-
treme weather plan”).

(2) HEARING.—Not later than 1 year after the
date of the enactment of this Act, and every 2 years
thereafter, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall convene an interagency budget crosscut and policy hearing to review and integrate all the agency extreme weather plans and to ensure that such extreme weather plans and the activities of agencies align with the goals and priorities established under section 2(f)(1)(A).

(3) OMB SUBMISSION.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, upon receipt of all agency extreme weather plans in a given year, shall consolidate and submit to Congress such plans.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—Each agency extreme weather plan shall include—

(1) identification and assessment of extreme weather-related impacts on, and risks to—

(A) the agency’s ability to accomplish its missions, operations, and programs over time periods to be designated by the Interagency Council; and

(B) State and local entities;

(2) identification and assessment of barriers posed by Federal programs the agency administers to State and local extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management efforts;
(3) a description of programs, policies, and plans the agency has already put in place, as well as additional actions the agency will take, to manage extreme weather risks in the near term and build resilience in the short and long term;

(4) a description of how the agency will consider the need to improve extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management, including the costs and benefits of such improvement, with respect to agency suppliers, supply chain, real property investments, and capital equipment purchases, including by updating agency policies for leasing, building upgrades, relocation of existing facilities and equipment, and construction of new facilities;

(5) a description of how the agency will support any ongoing or future public-private partnership to improve extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management, including the cost and benefits of technology and methodology improvements, hardening, or rapid restoration;

(6) a description of how the agency will contribute to coordinated interagency efforts to support extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management at all levels of gov-
ernment, including collaborative work across agencies’ regional offices and hubs, and through coordinated development of information, data, and tools, consistent with sections 6, 7, and 8; and

(7) any other details identified by the Inter-agency Council under section 2(f)(1)(B)(ii).

SEC. 4. WEBSITE.

(a) In General.—The Interagency Council shall designate an agency or agencies to establish, maintain, or designate a website that provides timely, actionable, and accessible information, data, and tools on current and future risks related to extreme weather, preparedness, resilience, and risk identification and management, to support Federal, regional, State, local, private sector, and other decisionmakers.

(b) Interagency Progress.—The website described under subsection (a), shall identify interagency progress, and propose the next interagency steps, towards responding to threats posed by extreme weather.

(c) Best Practices.—The website described under subsection (a) shall provide best practices and examples from Federal, regional, State, and local decisionmakers in the public and private sectors about how to use extreme weather-related information in planning and decision-making.
(d) **Interagency Council Information and Tools.**—The website described under subsection (a) shall include the information, data, tools, and examples provided by the Interagency Council pursuant to section 2(f)(4).

(e) **Best Available Meteorological Science.**—The website described under subsection (a) shall identify best available meteorological science relating to extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management.

(f) **Public Outreach and Education.**—The Interagency Council shall designate one or more agencies to conduct outreach and educational activities to inform the public and regional, State, and local decisionmakers about the tools and information available on the website described under subsection (a).

**SEC. 5. PROVIDING ADEQUATE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT.** The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall ensure that each agency provides adequate resources to the Interagency Council, including administrative services and personnel support, as appropriate—

(1) for the website described under section 4; and

(2) to otherwise carry out this Act.
SEC. 6. INVENTORY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Interagency Council, or a working group of such Interagency Council established by the co-chairpersons thereof, shall conduct and publish an inventory of all regional offices, centers, and programs of agencies that are assisting with extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management efforts at the State or local level, including—

(1) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s regional programs;

(2) the Department of the Interior’s Fish and Wildlife Service Landscape Conservation Cooperatives;

(3) the United States Geological Survey’s Climate Science Centers;

(4) the Department of Agriculture’s Climate Hubs;

(5) the regional offices of—

(A) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(B) the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(C) the Department of Transportation;

and

(D) the Forest Service;
(6) the division offices of the Army Corps of Engineers; and

(7) such other offices, centers, and programs or other agency efforts as determined appropriate by the Interagency Council.

(b) ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED.—An inventory conducted and published under subsection (a) shall include a description of the assistance each agency office, center, or program is providing to assist with extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management efforts at the State or local level.

SEC. 7. MEETINGS.

Not later than 6 months after the publication of each inventory under section 6, the Interagency Council shall convene a meeting of representatives of the offices, centers, and programs included in such inventory and invite other local and regional stakeholders to participate and develop plans to coordinate the efforts of such offices, centers, and programs and facilitate efficient services to stakeholders. At such meetings, such representatives shall—

(1) share information regarding their office, center, or program’s extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management efforts;
(2) identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination of research agendas, extreme weather assessment activities, vulnerability assessments, data collection and analysis, and planning and implementing extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management projects;

(3) identify extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management information needs, research gaps, and decision support needs that are not met by any of the offices, centers, or programs included in the inventory under section 6 and make available such identification for purposes of information to be submitted to the Interagency Council under section 7;

(4) identify common and complementary goals for extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management within each region to be prioritized for the coming year and beyond;

(5) identify barriers to regional extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management planning and implementation that can be overcome or minimized through Federal action and specific suggestions for improvement;
(6) evaluate progress and jointly develop a strategy for realizing extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management-related goals, including clearly identified responsibilities by each collaborating regional office, center, or program; and

(7) share experiences and best practices in stakeholder engagement and communication, decision support, and science-practice interactions that support the realization of identified extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management goals.

SEC. 8. PROGRESS UPDATES.

Not later than 90 days after each meeting under section 7, each agency that participates in such meeting shall submit to the Interagency Council, and make available to the United States Global Change Research Program and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, information describing progress in regional coordination and collaboration in aligning Federal resilience, preparedness, and risk identification and management efforts at the State and local level, and the benefits of such regional coordination and collaboration.

SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:
(1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the meaning given the term “Executive agency” under section 105 of title 5, but does not include the Government Accountability Office.

(2) AGENCY EXTREME WEATHER PLAN.—The term “agency extreme weather plan” means a plan required under section 3(a).

(3) EXTREME WEATHER.—The term “extreme weather” includes observed or anticipated severe and unseasonable atmospheric conditions, including drought, wildfire, heavy precipitation, wave, high water, snowstorm, landslide, mudslide, hurricanes, tornadoes and other windstorms (including derechos), extreme heat, extreme cold, sustained temperatures or precipitation that deviate from historical averages, and any other weather event that the Interagency Council determines qualifies as extreme weather pursuant to section 2(f)(10).


(5) MITIGATION PLAN.—The term “mitigation plan” means the mitigation plan required under sec-
tion 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5165).

(6) NATIONAL GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH
PLAN.—The term “National Global Change Re-
search Plan” means the National Global Change Re-
search Plan developed under section 104 of the
2934), or any revision thereof.

(7) NATIONAL OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUB-
STANCES POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN.—The
term “National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pol-
lution Contingency Plan” means the National Oil
and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency
Plan described under part 300 of title 40, Code of
Federal Regulations, or any revision thereof.

(8) NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS GOAL.—The
term “National Preparedness Goal” means the na-
tional preparedness goal developed under section 643
of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform

(9) NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS REPORT.—The
term “National Preparedness Report” means the re-
port required by section 652(a) of the Post-Katrina
Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6
U.S.C. 752(a); Public Law 109–295).
(10) **Preparedness.**—The term “preparedness” means actions taken to plan, organize, equip, train, and exercise to build, apply, and sustain the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, ameliorate the effects of, respond to, and recover from extreme weather related damages to life, health, property, livelihoods, ecosystems, and national security.

(11) **Resilience.**—The term “resilience” means the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions.

(12) **Senior Official.**—The term “senior official” means a Deputy Secretary (or an equivalent officer) of an agency.

(13) **State.**—The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.


SEC. 10. REQUIREMENT TO INCLUDE AGENCY EXTREME WEATHER PLAN IN AGENCY PERFORMANCE PLAN.

A description of the most recent agency extreme weather plan, as required under section 3, shall be included in the performance plan of an agency (as defined in section 9) required pursuant to section 1115(b) of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 11. SUNSET AND REPEAL.

This Act ceases to be effective and is repealed on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.