

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5010

To direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to maintain a program that improves wildfire forecasting and detection, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 13, 2021

Mr. GARCIA of California (for himself, Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Ms. CHU) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to maintain a program that improves wildfire forecasting and detection, 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 Information and
5 Reaction Enhancement Act” or the “FIRE Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. WILDFIRE FORECASTING AND DETECTION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Na-
8 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in col-

1 laboration with the United States weather industry and
2 such academic entities as the Administrator considers ap-
3 propriate, shall establish and maintain a program within
4 such Administration to improve wildfire forecasting and
5 detection.

6 (b) GOALS.—The goals of the program maintained
7 under subsection (a) shall be to develop and extend accu-
8 rate wildfire forecasts and warnings in order to reduce loss
9 of life, injury, property, and damage to the economy, with
10 a focus on—

11 (1) improving the prediction of intensification
12 and spread of wildfires;

13 (2) improving the forecast and communication
14 of smoke dispersion from wildfires;

15 (3) improving information dissemination and
16 risk communication to create more effective watch
17 and warning products; and

18 (4) improving the early detection of wildfires to
19 contain their growth and mitigate damages.

20 (c) ELEMENTS.—In order to meet the goals outlined
21 in subsection (b), the Administrator is authorized to con-
22 duct development, testing, and deployment activities re-
23 lated to—

24 (1) advanced satellite detection products;

1 (2) grid-based assessments and outlooks of fuel
2 moisture and danger levels;

3 (3) coupled atmosphere and fire modeling sys-
4 tems;

5 (4) systems to link climate predictions to
6 achievable land management decisions; and

7 (5) improved spatial and temporal resolution
8 observations in high latitudes.

9 (d) CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
11 after the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Ad-
12 ministrator for the Office of Oceanic and Atmos-
13 pheric Research shall establish a program to create
14 one or more weather research testbeds, in partner-
15 ship with industry and academic partners, to develop
16 improved detection of and forecast capabilities for
17 wildfire events and their impacts.

18 (2) RESOURCES.—In carrying out the program
19 under paragraph (1), the Assistant Administrator
20 may not take resources for such testbeds from the
21 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
22 cooperative institutes in existence as of the date of
23 enactment of this Act.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated \$15,000,000 for fiscal year
3 2022 to carry out the program under subsection (d).

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