



HR0115

LRB101 08613 ALS 56078 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On Wednesday, September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico near the southeastern town of Yabucoa; and

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WHEREAS, The powerful Category 4 storm plowed across the island with sustained winds of 155 miles per hour, uprooted trees, downed weather stations and cell towers, and ripped wooden and tin roofs off of homes; electricity was cut off to 100 percent of the island, and access to food and clean water became limited for most; and

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WHEREAS, Heavy rains and flash floods brought on by the storm exacerbated widespread devastation and turned streets into rivers full of debris; in some areas, floodwaters were waist high, more than 30-inches deep, and often sewage-ridden; and

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WHEREAS, Hurricane Maria is the worst storm to hit Puerto Rico in over 80 years; the storm arrived only two weeks after Hurricane Irma passed just north of the island and left one million people without power; the effect on Puerto Rican families and the island's infrastructure will take many years to heal; and

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1 WHEREAS, On September 29, 2017, the President of the United
2 States issued a ten-day waiver of the federal Jones Act, which
3 requires all goods shipped between U.S. ports to be transported
4 by U.S. vessels; and

5 WHEREAS, If there is a shortage of U.S. flagged vessels,
6 there will be a major limitation in the amount of goods being
7 shipped in the relief support; and

8 WHEREAS, The waiver of the Jones Act expired on October 10,
9 2017; many members of the U.S. Congress urged the President to
10 consider repealing it permanently; one Congressman was quoted
11 calling the Jones Act an "antiquated, protectionist law that
12 has drive up costs and crippled Puerto Rico's economy";
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we urge the President of the United States to abolish the
17 federal Jones Act and allow Puerto Rico to receive relief
18 supplies from foreign vessels in the instance that there is a
19 shortage of U.S. flagged ships; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the President of the United States.