

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1050

To provide that a project to replace or improve a communications facility following a major disaster or an emergency declared by the President is not subject to requirements to prepare certain environmental or historical preservation reviews, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2021

Mr. DUNN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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 provide that a project to replace or improve a communications facility following a major disaster or an emergency declared by the President is not subject to requirements to prepare certain environmental or historical preservation reviews, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Connecting Commu-
5 nities Post Disasters Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF NEPA AND NHPA TO COVERED**
2 **COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS.**

3 (a) NEPA EXEMPTION.—A covered project shall not
4 be subject to the requirements of section 102(2)(C) of the
5 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
6 4332(2)(C)).

7 (b) NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT EX-
8 EMPTION.—A covered project shall not be considered an
9 undertaking under section 300320 of title 54, United
10 States Code.

11 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY.—The term
13 “communications facility” includes—

14 (A) any wireless or wireline infrastructure
15 for the transmission of writing, signs, signals,
16 data, images, pictures, or sounds of all kinds;

17 (B) any transmitting device, tower, or sup-
18 port structure, and any equipment, switches,
19 wiring, cabling, power sources, shelters, or cabi-
20 nets, associated with the provision of commu-
21 nications services; and

22 (C) any antenna or apparatus that—

23 (i) is designed for the purpose of
24 emitting radio frequency;

25 (ii) is designed to be operated, or is
26 operating, from a fixed location; and

1 (iii) is added to a tower, building, or
2 other structure.

3 (2) COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE.—The term
4 “communications service” means a service for the
5 transmission of writing, signs, signals, data, images,
6 pictures, or sounds of all kinds.

7 (3) COVERED PROJECT.—The term “covered
8 project” means a project that—

9 (A) is to be carried out within an area for
10 which the President has declared a major dis-
11 aster or an emergency under the Robert T.
12 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
13 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.);

14 (B) is to be carried out not later than 5
15 years after the date on which the President
16 made such declaration; and

17 (C) replaces a communications facility
18 damaged by such disaster or emergency or
19 makes improvements to a communications facil-
20 ity in such area that could reasonably be con-
21 sidered as necessary for recovery from such dis-
22 aster or emergency or to prevent or mitigate fu-
23 ture disasters or emergencies.

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