

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8656

To provide for the implementation of certain recommendations from the Report of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 7, 2024

Mr. HARDER of California (for himself, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. STANTON, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, Oversight and Accountability, Armed Services, Energy and Commerce, Science, Space, and Technology, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Small Business, 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 provide for the implementation of certain recommendations from the Report of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission.

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 “Modernizing Wildfire
5 Safety and Prevention Act of 2024”.

1 SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

2 The table of contents for this Act is the following:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of Contents.
- Sec. 3. Definition of Report.

TITLE I—WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Sec. 101. Middle Fire Leaders Academy (Report Recommendation 55).
- Sec. 102. Wildfire workforce grant program (Report Recommendation 88).

TITLE II—WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER SUPPORT

- Sec. 201. Fire Service Retention and Retirement Portability (Report Recommendation 86).
- Sec. 202. Wildland Fire Management Casualty Assistance Program (Report Recommendation 87).

TITLE III—WILDFIRE SMOKE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

- Sec. 301. National Smoke Monitoring and Alert System (Report Recommendation 44).
- Sec. 302. Health risk assessment for Wildfire Smoke Exposure (Report Recommendation 100).

TITLE IV—FIRE MITIGATION AND TECHNOLOGY

- Sec. 401. Improvements to wildfire forage loss programs (Report Recommendation 59).
- Sec. 402. Improvements to FEMA Programs (Report Recommendations 66 and 64).
- Sec. 403. The Wildland Dynamic Risk Mapping Program (Report Recommendation 118).
- Sec. 404. Improvements to grant programs for community wildfire risk reduction and postfire recovery efforts (Report Recommendation 142).
- Sec. 405. Joint Office of the Fire Environment Center (Report Recommendations 104, 105, 106).
- Sec. 406. Interagency Data Collaboration Environment (Report Recommendation 107).
- Sec. 407. Requirements related to payment timing for certain programs addressing wildfire damages (Report Recommendation 61).

3 SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF REPORT.

4 In this Act, the term “Report” means the Report of
 5 the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commis-
 6 sion, dated September 2023.

1 **TITLE I—WORKFORCE**
2 **DEVELOPMENT**

3 **SEC. 101. MIDDLE FIRE LEADERS ACADEMY (REPORT REC-**
4 **COMMENDATION 55).**

5 (a) MIDDLE FIRE LEADERS ACADEMY.—Not later
6 than a 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
7 the Chief of the Forest Service shall create a Middle Fire
8 Leaders Academy which shall be open to Federal and non-
9 Federal wildland fire response workforce employees. The
10 Middle Fire Leaders Academy shall provide—

11 (1) rapid training and certification for emerging
12 wildfire and beneficial fire leaders; and

13 (2) additional and expanded training of suffi-
14 cient quality to enable managers and decision mak-
15 ers responsible for addressing wildfire incidents and
16 prescribed burns to make informed decisions regard-
17 ing the beneficial application and management of
18 fire, including managing local fire regimes and other
19 forms of beneficial fire use.

20 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
21 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
22 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.

1 **SEC. 102. WILDFIRE WORKFORCE GRANT PROGRAM (RE-**
2 **PORT RECOMMENDATION 88).**

3 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Not later than 6 months
4 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
5 Education shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to
6 eligible entities to carry out a program described in sub-
7 section (c).

8 (b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
9 under this Act, an eligible entity shall submit to the Sec-
10 retary an application in such manner, at such time, and
11 containing such information as the Secretary may require.

12 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
13 a grant under this Act shall carry out an educational or
14 vocational program that leads to a degree, certificate, or
15 other recognized credential in wildfire emergency manage-
16 ment, including—

17 (1) agricultural landscape planning relating to
18 wildfire resilience;

19 (2) natural resource management relating to
20 wildfire resilience;

21 (3) emergency management;

22 (4) emergency medical technician services;

23 (5) paramedic services;

24 (6) fire science;

25 (7) firefighting;

1 (8) community planning relating to wildfire re-
2 silience;

3 (9) safety and operations training for structural
4 firefighters assigned to wildfire incidents; or

5 (10) any other program that trains individuals
6 in the wildfire mitigation, response, or recovery
7 workforce.

8 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) ACCREDITED LOCAL ACADEMY.—The term
10 “accredited local academy” means a partnership, be-
11 tween a local fire suppression organization and the
12 office of the Fire Marshall of a State, that delivers
13 a State Fire Training program.

14 (2) ACCREDITED REGIONAL TRAINING PRO-
15 GRAM.—The term “accredited regional training pro-
16 gram” means a partnership, between a junior or
17 community college or institution of higher education
18 and the office of the Fire Marshall of a State, that
19 delivers an approved State Fire Training program
20 within a given region.

21 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
22 ty” means—

23 (A) a junior or community college;

24 (B) an institution of higher education;

1 (C) an accredited regional training pro-
2 gram;

3 (D) an accredited local academy; or

4 (E) a nonprofit entity with experience ad-
5 ministering education and training programs
6 for fire service personnel.

7 (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
8 term “institution of higher education” has the
9 meaning given such term in section 102 of the High-
10 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

11 (5) JUNIOR OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The
12 term “junior or community college” has the meaning
13 given such term in section 312 of the Higher Edu-
14 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058).

15 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
16 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
17 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.

18 **TITLE II—WILDLAND**

19 **FIREFIGHTER SUPPORT**

20 **SEC. 201. FIRE SERVICE RETENTION AND RETIREMENT**
21 **PORTABILITY (REPORT RECOMMENDATION**
22 **86).**

23 (a) BREAK-IN-SERVICE CONSIDERATION FOR FED-
24 ERAL WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER RETIREMENTS.—Not-
25 withstanding sections 8336(e) and 8412(d) of title 5,

1 United States Code, not later than May 1, 2024, the Sec-
2 retary concerned, in coordination with the Secretary of
3 Labor, shall promulgate regulations, as necessary, to en-
4 sure that a Federal wildland firefighter would not forfeit
5 previously made contributions or eligibility for firefighter
6 retirement when the Federal wildland firefighter has a vol-
7 untary break in service of not more than 2 years.

8 (b) RETENTION OF ENHANCED RETIREMENT BENE-
9 FITS DURING PERIOD OF NON-FEDERAL SERVICE.—Sec-
10 tion 104(e)(2) of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
11 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5323(e)) is amended by
12 adding at the end the following: “Any Federal wildland
13 firefighter (as that term is defined in section 201(d) of
14 the Modernizing Wildfire Safety and Prevention Act of
15 2024) who retains coverage, rights, and benefits under
16 such chapter 83 or 84 pursuant to this paragraph shall
17 retain enhanced retirement benefits under either such
18 chapter.”.

19 (c) JOB-SHARING.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
20 vision of law, a Federal wildland firefighter or wildland
21 fire support personnel may occupy a position in the civil
22 service (as that term is defined in section 2101 of title
23 5, United States Code) and a position with a Tribal gov-
24 ernment under a job-share agreement even if the position
25 with a Tribal government is classified at a level higher

1 than the civil service position, including any level that is
2 above that of the highest level applicable to the General
3 Schedule.

4 (d) FEDERAL WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER.—In this
5 section, the term “Federal wildland firefighter” means a
6 person who is—

7 (1) in a temporary, seasonal, or permanent po-
8 sition at the Department of Agriculture or the De-
9 partment of the Interior or as a Tribal firefighter
10 who;

11 (A) maintains group, emergency incident
12 management, or fire qualifications, as estab-
13 lished annually by the Standards for Wildland
14 Fire Position Qualifications published by the
15 National Wildfire Coordinating Group; and

16 (B) primarily engages in or supports
17 wildland fire management activities, including
18 forestry and rangeland technicians and posi-
19 tions concerning aviation, engineering heavy
20 equipment operations, dispatch, or fire and
21 fuels management; or

22 (2) a Federal firefighter stationed on military
23 installations under the Department of Defense who
24 engages in or supports wildland fire management ac-
25 tivities, including forestry and rangeland technicians

1 and positions concerning aviation, engineering heavy
2 equipment operations, dispatch, or fire and fuels
3 management.

4 **SEC. 202. WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT CASUALTY AS-**
5 **SISTANCE PROGRAM (REPORT REC-**
6 **COMMENDATION 87).**

7 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later than 6
8 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
9 Secretary of the Interior shall develop a Wildland Fire
10 Management Casualty Assistance Program (referred to in
11 this section as the “Program”) to provide assistance to
12 the next-of-kin of—

13 (1) critically injured, ill, and deceased fire-
14 fighters injury, illness, or death in the line of duty;
15 and

16 (2) wildland fire support personnel critically in-
17 jured or killed in the line of duty.

18 (b) ASPECTS OF PROGRAM.—The Program shall ad-
19 dress the following:

20 (1) The initial and any subsequent notifications
21 to the next-of-kin of a firefighter or wildland fire
22 support personnel who—

23 (A) was killed in the line of duty; or

1 (B) requires hospitalization or treatment
2 at a medical facility due to a line-of-duty injury
3 or illness.

4 (2) The reimbursement of next-of-kin for ex-
5 penses associated with travel to visit a firefighter or
6 wildland fire support personnel who—

7 (A) was killed in the line of duty; or

8 (B) requires hospitalization or treatment
9 at a medical facility due to a line-of-duty injury
10 or illness.

11 (3) The qualifications, assignment, training, du-
12 ties, supervision, and accountability for the perform-
13 ance of casualty assistance responsibilities.

14 (4) The relief or transfer of casualty assistance
15 officers, including notification to survivors of critical
16 injury or illness in the line of duty and next-of-kin
17 of the reassignment of such officers to other duties.

18 (5) Centralized, short-term and long-term case
19 management procedures for casualty assistance, in-
20 cluding rapid access by survivors of firefighters or
21 wildland fire support personnel and casualty assist-
22 ance officers to expert case managers and coun-
23 selors.

24 (6) The provision, through a computer acces-
25 sible website and other means and at no cost to sur-

1 survivors and next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire
2 support personnel, of personalized, integrated infor-
3 mation on the benefits and financial assistance avail-
4 able to such survivors from the Federal Government.

5 (7) The provision of information to survivors
6 and next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire sup-
7 port personnel on mechanisms for registering com-
8 plaints about, or requests for, additional assistance
9 related to casualty assistance.

10 (8) Liaison with the Department of the Inte-
11 rior, the Department of Justice, and the Social Se-
12 curity Administration to ensure prompt and accurate
13 resolution of issues relating to benefits administered
14 by those agencies for survivors of firefighters or
15 wildland fire support personnel.

16 (9) Data collection regarding the incidence and
17 quality of casualty assistance provided to survivors
18 of firefighters or wildland fire support personnel.

19 (c) LINE OF DUTY DEATH BENEFITS.—The Pro-
20 gram shall not affect existing authorities for Line of Duty
21 Death benefits for Federal firefighters and wildland fire
22 support personnel.

23 (d) NEXT-OF-KIN DEFINED.—In this section, the
24 term “next of kin” means person or persons in the highest

1 category of priority as determined by the following list
2 (categories appear in descending order of priority):

3 (1) Surviving legal spouse.

4 (2) Children (whether by current or prior mar-
5 riage) age 18 years or older in descending prece-
6 dence by age.

7 (3) Father or mother, unless by court order
8 custody has been vested in another (adoptive parent
9 takes precedence over natural parent);

10 (4) Siblings (whole or half) age 18 years or
11 older in descending precedence by age.

12 (5) Grandfather or grandmother.

13 (6) Any other relative (precedence to be deter-
14 mined in accordance with the civil law of descent of
15 the deceased former member's State of domicile at
16 time of death).

17 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
18 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
19 \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.

20 **TITLE III—WILDFIRE SMOKE**
21 **AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

22 **SEC. 301. NATIONAL SMOKE MONITORING AND ALERT SYS-**
23 **TEM (REPORT RECOMMENDATION 44).**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of the Na-
25 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, acting

1 through the Director of the National Weather Service, and
2 in conjunction with the Secretary of Agriculture acting
3 through the Chief of the Forest Service, the Secretary of
4 the Interior, the Administrator of the Environmental Pro-
5 tection Agency, and the Director of the Centers for Dis-
6 ease Control and Prevention shall establish a nationally
7 consistent smoke monitoring and alert system to provide
8 consistent, real-time information and forecasts on air
9 quality impacts from wildfire smoke, including wildfire
10 smoke in the built environment.

11 (b) INCREASE IN SMOKE SENSORS.—In carrying out
12 subsection (a), to ensure adequate and accessible data, the
13 Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
14 shall increase the availability and use of air monitoring
15 devices for wildfire smoke, including, to distinguish wild-
16 fire smoke from other forms of air pollution, increasing
17 the availability and use of—

18 (1) speciation monitors; and

19 (2) nonregulatory air monitors.

20 (c) USE OF SATELLITES.—In carrying out subsection
21 (a), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection
22 Agency shall explore the use of satellites.

23 (d) PUBLIC COUNTY-RESOLUTION SMOKE ALERT
24 SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND ROADWAYS SAFE-
25 TY.—In carrying out subsection (a), not later than 1 year

1 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
2 trator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
3 tration, acting through the Director of the National
4 Weather Service and in coordination with the Secretary
5 of Agriculture acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-
6 ice, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Administrator
7 of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Director
8 of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall
9 establish a public county-resolution smoke alert system for
10 public health and roadways safety which shall be based
11 on levels of particulate matter. The system established
12 under this subsection shall be in addition to the National
13 Weather Service Dense Smoke Advisories, which are based
14 on visibility.

15 (e) COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF AIR QUAL-
16 ITY AND SMOKE ALERT INFORMATION.—In carrying out
17 subsection (a), the Director of the National Weather Serv-
18 ice shall collect all air quality forecasts, including through
19 AirNow, public notifications, and alerts for smoke issued
20 by Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial air agencies
21 and disseminate them through weather forecast office net-
22 works to enable the Wireless Emergency Alerts System to
23 be extended to support smoke communications to protect
24 public health.

1 (f) FOREST SERVICE PERSONNEL AND SMOKE MONI-
2 TORING EQUIPMENT.—In carrying out subsection (a), not
3 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this
4 Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief
5 of the Forest Service, in coordination with the Secretary
6 of the Interior, shall expand the personnel and smoke
7 monitoring equipment of the Forest Service to increase the
8 capacity of the Forest Service to assess wildfire smoke,
9 including wildfire smoke in the built environment, and
10 carry out prescribed fires.

11 (g) INTERAGENCY WILDLAND FIRE AIR QUALITY
12 RESPONSE PROGRAM PERSONNEL AND SMOKE MONI-
13 TORING EQUIPMENT.—In carrying out subsection (a), not
14 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this
15 Act, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the
16 Interior shall expand the personnel (including air resource
17 advisors) of, and smoke monitoring equipment available
18 to, the Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response
19 Program established under section 1114(f) of the John D.
20 Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation
21 Act (43 U.S.C. 1748b–1(f)).

22 (h) EXPANSION OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPAC-
23 ITY.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection
25 (a), the Administrator of the Environmental Protec-

1 tion Agency shall expand the emergency response ca-
2 pacity, including personnel and equipment, of the
3 Environmental Protection Agency—

4 (A) to measure air pollution from wildfires
5 that involve combustion of hazardous materials;
6 and

7 (B) to communicate information during
8 smoke events resulting from wildfires.

9 (2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
10 “hazardous materials” means explosive, flammable,
11 combustible, corrosive, oxidizing, toxic, infectious, or
12 radioactive materials that, when involved in an acci-
13 dent and released in sufficient quantities, put some
14 portion of the general public in immediate danger
15 from exposure, contact, inhalation, or ingestion.

16 (i) IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING SYSTEMS.—In car-
17 rying out subsection (a), in order to maintain the Environ-
18 mental Protection Agency AirNow framework and tech-
19 nology as a state-of-the-art, real-time resource for pro-
20 viding robust and actionable information to protect public
21 health from wildfire smoke, the Administrator of the Envi-
22 ronmental Protection Agency shall, as the Administrator
23 determines appropriate, improve and modernize such
24 AirNow framework and technology, including by making
25 improvements to and otherwise modernizing AirNow.gov,

1 AirNow-Tech, the AirNow Environmental Protection
2 Agency and Forest Service Fire and Smoke Map, AirNow
3 Forecast Submittal System, and the AirNow mobile app.

4 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
5 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
6 \$32,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.

7 **SEC. 302. HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT FOR WILDFIRE**
8 **SMOKE EXPOSURE (REPORT RECOMMENDA-**
9 **TION 100).**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
11 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Na-
12 tional Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, in
13 consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental
14 Protection Agency, the Director of the Centers for Disease
15 Control and Prevention, the Administrator of the United
16 States Fire Administration, the Chief of the Forest Serv-
17 ice, and the Director of the Office of Wildland Fire, shall
18 complete a human health risk assessment for worker expo-
19 sure to wildfire smoke to estimate the nature and prob-
20 ability of adverse health effects in workers who may be
21 exposed to hazards from wildfire smoke, including wildfire
22 smoke in the built environment.

23 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSESSMENT.—The human
24 health risk assessment required under subsection (a) shall
25 address the following:

1 (1) The health problems for workers that may
2 be caused by exposure to wildfire smoke, including
3 wildfire smoke in the built environment.

4 (2) The probability that workers will experience
5 health problems when exposed to different con-
6 centrations of wildfire smoke, including wildfire
7 smoke in the built environment.

8 (3) The chemicals that workers are exposed to
9 from wildfire smoke, including wildfire smoke in the
10 built environment, as well as the overall level and
11 duration of such exposure.

12 (4) The differences in worker susceptibility to
13 health effects from exposure to wildfire smoke, in-
14 cluding wildfire smoke in the built environment.

15 (5) The effectiveness of mitigating both acute
16 and cumulative exposures to wildfire smoke, includ-
17 ing wildfire smoke in the built environment, in de-
18 creasing adverse health effects from such wildfire
19 smoke.

20 (c) BEST PRACTICES.—Not later than 6 months after
21 completing the human health risk assessment under sub-
22 section (a), the Director of the National Institute for Oc-
23 cupational Safety and Health shall develop and publish
24 best practices to mitigate worker exposure to wildfire
25 smoke, including wildfire smoke in the built environment.

1 Such best practices shall be informed by the human health
2 assessment completed under subsection (a).

3 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the Na-
5 tional Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to
6 carry out this section \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years
7 2025 through 2027.

8 **TITLE IV—FIRE MITIGATION**
9 **AND TECHNOLOGY**

10 **SEC. 401. IMPROVEMENTS TO WILDFIRE FORAGE LOSS**
11 **PROGRAMS (REPORT RECOMMENDATION 59).**

12 (a) LIVESTOCK FORAGE PROGRAM.—Section
13 1501(c)(4)(A)(ii) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
14 U.S.C. 9081(c)(4)(A)(ii)) is amended by inserting “(in-
15 cluding a prescribed fire, beneficial fire, and wildfire man-
16 aged for resource objectives)” before the period.

17 (b) EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE PRO-
18 GRAM.—Section 1501(d)(1) of the Agricultural Act of
19 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(d)(1)) is amended by striking “and
20 wildfires” and inserting “wildfires, beneficial fires, pre-
21 scribed fires, and wildfires managed for resource objec-
22 tives”.

1 **SEC. 402. IMPROVEMENTS TO FEMA PROGRAMS (REPORT**
2 **RECOMMENDATIONS 66 AND 64).**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 324 of the Robert T.
4 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
5 (42 U.S.C. 5165b) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b)(2)—

7 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
8 and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and
9 adjusting the margins accordingly; and

10 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i), as
11 so redesignated, by striking “provide the fol-
12 lowing percentage rates” and inserting “pro-
13 vide—

14 “(A) excess funds for management costs as
15 described in subsection (c); and

16 “(B) the following percentage rates”;

17 (2) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
18 section (d); and

19 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(c) USE OF EXCESS FUNDS FOR MANAGEMENT
22 COSTS.—

23 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
24 ‘excess funds for management costs’ means the dif-
25 ference between—

1 “(A) the amount of the applicable specific
2 management costs authorized under subsection
3 (b)(1) and subsection (b)(2)(B); and

4 “(B) as of the date on which the grant
5 award is closed, the amount of funding for
6 management costs activities expended by the
7 grantee or subgrantee receiving the financial as-
8 sistance for costs described in subparagraph
9 (A).

10 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF EXCESS FUNDS FOR
11 MANAGEMENT COSTS.—The President may make
12 available to a grantee or subgrantee receiving finan-
13 cial assistance under section 403, 404, 406, 407, or
14 502 any excess funds for management costs.

15 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Excess funds for man-
16 agement costs made available to a grantee or sub-
17 grantee under paragraph (2) may be used for—

18 “(A) activities associated with building ca-
19 pacity to prepare for, recover from, or mitigate
20 the impacts of a major disaster or emergency
21 declared under section 401 or 501, respectively;
22 and

23 “(B) management costs associated with
24 any—

25 “(i) major disaster;

1 “(ii) emergency;
2 “(iii) disaster preparedness measure;
3 or
4 “(iv) mitigation activity or measure
5 authorized under section 203, 204, 205, or
6 404.

7 “(4) AVAILABILITY.—Excess funds for manage-
8 ment costs made available to a grantee or sub-
9 grantee under paragraph (2) shall remain available
10 to the grantee or subgrantee until the date that is
11 5 years after the date on which the excess funds for
12 management costs are made available under para-
13 graph (2).”.

14 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-
15 section (a) shall apply with respect to any grant award
16 in relation to a major disaster or emergency declared
17 under section 401 or 501, respectively, of the Robert T.
18 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
19 (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191)—

20 (1) the declaration of which is made on or after
21 the date of enactment of this Act; and

22 (2) that is funded with amounts appropriated
23 on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

24 (c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the
25 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General

1 of the United States shall submit to the Committee on
2 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-
3 ate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-
4 ture of the House of Representatives a report—

5 (1) on the actual management costs described
6 in section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
7 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
8 5165b) during the period of a major disaster dec-
9 laration under section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C.
10 5170) to determine whether the amount set aside for
11 those management costs after the date of enactment
12 of this Act is appropriate; and

13 (2) that includes the management costs de-
14 scribed in section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
15 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
16 U.S.C. 5165b) for each disaster declared under dur-
17 ing the period of a major disaster declaration under
18 section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) during the
19 5-year period preceding the date of the report, the
20 amount set aside for those management costs, the
21 use of those management costs, the length of each
22 disaster, and the reason for the length of each dis-
23 aster.

1 (d) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds
2 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the amend-
3 ments made by subsection (a).

4 (e) TREATMENT OF MULTIPLE EVENTS STEMMING
5 FROM SAME WILDFIRE.—

6 (1) MAJOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE PRO-
7 GRAMS.—Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
8 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
9 U.S.C. 5170) is amended—

10 “(d) WILDLAND FIRE MAJOR DISASTER DECLARA-
11 TION.—In the case of an initial wildland fire major dis-
12 aster declaration under this section, the declaration shall
13 include any landslide, mudslide, flood, or other natural
14 disaster event which stems from the wildland fire occurring
15 within the 3-year period beginning on the first date of the
16 wildland fire.”.

17 (2) EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Sec-
18 tion 501 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5191) is amended
19 by adding at the end the following:

20 “(d) WILDLAND FIRE MAJOR DISASTER DECLARA-
21 TION.—In the case of an initial wildland fire major dis-
22 aster declaration under this section, the declaration shall
23 include any landslide, mudslide, flood, or other natural
24 disaster event which stems from the wildland fire occurring

1 within the 3-year period beginning on the first date of the
2 wildland fire.”.

3 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
4 by this subsection shall apply with respect to events
5 occurring after the date of the enactment of this
6 Act.

7 (f) FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM POL-
8 ICY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
9 of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency
10 Management Agency shall recommend such regulations or
11 guidance as are necessary to make eligible assessments
12 and emergency stabilization to protect public safety, in-
13 cluding for the fire management assistance program under
14 section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
15 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187), irrespective
16 of the incident period for a declared fire.

17 (g) CHANGES TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE POLICY
18 GUIDE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
19 ment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emer-
20 gency Management Agency shall amend the Public Assist-
21 ance Program and Policy Guide of the Federal Emergency
22 Management Agency to include guidance on wildfire-spe-
23 cific recovery challenges, including debris removal, emer-
24 gency protective measures, and the resulting toxicity of
25 drinking water resources.

1 (h) MITIGATION COST EFFECTIVENESS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
3 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall con-
4 duct a review of the criteria for evaluating the cost
5 effectiveness of projects intended to mitigate the im-
6 pacts of wildfire under sections 203 and 404 of the
7 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
8 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133; 5170c), includ-
9 ing—

10 (A) the establishment of precalculated ben-
11 efits criterion for common defensible space miti-
12 gation projects for wildfire mitigation;

13 (B) the use of nature-based infrastructure
14 in wildfire mitigation;

15 (C) considerations for vegetation manage-
16 ment for wildfire mitigation;

17 (D) reducing the negative effects of wild-
18 fire smoke on public health; and

19 (E) lessening the impact of wildfires on
20 water infrastructure.

21 (2) UPDATED CRITERIA.—Not later than 1 year
22 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
23 trator shall issue such guidance as is necessary to—

24 (A) update criteria for evaluating the cost
25 effectiveness of mitigation projects under sec-

1 tions 203 and 404 of the Robert T. Stafford
2 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 5133; 5170e) based on the results
4 of the review conducted under paragraph (1);
5 and

6 (B) prioritize such projects based on the
7 criteria updated under subparagraph (A).

8 **SEC. 403. THE WILDLAND DYNAMIC RISK MAPPING PRO-**
9 **GRAM (REPORT RECOMMENDATION 118).**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the
11 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of
12 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
13 shall work jointly with the National Aeronautical and
14 Space Agency, United States Geological Survey, United
15 States Fire Administration, universities, and National
16 Laboratories to—

17 (1) develop dynamic risk and hazard maps for
18 the wildland and built environments in the United
19 States; and

20 (2) ensure that such dynamic risk maps are up-
21 dated as required to reflect each wildfire season—

22 (A) changes in the natural environment,
23 such as postflood or fire alterations;

24 (B) rapidly changing environmental condi-
25 tions;

1 (C) measure changes in fuels moisture on
2 the temporal scale; and

3 (D) utilize both remote sensing tech-
4 nologies and on the ground monitoring.

5 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator of the
7 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to
8 carry out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years
9 2025 through 2029.

10 **SEC. 404. IMPROVEMENTS TO GRANT PROGRAMS FOR COM-**
11 **MUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION AND**
12 **POSTFIRE RECOVERY EFFORTS (REPORT**
13 **RECOMMENDATION 142).**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
15 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall,
16 with respect to the grant programs for community wildfire
17 risk reduction and postfire recovery efforts carried out by
18 each such Secretary—

19 (1) increase the accessibility of such grant pro-
20 grams;

21 (2) reduce the complexity of the application
22 process for grants under such programs, including—

23 (A) by reducing the amount of information
24 required to apply; and

1 (B) to the maximum extent practicable, en-
2 abling auto-populating fields in the online appli-
3 cations for such grants;

4 (3) reduce administrative burden with respect
5 to such grant programs, including by—

6 (A) aligning program applications to re-
7 duce separate applications for similar programs;
8 and

9 (B) developing a common section for appli-
10 cations to reduce duplicative questions;

11 (4) review the statutory and administrative bar-
12 riers that impede the ability of communities to
13 quickly access funds under each such grant pro-
14 gram;

15 (5) increase technical assistance provided to ap-
16 plicants, recipients, and subrecipients; and

17 (6) increase outreach to potential applicants for
18 such grant programs, including by—

19 (A) providing appropriate dedicated staff
20 to assist individuals and communities in identi-
21 fying and applying for grants under such grant
22 programs; and

23 (B) notifying potential applicants of eligi-
24 bility and open application seasons with respect
25 to such grant programs.

1 (b) SECRETARIES DEFINED.—In this section, the
2 term “Secretaries” means the Secretary of the Interior,
3 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of
4 the Forest Service, the Administrator of the Federal
5 Emergency Management Agency, the Administrator of the
6 Small Business Administration, and the Administrator of
7 the Environmental Protection Agency.

8 **SEC. 405. JOINT OFFICE OF THE FIRE ENVIRONMENT CEN-**
9 **TER (REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS 104, 105,**
10 **106).**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than a 1 year after
13 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
14 trator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
15 ministration shall establish a joint office, which shall
16 be known as the “Joint Office of the Fire Environ-
17 ment Center”.

18 (2) STRUCTURE.—The Joint Office shall be
19 comprised of the following branches:

20 (A) TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING.—

21 Technology and Engineering, which shall—

22 (i) focus on modeling and the building
23 and testing of technology; and

24 (ii) may enter into public-private part-
25 nerships.

1 (B) DATA SERVICES.—Data Services,
2 which shall—

3 (i) be responsible for testing artificial
4 intelligence and machine learning tech-
5 nologies to support managers, firefighters,
6 and public health officials on the ground,
7 including producing decision consequence
8 data, modeling risk, and suggesting re-
9 sources based on fire and smoke conditions
10 at the time and place of ignition detection;
11 and

12 (ii) working with State, local, and
13 Tribal entities on data sharing.

14 (C) ANALYSIS AND PREDICTION.—Analysis
15 and Prediction.

16 (D) EDUCATION AND CONSULTATION.—
17 Education and Consultation, which shall be re-
18 sponsible for incident management.

19 (E) OTHER.—Any other branch deter-
20 mined necessary or appropriate by the Board.

21 (b) FUNCTIONS OF JOINT OFFICE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—

23 (A) AVAILABILITY OF PRODUCTS AND IN-
24 FORMATION.—The Joint Office shall make

1 available any products and information devel-
2 oped by the Joint Office to—

3 (i) geographic area coordination cen-
4 ters;

5 (ii) incident management teams;

6 (iii) land managers;

7 (iv) air quality and water provider
8 agencies;

9 (v) State, local, and Tribal govern-
10 ments; and

11 (vi) public health agencies.

12 (B) SERVICES AND SUPPORT.—The Joint
13 Office shall provide real-time, science-based,
14 and data-rich scientific and technical analytic
15 services, decision support, and predictive serv-
16 ices to inform land and fuels management, com-
17 munity risk reduction, and fire management
18 and response, including the following:

19 (i) PREFIRE MITIGATION AND RISK
20 REDUCTION.—Prefire mitigation and risk
21 reduction activities for landscapes and
22 communities, including through assess-
23 ments and modeling of—

24 (I) climate condition;

25 (II) fuels;

1 (III) home ignition;

2 (IV) structure-to-structure
3 spread; and

4 (V) values at risk.

5 (ii) PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY
6 DURING AND AFTER FIRE.—Activities that
7 better protect public health and safety dur-
8 ing and after a fire, including mapping
9 services and data provision to support
10 evacuation decisions in communities at risk
11 and air quality monitoring and forecast
12 data to support health risk information
13 that helps protect the public from smoke
14 impacts associated with fire.

15 (iii) FIRE RESPONSE AND MANAGE-
16 MENT.—Fire response and management,
17 including—

18 (I) response preparedness and
19 initial attack readiness for new fires;

20 (II) deployment of response re-
21 sources; and

22 (III) firefighter movement deci-
23 sions during active fire management.

24 (iv) POSTFIRE ACTIVITIES.—Postfire
25 activities, including—

- 1 (I) vegetation recovery;
2 (II) debris flows and flooding;
3 (III) watershed protection; and
4 (IV) ecosystem health.

5 (C) COORDINATION OF FUNCTIONS.—The
6 Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-
7 mospheric Administration, in coordination with
8 each of the agencies specified in subparagraphs
9 (B) through (J) of subsection (c)(1), shall oper-
10 ate as a collective entity to produce accessible
11 products and services for a variety of users and
12 uses in fire management, including by—

13 (i) developing timely, manager-focused
14 models, technologies, assessments, and
15 forecasts to support fire operational deci-
16 sionmaking, and short- and long-term fire
17 planning; and

18 (ii) integrating the existing specialties
19 of the constituent land management, com-
20 munity preparedness, and public health
21 agencies.

22 (2) TECHNOLOGICAL COMMON OPERATING EN-
23 VIRONMENT.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Joint Office shall
25 develop a technological common operating envi-

1 ronment for practitioners across the spectrum
2 of risk mitigation, prescribed fire, response, and
3 postdisaster response to shepherd the creation
4 of highly dynamic decision support tools.

5 (B) PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION.—The
6 Joint Office shall ensure that public health in-
7 formation that is essential to integrate into this
8 common operating environment is provided to
9 ensure its products accurately reflect the depth
10 and breadth of the wildfire issues. Information
11 provided shall include air quality data and fore-
12 casts and information pertaining to the built
13 environment.

14 (c) BOARD OF THE JOINT OFFICE.—

15 (1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Joint
16 Office shall be governed by a board, comprised of 12
17 members, as follows:

18 (A) One member who is a career employee
19 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
20 ministration, appointed by the Administrator of
21 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-
22 istration.

23 (B) One member who is a career employee
24 of the United States Fire Administration, ap-

1 pointed by the Administrator of the United
2 States Fire Administration.

3 (C) One member who is a career employee
4 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency,
5 appointed by the Administrator of the Federal
6 Emergency Management Agency.

7 (D) One member who is a career employee
8 of the National Weather Service, appointed by
9 the Director of the National Weather Service.

10 (E) One member who is a career employee
11 of the Forest Service, appointed by the Chief of
12 the Forest Service.

13 (F) One member who is a career employee
14 of the Department of the Interior, appointed by
15 the Secretary of the Interior.

16 (G) One member who is a career employee
17 of the Bureau of Land Management, appointed
18 by the Director of the Bureau of Land Manage-
19 ment.

20 (H) One member who is a career employee
21 of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, appointed by
22 the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

23 (I) One member who is a career employee
24 of the National Park Service, appointed by the
25 Director of the National Park Service.

1 (J) One member who is a career employee
2 of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service,
3 appointed by the Director of the United States
4 Fish and Wildlife Service.

5 (K) Two members who are non-Federal
6 representatives of the wildfire community, ap-
7 pointed by the Board. Their initial terms can
8 be 1 year each.

9 (2) TERMS.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each member shall be
11 appointed for a term of 5 years, except as pro-
12 vided in paragraphs (2) and (3).

13 (B) TERMS OF INITIAL APPOINTEES.—Of
14 the members first appointed—

15 (i) the members appointed under sub-
16 paragraphs (I), (J), and (K) of paragraph
17 (1) shall be appointed for terms of 1 year;

18 (ii) the members appointed under sub-
19 paragraphs (D) and (G) of paragraph (1)
20 shall be appointed for terms of 2 years;

21 (iii) the members appointed under
22 subparagraphs (F) and (H) of paragraph
23 (1) shall be appointed for terms of 3 years;
24 and

1 (iv) the members appointed under
2 subparagraphs (C) and (E) of paragraph
3 (1) shall be appointed for terms of 4 years.

4 (C) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed
5 to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration
6 of the term for which the member's predecessor
7 was appointed shall be appointed only for the
8 remainder of that term. A member may serve
9 after the expiration of that member's term until
10 a successor has taken office. A vacancy in the
11 Board shall be filled in the manner in which the
12 original appointment was made.

13 (3) PROHIBITION OF COMPENSATION OF FED-
14 ERAL EMPLOYEES.—Members of the Board who are
15 career employees of the United States may not re-
16 ceive additional pay, allowances, or benefits by rea-
17 son of their service on the Board.

18 (4) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall
19 receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of
20 subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions
21 under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United
22 States Code.

23 (5) QUORUM.—7 members of the Board shall
24 constitute a quorum.

1 (6) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The
2 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board
3 shall be elected by the members of the Board. The
4 term of office of the Chairperson and Vice Chair-
5 person shall be 1 year.

6 (7) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet at least
7 quarterly and at a call of a majority of its members.

8 (d) DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF JOINT OFFICE; EX-
9 PERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—

10 (1) DIRECTOR.—The Joint Office shall have a
11 Director who shall be appointed by the Board. To
12 the extent or in the amounts provided in advance in
13 appropriation Acts, the Director shall be paid at a
14 rate of basic pay not to exceed the rate of basic pay
15 for level II of the Executive Schedule. The budget
16 and decisionmaking authority for the Joint Office is
17 vested in the Director.

18 (2) CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER, CHIEF FI-
19 NANCIAL OFFICER, CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER,
20 AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER.—With the ap-
21 proval of the Board, the Director may appoint a
22 Chief Information Officer, Chief Financial Officer,
23 Chief Technology Officer, and Chief Operating Offi-
24 cer.

1 (3) STAFF.—With the approval of the Board,
2 the Director may appoint at least 100 personnel and
3 may appoint such additional personnel as the Direc-
4 tor considers appropriate.

5 (4) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE
6 LAWS.—The Director and staff of the Joint Office
7 shall be appointed subject to the provisions of title
8 5, United States Code, governing appointments in
9 the competitive service, and shall be paid in accord-
10 ance with the provisions of chapter 51 and sub-
11 chapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to
12 classification and General Schedule pay rates.

13 (5) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—With the
14 approval of the Joint Office, the Director may pro-
15 cure temporary and intermittent services under sec-
16 tion 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at
17 rates for individuals not to exceed the daily equiva-
18 lent of the maximum annual rate of basic pay under
19 the General Schedule.

20 (6) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon re-
21 quest of the Director, the head of any Federal de-
22 partment or agency may detail, on a reimbursable
23 basis, any of the personnel of that department or
24 agency to the Joint Office to assist it in carrying out
25 its duties under this Act.

1 (e) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Joint Office may
2 contract with and compensate government and private
3 agencies or persons for supplies and services.

4 (f) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out its functions
5 under this section, the Joint Office is encouraged to con-
6 sult with and share relevant data with the Environmental
7 Protection Agency, the National Aeronautical and Space
8 Agency, the United States Geological Survey, and the Cen-
9 ters for Disease Control and Prevention.

10 (g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the
11 following definitions shall apply:

12 (1) JOINT OFFICE.—The term “Joint Office”
13 means the Joint Office of the Fire Environment
14 Center established under subsection (a)(1).

15 (2) BOARD.—The term “Board” means the
16 Board of the Joint Office established by subsection
17 (c).

18 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
19 the Director of the Joint Office required by sub-
20 section (d).

21 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
22 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator of the
23 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to
24 carry out this section \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal
25 years 2025 through 2034.

1 **SEC. 406. INTERAGENCY DATA COLLABORATION ENVIRON-**
2 **MENT (REPORT RECOMMENDATION 107).**

3 (a) EXPANSION OF INFORMATION SYSTEM.—Not
4 later than a 1 year after the date of the enactment of
5 this Act, the Administrator of the United States Fire Ad-
6 ministration shall expand the National Emergency Re-
7 sponse Information System to include real-time informa-
8 tion and analytics tools relating to prescribed fires as well
9 as wildfires that do not impact structures and infrastruc-
10 ture. The expansion of this system shall be compatible
11 with, and shared with, existing wildland fire information
12 collection at the Fire Environment Center established
13 under section 405.

14 (b) WILDFIRE DIGITAL DATA CENTER.—

15 (1) CREATION.—The Administrator of the
16 United States Fire Administration shall create a
17 data center to be known as the “Wildfire Digital
18 Data Center”. The Wildfire Digital Data Center
19 shall be a public, government, scientific research
20 data catalog and repository available to assist the
21 wildfire communities research and share data.

22 (2) DATA AND MODELING COLLABORATION EN-
23 VIRONMENT.—The Wildfire Digital Data Center
24 shall provide a data and modeling collaboration envi-
25 ronment for researchers across the wildfire commu-

1 nity to engage with data across agencies and dis-
2 ciplines.

3 (3) OPEN ACCESS.—The Administrator shall
4 ensure that the Wildfire Digital Data Center is in
5 compliance with the guidance on public access poli-
6 cies as specified in the Memorandum from the Office
7 of Science and Technology Policy of the Executive
8 Office of the President that was issued on August
9 25, 2022.

10 (4) INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN WILD-
11 FIRE DIGITAL DATA CENTER REPOSITORY.—The
12 Wildfire Digital Data Center shall include in its re-
13 pository information on the following areas:

14 (A) Outcomes and impacts of wildfire and
15 associated management actions.

16 (B) Real-time data on new fire starts.

17 (C) The effectiveness of wildfire risk miti-
18 gation measures.

19 (D) Public health research related to
20 wildland fire and fires in the built environment.

21 (5) INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED ON
22 WEBSITE.—The Administrator of the United States
23 Fire Administration shall coordinate with the Sec-
24 retary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of

1 the Forest Service, to include on the publicly acces-
2 sible website of the Wildfire Digital Data Center—

3 (A) information on postwildfire impacts
4 and State and Federal programs and funding
5 opportunities to address such impacts;

6 (B) State and Federal best practices relat-
7 ing to the short- and long-term mitigation of
8 wildfire; and

9 (C) with respect to wildfire, information on
10 ecological recovery, assessment science, and
11 State and Federal emergency declaration proc-
12 esses.

13 (6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
14 section shall be construed to affect the ownership of
15 individual agencies over their data sources.

16 (c) FINDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, INTEROPERABLE, AND
17 REUSABLE REQUIREMENT.—

18 (1) ACCESS REQUIREMENT FOR U.S. DEPART-
19 MENT OF THE INTERIOR LIBRARY ALONG WITH THE
20 NATIONAL EMERGENCY TRAINING CENTER LIBRARY
21 AND NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE LIBRARY.—

22 Through the Wildfire Digital Data Center, the U.S.
23 Department of the Interior Library along with the
24 National Emergency Training Center Library and
25 National Forest Service Library shall provide serv-

1 ices to make federally funded wildland and struc-
2 tural fire research data systems and data products
3 findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable
4 (FAIR).

5 (2) The services required by subparagraph (A)
6 shall be integrated with the National Emergency Re-
7 sponse Information System of the United States
8 Fire Administration to better collect data and model
9 the built environment.

10 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
11 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
12 \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2034.

13 **SEC. 407. REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO PAYMENT TIMING**
14 **FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS ADDRESSING**
15 **WILDFIRE DAMAGES (REPORT REC-**
16 **COMMENDATION 61).**

17 (a) EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM.—
18 Section 407(b) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16
19 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

20 (1) by striking “The” and inserting the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The”; and

23 (2) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(2) PAYMENTS FOR EMERGENCY MEASURES
25 TO ADDRESS WILDFIRE.—In the case of an applica-

1 tion for a payment by an owner of nonindustrial pri-
2 vate forest land who carries out emergency measures
3 to restore the land after the land is damaged by a
4 wildfire, if the Secretary approves such application,
5 the Secretary shall provide payment to such owner
6 not later than 90 days after the date on which the
7 application was submitted to the Secretary.”.

8 (b) EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROGRAM.—Section
9 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C.
10 2203) is amended by adding at the end the following:

11 “(c) PAYMENTS FOR EMERGENCY WATERSHED PRO-
12 TECTION MEASURES TO ADDRESS WILDFIRE DAMAGE.—
13 In the case of an application for a payment for emergency
14 watershed protection measures addressing a sudden im-
15 pairment of a watershed caused by a wildfire, if the Sec-
16 retary approves such application, the Secretary shall pro-
17 vide such payment not later than 90 days after the date
18 on which the application was submitted to the Secretary.”.

19 (c) COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIRECT LOAN AND
20 GRANT PROGRAMS.—

21 (1) DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM.—Section
22 306(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
23 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(19)) is amended
24 by adding at the end the following: “If the Secretary
25 approves an application for an essential community

1 facilities loan under this paragraph that is submitted
2 by an owner of nonindustrial private forest land (as
3 defined in section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act
4 of 1978) who carries out emergency measures (as
5 defined in such section) to restore the land after the
6 land is damaged by a wildfire and the Secretary ap-
7 proves the application, the Secretary shall provide
8 the loan to the owner within 90 days after date the
9 application is submitted.”

10 (2) GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 306(a)(19) of
11 such Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(19)) is amended by add-
12 ing at the end the following:

13 “(C) PAYMENTS FOR EMERGENCY MEAS-
14 URES TO ADDRESS WILDFIRE.—If the Secretary
15 approves an application for a grant under this
16 paragraph that is submitted by an owner of
17 nonindustrial private forest land (as defined in
18 section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of
19 1978) who carries out emergency measures (as
20 defined in such section) to restore the land
21 after the land is damaged by a wildfire and the
22 Secretary approves the application, the Sec-
23 retary shall provide the grant to the owner
24 within 90 days after date the application is sub-
25 mitted.”.

1 (d) DISASTER RELIEF AND MITIGATION PRO-
2 GRAMS.—The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
3 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) is
4 amended—

5 (1) in section 203, by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(m) ASSISTANCE FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION.—If
8 the President approves an application for financial assist-
9 ance under this section to implement predisaster hazard
10 mitigation measures related to the mitigation of wildfires,
11 the President shall provide such assistance within 90 days
12 after the date such application is submitted.”;

13 (2) in section 404, by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(h) ASSISTANCE FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION.—If
16 the President approves an application for hazard mitiga-
17 tion assistance under this section that is related to the
18 mitigation of wildfires, the President shall provide such
19 assistance within 90 days after the date such application
20 is submitted.”;

21 (3) in section 407(e), by adding at the end the
22 following:

23 “(3) PAYMENTS RELATED TO WILDFIRE.—Not-
24 withstanding the requirements of paragraphs (1)
25 and (2), if the President approves an application for

1 a grant under this section to remove debris or
2 wreckage resulting from a wildfire, such grant shall
3 be paid in full no later than the date that is 90 days
4 after the last day such wildfire occurred.”.

5 (4) in section 408—

6 (A) by redesignating subsections (i) and (j)
7 as subsections (j) and (k), respectively; and

8 (B) by inserting after subsection (h) the
9 following:

10 “(i) PAYMENTS RELATED TO WILDFIRE.—If the
11 President approves an application for financial assistance
12 under this section for necessary expenses or serious needs
13 related to a wildfire, the President shall provide such as-
14 sistance within 90 days after the last day such wildfire
15 occurred.”.

16 (e) SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DISASTER
17 LOAN PROGRAM.—The Small Business Administration
18 Disaster Loan program under Section 7(b) of the Small
19 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended—

20 (1) by redesignating the second paragraph (16)
21 (relating to statute of limitations) as paragraph
22 (17); and

23 (2) by inserting after paragraph (17) (as so re-
24 designated), the following new paragraph:

1 “(18) EMERGENCY MEASURES TO ADDRESS
2 WILDFIRE.—If the Administrator approves an appli-
3 cation for a loan under this subsection that is sub-
4 mitted by an owner of nonindustrial private forest
5 land (as defined in section 407 of the Agricultural
6 Credit Act of 1978) who carries out emergency
7 measures (as defined in such section) to restore the
8 land after the land is damaged by a wildfire, the Ad-
9 ministrator shall ensure that such loan is disbursed
10 not later than 90 days after date of such approval.”.

○