

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 443

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow Indian tribal governments to directly request fire management assistance declarations and grants, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 6 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 5), 2025

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow Indian tribal governments to directly request fire management assistance declarations and grants, 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 “Fire Management As-

5 sistance Grants for Tribal Governments Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT ELIGIBILITY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 420 of the Robert T.
3 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
4 (42 U.S.C. 5187) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “, Indian
6 tribal government,” before “or local government”;

7 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (e)
8 as subsections (c) through (f), respectively;

9 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(b) PROCEDURE FOR REQUEST.—The Governor of
12 a State or the Chief Executive of an Indian tribal govern-
13 ment affected by a fire described in subsection (a) may
14 directly submit a request to authorize assistance under
15 this section.”; and

16 (4) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(g) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section
18 shall prohibit an Indian tribal government from receiving
19 assistance under this section pursuant to an authorization
20 made at the request of a State under subsection (b) if
21 assistance is not authorized under this section for the
22 same incident based on a request by the Indian tribal gov-
23 ernment under subsection (b).”.

24 (b) REGULATIONS.—

25 (1) FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE DECLARA-
26 TION DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “fire

1 management assistance declaration” means a dec-
2 laration approved under section 204.21(a) of title
3 44, Code of Federal Regulations.

4 (2) UPDATE.—Not later than 1 year after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, the President shall
6 issue regulations updating part 204 of title 44, Code
7 of Federal Regulations, to carry out the amend-
8 ments made by subsection (a).

9 (3) CONTENTS.—In issuing the regulations re-
10 quired under paragraph (2), the President shall—

11 (A) authorize the Federal Emergency Man-
12 agement Agency to directly receive a request for
13 a fire management assistance declaration from
14 an Indian tribal government and directly pro-
15 vide related grants and resources to Indian trib-
16 al governments;

17 (B) clarify that Indian tribal governments
18 for which the President does not grant a re-
19 quest described in subparagraph (A) remain eli-
20 gible to receive assistance under section 420 of
21 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
22 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187)
23 through assistance granted under a fire man-
24 agement assistance declaration made at the re-
25 quest of a State;

1 (C) consider the unique conditions that af-
2 fect the general welfare of Indian tribal govern-
3 ments; and

4 (D) enter into government-to-government
5 consultation with Indian tribal governments re-
6 garding the regulations.

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