

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2421

To authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct research on wildfire smoke, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 21, 2021

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct research on wildfire smoke, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Smoke Planning and
5 Research Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. RESEARCH ON WILDFIRE SMOKE.**

7 (a) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
9 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-

trator of the Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in this section as the “Administrator”) shall establish at institutions of higher education centers, each of which shall be known as a “Center of Excellence for Wildfire Smoke”, to carry out research relating to—

(A) the effects on public health of smoke emissions from wildland fires; and

(B) means by which communities can better respond to the impacts of emissions from wildland fires.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this subsection \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(b) RESEARCH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall carry out research—

(A) to study the health effects of smoke emissions from wildland fires;

(B) to develop and disseminate personal and community-based interventions to reduce exposure to and adverse health effects of smoke emissions from wildland fires;

1 (C) to increase the quality of smoke moni-
 2 toring and prediction tools and techniques; and

3 (D) to develop implementation and com-
 4 munication strategies.

5 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

6 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-
 7 ministrator to carry out this subsection \$20,000,000
 8 for fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter.

9 **SEC. 3. COMMUNITY SMOKE PLANNING.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
 11 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall es-
 12 tablish a competitive grant program to assist eligible enti-
 13 ties described in subsection (b) in developing and imple-
 14 menting collaborative community plans for mitigating the
 15 impacts of smoke emissions from wildland fires.

16 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity that is eligible
 17 to submit an application for a grant under subsection (a)
 18 is—

19 (1) a State;

20 (2) a unit of local government (including any
 21 special district, such as an air quality management
 22 district or a school district); or

23 (3) an Indian Tribe.

24 (c) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant
 25 under subsection (a), an eligible entity described in sub-

1 section (b) shall submit to the Administrator an applica-
2 tion at such time, in such manner, and containing such
3 information as the Administrator may require.

4 (d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator
5 may use amounts made available to carry out this section
6 to provide to eligible entities described in subsection (b)
7 technical assistance in—

8 (1) submitting grant applications under sub-
9 section (c); or

10 (2) carrying out projects using a grant under
11 this section.

12 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
13 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to
14 carry out this section \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2022
15 and each fiscal year thereafter.

○