

Bilirakis Introduces Bill to Encourage Gulf Coast States to Coordinate, Prepare, and Respond to Disasters

WASHINGTON

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The Gulf Coast

All-Hazard Readiness Act (H.R. 2704) would allow the Gulf Coast States to form an interstate compact to mitigate, respond to and recover from major natural disasters. Under this legislation, participating states could establish an all-hazard fund to backstop funding for disaster recovery and ultimately alleviate some of the financial burden on the federal government.

"Interstate disaster

mitigation and an appropriate cooperative strategy to handle a major, regional catastrophe will lessen final impact and, more importantly, save lives," said Bilirakis. "This legislation would grant authority for state and local governments to more closely cooperate on preparing for and responding to disasters more effectively."

Throughout his short time in

Congress, Bilirakis has made it a priority to propose legislation that would improve the nation's disaster preparedness and address the skyrocketing cost of insurance for homeowners' in high-risk areas. Congressman Bilirakis also has encouraged his colleagues to support legislation that he has introduced (H.R. 913) that would allow tax credits for home and business owners who better strengthen their property for major wind damage.

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