



**H.Res. 629 – Extending the condolences and sympathy of the House of Representatives to the Government and the people of Greece for the grave loss of life and vast destruction caused by the devastating fires raging through Greece since June 2007**

**Floor Situation**

H.Res. 629 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 John Sarbanes (D-MD) on September 4, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs but was not considered.

H.Res. 629 is expected to be considered on the floor on September 5, 2007.

**Summary**

H.Res. 629 resolves that House of Representatives:

- Extends its condolences and sympathy to the Government and the people of Greece for the grave loss of life and vast destruction caused by the devastating fires raging through Greece;
- Vows its full support and solidarity to a close friend, a strategic partner, and a longstanding ally in this painful and difficult hour;
- Fully supports the Administration's initiatives to provide assistance and relief to the people of Greece, including its pledge of \$1,500,000 in aid as well as expert and technical assistance;
- Encourages public institutions and specialized agencies, as well as private citizens, to offer their resources; and
- Expresses confidence that Greece and its people will succeed in overcoming the hardships incurred through this tragedy.

**Background**

Since June of 2007, vast swaths of mostly forests and farmland in Greece have been ravaged by wildfires. During a 10-day period, fires devastated an estimated 469,000 acres. Dozens of people have died in the fires and thousands have seen their homes destroyed.

It is estimated that the Greek economy suffered between \$1.6 billion and \$5.4 billion in damages due to the blazes.

**Cost**

This bill has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

**Staff Contact**

For questions or further information contact Shea Loper at (202) 226-2302.