

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3337

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an open burn pit registry to ensure that members of the Armed Forces who may have been exposed to toxic chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits while deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq receive information regarding such exposure, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 3, 2011

Mr. AKIN (for himself, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HANNA, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. LONG, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an open burn pit registry to ensure that members of the Armed Forces who may have been exposed to toxic chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits while deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq receive information regarding such exposure, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Open Burn Pit Reg-
3 istry Act of 2011”.

4 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF REGISTRY.**

5 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
6 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

7 (1) establish and maintain an open burn pit
8 registry for eligible individuals who may have been
9 exposed to toxic chemicals and fumes caused by open
10 burn pits;

11 (2) include any information in such registry
12 that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines
13 necessary to ascertain and monitor the health effects
14 of the exposure of members of the Armed Forces to
15 toxic chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits;

16 (3) develop a public information campaign to
17 inform eligible individuals about the open burn pit
18 registry, including how to register and the benefits
19 of registering; and

20 (4) periodically notify eligible individuals of sig-
21 nificant developments in the study and treatment of
22 conditions associated with exposure to toxic chemi-
23 cals and fumes caused by open burn pits.

24 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

25 (a) **REPORT BY INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC ORGANI-**
26 **ZATION.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter

1 into an agreement with an independent scientific organiza-
2 tion to develop a report containing the following:

3 (1) An assessment of the effectiveness of ac-
4 tions taken by the Secretaries to collect and main-
5 tain information on the health effects of exposure to
6 toxic chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits.

7 (2) Recommendations to improve the collection
8 and maintenance of such information.

9 (3) Using established and previously published
10 epidemiological studies, recommendations regarding
11 the most effective and prudent means of addressing
12 the medical needs of eligible individuals with respect
13 to conditions that are likely to result from exposure
14 to open burn pits.

15 (b) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18
16 months after the date on which the registry under section
17 2 is established, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
18 submit to Congress the report developed under subsection
19 (a).

20 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this Act:

22 (1) The term “open burn pit” means an area
23 of land located in Afghanistan or Iraq that—

1 (A) is designated by the Secretary of De-
2 fense to be used for disposing solid waste by
3 burning in the outdoor air; and

4 (B) does not contain a commercially manu-
5 factured incinerator or other equipment specifi-
6 cally designed and manufactured for the burn-
7 ing of solid waste.

8 (2) The term “eligible individual” means any
9 individual who, on or after September 11, 2001—

10 (A) was deployed in support of a contin-
11 gency operation while serving in the Armed
12 Forces; and

13 (B) during such deployment, was based or
14 stationed at a location where an open burn pit
15 was used.

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