

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 902

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to establish a standard for the response time to wildfire incidents, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 6, 2025

Mr. SHEEHY (for himself and Mr. KIM) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to establish a standard for the response time to wildfire incidents, 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 Response and
5 Preparedness Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. STANDARDS FOR RESPONSE TIME TO WILDFIRE IN-**
7 **CIDENTS.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “relevant congressional commit-
3 tees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural
5 Resources of the Senate;

6 (B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
7 tion, and Forestry of the Senate;

8 (C) the Committee on Natural Resources
9 of the House of Representatives; and

10 (D) the Committee on Agriculture of the
11 House of Representatives.

12 (2) RESPONSE TIME.—The term “response
13 time”, with respect to a wildland fire incident,
14 means the period of time between ignition of the
15 wildland fire and evaluation for purposes of suppres-
16 sion of that wildland fire, on the ground or in an
17 aircraft, by—

18 (A) a Federal, State, or local public safety
19 officer; or

20 (B) a public safety volunteer.

21 (3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
22 retary concerned” means—

23 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
24 spect to Federal land administered by the For-
25 est Service;

1 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
2 spect to Federal land administered by the Bu-
3 reau of Land Management, the Bureau of In-
4 dian Affairs, the National Park Service, or the
5 United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

6 (C) the Administrator of the Federal
7 Emergency Management Agency, with respect
8 to consultation with the United States Fire Ad-
9 ministration relating to wildland fires in the
10 wildland-urban interface.

11 (b) STANDARDS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
13 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary con-
14 cerned shall establish a standard for the response
15 time to any wildland fire incident occurring on Fed-
16 eral land administered by the Secretary concerned.

17 (2) GOAL.—To the extent practicable, the re-
18 sponse time established by the Secretary concerned
19 for a wildland fire incident under paragraph (1)
20 shall—

21 (A) be not more than 30 minutes; and

22 (B) include the deployment of fire suppres-
23 sion assets in a response time of not more than
24 3 hours.

1 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries
3 concerned shall jointly submit to the relevant congressional
4 committees a report that includes—

5 (1) identification of a single point of contact for
6 Federal wildland fire response at the Department of
7 the Interior;

8 (2) a unified budget request that covers all
9 wildland fire activities of the Secretaries concerned;

10 (3) a description of key performance indicators
11 for wildland fire response for each of—

12 (A) the Forest Service;

13 (B) the Bureau of Land Management;

14 (C) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

15 (D) the National Park Service; and

16 (E) the United States Fish and Wildlife
17 Service;

18 (4)(A) a description of the composition of the
19 aviation and ground wildland firefighting fleet as of
20 the date on which the report is submitted; and

21 (B) an estimation of the size of that fleet required to provide a response time of not more than
22 30 minutes for wildland fires occurring in the
23 United States, including the deployment of fire sup-
24

1 pression assets in a response time of not more than
2 3 hours;

3 (5) a description of necessary changes to the
4 Federal ordering and dispatch system to enable Fed-
5 eral wildland firefighting assets to be dispatched
6 faster;

7 (6) a description of Federal contracting mecha-
8 nisms relating to wildland firefighting assets that
9 may be streamlined to ensure that contract activa-
10 tion and awards may be provided within a 1-year pe-
11 riod; and

12 (7) a description of all resources and authorities
13 needed to ensure that wildland firefighting assets
14 under Federal contracts are available year-round
15 and nationwide.

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