

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 550

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

JANUARY 26, 2023

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California (for himself, Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. CHU, and Ms. BROWNLEY) 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 of 2023” or the “FIRE Act
6 of 2023”.

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

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—

1 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of
2 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
3 tion, in collaboration with the United States weather
4 industry and such academic entities as the Adminis-
5 trator considers appropriate, shall establish a pro-
6 gram within such Administration to improve wildfire
7 forecasting and detection.

8 (2) GOALS.—The goals of the program under
9 paragraph (1) shall be to develop and extend accu-
10 rate wildfire forecasts and warnings in order to re-
11 duce loss of life, injury, property, and damage to the
12 economy, with a focus on improving the following:

13 (A) The prediction of intensification and
14 spread of wildfires.

15 (B) The forecast and communication of
16 smoke dispersion from wildfires.

17 (C) Information dissemination and risk
18 communication to create more effective watch
19 and warning products.

20 (D) The early detection of wildfires to con-
21 tain their growth and mitigate damages.

22 (3) ELEMENTS.—In order to meet the goals
23 specified in paragraph (2), the Administrator of the
24 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is

1 authorized to conduct development, testing, and de-
2 ployment activities related to the following:

3 (A) Advanced satellite detection products.

4 (B) Grid-based assessments and outlooks
5 of fuel moisture and danger levels.

6 (C) Coupled atmosphere and fire modeling
7 systems.

8 (D) Systems to link climate predictions to
9 achievable land management decisions.

10 (E) Improved spatial and temporal resolu-
11 tion observations in high latitudes.

12 (b) CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
14 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the As-
15 sistant Administrator for the Office of Oceanic and
16 Atmospheric Research, in partnership with industry
17 and academic partners, shall establish a program to
18 create one or more weather research testbeds to de-
19 velop improved detection of and forecast capabilities
20 for wildfire events and their impacts.

21 (2) RESOURCES.—In carrying out the program
22 under paragraph (1), the Assistant Administrator
23 for the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
24 may not utilize resources for such testbeds from the
25 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

1 cooperative institutes in existence as of the date of
2 enactment of this Act.

3 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 There is authorized to be appropriated \$15,000,000
5 for fiscal year 2024 to carry out the program under
6 paragraph (1).

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