

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

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

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

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 congress-
4 sional 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 re-
22 quired to provide a response time of not more than
23 30 minutes for wildland fires occurring in the
24 United States, including the deployment of fire sup-

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.