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Reed Announces Plan To Assist Disaster Victims

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ERIC ZAVINSKI

ezavinski@post-journal.com

In the wake of disasters such as Hurricane Florence and the California wildfires, Rep. Tom Reed, R-Corning, expressed his desire to help out survivors of natural catastrophes with a bipartisan tax credit through The Disaster Savings and Resilient Construction Act.

Reed provided details for the bill he has recently introduced that would help provide financial relief to disaster victims and allow for resilient construction to replace fallen structures with more durable buildings. Reed said the goal of the bill is to mitigate the loss of life and property.

“We care about those who have been impacted by the devastating effects of natural disasters,” Reed said. “We want to ensure our friends and neighbors are incentivized to rebuild with materials which have a chance of withstanding the next disaster.”

Providing tax relief and encouraging the use of building with resilient materials is paramount to other lawmakers as well, some of which have said that in some areas of the country, it’s only a matter of time before the next disaster strikes.

The act was said to provide tax credit to homeowners and building owners who use resilient construction techniques when building and renovating homes and commercial structures in federally declared disaster areas in hopes to reduce future destruction of lives and property. In a press release from Reed’s office, research was said to have shown that investing in resilient construction methods and materials will limit future need for emergency funding, something that is made possible by taxpayers’ dollars.

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"I think it's only appropriate," Reed said, "as we care deeply about families and individuals impacted by the devastating natural disasters, that we have a tax code that recognizes that these individuals not only need the immediate relief in their communities...but also as they rebuild, that the tax provisions are accessible to them."

As author of this bill, Reed said he thinks it would allow for areas stricken by natural disasters to better be able to fully recover. In response to the flooding in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes areas, Reed has also written a letter to President Donald Trump, urging him to declare the damage caused by severe storms a major disaster.

Reed also commented on how he and 18 other members of Congress plan on voting for a new Speaker of the House only if a candidate will support House Rules that are intended to *"break the gridlock"* according to Reed, who is the co-chairman of the Republican Problem Sovlers Caucus.

"With a slim majority expected on either side of the aisle next Congress, a block of 19 members will have a tremendous say over who will get to 218 on the House floor and secure the gavel for Speaker in January," Reed said.

The majority of legislators interested in withholding their votes are members of the problem solvers caucuses, and representatives from both the Republican and Democratic parties support the plan.

"This shows me that there is an appetite by members on both sides of the aisle that we need to get the institution of the House working again for the American people," Reed said.

Reed also recently spoke on the House floor in favor of his bill to authorize \$75 million per year be allocated for the West Valley Demonstration Project, through 2025, to remove nuclear waste from the plant. Reed said he has worked with plant employees to make cleanup a primary investment.

"They work tirelessly over the years to clean up this nuclear waste and this threat to our environment and our communities," Reed said.