

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9704

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to carry out a quadrennial fire review, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. MOLINARO, and Mr. HARDER of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to carry out a quadrennial fire review, 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 “Wildfire Risk Evalua-
5 tion Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) wildfire management is a complex, multi-ju-
4 risdictional issue that requires a whole-of-govern-
5 ment approach before, during, and after a fire;

6 (2) wildfires spread quickly and may invoke
7 various Federal, State, Tribal, and local jurisdictions
8 simultaneously;

9 (3) effective wildfire management requires
10 interagency, cross-boundary, strategic, and holistic
11 solutions;

12 (4) relevant Federal, State, Tribal, and local
13 governments should be included in any planning, de-
14 cision making, or response activities with respect to
15 wildfire management;

16 (5) a purpose of a quadrennial fire review is to
17 forecast conditions that may present the greatest
18 challenges for wildland fire management throughout
19 the 20-year period immediately following such review
20 and inform the development of long-term, strategic
21 actions to address such challenges;

22 (6) the report of the Secretary of Agriculture
23 and the Secretary of the Interior entitled “The Na-
24 tional Strategy: the Final Phase of the Development
25 of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management
26 Strategy” (April 2014), as updated by the report en-

1 titled “National Cohesive Wildland Fire Manage-
2 ment Strategy Addendum Update” (January 2023),
3 represents a strategic, collaborative effort to address
4 wildfire management in all landscapes and using the
5 best science available to make meaningful progress
6 towards the 3 goals established in such report re-
7 garding—

8 (A) resilient landscapes;

9 (B) fire-adapted communities; and

10 (C) safe and effective wildfire response;

11 and

12 (7) the report of the Wildland Fire Mitigation
13 and Management Commission entitled “ON FIRE:
14 The Report of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and
15 Management Commission” (September 2023) pre-
16 sents a consensus set of recommendations developed
17 by 50 diverse experts and intended to result in im-
18 proved outcomes for wildfire management in the
19 United States.

20 **SEC. 3. QUADRENNIAL FIRE REVIEW.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries, acting jointly
22 through the qualified agencies, shall conduct a quadren-
23 nial review of the comprehensive wildfire environment in
24 the United States that includes—

1 (1) a quantitative analysis of changes to built
2 and natural environments since the most recent
3 quadrennial fire review and the impact of such
4 changes on pre-fire mitigation, wildfire incident re-
5 sponse, and proactive recovery from wildfire; and

6 (2) an analysis of the intersection between wild-
7 fire and public health, conducted in coordination
8 with the Administrator of the Environmental Protec-
9 tion Agency and Secretary of Health and Human
10 Services, acting through the Center for Disease Con-
11 trol and Prevention.

12 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the
13 date of the enactment of this Act, and every 4 years for
14 the 20 years thereafter, the Secretaries shall jointly sub-
15 mit to the relevant committees a report that contains—

16 (1) the results of the reviews conducted under
17 subsection (a) and specifies the administrative ac-
18 tions and outcomes that have occurred as a result of
19 such reviews;

20 (2) a summary of—

21 (A) the challenges relating to wildfire that
22 are anticipated during the 20-year period imme-
23 diately following the report; and

24 (B) the most significant long-term wildland
25 fire management challenges;

1 (3) recommendations regarding such Federal
2 legislation and administrative actions as the Secre-
3 taries determine necessary to address the results de-
4 scribed in paragraph (1) and the challenges de-
5 scribed in paragraph (2);

6 (4) an evaluation of any progress made to-
7 ward—

8 (A) achieving the 3 goals established in the
9 report of the Secretary of Agriculture and the
10 Secretary of the Interior entitled “The National
11 Strategy: the Final Phase of the Development
12 of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Man-
13 agement Strategy” (April 2014), as updated by
14 the report entitled “National Cohesive Wildland
15 Fire Management Strategy Addendum Update”
16 (January 2023); and

17 (B) implementing recommendations set
18 forth in the report of the Wildland Fire Mitiga-
19 tion and Management Commission entitled
20 “ON FIRE: The Report of the Wildland Fire
21 Mitigation and Management Commission” (Sep-
22 tember 2023); and

23 (5) projected future scenarios to highlight areas
24 of consideration for realignment of programs, strate-
25 gies, capabilities, and the workforce that will assist

1 the Secretaries in addressing the challenges de-
2 scribed in paragraph (2).

3 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

4 (1) QUALIFIED AGENCIES.—The term “quali-
5 fied agencies” means—

6 (A) with respect to the Secretary of Agri-
7 culture, the Forest Service;

8 (B) with respect to the Secretary of the In-
9 terior, the Department of the Interior;

10 (C) with respect to the Secretary of Home-
11 land Security, the Federal Emergency Manage-
12 ment Agency and the United States Fire Ad-
13 ministration; and

14 (D) such other entities as the Secretaries
15 determine appropriate.

16 (2) RELEVANT COMMITTEES.—The term “rel-
17 evant committees” means—

18 (A) the Committees on Natural Resources,
19 Homeland Security, and Science, Space, and
20 Technology of the House of Representatives;
21 and

22 (B) the Committees on Energy and Nat-
23 ural Resources, Governmental Affairs, and
24 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
25 Senate.

1 (3) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
2 means the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of
3 the Interior, and the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
4 rity.

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