



HR0467

LRB099 12212 GRL 35164 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, Natural disasters that occur in Illinois test the preparation, cooperation, support, and resilience of our State and its peoples; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, On the evening of April 9, 2015, north central Illinois was struck by high violent winds and multiple tornados, inflicting damage and destruction in several communities, including Fairdale and Rochelle; 2 residents of the community of Fairdale, Geraldine Schultz and Jacqueline Klosa, lost their lives, while 77 structures were destroyed, 138 structures were damaged in this storm, and the surviving residents of these communities face years of recovery and rebuilding efforts; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

WHEREAS, The residents of these communities, like all who experience natural disasters, go through 4 distinct stages of need: Response, Relief, Recovery, and Rebuilding; and

15

16

17

WHEREAS, In the initial moments of the April 9 disaster, local first responders and neighbors reacted to rescue those trapped or in danger, evacuated survivors, and provided immediate medical attention to victims; following this immediate emergency response, State and regional agencies and organizations as well as hundreds of individuals provided

18

19

20

21

22

1 relief for those affected by the disaster by rendering
2 provisions, including shelter, food, water, clothing, and
3 financial assistance; and

4 WHEREAS, The recovery effort has turned to agencies and
5 companies providing emotional support, information, continued
6 financial assistance, insurance settlements, and planning for
7 the rebuilding of lives and infrastructure; and

8 WHEREAS, The final stage of the disaster is the rebuilding
9 of strong, vibrant, and productive communities that will
10 continue for years to come; and

11 WHEREAS, A Long Term Recovery Committee has been formed in
12 DeKalb County for the Fairdale community and in Rochelle to
13 provide case management, volunteer organization,
14 communication, spiritual and emotional healing, construction
15 management, financial and insurance support, and to act as a
16 liaison with government and non-government organizations; and

17 WHEREAS, These Long Term Recovery Committees have
18 established 501(c)(3) funds for the survivors of this disaster
19 as passed-through accounts at the Rochelle Community
20 Foundation and the DeKalb County Community Foundation that will
21 accept tax-deductible contributions, provide financial
22 accounting and reporting, and assure that 100% of the donations

1 will benefit the survivors; and

2 WHEREAS, Though the area was declared a State disaster,
3 little federal or State assistance is expected; and

4 WHEREAS, The Governor believes that the recovery can be
5 fully funded by insurance and private company and foundation
6 donations; as an example, he personally gave \$100,000 to relief
7 efforts; and

8 WHEREAS, State Comptroller Leslie Munger has reminded
9 State employees and retirees that they can donate a portion of
10 their paychecks to the Red Cross' disaster relief efforts for
11 the victims through a convenient website
12 (<http://give.illinoiscomptroller.com>); and

13 WHEREAS, Contributions for the victims of the tornado that
14 hit Fairdale can be made on the DeKalb County Community
15 Foundation website (www.dekalbccf.org/announcements.php),
16 while contributions for the victims of the tornado that hit
17 Rochelle can be made on the Rochelle Area Community Foundation
18 website (www.rochellefoundation.org); therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
20 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
21 thank the fire, police, and emergency medical providers from

1 across the region who responded quickly and in a coordinated
2 manner; commend the individuals, businesses, organizations,
3 and relief agencies including the Salvation Army and American
4 Red Cross for their generosity, supplies, and assistance to the
5 victims; and recognize the untiring services of the Illinois
6 Emergency Management Agency, the Illinois State Police, the
7 Illinois Conservation Police, the Illinois Department of
8 Transportation, the DeKalb and Ogle County Emergency
9 Management Agencies, and the DeKalb and Ogle County Sheriff's
10 Offices; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That, in reviewing the response to this disaster,
12 we urge organizations to consider the lessons learned from this
13 disaster, including faster public communication of needed
14 supplies, a focal point to make financial donations, and the
15 formation of Long Term Recovery Committees; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we show our pride for the courage, strength,
17 and resilience of these communities, state our continued
18 support for these afflicted citizens, and resolve to keep these
19 people in our hearts, minds, and prayers in the weeks, months,
20 and years ahead as they recover and rebuild their communities
21 and their lives; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be sent
23 to the aforementioned organizations and the Mayors of Kirkland

HR0467

-5-

LRB099 12212 GRL 35164 r

1 and Rochelle.