

Calendar No. 582

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 1764**

To improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 31 (legislative day, MAY 30), 2023

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

Reported by Mr. MANCHIN, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Western Wildfire Support Act of 2023”.

6 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
 Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—PREPARATION

- Sec. 101. Firefighting accounts.
 Sec. 102. Reimbursement for wildfires caused by military training.
 Sec. 103. Strategic wildland fire management planning.
 Sec. 104. Accounts to assist communities in planning and preparing for wildfires.
 Sec. 105. Community support during disaster response.

TITLE II—WILDFIRE DETECTION AND SUPPRESSION SUPPORT

- Sec. 201. Wildfire detection equipment.
 Sec. 202. Grant program for slip-on tank units.
 Sec. 203. Assistance to States for operation of air tankers.
 Sec. 204. Research and development of unmanned aircraft system fire applications.
 Sec. 205. Study on effects of drone incursions on wildfire suppression.
 Sec. 206. Study on wildfire detection equipment and integration of artificial intelligence technologies.

TITLE III—POST-FIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

- Sec. 301. Funding for online guides for post-fire assistance.
 Sec. 302. Long-Term Burned Area Recovery account.
 Sec. 303. Prize for wildfire-related invasive species reduction.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term
 4 “congressional committees” means—

5 (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural
 6 Resources and the Committee on Appropria-
 7 tions of the Senate; and

8 (B) the Committee on Natural Resources
 9 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
 10 House of Representatives.

11 (2) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term “Federal land”
 12 means—

1 (A) public lands (as defined in section 103
2 of the Federal Land Policy and Management
3 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702));

4 (B) units of the National Park System;

5 (C) units of the National Wildlife Refuge
6 System;

7 (D) land held in trust by the United States
8 for the benefit of Indian Tribes or members of
9 an Indian Tribe; and

10 (E) land in the National Forest System.

11 (3) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “National
13 Forest System” has the meaning given the term
14 in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland
15 Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

17 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “National
18 Forest System” does not include—

19 (i) the national grasslands and land
20 utilization projects administered under title
21 III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant
22 Act (7 U.S.C. 1010 et seq.); or

23 (ii) National Forest System land east
24 of the 100th meridian.

1 (4) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
2 means—

3 (A) the Secretary of the Interior; and

4 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture.

5 (5) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
6 retary concerned” means—

7 (A) the Secretary of the Interior, in the
8 ease of Federal land under the jurisdiction of
9 the Secretary of the Interior; and

10 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture, in the
11 ease of Federal land under the jurisdiction of
12 the Secretary of Agriculture.

13 **TITLE I—PREPARATION**

14 **SEC. 101. FIREFIGHTING ACCOUNTS.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNTS.—There are es-
16 tablished in the Treasury of the United States the fol-
17 lowing accounts:

18 (1) The Firefighting Operations account for the
19 Department of Agriculture.

20 (2) The Firefighting Operations account for the
21 Department of the Interior.

22 (b) BUDGET ACTIVITIES WITHIN ACCOUNTS.—The
23 following activities shall be specified for funding within
24 each Firefighting Operations account established by sub-
25 section (a):

1 (1) Ground-based firefighting operations.

2 (2) Aircraft use in firefighting operations.

3 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 (1) GROUND-BASED FIREFIGHTING OPER-
5 ATIONS.—

6 (A) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—

7 There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal
8 year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter to the
9 account established by subsection (a)(1) not
10 more than \$3,000,000,000 for ground-based
11 firefighting operations.

12 (B) DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.—

13 There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal
14 year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter to the
15 account established by subsection (a)(2) not
16 more than \$1,000,000,000 for ground-based
17 firefighting operations.

18 (2) AIRCRAFT USE IN FIREFIGHTING OPER-
19 ATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for
20 fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter to
21 the accounts established by subsection (a), a total
22 amount of not more than \$500,000,000 for aircraft
23 use in firefighting operations.

24 (d) PRESIDENTIAL BUDGET REQUESTS.—For fiscal
25 year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, each Secretary

1 concerned shall submit through the budget request of the
2 President and in accordance with subsection (e), a request
3 for amounts in the Wildland Fire Management appropria-
4 tion account of the Secretary concerned to carry out the
5 activities described in subsection (e).

6 (e) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall use
8 amounts provided to the respective accounts estab-
9 lished under subsection (a) as follows:

10 (A) The Secretary of Agriculture shall use
11 amounts appropriated under subsection
12 (e)(1)(A) to carry out management activities for
13 active wildfires through the Forest Service, ex-
14 cept that none of the amounts may be used for
15 the operation of aircraft.

16 (B) The Secretary of the Interior shall use
17 amounts appropriated under subsection
18 (e)(1)(B) to carry out management activities
19 for active wildfires, except that none of the
20 amounts may be used for the operation of air-
21 craft.

22 (C) The Secretary concerned shall use
23 amounts appropriated under subsection (e)(2)
24 to acquire, by contract or purchase, and use

1 aircraft, including unmanned aerial systems, for
2 operations relating to wildland fires.

3 ~~(2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary concerned~~
4 shall not use to carry out any activity authorized by
5 paragraph ~~(1)(C)~~ amounts appropriated to accounts
6 of the Secretary concerned other than amounts in
7 the accounts established by subsection ~~(a)~~ specified
8 for activities described in subsection ~~(b)(2)~~.

9 ~~(f) ACCOUNTING REPORTS.—~~

10 ~~(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Secretary concerned~~
11 shall submit to the congressional committees month-
12 ly accounting reports regarding the amounts that
13 have been obligated and expended under this section
14 during the preceding month of the applicable fiscal
15 year.

16 ~~(2) INCLUSIONS.—Each report under para-~~
17 graph ~~(1)~~ shall include a description of, with respect
18 to the period covered by the report—

19 ~~(A) Federal ground-based equipment costs;~~

20 ~~(B) Federal aircraft use costs;~~

21 ~~(C) Federal personnel costs;~~

22 ~~(D) on-incident and off-incident support~~
23 costs; and

1 ~~(E)~~ funding allocated from the Wildland
 2 Fire Management account of the Secretary con-
 3 cerned to pay for administrative costs.

4 ~~(3)~~ REQUIREMENTS.—Each report under para-
 5 graph ~~(1)~~ shall be prepared in accordance with ap-
 6 plicable national fire plan reporting procedures.

7 **SEC. 102. REIMBURSEMENT FOR WILDFIRES CAUSED BY**
 8 **MILITARY TRAINING.**

9 ~~(a)~~ REIMBURSEMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of
 10 Defense shall, on application by a State or Federal agency,
 11 reimburse the State or Federal agency for the reasonable
 12 costs of the State or Federal agency for services provided
 13 in connection with fire suppression as a result of a fire
 14 caused by military training or other actions carried out
 15 by the Armed Forces or employees of the Department of
 16 Defense.

17 ~~(b)~~ LIMITATION.—Services reimbursable under sub-
 18 section ~~(a)~~ shall be limited to services proximately related
 19 to the fire for which reimbursement is sought.

20 ~~(c)~~ APPLICATION.—Each application from a State or
 21 Federal agency for reimbursement for costs under sub-
 22 section ~~(a)~~ shall provide an itemized request of the services
 23 covered by the application, including the costs of the serv-
 24 ices.

1 (d) FUNDS.—Reimbursements under subsection (a)
2 shall be made from amounts authorized to be appropriated
3 to the Department of Defense for operation and mainte-
4 nance.

5 **SEC. 103. STRATEGIC WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN-**
6 **NING.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30,
8 2026, the Secretary concerned shall, in accordance with
9 this section, establish a series of spatial fire management
10 plans.

11 (b) USE OF EXISTING PLANS.—To comply with this
12 section, the Secretary concerned may use a fire manage-
13 ment plan in existence on the date of enactment of this
14 Act.

15 (c) UPDATES.—To be valid, a spatial fire manage-
16 ment plan established under this section shall not be in
17 use for longer than the 10-year period beginning on the
18 date on which the plan is established.

19 (d) SUB-UNIT PLANS.—The Secretary concerned
20 shall establish a spatial fire management plan for each
21 unit of Federal land with more than 10 acres of burnable
22 vegetation under the jurisdiction of the Secretary con-
23 cerned.

1 (e) ~~CONTENTS.~~—For each spatial fire management
2 plan established under this section, the Secretary con-
3 cerned shall—

4 (1) base the plans on a landscape-scale risk as-
5 sessment that includes—

6 (A) risks to firefighters;

7 (B) risks to communities;

8 (C) risks to highly valuable resources; and

9 (D) other relevant considerations deter-
10 mined by the Secretary concerned;

11 (2) include direction, represented in spatial
12 form, from land management plans and resource
13 management plans;

14 (3) in coordination with States, delineate poten-
15 tial wildland fire operational delineations that—

16 (A) identify potential control locations; and

17 (B) specify the places in which firefighters
18 will not be sent because of the presence of un-
19 acceptable risk, including areas determined by
20 the Secretary concerned as—

21 (i) exceeding a certain slope;

22 (ii) containing too high of a volume of
23 hazardous fuels, under certain weather
24 conditions; or

25 (iii) containing other known hazards;

1 (4) include a determination of average severe
2 fire weather for the plan area;

3 (5) include prefire planning provisions;

4 (6) include a plan for postfire activities that—

5 (A) would better enable a Burned Area
6 Emergency Response Team working on a large
7 fire incident to address emergency stabilization
8 and erosion quickly; and

9 (B) specifies ways in which the Burned
10 Area Emergency Response Team would seek to
11 prevent the proliferation of invasive species in
12 working on the large fire incident; and

13 (7) include, at a minimum, any other require-
14 ment determined to be necessary by the Secretary
15 concerned.

16 (f) CONSISTENCY WITH MANAGEMENT PLANS.—The
17 spatial fire management plans established under this sec-
18 tion shall be consistent with the fire management objec-
19 tives and land management objectives in the applicable
20 land management plan or resource management plan.

21 (g) REVISIONS TO LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS AND
22 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS.—A revision to a land
23 management plan or resource management plan shall con-
24 sider fire ecology and fire management in a manner that

1 facilitates the issuance of direction for an incident re-
 2 sponse.

3 (h) **ENGAGEMENT DURING LAND MANAGEMENT**
 4 **PLANNING.**—A supervisory employee of the Department
 5 of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture that is
 6 funded through a Firefighting Operations account estab-
 7 lished under section 101 shall participate directly in the
 8 creation or revision of an applicable land management
 9 plan or resource management plan to incorporate an as-
 10 sessment, protocol, or plan developed under this Act into
 11 the planning process.

12 **SEC. 104. ACCOUNTS TO ASSIST COMMUNITIES IN PLAN-**
 13 **NING AND PREPARING FOR WILDFIRES.**

14 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNTS.**—There are es-
 15 tablished in the Treasury of the United States the fol-
 16 lowing accounts:

17 (1) The Community-Supported Land-Use Plan-
 18 ning Assistance account for the Department of Agri-
 19 culture.

20 (2) The Community-Supported Land-Use Plan-
 21 ning Assistance account for the Department of the
 22 Interior.

23 (b) **BUDGET ACTIVITIES WITHIN ACCOUNTS.**—The
 24 following activities shall be specified for funding within

1 each Community-Supported Land-Use Planning Assist-
 2 ance account established by subsection (a):

3 (1) ~~The Firewise Program operated by the Na-~~
 4 ~~tional Fire Protection Association.~~

5 (2) Community wildfire protection programs.

6 (3) ~~The Fire-Adapted Communities Learning~~
 7 ~~Network.~~

8 (4) Vegetation management by communities.

9 (c) ~~AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.~~—There
 10 are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2024 and
 11 each fiscal year thereafter for the accounts established by
 12 subsection (a) such sums as are necessary to carry out
 13 this section, not to exceed \$200,000,000.

14 (d) ~~PRESIDENTIAL BUDGET REQUESTS.~~—For fiscal
 15 year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, each Secretary
 16 concerned shall submit through the budget request of the
 17 President and in accordance with subsection (e), a request
 18 for amounts in the Wildland Fire Management appropria-
 19 tion account of the Secretary concerned to carry out the
 20 activities described in subsection (b).

21 (e) ~~AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.~~—The Secretary con-
 22 cerned shall use amounts in the accounts established by
 23 subsection (a) as follows:

1 (1) With respect to amounts appropriated for
2 the activity described in subsection (b)(1), the Sec-
3 retary concerned may—

4 (A) cosponsor the Firewise Program; and

5 (B) support the expansion of the Firewise
6 Communities/USA Recognition Program to ad-
7 ditional at-risk communities.

8 (2) With respect to amounts appropriated for
9 the activity described in subsection (b)(2), the Sec-
10 retary concerned may provide assistance to at-risk
11 communities to establish and revise—

12 (A) a community wildfire protection plan
13 (as defined in section 101 of the Healthy For-
14 ests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
15 6511)); or

16 (B) a community evacuation plan.

17 (3) With respect to amounts appropriated for
18 the activity described in subsection (b)(3), the Sec-
19 retary concerned shall establish a small grant pro-
20 gram to address local hazard reduction on Federal,
21 State, or private land, subject to the conditions
22 that—

23 (A) a grant provided under the program—

24 (i) may be awarded to an organization
25 in an at-risk community to address, in a

1 sole instance, a hazardous fuel in a specific
2 location, including piling and burning, and
3 implementing a prescribed fire on private
4 land;

5 (ii) shall not exceed \$20,000; and

6 (iii) shall require cost-sharing assist-
7 ance in an amount equal to not less than
8 10 percent of the amount of the grant;

9 (B) the work identified for funding under
10 the grant shall be accomplished by a team com-
11 posed of, at a minimum—

12 (i) a private citizen;

13 (ii) a representative of a nonprofit or-
14 ganization; and

15 (iii) a local fire department, including
16 a volunteer fire department;

17 (C) to be eligible for a grant under the
18 program, a strategic plan outlining the means
19 by which the applicant will address a hazardous
20 fuel shall be submitted to the Secretary con-
21 cerned; and

22 (D) on completion of a grant project, the
23 grant recipient shall—

24 (i) submit to the Secretary concerned
25 a report; and

1 (ii) participate in training another
2 grant recipient during the following fiscal
3 year.

4 (4) With respect to amounts appropriated for
5 the activity described in subsection (b)(4), the Sec-
6 retary concerned may provide cost-sharing assistance
7 for the establishment and operation of a local pro-
8 gram in an at-risk community to assist homeowners
9 in the disposal of brush and slash generated by haz-
10 ard reduction activities.

11 **SEC. 105. COMMUNITY SUPPORT DURING DISASTER RE-**
12 **SPONSE.**

13 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretaries shall establish a
14 program to train and certify a citizen who wishes to be
15 able to volunteer to assist the Secretaries during a
16 wildland fire incident.

17 (b) **SERVICE.**—

18 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretaries shall estab-
19 lish several categories of service for each manner in
20 which a volunteer certified under this section may
21 provide assistance.

22 (2) **DIRECT SUPPRESSION OF WILDLAND**
23 **FIRES.**—No volunteer certified under this section
24 may engage in an operation to directly suppress a
25 wildland fire.

1 ~~(3) DIRECTION.~~—A volunteer under this section
2 shall—

3 ~~(A)~~ report to a designee of an incident
4 commander prior to providing any assistance on
5 a wildland fire; and

6 ~~(B)~~ operate continuously under the direc-
7 tion of the designee while providing assistance
8 on a wildland fire.

9 ~~(c) CERTIFICATION.~~—

10 ~~(1) CRITERIA.~~—

11 ~~(A) IN GENERAL.~~—The Secretaries shall
12 certify volunteers to provide assistance for each
13 category of service established under subsection
14 ~~(b)~~.

15 ~~(B) ESTABLISHMENT OF CRITERIA.~~—The
16 Secretaries shall establish criteria for a volun-
17 teer to be certified for each category of service.

18 ~~(C) ATTENDANCE.~~—Attendance at training
19 conducted under paragraph ~~(2)~~ shall be ~~1~~ of the
20 criteria established under subparagraph ~~(B)~~.

21 ~~(D) ASSESSMENT.~~—The Secretaries shall
22 assess the knowledge, skills, or abilities, of a
23 person prior to certifying a person to become a
24 volunteer.

25 ~~(2) TRAINING.~~—

1 (A) ~~IN GENERAL.~~—The Secretaries shall
2 regularly conduct training for citizens who de-
3 sire to be certified as volunteers.

4 (B) ~~CONTENT.~~—The training shall include,
5 at a minimum, a safety component in an effort
6 to minimize inherent threats to volunteers and
7 maximize the safety of a volunteer, to the max-
8 imum extent practicable, as a volunteer pro-
9 vides assistance on a wildland fire.

10 (C) ~~FREQUENCY.~~—The Secretaries shall
11 offer, at a minimum, 1 training session in each
12 State with significant wildfire risk, not less
13 than every 2 years.

14 (3) ~~IDENTIFICATION.~~—

15 (A) ~~IN GENERAL.~~—On the certification of
16 a volunteer, the Secretary concerned shall pro-
17 vide to the volunteer a means of identification
18 as a volunteer.

19 (B) ~~DISPLAY.~~—A volunteer certified under
20 this section shall display, continuously while as-
21 sisting in a wildland fire, the means of identi-
22 fication.

1 **TITLE II—WILDFIRE DETECTION**
 2 **AND SUPPRESSION SUPPORT**

3 **SEC. 201. WILDFIRE DETECTION EQUIPMENT.**

4 To the extent practicable, the Secretary concerned
 5 shall—

6 (1) expedite the placement of wildfire detection
 7 equipment, such as sensors, cameras, and other rel-
 8 evant equipment, in areas at risk of wildfire;

9 (2) expand the use of satellite data to assist
 10 wildfire response; and

11 (3) expedite any permitting required by the
 12 Secretary concerned for the installation, mainte-
 13 nance, or removal of wildfire detection equipment.

14 **SEC. 202. GRANT PROGRAM FOR SLIP-ON TANK UNITS.**

15 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretaries shall establish a
 16 program to award to an eligible State or unit of local gov-
 17 ernment each year grants to acquire slip-on tank and
 18 pump units (referred to in this section as “slip-on units”)
 19 for a surge capacity of resources for fire suppression.

20 (b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—

21 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—To be eligible to receive a
 22 grant under this section, a State or unit of local gov-
 23 ernment shall—

1 (A) submit an application at such time, in
2 such manner, and containing such information
3 as the Secretaries may require; and

4 (B) contribute non-Federal funds in ac-
5 cordance with paragraph (2).

6 (2) COST-SHARE REQUIREMENTS.—The non-
7 Federal share of the cost of acquiring slip-on units
8 using a grant under this section shall be not less
9 than 25 percent.

10 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this
12 section shall be used only for the acquisition of not
13 fewer than 30 slip-on units.

14 (2) RESTRICTIONS.—A recipient of a grant
15 under this section—

16 (A) shall be responsible for the cost of the
17 maintenance and use of the slip-on units; and

18 (B) may not use grant funds for a cost de-
19 scribed in subparagraph (A).

20 (d) REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATION OF SLIP-ON
21 UNITS.—A recipient of a grant under this section shall—

22 (1) in maintaining and storing the slip-on
23 units—

24 (A) store and mount a slip-on unit on a ve-
25 hicle only during—

1 (i) a period of extreme fire danger; or

2 (ii) an active wildland fire;

3 ~~(B) designate a vehicle and personnel to be~~
4 ~~used with each slip-on unit;~~

5 ~~(C) make any necessary modification to a~~
6 ~~designated vehicle to ensure compatibility with~~
7 ~~the use of the slip-on unit;~~

8 ~~(D) train designated personnel to use the~~
9 ~~slip-on unit;~~

10 ~~(E) ensure designated personnel possess el-~~
11 ~~ementary wildland fire management skills, in-~~
12 ~~cluding post-fire-front structure-protection tac-~~
13 ~~tics; and~~

14 ~~(F) maintain each slip-on unit in good, us-~~
15 ~~able condition for a period of not fewer than 20~~
16 ~~years;~~

17 ~~(2) during a large, active wildland fire—~~

18 ~~(A) staff each designated vehicle equipped~~
19 ~~with a slip-on unit with—~~

20 ~~(i) a person designated under para-~~
21 ~~graph (1)(B); and~~

22 ~~(ii) a trained firefighter, regardless of~~
23 ~~whether the trained firefighter is paid, a~~
24 ~~volunteer, or off-duty but paid;~~

1 (B) organize each designated vehicle
2 equipped with a slip-on unit into a team with
3 other designated vehicles under the direction of
4 a qualified task force leader; and

5 (C) use each designated vehicle equipped
6 with a slip-on unit primarily for the purpose of
7 following behind the wildland fire front—

8 (i) to prevent homes from igniting;

9 and

10 (ii) to alert fire engines of structures

11 that have ignited; and

12 (3) comply with any other requirements deter-
13 mined to be necessary by the Secretaries, including
14 any minimum requirements for a slip-on unit and
15 any additional required equipment.

16 **SEC. 203. ASSISTANCE TO STATES FOR OPERATION OF AIR**
17 **TANKERS.**

18 The Secretary concerned may provide funding to
19 States to enable States to operate not more than 50 sin-
20 gle-engine air tankers if—

21 (1) the single-engine air tanker is government-
22 owned and contractor-operated or government-owned
23 and government-operated;

24 (2) a State receiving funding for a single-engine
25 air tanker under this section shares the cost with

1 the Secretary of the acquisition and operation of the
2 aircraft; and

3 ~~(3) the single-engine air tanker—~~

4 ~~(A) shall be used for initial attack; and~~

5 ~~(B) shall not be used for large fire aviation~~
6 ~~support.~~

7 **SEC. 204. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF UNMANNED**
8 **AIRCRAFT SYSTEM FIRE APPLICATIONS.**

9 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

10 (1) **COVERED UNMANNED AIRCRAFT TEST**
11 **RANGE.**—The term “covered unmanned aircraft test
12 range” means a test range that is approved of or
13 designated by the Administrator of the Federal
14 Aviation Administration for the testing of unmanned
15 aircraft systems, as required under section 44803 of
16 title 49, United States Code.

17 (2) **UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.**—The term
18 “unmanned aircraft system” means an unmanned
19 aircraft and associated elements (including commu-
20 nication links and the components that control the
21 unmanned aircraft) that are required for the oper-
22 ator to operate safely and efficiently in the national
23 airspace system of the Federal Aviation Administra-
24 tion.

1 (b) JOINT FIRE SCIENCE PROGRAM.—The Secretary
 2 of the Interior shall, acting through the Joint Fire Science
 3 Program, work with covered unmanned aircraft test
 4 ranges to carry out research and development of un-
 5 manned aircraft system fire applications.

6 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 7 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the
 8 Interior such sums as are necessary to carry out this sec-
 9 tion.

10 **SEC. 205. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF DRONE INCURSIONS ON**
 11 **WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.**

12 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) DRONE.—The term “drone” means an un-
 14 manned aircraft system owned by a private indi-
 15 vidual or entity.

16 (2) DRONE INCURSION.—The term “drone in-
 17 cursion” means the operation of a drone within any
 18 airspace for which the Administrator of the Federal
 19 Aviation Administration has issued a temporary
 20 flight restriction because of a wildfire.

21 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 22 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
 23 rector of the Bureau of Land Management.

24 (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary, in consulta-
 25 tion with the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the

1 Chief of the Forest Service, shall conduct a study on the
2 effects of drone incursions on wildfire suppression with re-
3 spect to land managed by the Department of the Interior
4 or the Department of Agriculture.

5 (e) STUDY CONTENTS.—In conducting the study re-
6 quired under subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

7 (1) determine, for each of the 5 most recent
8 calendar years—

9 (A) the number of occurrences in which a
10 drone incursion interfered with wildfire suppres-
11 sion; and

12 (B) the effect of each occurrence described
13 in subparagraph (A) on—

14 (i) the length of time required to
15 achieve complete suppression;

16 (ii) the effectiveness of aerial fire-
17 fighting responses; and

18 (iii) the amounts expended by the
19 Federal Government; and

20 (2) evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of
21 various actions to prevent drone incursions, includ-
22 ing—

23 (A) the use of reasonable force to disable,
24 damage, or destroy a drone;

1 (B) the seizure of a drone, including sei-
2 zure with a net device; and

3 (C) the dissemination of educational mate-
4 rials relating to the effects of drone incursions
5 on wildfire suppression.

6 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
8 to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of
9 the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of
10 the House of Representatives a report describing—

11 (1) the findings of the study required under
12 subsection (b); and

13 (2) any recommendations of the Secretary relat-
14 ing to those findings.

15 **SEC. 206. STUDY ON WILDFIRE DETECTION EQUIPMENT**
16 **AND INTEGRATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTEL-**
17 **LIGENCE TECHNOLOGIES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall conduct a
19 study on—

20 (1) the effectiveness and limitations on the de-
21 ployment and application of each wildfire detection
22 equipment technology with respect to detection, con-
23 firmation, geolocation, predictability of wildfire
24 spread, suppression resource management, post-fire
25 forensics, and surface rehabilitation;

1 (2) how each technology described in paragraph
2 (1), with proper and timely deployment and use, can
3 provide for the most effective and efficient means of
4 dealing with the threat and the reality of wildland
5 fires;

6 (3) the integration of artificial intelligence with
7 real-time imagery and weather data provided by
8 wildfire detection equipment technology; and

9 (4) how the integration of artificial intelligence
10 described in paragraph (3) can enhance the value of
11 each wildfire detection equipment technology, indi-
12 vidually and collectively.

13 (b) **SUBMISSION AND PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—Not
14 later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act,
15 the Secretaries shall submit to the congressional commit-
16 tees and make publicly available the results of the study
17 conducted under subsection (a).

18 **TITLE III—POST-FIRE RECOVERY** 19 **SUPPORT**

20 **SEC. 301. FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR POST-FIRE** 21 **ASSISTANCE.**

22 (a) **USE OF SERVICES OF OTHER AGENCIES.**—Sec-
23 tion 201(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
24 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131(a)) is amend-
25 ed—

1 (1) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at
2 the end and inserting “; and”; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following:

4 “~~(8)~~ post-disaster assistance.”.

5 (b) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-
6 ANCE.—Section 201 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
7 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131)
8 is amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “(e) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-
10 ANCE.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
12 Federal Emergency Management Agency may enter
13 into a cooperative agreement to provide funding to
14 a State agency established under subsection (e) to
15 establish and operate a website to provide informa-
16 tion relating to post-fire recovery funding and re-
17 sources to a community or an individual impacted by
18 a wildland fire.

19 “(2) MANAGEMENT.—A website created under
20 this subsection shall be—

21 “(A) managed by the State agency; and

22 “(B) suitable for the residents of the State
23 of the State agency.

24 “(3) CONTENT.—The Administrator may enter
25 into a cooperative agreement to establish a website

1 under this subsection only to provide 1 or more of
2 the following:

3 “(A) A list of Federal, State, and local
4 sources of post-fire recovery funding or assist-
5 ance that may be available to a community
6 after a wildfire.

7 “(B) A list of Federal, State, and local
8 sources of post-fire recovery funding or assist-
9 ance that may be available to an individual im-
10 pacted by a wildfire.

11 “(C) A technical guide that lists and ex-
12 plains the costs and benefits of alternatives
13 available to a community to mitigate the im-
14 pacts of wildfire and prepare for potential flood-
15 ing.

16 “(4) COOPERATION.—A State agency that en-
17 ters into a cooperative agreement under this sub-
18 section shall cooperate with the Secretary of the In-
19 terior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Admin-
20 istrator of the Federal Emergency Management
21 Agency in developing a website under this sub-
22 section.

23 “(5) UPDATES.—A State agency that receives
24 funding to establish a website under this subsection

1 shall update the website not less than once every 6
 2 years.”.

3 **SEC. 302. LONG-TERM BURNED AREA RECOVERY ACCOUNT.**

4 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT.**—There is estab-
 5 lished in the Treasury of the United States the Long-
 6 Term Burned Area Recovery account for the Department
 7 of Agriculture.

8 (b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There
 9 are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2024 and
 10 each fiscal year thereafter for the account established by
 11 subsection (a) such sums as are necessary to carry out
 12 the activities described in subsection (d), not to exceed
 13 \$100,000,000.

14 (c) **PRESIDENTIAL BUDGET REQUESTS.**—For fiscal
 15 year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary
 16 of Agriculture shall submit through the budget request of
 17 the President and in accordance with subsection (b), a re-
 18 quest for amounts in the Wildland Fire Management ap-
 19 propriation account to carry out the activities described
 20 in subsection (d).

21 (d) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary of Ag-
 22 riculture shall use amounts in the account established by
 23 subsection (a) for rehabilitation projects—

24 (1) that begin not earlier than 1 year after the
 25 date on which the wildfire was contained;

1 (2) that are—

2 (A) scheduled to be completed not later
3 than 3 years after the date on which the wild-
4 fire was contained; and

5 (B) located at sites impacted by wildfire on
6 non-Federal or Federal land;

7 (3) that restore the functions of an ecosystem
8 or protect life or property; and

9 (4) not less than 10 percent of the total costs
10 of which are paid for with non-Federal funds.

11 (e) **PRIORITIZATION OF FUNDING.**—The Secretary of
12 Agriculture shall prioritize, on a nationwide basis, projects
13 for which funding requests are submitted under this sec-
14 tion, based on—

15 (1) downstream effects on water resources; and

16 (2) public safety.

17 **SEC. 303. PRIZE FOR WILDFIRE-RELATED INVASIVE SPE-**
18 **CIES REDUCTION.**

19 Section 7001(d) of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Con-
20 servation, Management, and Recreation Act (16 U.S.C.
21 742b note; Public Law 116–9) is amended—

22 (1) by striking “paragraph (8)(A)” each place
23 it appears and inserting “paragraph (9)(A)”;

24 (2) by striking “paragraph (8)(B)” each place
25 it appears and inserting “paragraph (9)(B)”;

1 (3) by redesignating paragraph (8) as para-
2 graph (9);

3 (4) by inserting after paragraph (7) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(8) THEODORE ROOSEVELT GENIUS PRIZE
6 FOR MANAGEMENT OF WILDFIRE-RELATED INVASIVE
7 SPECIES.—

8 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

9 “(i) BOARD.—The term ‘Board’
10 means the Management of Wildfire-Related
11 Invasive Species Technology Advisory
12 Board established by subparagraph (C)(i).

13 “(ii) PRIZE COMPETITION.—The term
14 ‘prize competition’ means the Theodore
15 Roosevelt Genius Prize for the manage-
16 ment of wildfire-related invasive species es-
17 tablished under subparagraph (B).

18 “(B) AUTHORITY.—Not later than 180
19 days after the date of enactment of the Western
20 Wildfire Support Act of 2023, the Secretary
21 shall establish under section 24 of the Steven-
22 son-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980
23 (15 U.S.C. 3719) a prize competition, to be
24 known as the ‘Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize

1 for the management of wildfire-related invasive
2 species’—

3 “(i) to encourage technological innova-
4 tion with the potential to advance the mis-
5 sion of the National Invasive Species
6 Council with respect to the management of
7 wildfire-related invasive species; and

8 “(ii) to award 1 or more prizes annu-
9 ally for a technological advancement that
10 manages wildfire-related invasive species.

11 “(C) ADVISORY BOARD.—

12 “(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is es-
13 tablished an advisory board, to be known
14 as the ‘Management of Wildfire-Related
15 Invasive Species Technology Advisory
16 Board’.

17 “(ii) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall
18 be composed of not fewer than 9 members
19 appointed by the Secretary, who shall pro-
20 vide expertise in—

21 “(I) invasive species;

22 “(II) biology;

23 “(III) technology development;

24 “(IV) engineering;

25 “(V) economics;

1 “(VI) business development and
2 management;

3 “(VII) wildfire; and

4 “(VIII) any other discipline, as
5 the Secretary determines to be nec-
6 essary to achieve the purposes of this
7 paragraph.

8 “(iii) DUTIES.—Subject to clause (iv),
9 with respect to the prize competition, the
10 Board shall—

11 “(I) select a topic;

12 “(II) issue a problem statement;

13 “(III) advise the Secretary re-
14 garding any opportunity for techno-
15 logical innovation to manage wildfire-
16 related invasive species; and

17 “(IV) advise winners of the prize
18 competition regarding opportunities to
19 pilot and implement winning tech-
20 nologies in relevant fields, including in
21 partnership with conservation organi-
22 zations, Federal or State agencies,
23 federally recognized Indian Tribes,
24 private entities, and research institu-
25 tions with expertise or interest relat-

1 ing to the management of wildfire-re-
2 lated invasive species.

3 “(iv) CONSULTATION.—In selecting a
4 topic and issuing a problem statement for
5 the prize competition, the Board shall con-
6 sult widely with Federal and non-Federal
7 stakeholders, including—

8 “(I) 1 or more Federal agencies
9 with jurisdiction over the management
10 of invasive species;

11 “(II) 1 or more Federal agencies
12 with jurisdiction over the management
13 of wildfire;

14 “(III) 1 or more State agencies
15 with jurisdiction over the management
16 of invasive species;

17 “(IV) 1 or more State agencies
18 with jurisdiction over the management
19 of wildfire;

20 “(V) 1 or more State, regional,
21 or local wildlife organizations, the
22 mission of which relates to the man-
23 agement of invasive species; and

24 “(VI) 1 or more wildlife con-
25 servation groups, technology compa-

1 nies, research institutions, institutions
2 of higher education, industry associa-
3 tions, or individual stakeholders with
4 an interest in the management of
5 wildfire-related invasive species.

6 “(v) REQUIREMENTS.—The Board
7 shall comply with all requirements under
8 paragraph (9)(A).

9 “(D) ADMINISTRATION BY THE NATIONAL
10 INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL.—The Secretary,
11 acting through the Director of the National
12 Invasive Species Council, shall administer the
13 prize competition.

14 “(E) JUDGES.—

15 “(i) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary
16 shall appoint not fewer than 3 judges who
17 shall, except as provided in clause (ii), se-
18 lect the 1 or more annual winners of the
19 prize competition.

20 “(ii) DETERMINATION BY SEC-
21 RETARY.—The judges appointed under
22 clause (i) shall not select any annual win-
23 ner of the prize competition if the Sec-
24 retary makes a determination that, in any
25 fiscal year, none of the technological ad-

1 vancements entered into the prize competi-
2 tion merits an award.

3 “(F) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later
4 than 60 days after the date on which a cash
5 prize is awarded under this paragraph, the Sec-
6 retary shall submit to the Committee on Energy
7 and Natural Resources of the Senate and the
8 Committee on Natural Resources of the House
9 of Representatives a report on the prize com-
10 petition that includes—

11 “(i) a statement by the Board that
12 describes the activities carried out by the
13 Board relating to the duties described in
14 subparagraph (C)(iii);

15 “(ii) a description of the 1 or more
16 annual winners of the prize competition;
17 and

18 “(iii) a statement by 1 or more of the
19 judges appointed under subparagraph (E)
20 that explains the basis on which the 1 or
21 more winners of the prize competition was
22 selected.

23 “(G) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The
24 Board and all authority provided under this

1 paragraph shall terminate on December 31,
2 2028.”; and

3 ~~(5)~~ in paragraph ~~(9)~~ (as so redesignated)—

4 (A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter
5 preceding clause (i), by striking “or (7)(C)(i)”
6 and inserting “(7)(C)(i), or (8)(C)(i)”; and

7 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

8 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
9 by striking “or (7)(D)(i)” and inserting
10 “(7)(D)(i), or (8)(D)(i)”; and

11 (ii) in clause (i)(VII), by striking
12 “and (7)(E)” and inserting “(7)(E), and
13 (8)(E)”.

14 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

15 (a) *SHORT TITLE.*—*This Act may be cited as the*
16 *“Western Wildfire Support Act of 2024”.*

17 (b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—*The table of contents for*
18 *this Act is as follows:*

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—PREPARATION

Sec. 101. Firefighting account transparency.

Sec. 102. Reimbursement for wildfires caused by military training.

Sec. 103. Strategic wildland fire management planning.

Sec. 104. Study on integrating local firefighters into wildfire response.

TITLE II—WILDFIRE DETECTION AND SUPPRESSION SUPPORT

Sec. 201. Wildfire detection equipment.

Sec. 202. Slip-on tank units.

*Sec. 203. Research and development of unmanned aircraft system fire applica-
tions.*

Sec. 204. Study on drone incursions on wildfire suppression.

Sec. 205. Study on modernizing wildfire response technologies.

TITLE III—POST-FIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

Sec. 301. Funding for online guides for post-disaster assistance.

Sec. 302. Post-fire management and recovery.

Sec. 303. Long-Term Burned Area Rehabilitation account.

Sec. 304. Prize for wildfire-related invasive species reduction.

1 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

2 *In this Act:*

3 (1) **CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—*The term*
4 *“congressional committees” means—*

5 (A) *the Committee on Energy and Natural*
6 *Resources and the Committee on Appropriations*
7 *of the Senate; and*

8 (B) *the Committee on Natural Resources*
9 *and the Committee on Appropriations of the*
10 *House of Representatives.*

11 (2) **FEDERAL LAND.**—*The term “Federal land”*
12 *means—*

13 (A) *public lands (as defined in section 103*
14 *of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act*
15 *of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702));*

16 (B) *units of the National Park System;*

17 (C) *units of the National Wildlife Refuge*
18 *System;*

19 (D) *land held in trust by the United States*
20 *for the benefit of Indian Tribes or members of an*
21 *Indian Tribe; and*

22 (E) *land in the National Forest System.*

1 (3) *FIRESHED*.—The term “fireshed” means a
2 geographically delineated forest landscape, within
3 which a fire ignition would threaten homes, commu-
4 nities, or critical infrastructure.

5 (4) *NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM*.—

6 (A) *IN GENERAL*.—The term “National For-
7 est System” has the meaning given the term in
8 section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Re-
9 newable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
10 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

11 (B) *EXCLUSION*.—The term “National For-
12 est System” does not include any forest reserve
13 not created from the public domain.

14 (5) *RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN*.—The term
15 “resource management plan” has the meaning given
16 the term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Res-
17 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

18 (6) *SECRETARIES*.—The term “Secretaries”
19 means—

20 (A) the Secretary of the Interior; and

21 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture.

22 (7) *SECRETARY CONCERNED*.—The term “Sec-
23 retary concerned” means—

1 (A) the Secretary of the Interior, in the case
2 of Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Sec-
3 retary of the Interior; and

4 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture, in the case
5 of Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Sec-
6 retary of Agriculture.

7 **TITLE I—PREPARATION**

8 **SEC. 101. FIREFIGHTING ACCOUNT TRANSPARENCY.**

9 (a) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Section 104(a) of division
10 O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (43 U.S.C.
11 1748a–2(a)), is amended—

12 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
13 striking “the fiscal year” and all that follows through
14 “this division,” and inserting “each fiscal year;” and

15 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “report with
16 respect to the additional new budget authority;” and
17 inserting “report on the amounts obligated and the
18 amounts expended from Wildland Fire Management
19 accounts, including any amounts obligated or ex-
20 pended using additional new budget authority under
21 section 251(b)(2)(F) of the Balanced Budget and
22 Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C.
23 901(b)(2)(F)), in the preceding fiscal year;”.

1 **(b) INCLUSIONS.**—Section 104(b) of division O of the
2 *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018* (43 U.S.C. 1748a–
3 2(b)), is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding
5 subparagraph (A), by striking “a statistically signifi-
6 cant sample of large fires, including an analysis for
7 each fire” and inserting “each catastrophic wildfire
8 described in subsection (c), including an analysis for
9 each such catastrophic wildfire”; and

10 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking “by fire size”
11 and all that follows through the semicolon at the end
12 and inserting the following: “by—

13 “(A) the total ground-based operations costs;

14 “(B) the total aircraft operations costs;

15 “(C) the total personnel costs;

16 “(D) the total on-incident and off-incident
17 support costs;

18 “(E) the total funding allocated from the
19 *Wildland Fire Management* account of the Sec-
20 *retary of the Interior* or the *Secretary of Agri-*
21 *culture* (as applicable) to pay for administrative
22 costs; and

23 “(F) any other relevant factors, as deter-
24 mined by the *Secretary of the Interior* or the
25 *Secretary of Agriculture* (as applicable);”.

1 (c) *CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE DESCRIBED.*—Section
 2 104 of division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act,
 3 2018 (43 U.S.C. 1748a–2), is amended by adding at the
 4 end the following:

5 “(c) *CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE DESCRIBED.*—A cata-
 6 strophic wildfire referred to in subsection (b)(3) is a wild-
 7 fire incident or wildfire complex that—

8 “(1) requires the mobilization or use of Federal
 9 firefighting resources;

10 “(2)(A) burns at least 100,000 acres of land; or

11 “(B) burns at least 50,000 acres of land, with a
 12 50 percent or greater portion at high severity; and

13 “(3)(A) results in total suppression costs of
 14 \$50,000,000 or more;

15 “(B) destroys 1 or more primary residences; or

16 “(C) directly results in the death of 1 or more
 17 individuals.”.

18 **SEC. 102. REIMBURSEMENT FOR WILDFIRES CAUSED BY**

19 **MILITARY TRAINING.**

20 (a) *MUTUAL AID.*—In accordance with section 2 of the
 21 Act of May 27, 1955 (42 U.S.C. 1856a) (commonly known
 22 as the “Reciprocal Fire Protection Act”), the Secretary of
 23 Defense shall seek to enter into reciprocal agreements with
 24 State agencies for mutual aid in furnishing fire suppression
 25 services.

1 (b) *REIMBURSEMENTS.*—*Each reciprocal agreement*
2 *entered into under subsection (a) shall provide for the reim-*
3 *bursement of the State agency that is a party to the agree-*
4 *ment for fire suppression services provided by the State*
5 *agency as a result of a fire caused by military training*
6 *or other planned actions carried out by the Department of*
7 *Defense in support of military operations.*

8 (c) *LIMITATION.*—*Services reimbursable under sub-*
9 *section (b) shall be limited to services directly attributable*
10 *to the fire for which reimbursement is sought.*

11 (d) *APPLICATION.*—*Each application from a State*
12 *agency for reimbursement for services under subsection (b)*
13 *shall provide an itemized request of the services covered by*
14 *the application, including the costs of the services.*

15 (e) *FUNDS.*—*Reimbursements under subsection (b)*
16 *shall be made from amounts authorized to be appropriated*
17 *to the Department of Defense for operation and mainte-*
18 *nance.*

19 (f) *EXISTING AGREEMENTS.*—*An agreement in effect*
20 *as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be considered*
21 *an agreement entered into under subsection (a) if the agree-*
22 *ment otherwise meets the requirements of such an agreement*
23 *under this section.*

1 **SEC. 103. STRATEGIC WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN-**
2 **NING.**

3 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than September 30, 2026,
4 the Secretary concerned shall review existing spatial fire
5 management policies for each fireshed on Federal land and
6 issue, as appropriate, new or revised policies that incor-
7 porate the best available science and planning tools.

8 (b) *REQUIREMENTS.*—Spatial fire management poli-
9 cies issued under subsection (a) shall—

10 (1) be routinely reviewed and updated—

11 (A) to include forest management activities
12 or changes in accessibility;

13 (B) not later than 1 year after the date on
14 which a wildfire incident has occurred within
15 the applicable fireshed; and

16 (C) not less frequently than once every 10
17 years;

18 (2) identify potential wildfire and smoke risks to
19 first responders, communities, critical infrastructure,
20 and high-value resources;

21 (3) be consistent with any resource management
22 plan developed for the applicable fireshed;

23 (4) in coordination with any State that includes
24 that fireshed, delineate potential wildland fire oper-
25 ational delineations that—

1 (A) identify potential wildfire control loca-
2 tions; and

3 (B) specify the places in which risk to wild-
4 fire responders may be elevated as a result of—

5 (i) exceeding a certain slope for the
6 landscape;

7 (ii) containing an excess of hazardous
8 fuels such that a threat would be posed
9 under severe fire weather conditions; or

10 (iii) containing other known hazards;

11 (5) include a description of the weather condi-
12 tions for the fireshed that would comprise severe fire
13 weather conditions; and

14 (6) include other prefire planning provisions rel-
15 evant to wildfire response, at the discretion of the Sec-
16 retary concerned.

17 (c) *WILDFIRE CONSIDERATION DURING LAND MAN-*
18 *AGEMENT PLANNING.*—*To the maximum extent practicable,*
19 *the Secretary concerned shall include, on a team carrying*
20 *out any development or revision of a resource management*
21 *plan for Federal land containing 1 more firesheds, an em-*
22 *ployee that was involved in the development of the spatial*
23 *fire management policies for that fireshed.*

1 **SEC. 104. STUDY AND REPORT ON INTEGRATING LOCAL**
2 **FIREFIGHTERS INTO WILDFIRE RESPONSE.**

3 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year after the date
4 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
5 rity, acting through the Administrator of the U.S. Fire Ad-
6 ministration and in coordination with the National Wild-
7 fire Coordinating Group, shall—

8 (1) *conduct a study on the gaps in training for*
9 *structural firefighters in high wildfire risk areas; and*

10 (2) *submit to the congressional committees a re-*
11 *port describing the results of the study conducted*
12 *under paragraph (1).*

13 (b) *INCLUSIONS.*—The report submitted under sub-
14 section (a)(2) shall include—

15 (1) *a summary of existing coordination practices*
16 *between Federal wildland firefighters and State, local,*
17 *or Tribal firefighters;*

18 (2) *an analysis of the differences in best response*
19 *practices for State, local, or Tribal firefighters when*
20 *responding to a fire incident that threatens a single*
21 *structure as compared to a wildfire that threatens a*
22 *community;*

23 (3) *existing training modules, or gaps in exist-*
24 *ing training modules, available through the National*
25 *Fire Academy to train State, local, or Tribal fire-*

1 *fighters on best response practices for a wildfire that*
2 *threatens a community; and*

3 *(4) an estimated cost and spending plan to ad-*
4 *dress any gaps in existing training modules described*
5 *in paragraph (3).*

6 ***TITLE II—WILDFIRE DETECTION***
7 ***AND SUPPRESSION SUPPORT***

8 ***SEC. 201. WILDFIRE DETECTION EQUIPMENT.***

9 *To the extent practicable, the Secretary concerned*
10 *shall—*

11 *(1) expedite the placement of wildfire detection*
12 *equipment, such as sensors, cameras, and other rel-*
13 *evant equipment, in areas at risk of wildfire;*

14 *(2) expand the use of satellite data to improve*
15 *wildfire detection and response;*

16 *(3) expedite any permitting required by the Sec-*
17 *retary concerned for the installation, maintenance, or*
18 *removal of wildfire detection equipment;*

19 *(4) use unmanned aerial vehicles to assess*
20 *wildland fires in their incipient stages to determine*
21 *the appropriate initial response actions;*

22 *(5) review permitting described in paragraph (3)*
23 *and procurement requirements for wildfire detection*
24 *equipment within the context of modern and innova-*
25 *tive technology; and*

1 (6) annually provide a forum for companies en-
2 gaging in the development and testing of emergent
3 wildland fire technology to engage with wildland fire
4 managers.

5 **SEC. 202. SLIP-ON TANKER UNITS.**

6 (a) *FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ACQUISITION OF*
7 *FIREFIGHTING SLIP-ON TANKER UNITS.*—Section
8 40803(c)(5) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
9 (16 U.S.C. 6592(c)(5)) is amended by inserting “and In-
10 dian Tribes” after “local governments”.

11 (b) *REPORTING REQUIREMENT.*—

12 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of the Interior
13 shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural
14 Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Nat-
15 ural Resources of the House of Representatives an an-
16 nual report on the implementation of section
17 40803(c)(5) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs
18 Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(c)(5)), including a description
19 of—

20 (A) the total number of slip-on tanker units
21 purchased with financial assistance provided by
22 the Secretary of the Interior under that section
23 in the preceding year, by State;

24 (B) the number of requests received by the
25 Secretary of the Interior for financial assistance

1 *under that section to purchase slip-on tanker*
2 *units in the preceding year; and*

3 *(C) any barriers identified by the Secretary*
4 *of the Interior to the ability of local governments*
5 *and Indian Tribes to participate in the pilot*
6 *program established under that section.*

7 (2) *TIMING.*—

8 *(A) INITIAL REPORT.*—*The Secretary of the*
9 *Interior shall submit the first report required*
10 *under paragraph (1) not later than October 1,*
11 *2024.*

12 *(B) SUNSET.*—*The requirements of this sub-*
13 *section shall expire on October 1, 2028.*

14 *(c) INTEGRATION INTO WILDFIRE RESPONSE.*—*The*
15 *Secretaries, in coordination with recipients of financial as-*
16 *sistance for slip-on tanker units provided under section*
17 *40803(c)(5) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*
18 *(16 U.S.C. 6592(c)(5)), shall—*

19 *(1) in coordination with the Administrator of*
20 *the U.S. Fire Administration, promulgate guidance*
21 *for the mobilization of slip-on tanker units for wild-*
22 *fire response;*

23 *(2) as practicable, incorporate mobilized slip-on*
24 *tanker units into resource tracking systems; and*

1 **SEC. 204. STUDY ON DRONE INCURSIONS ON WILDFIRE**
2 **SUPPRESSION.**

3 (a) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

4 (1) *ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-*
5 *trator” means the Administrator of the Federal Avia-*
6 *tion Administration.*

7 (2) *DRONE.—The term “drone” means an un-*
8 *manned aircraft system owned by a private indi-*
9 *vidual or entity.*

10 (3) *DRONE INCURSION.—The term “drone incur-*
11 *sion” means the operation of a drone within any air-*
12 *space for which the Administrator has issued a tem-*
13 *porary flight restriction because of a wildfire.*

14 (b) *STUDY REQUIRED.—The Administrator, in con-*
15 *sultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Sec-*
16 *retary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest*
17 *Service, shall conduct a study on the effects of drone incur-*
18 *sions on wildfire suppression with respect to land managed*
19 *by the Department of the Interior or the Department of Ag-*
20 *riculture.*

21 (c) *STUDY CONTENTS.—In conducting the study re-*
22 *quired under subsection (b), the Administrator shall—*

23 (1) *determine, for each of the 5 most recent cal-*
24 *endar years—*

1 (A) the number of occurrences in which a
2 drone incursion interfered with wildfire suppres-
3 sion; and

4 (B) the estimated effect of each occurrence
5 described in subparagraph (A) on—

6 (i) the length of time required to
7 achieve complete suppression;

8 (ii) any associated delay in the field-
9 ing of aerial firefighting response units; and

10 (iii) the amounts expended by the Fed-
11 eral Government; and

12 (2) evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of
13 various actions to prevent drone incursions, includ-
14 ing—

15 (A) the use of counter-drone radio towers;

16 (B) the use of reasonable force to disable,
17 damage, or destroy a drone;

18 (C) the seizure of a drone, including seizure
19 with a net device; and

20 (D) the dissemination of educational mate-
21 rials relating to the effects of drone incursions on
22 wildfire suppression.

23 (d) *REPORT.*—Not later than 18 months after the date
24 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit
25 to the congressional committees, the Committee on Com-

1 *merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the*
2 *Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the*
3 *House of Representatives a report describing—*

4 *(1) the findings of the study required under sub-*
5 *section (b); and*

6 *(2) any recommendations relating to those find-*
7 *ings.*

8 **SEC. 205. STUDY ON MODERNIZING WILDFIRE RESPONSE**
9 **TECHNOLOGIES.**

10 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall conduct a*
11 *study on—*

12 *(1) necessary improvements to radio communica-*
13 *tions systems and infrastructure during wildland fire*
14 *or prescribed fire operations, including—*

15 *(A) an assessment of the quality and reli-*
16 *ability of existing radio infrastructure;*

17 *(B) for any instance in which existing*
18 *radio communications infrastructure has failed,*
19 *an assessment of the impacts on forest manage-*
20 *ment or wildfire response activities;*

21 *(C) a comparison of existing options to im-*
22 *prove on-the-ground communications; and*

23 *(D) a cost analysis and estimated timeline*
24 *to install the most feasible option identified*
25 *under subparagraph (C);*

1 (2) *real-time or near-real-time situational*
2 *awareness tools for operational firefighters, includ-*
3 *ing—*

4 (A) *standards and requirements for such*
5 *tools to ensure interoperability between Federal*
6 *firefighting entities and applicable State, local,*
7 *Tribal, or other partners;*

8 (B) *any requirements for additional remote*
9 *sensing and mapping capabilities to fully lever-*
10 *age such situational awareness tools; and*

11 (C) *a cost comparison between commercially*
12 *available systems and internally developed sys-*
13 *tems; and*

14 (3) *wildland fire predictive modeling, includ-*
15 *ing—*

16 (A) *an analysis of the data required to re-*
17 *duce predictive error for existing or developing*
18 *models;*

19 (B) *an analysis of computing needs to more*
20 *swiftly or accurately model wildland fire using*
21 *existing or developing models;*

22 (C) *the feasibility of using artificial intel-*
23 *ligence for wildland fire modeling; and*

24 (D) *existing or developing wildland fire*
25 *predictive models that could assist with estab-*

1 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Administrator of the*
2 *Federal Emergency Management Agency may enter*
3 *into cooperative agreements to provide funding or*
4 *technical assistance to a State agency designated or*
5 *established under subsection (c) to establish, update,*
6 *or operate a website to provide information relating*
7 *to post-disaster recovery funding and resources to a*
8 *community or an individual impacted by a major*
9 *disaster or emergency.*

10 “(2) *MANAGEMENT.*—*A website established, up-*
11 *dated, or operated under this subsection shall be—*

12 “(A) *managed by the State agency; and*

13 “(B) *suitable for the residents of the State*
14 *of the State agency.*

15 “(3) *CONTENT.*—*The Administrator may provide*
16 *funding to a State agency under this subsection to es-*
17 *tablish, update, or operate a website that provides*
18 *only 1 or more of the following:*

19 “(A) *A list of Federal, State, and local*
20 *sources of post-disaster recovery funding or as-*
21 *sistance that may be available to a community*
22 *after a disaster or emergency.*

23 “(B) *A list of Federal, State, and local*
24 *sources of post-disaster recovery funding or as-*

1 *sistance that may be available to an individual*
2 *impacted by a major disaster or emergency.*

3 “(C) *A technical guide that lists and ex-*
4 *plains the costs and benefits of alternatives*
5 *available to a community to mitigate the im-*
6 *pacts of a major disaster or emergency and pre-*
7 *pare for sequential hazards, such as flooding*
8 *after a wildfire.*

9 “(4) *COOPERATION.—A State agency that re-*
10 *ceives funding or technical assistance to establish, up-*
11 *date, or operate a website under this subsection shall*
12 *cooperate with the Secretary of the Interior, the Sec-*
13 *retary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Housing and*
14 *Urban Development, the Administrator of the Small*
15 *Business Administration, and the Administrator of*
16 *the Federal Emergency Management Agency in estab-*
17 *lishing, updating, or operating the website under this*
18 *subsection.*

19 “(5) *UPDATES.—A State agency that receives*
20 *funding to establish, update, or operate a website*
21 *under this subsection shall update the website not less*
22 *frequently than once every 180 days.”.*

23 **SEC. 302. POST-FIRE MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY.**

24 “(a) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the*
25 *date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall*

1 *establish 1 or more permanent Burned Area Emergency Re-*
2 *sponse Teams (referred to in this section as a “BAER*
3 *Team”)* to coordinate immediate post-wildfire emergency
4 *stabilization and erosion planning efforts.*

5 *(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A BAER Team shall—*

6 *(1) survey the landscape affected by a wildfire to*
7 *determine burn severity;*

8 *(2) identify and remove, as necessary, dead or*
9 *dying trees that may pose an immediate hazard to*
10 *individuals, communities, or critical infrastructure;*

11 *(3) stabilize or remove hazardous materials re-*
12 *sulting from a wildfire that may pose an immediate*
13 *hazard to individuals, communities, or the environ-*
14 *ment;*

15 *(4) conduct emergency landscape stabilization*
16 *and erosion prevention work, prioritizing efforts that*
17 *ensure public safety;*

18 *(5) prevent the proliferation and spread of*
19 *invasive species;*

20 *(6) assist with informing the public of hazards*
21 *resulting from a wildfire;*

22 *(7) collaborate, as necessary, with activities*
23 *under section 303; and*

24 *(8) conduct such other work as the Secretary*
25 *concerned determines to be necessary.*

1 (c) *DURATION.*—*To the maximum extent practicable,*
2 *a BAER Team shall coordinate and respond to immediate*
3 *post-wildfire emergency stabilization and erosion planning*
4 *needs for a period of not more than 1 year after the date*
5 *of containment of a wildfire.*

6 (d) *FUNDING.*—*The Secretary concerned may use to*
7 *carry out this section funds made available by section*
8 *40803(c)(16) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*
9 *(16 U.S.C. 6592(c)(16)).*

10 **SEC. 303. LONG-TERM BURNED AREA REHABILITATION AC-**
11 **COUNT.**

12 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT.*—*There is estab-*
13 *lished in the Treasury of the United States the Long-Term*
14 *Burned Area Rehabilitation account for the Department of*
15 *Agriculture.*

16 (b) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*There are*
17 *authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2025 and each*
18 *fiscal year thereafter for the account established by sub-*
19 *section (a) such sums as are necessary to carry out the ac-*
20 *tivities described in subsection (d), not to exceed*
21 *\$100,000,000.*

22 (c) *PRESIDENTIAL BUDGET REQUESTS.*—*For fiscal*
23 *year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of*
24 *Agriculture shall submit through the budget request of the*
25 *President and in accordance with subsection (b), a request*

1 *for amounts in the National Forest System appropriation*
2 *account to carry out the activities described in subsection*
3 *(d).*

4 *(d) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Agri-*
5 *culture shall use amounts in the account established by sub-*
6 *section (a) for rehabilitation projects located at sites im-*
7 *pacted by a wildfire or post-wildfire flooding primarily on*
8 *Federal land, but may include areas on non-Federal land,*
9 *that—*

10 *(1) restore the functions of an ecosystem, includ-*
11 *ing—*

12 *(A) identifying areas where natural regen-*
13 *eration is unlikely to occur;*

14 *(B) revegetation and reforestation, includ-*
15 *ing coordinating any necessary site preparation,*
16 *salvage harvesting, and replanting;*

17 *(C) watershed restoration;*

18 *(D) invasive species mitigation and re-*
19 *moval; and*

20 *(E) wildlife habitat restoration; or*

21 *(2) repair or replace infrastructure or facilities*
22 *critical for land management activities.*

23 *(e) DURATION OF ACTIVITIES.—A rehabilitation*
24 *project under subsection (d) shall—*

1 (1) *begin not earlier than the date on which the*
2 *wildfire was contained; and*

3 (2) *be completed not later than 5 years after the*
4 *date on which the wildfire was contained.*

5 *(f) AGREEMENT AUTHORITY.—*

6 (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture*
7 *may enter to agreements with non-Federal entities to*
8 *carry out activities described in subsection (d).*

9 (2) *COST SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the*
10 *costs of implementing activities under an agreement*
11 *entered into under paragraph (1)—*

12 (A) *shall be not more than 20 percent; and*

13 (B) *may include in-kind contributions.*

14 (3) *SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this sub-*
15 *section—*

16 (A) *requires the Secretary of Agriculture to*
17 *enter into agreements with non-Federal entities*
18 *to carry out activities described in subsection*
19 *(d); or*

20 (B) *limits the effect of the prioritization re-*
21 *quirements under subsection (g).*

22 (g) *PRIORITIZATION OF FUNDING.—The Secretary of*
23 *Agriculture shall prioritize, on a nationwide basis, projects*
24 *for which funding requests are submitted under this section*
25 *based on downstream effects on water resources.*

1 (h) *REPORTING.*—*Beginning in fiscal year 2027, and*
 2 *each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of Agriculture shall*
 3 *annually submit to Congress a report on the burned area*
 4 *recovery work performed using—*

5 (1) *amounts from the account established by sub-*
 6 *section (a);*

7 (2) *amounts made available under the Act of*
 8 *June 9, 1930 (16 U.S.C. 576 et seq.); and*

9 (3) *amounts from the Reforestation Trust Fund*
 10 *established by section 303(a) of Public Law 96–451*
 11 *(16 U.S.C. 1606a(a)).*

12 **SEC. 304. PRIZE FOR WILDFIRE-RELATED INVASIVE SPE-**
 13 **CIES REDUCTION.**

14 Section 7001(d) of the *John D. Dingell, Jr. Conserva-*
 15 *tion, Management, and Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 742b*
 16 *note; Public Law 116–9) is amended—*

17 (1) *by striking “paragraph (8)(A)” each place it*
 18 *appears and inserting “paragraph (9)(A)”;*

19 (2) *by striking “paragraph (8)(B)” each place it*
 20 *appears and inserting “paragraph (9)(B)”;*

21 (3) *by redesignating paragraph (8) as para-*
 22 *graph (9);*

23 (4) *by inserting after paragraph (7) the fol-*
 24 *lowing:*

1 “(8) *THEODORE ROOSEVELT GENIUS PRIZE FOR*
2 *MANAGEMENT OF WILDFIRE-RELATED INVASIVE SPE-*
3 *CIES.—*

4 “(A) *DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:*

5 “(i) *BOARD.—The term ‘Board’ means*
6 *the Management of Wildfire-Related*
7 *Invasive Species Technology Advisory*
8 *Board established by subparagraph (C)(i).*

9 “(ii) *PRIZE COMPETITION.—The term*
10 *‘prize competition’ means the Theodore Roo-*
11 *sevelt Genius Prize for the management of*
12 *wildfire-related invasive species established*
13 *under subparagraph (B).*

14 “(B) *AUTHORITY.—Not later than 180 days*
15 *after the date of enactment of the Western Wild-*
16 *fire Support Act of 2024, the Secretary shall es-*
17 *tablish under section 24 of the Stevenson-Wylder*
18 *Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C.*
19 *3719) a prize competition, to be known as the*
20 *‘Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize for the manage-*
21 *ment of wildfire-related invasive species’—*

22 “(i) *to encourage technological innova-*
23 *tion with the potential to advance the mis-*
24 *sion of the National Invasive Species Coun-*

1 *cil with respect to the management of wild-*
 2 *fire-related invasive species; and*

3 “(ii) *to award 1 or more prizes annu-*
 4 *ally for a technological advancement that*
 5 *manages wildfire-related invasive species.*

6 “(C) *ADVISORY BOARD.—*

7 “(i) *ESTABLISHMENT.—There is estab-*
 8 *lished an advisory board, to be known as*
 9 *the ‘Management of Wildfire-Related*
 10 *Invasive Species Technology Advisory*
 11 *Board’.*

12 “(ii) *COMPOSITION.—The Board shall*
 13 *be composed of not fewer than 9 members*
 14 *appointed by the Secretary, who shall pro-*
 15 *vide expertise in—*

16 “(I) *invasive species;*

17 “(II) *biology;*

18 “(III) *technology development;*

19 “(IV) *engineering;*

20 “(V) *economics;*

21 “(VI) *business development and*
 22 *management;*

23 “(VII) *wildfire; and*

24 “(VIII) *any other discipline, as*
 25 *the Secretary determines to be nec-*

1 *essary to achieve the purposes of this*
2 *paragraph.*

3 *“(iii) DUTIES.—Subject to clause (iv),*
4 *with respect to the prize competition, the*
5 *Board shall—*

6 *“(I) select a topic;*

7 *“(II) issue a problem statement;*

8 *“(III) advise the Secretary re-*
9 *garding any opportunity for techno-*
10 *logical innovation to manage wildfire-*
11 *related invasive species; and*

12 *“(IV) advise winners of the prize*
13 *competition regarding opportunities to*
14 *pilot and implement winning tech-*
15 *nologies in relevant fields, including in*
16 *partnership with conservation organi-*
17 *zations, Federal or State agencies, fed-*
18 *erally recognized Indian Tribes, pri-*
19 *vate entities, and research institutions*
20 *with expertise or interest relating to*
21 *the management of wildfire-related*
22 *invasive species.*

23 *“(iv) CONSULTATION.—In selecting a*
24 *topic and issuing a problem statement for*
25 *the prize competition, the Board shall con-*

1 *sult widely with Federal and non-Federal*
2 *stakeholders, including—*

3 *“(I) 1 or more Federal agencies*
4 *with jurisdiction over the management*
5 *of invasive species;*

6 *“(II) 1 or more Federal agencies*
7 *with jurisdiction over the management*
8 *of wildfire;*

9 *“(III) 1 or more State agencies*
10 *with jurisdiction over the management*
11 *of invasive species;*

12 *“(IV) 1 or more State agencies*
13 *with jurisdiction over the management*
14 *of wildfire;*

15 *“(V) 1 or more State, regional, or*
16 *local wildlife organizations, the mis-*
17 *sion of which relates to the manage-*
18 *ment of invasive species; and*

19 *“(VI) 1 or more wildlife conserva-*
20 *tion groups, technology companies, re-*
21 *search institutions, institutions of*
22 *higher education, industry associa-*
23 *tions, or individual stakeholders with*
24 *an interest in the management of wild-*
25 *fire-related invasive species.*

1 “(v) *REQUIREMENTS.*—*The Board*
2 *shall comply with all requirements under*
3 *paragraph (9)(A).*

4 “(D) *ADMINISTRATION BY THE NATIONAL*
5 *INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL.*—*The Secretary, act-*
6 *ing through the Executive Director of the Na-*
7 *tional Invasive Species Council, shall administer*
8 *the prize competition and perform the duties de-*
9 *scribed in paragraph (9)(B)(i).*

10 “(E) *JUDGES.*—

11 “(i) *APPOINTMENT.*—*The Secretary*
12 *shall appoint not fewer than 3 judges who*
13 *shall, except as provided in clause (ii), se-*
14 *lect the 1 or more annual winners of the*
15 *prize competition.*

16 “(ii) *DETERMINATION BY SEC-*
17 *RETARY.*—*The judges appointed under*
18 *clause (i) shall not select any annual win-*
19 *ner of the prize competition if the Secretary*
20 *makes a determination that, in any fiscal*
21 *year, none of the technological advance-*
22 *ments entered into the prize competition*
23 *merits an award.*

24 “(F) *REPORT TO CONGRESS.*—*Not later*
25 *than 60 days after the date on which a cash*

1 *prize is awarded under this paragraph, the Sec-*
 2 *retary shall submit to the Committee on Energy*
 3 *and Natural Resources of the Senate and the*
 4 *Committee on Natural Resources of the House of*
 5 *Representatives a report on the prize competition*
 6 *that includes—*

7 *“(i) a statement by the Board that de-*
 8 *scribes the activities carried out by the*
 9 *Board relating to the duties described in*
 10 *subparagraph (C)(iii);*

11 *“(ii) a description of the 1 or more an-*
 12 *nual winners of the prize competition; and*

13 *“(iii) a statement by 1 or more of the*
 14 *judges appointed under subparagraph (E)*
 15 *that explains the basis on which the 1 or*
 16 *more winners of the prize competition was*
 17 *selected.*

18 *“(G) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The*
 19 *Board and all authority provided under this*
 20 *paragraph shall terminate on December 31,*
 21 *2028.”; and*

22 *(5) in paragraph (9) (as so redesignated)—*

23 *(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter pre-*
 24 *ceding clause (i), by striking “or (7)(C)(i)” and*
 25 *inserting “(7)(C)(i), or (8)(C)(i)”;* and

1 *(B) in subparagraph (C)—*

2 *(i) in clause (i), by inserting “and the*
3 *amount of the initial cash prize awarded*
4 *for a year under paragraph (8)” after “sub-*
5 *paragraph (B)(i)(IX)”;* and

6 *(ii) by adding at the end the following:*

7 *“(iii) ADDITIONAL WILDFIRE CASH*
8 *PRIZES.—If the Secretary determines that*
9 *funds are available for an additional cash*
10 *prize under the prize competition under*
11 *paragraph (8) for a year, the Secretary*
12 *shall determine the amount of the addi-*
13 *tional cash prize.”.*

Calendar No. 582

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 1764

A BILL

To improve Federal activities relating to wildfires,
and for other purposes.

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

Reported with an amendment