

## LETTERS

### House Can Find Another Solution

The recent vote in the House on Rep. Brian Baird's (D-Wash.) constitutional amendment was an important step in the process of providing for continuity in government in the event of a disaster ("Baird Amendment Goes Down in Flames," June 3). The vote showed that the proposal for temporary appointments of House Members is not acceptable because it would dilute the bedrock principle that no one can serve in the House unless he or she is duly elected. Now it is up to the House to legislate another solution to the problem of continuity. As Baird has explained, the bill to mandate an expedited timetable for new elections is not adequate.

One possibility is for a constitutional amendment that would give the Senate power to enact laws until a new body of House Members can be elected. A temporary unicameral Congress preserves the separation of powers and is much better than the inevitable alternative of government through presidential edicts. With this approach, the House could maintain its electoral purity without standing in the way of the president and the Senate to accomplish the people's business until the House could be reconstituted through special elections.

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