

OPENING STATEMENT
The Honorable Ralph Hall (R-TX), Chairman
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Full Committee Markup of:
H.R. 3479, Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2011

December 1, 2011

I am pleased to call the markup this morning for consideration of H.R. 3479, the *Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2011*.

The bill we are considering today will reauthorize the activities of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program and the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program. Both programs are targeted federal research and development efforts to mitigate the loss of life and property due to earthquake and wind related hazards.

Over the years, the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program has been instrumental in developing and advancing earthquake knowledge and raising awareness of earthquake hazards. The National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program has supported activities to improve the understanding of windstorms and their impacts, while developing and encouraging the implementation of cost-effective mitigation measures.

I want to thank Representatives Biggert and Neugebauer for collaborating on this effort, as well as my fellow co-sponsors Representatives Smith and Palazzo. I strongly support this measure and look forward to discussion of the proposed amendments. I yield the balance of my time.