



H.Res. 642 – Expressing sympathy to and support for the people and governments of the countries of Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico which have suffered from Hurricanes Felix, Dean, and Henriette and whose complete economic and fatality toll are still unknown

Floor Situation

H.Res. 642 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Hilda Solis (D-CA) on September 7, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, but was never considered.

H.Res. 642 is expected to be considered by the House of Representatives on September 25, 2007.

Summary

H.Res. 642 expresses the House's sympathy to the countries of Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico in this time of devastation. The legislation vows to continue friendship and support for our neighbors in Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico.

H.Res. 642 urges all parties to continue their efforts in evacuating and providing aid to those individuals displaced by the hurricanes and encourages public institutions, specialized agencies, as well as private citizens, to offer their resources.

Additionally, H.Res. 642 recognizes the efforts of relief organizations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the international community, in aiding the people and governments involved.

Background

On September 4, 2007, Hurricane Felix, a Category 5 storm, hit the Nicaragua-Honduras border, causing over 40,000 people in Nicaragua and Honduras to be evacuated, and killing at least 100 people.

Weeks prior to Felix, another category 5 storm, Hurricane Dean, hit Mexico and the Caribbean coast, killing 27 persons, displacing over 260,000 persons, and destroying over 36,000 homes.

Hurricane Henriette, a Category 1 storm, made landfall along the Baja California peninsula of Mexico hours after Hurricane Felix made landfall. This was the first time since 1949 that two Atlantic and Pacific hurricanes hit land on the same day.

The homes of at least 5,000 Central Americans were damaged or destroyed by Hurricanes Felix and Henriette.

This was also the first time in the recorded history of hurricanes that two Category 5 storms, Hurricanes Dean and Felix, made landfall during the same year.

Cost

At the time of printing the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) had not scored this legislation.

Staff Contact

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