

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7978

To increase wildfire preparedness and response throughout the United States,  
and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 7, 2020

Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. COX of California, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. GLANFORTE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs, 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 increase wildfire preparedness and response throughout  
the United States, 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 “Emergency Wildfire  
5 and Public Safety Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

7 The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. Findings.
- Sec. 4. Definitions.

#### TITLE I—WILDFIRE MITIGATION PROJECTS

- Sec. 101. Forest landscape projects.
- Sec. 102. Wildfire detection equipment.
- Sec. 103. Establishment of fuel breaks in forests and other wildland vegetation.
- Sec. 104. Emergency actions.
- Sec. 105. New information in land management plans.
- Sec. 106. Hazard mitigation using disaster assistance.

#### TITLE II—BIOMASS

- Sec. 201. Biomass energy infrastructure program.

#### TITLE III—TIMBER EXPORTS

- Sec. 301. Exemption to prohibition on export of unprocessed timber of dead and dying trees in the State of California.

#### TITLE IV—OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 401. Innovative forest workforce development program.
- Sec. 402. Western prescribed fire center.
- Sec. 403. Retrofits for fire-resilient communities.
- Sec. 404. Critical infrastructure and microgrid program.

### 1 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) in 2017 and 2018, the State of California,  
 4 the State of Montana, and other Western States ex-  
 5 perience some of the deadliest and most destructive  
 6 wildfires in the last 100 years, devastating Federal,  
 7 State, and private land, destroying tens of thousands  
 8 of homes, killing dozens of people, and burning large  
 9 areas of land in the wildland-urban interface (as de-  
 10 fined in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restora-  
 11 tion Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511));

12 (2) fire suppression practices over several dec-  
 13 ades, inadequate levels of forest management, and

1 climate change have increased the risk of wildfires,  
2 and, according to the Fourth National Climate As-  
3 sessment by the United States Global Change Re-  
4 search Program, the cumulative number of acres  
5 burned in the period from 1984 to 2015 was twice  
6 the number of acres that would have burned in the  
7 absence of climate change;

8 (3) increased development in the wildland-urban  
9 interface near overgrown forest landscapes has in-  
10 creased the number of people living in areas that are  
11 at risk of wildfire;

12 (4) despite legislation enacted over the last 20  
13 years to facilitate hazardous fuels reduction, certain  
14 statutory, regulatory, and administrative require-  
15 ments, including studies, publication periods, season-  
16 specific surveys, and objection processes, and litiga-  
17 tion can significantly impede rapid implementation  
18 of hazardous fuels reduction projects necessary to  
19 protect lives and property;

20 (5) increasing the pace and scale of science-  
21 based, publicly developed forest management activi-  
22 ties that reduce hazardous fuels, including through  
23 mechanical thinning and controlled burning, can re-  
24 duce the size and scope of wildfires, as well as pro-  
25 tect watersheds, improve fish and wildlife habitat,

1 expand recreational opportunities, protect air qual-  
2 ity, and increase the sequestration of carbon on Na-  
3 tional Forest System and Bureau of Land Manage-  
4 ment land;

5 (6) in 2019, 11,800,000 acres of National For-  
6 est System land in the State of California and  
7 6,300,000 acres of National Forest System land in  
8 the State of Montana were at high or very high wild-  
9 fire hazard potential, of which 3,100,000 acres and  
10 1,600,000 acres, respectively, were within proximity  
11 to populated areas; and

12 (7) the Governor of the State of California has  
13 proclaimed a “State of Emergency” due to a vast  
14 tree die-off throughout the State that has increased  
15 the risk of wildfires and has created extremely dan-  
16 gerous fire conditions.

17 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this Act:

19 (1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”  
20 means—

21 (A) land of the National Forest System (as  
22 defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and  
23 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act  
24 of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)); and

1 (B) public lands (as defined in section 103  
2 of the Federal Land Policy and Management  
3 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)).

4 (2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-  
5 retary concerned” means—

6 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-  
7 spect to Federal land described in paragraph  
8 (1)(A); and

9 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-  
10 spect to Federal land described in paragraph  
11 (1)(B).

## 12 **TITLE I—WILDFIRE MITIGATION** 13 **PROJECTS**

### 14 **SEC. 101. FOREST LANDSCAPE PROJECTS.**

15 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) COLLABORATIVE PROCESS.—The term “col-  
17 laborative process” means a collaborative process de-  
18 scribed in section 4003(b)(2) of the Omnibus Public  
19 Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C.  
20 7303(b)(2)).

21 (2) FOREST LANDSCAPE.—The term “forest  
22 landscape” means an area that—

23 (A) primarily or entirely contains land that  
24 has a high or very high wildfire hazard poten-  
25 tial;

1 (B) due to a fuel management activity in  
2 the area, would have a reduced risk, as deter-  
3 mined by the Secretary concerned—

4 (i) of wildfire endangering a nearby  
5 at-risk community (as defined in section  
6 101 of the Healthy Forests Restoration  
7 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511));

8 (ii) of wildfire damaging a municipal  
9 watershed or infrastructure that serves an  
10 at-risk community described in clause (i);  
11 or

12 (iii) of the transmission of a high in-  
13 tensity wildfire from the applicable  
14 wildland-urban interface or forest land-  
15 scape to a nearby community; and

16 (C) to the extent practicable, is conducive  
17 to the development and implementation of  
18 projects relating to wildfire resilience and forest  
19 health that are carried out through a collabo-  
20 rative process.

21 (3) FOREST LANDSCAPE PROJECT.—The term  
22 “forest landscape project” means a project carried  
23 out in a forest landscape under subsection (b)(1)—

24 (A) in which 1 or more management activi-  
25 ties are carried out; and

1 (B) that takes place on not more than  
2 75,000 acres of Federal land or non-Federal  
3 land adjacent to Federal land on which the  
4 project is carried out.

5 (4) MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY.—The term “man-  
6 agement activity” means—

7 (A) the installation of fuel breaks (includ-  
8 ing shaded fuel breaks) not more than 1/2-mile  
9 wide across a forest landscape in a strategic  
10 system that maximizes the reduction of wildfire  
11 risk to communities or watersheds;

12 (B) mechanical thinning (including res-  
13 toration thinning) of a forest landscape to  
14 clear—

15 (i) surface fuels, such as slash;

16 (ii) ladder fuels, such as small and  
17 medium diameter trees and shrubs; or

18 (iii) both of the fuels described in  
19 clauses (i) and (ii); and

20 (C) controlled burns.

21 (5) STATE.—The term “State” means a State  
22 the entirety of which is located west of the 100th  
23 meridian.

24 (6) WILDLIFE HABITAT.—The term “wildlife  
25 habitat” means an ecological community on which a

1 species of wild animal, bird, plant, fish, amphibian,  
2 or invertebrate depends for the conservation and  
3 protection of the species.

4 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
6 the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance  
7 with paragraph (2), the Secretary of Agriculture, in  
8 consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall  
9 select 3 forest landscapes on which to conduct forest  
10 landscape projects—

11 (A) to reduce the risk of wildfire in the  
12 forest landscape;

13 (B) to restore ecological health to the for-  
14 est landscape; or

15 (C) to adapt the forest landscape to the in-  
16 creased risk of wildfire due to climate change.

17 (2) PROCESS.—

18 (A) PROPOSALS.—The Governor of a State  
19 may submit to the Secretary of Agriculture a  
20 proposal for a forest landscape project to be  
21 carried out in that State.

22 (B) SELECTION.—The Secretary of Agri-  
23 culture, in consultation with the Secretary of  
24 the Interior, shall select forest landscape



1 projects to be conducted from among proposals  
2 submitted under subparagraph (A) based on—

3 (i) the strength of the proposal and  
4 the strategy for the conduct of the forest  
5 landscape project;

6 (ii) the strength of the ecological case  
7 of the proposal and the proposed ecological  
8 restoration strategies of the forest land-  
9 scape project;

10 (iii) the strength of the collaborative  
11 process through which the proposal was  
12 developed and the forest landscape project  
13 will be carried out and the likelihood of  
14 successful collaboration throughout imple-  
15 mentation of the forest landscape project;

16 (iv) whether the proposed forest land-  
17 scape project is likely to achieve reductions  
18 in long-term wildfire management costs;

19 (v) whether the proposed forest land-  
20 scape project would reduce the relative  
21 costs of carrying out ecological restoration  
22 treatments;

23 (vi) whether the proposed forest land-  
24 scape project would provide energy as a re-

1           sult of the use of woody biomass and  
2           small-diameter trees; and

3           (vii) whether an appropriate level of  
4           non-Federal investment would be leveraged  
5           in carrying out the proposed forest land-  
6           scape project.

7           (C) CONSULTATION.—In selecting pro-  
8           posals under subparagraph (B), the Secretary  
9           of Agriculture, in consultation with the Sec-  
10          retary of the Interior, shall consult with the  
11          Governors of the States that submitted pro-  
12          posals under subparagraph (A).

13          (3) APPLICABILITY.—The selection of a forest  
14          landscape under this subsection shall not be subject  
15          to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969  
16          (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or any other applicable law.

17          (c) MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out a  
18          management activity under a forest landscape project, the  
19          Secretary concerned—

20               (1) shall maximize the retention of old-growth  
21               stands and large trees, as appropriate for the forest  
22               type, to the extent that the trees promote stands  
23               that are resilient to wildfire and increased average  
24               temperature;

1           (2) shall consider the best available scientific  
2 information to maintain or restore the ecological in-  
3 tegrity of the forest landscape; and

4           (3) shall not establish a permanent road.

5           (d) ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS.—

6           (1) APPLICATION TO CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL  
7 ASSESSMENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATE-  
8 MENTS.—This subsection shall apply in any case in  
9 which the Secretary concerned prepares an environ-  
10 mental assessment or an environmental impact  
11 statement pursuant to section 102(2) of the Na-  
12 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.  
13 4332(2)) for a forest landscape project—

14           (A) that—

15                   (i) is developed through a collabo-  
16 rative process; or

17                   (ii) is covered by a community wildfire  
18 protection plan;

19           (B) the primary purpose of which is—

20                   (i) reducing hazardous fuel loads;

21                   (ii) installing fuel and fire breaks;

22                   (iii) restoring forest health and resil-  
23 ience;

24                   (iv) protecting a municipal water sup-  
25 ply or a critical communication site;

1 (v) improving wildlife habitat to meet  
2 management and conservation goals, in-  
3 cluding State population goals; or

4 (vi) a combination of 2 or more of the  
5 purposes described in clauses (i) through  
6 (v); and

7 (C) that does not include any action that  
8 is inconsistent with the applicable land and re-  
9 source management plan.

10 (2) CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES.—In an  
11 environmental assessment or environmental impact  
12 statement described in paragraph (1), the Secretary  
13 concerned shall study, develop, and describe only the  
14 following alternatives:

15 (A) The forest landscape project, as pro-  
16 posed under paragraph (1).

17 (B) A forest management activity or com-  
18 bination of forest management activities pro-  
19 posed by the relevant agency.

20 (C) The alternative of no action.

21 (3) ELEMENTS OF NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE.—  
22 In the case of the alternative of no action, the Sec-  
23 retary concerned shall evaluate the effect of no ac-  
24 tion only on—

25 (A) forest health;

- 1 (B) wildlife habitat;
- 2 (C) wildfire potential;
- 3 (D) insect and disease potential;
- 4 (E) economic and social factors; and
- 5 (F) water quality and quantity.

6 (4) EXCLUSIONS.—This subsection does not  
7 apply to—

- 8 (A) any component of the National Wilder-  
9 ness Preservation System;
- 10 (B) any congressionally designated wilder-  
11 ness study area;
- 12 (C) any component of the National Wild  
13 and Scenic Rivers System;
- 14 (D) any research natural area;
- 15 (E) any National Forest System land or  
16 public land on which the removal of vegetation  
17 is prohibited by an Act of Congress or the  
18 President;
- 19 (F) any land in an inventoried roadless  
20 area; or
- 21 (G) any designated critical habitat for a  
22 federally listed threatened or endangered spe-  
23 cies, unless, after a consultation under section  
24 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16  
25 U.S.C. 1536), the Secretary of the Interior, act-

1 ing through the Director of the United States  
2 Fish and Wildlife Service, determines that the  
3 forest management activity is not likely to de-  
4 stroy or adversely modify the critical habitat.

5 (5) ROAD BUILDING.—

6 (A) PERMANENT ROADS.—A forest land-  
7 scape project carried out under this section  
8 shall not include the construction of any new,  
9 permanent road.

10 (B) EXISTING ROADS.—The Secretary con-  
11 cerned may carry out necessary maintenance of,  
12 repairs to, or reconstruction of an existing per-  
13 manent road under a forest landscape project  
14 carried out under this section.

15 (C) TEMPORARY ROADS.—The Secretary  
16 concerned shall decommission any temporary  
17 road constructed under a forest landscape  
18 project carried out under this section by not  
19 later than 3 years after the date on which the  
20 Secretary concerned determines the road is no  
21 longer needed.

22 (6) JUDICIAL REVIEW IN UNITED STATES DIS-  
23 TRICT COURTS.—

24 (A) VENUE.—Notwithstanding section  
25 1391 of title 28, United States Code, or other

1 applicable law, a forest landscape project for  
2 which an environmental assessment or an envi-  
3 ronmental impact statement is prepared under  
4 paragraph (2)(A) shall be subject to judicial re-  
5 view only in—

6 (i) the United States district court for  
7 a district in which the Federal land to be  
8 treated under the forest landscape project  
9 is located; or

10 (ii) the United States district court  
11 for the District of Columbia.

12 (B) EXPEDITIOUS COMPLETION OF JUDI-  
13 CIAL REVIEW.—In the judicial review of an ac-  
14 tion challenging a forest landscape project de-  
15 scribed in subparagraph (A), Congress encour-  
16 ages a court of competent jurisdiction to expe-  
17 dite, to the maximum extent practicable, the  
18 proceedings in the action with the goal of ren-  
19 dering a final determination on jurisdiction,  
20 and, if jurisdiction exists, a final determination  
21 on the merits, as soon as practicable after the  
22 date on which a complaint or appeal is filed to  
23 initiate the action.

24 (C) INJUNCTIONS.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause  
2 (ii), the length of any preliminary injunc-  
3 tive relief or stay pending appeal covering  
4 a forest landscape project described in sub-  
5 paragraph (A) shall not exceed 60 days.

6 (ii) RENEWAL.—

7 (I) IN GENERAL.—A court of  
8 competent jurisdiction may issue 1 or  
9 more renewals of any preliminary in-  
10 junction, or stay pending appeal,  
11 granted under clause (i).

12 (II) UPDATES.—In each renewal  
13 of an injunction in an action, the par-  
14 ties to the action shall present the  
15 court with updated information on the  
16 status of the forest landscape project.

17 (iii) REQUIREMENT FOR INJUNC-  
18 TION.—A court shall not enjoin an agency  
19 action under a forest landscape project de-  
20 scribed in subparagraph (A) if the court  
21 determines that the plaintiff is unable to  
22 demonstrate that the claim of the plaintiff  
23 is likely to succeed on the merits.

24 (iv) BALANCING OF SHORT- AND  
25 LONG-TERM EFFECTS.—As part of weigh-



1           ing the equities while considering any re-  
2           quest for an injunction that applies to an  
3           agency action under a forest landscape  
4           project described in subparagraph (A), the  
5           court reviewing the project shall balance  
6           the impact to the ecosystem likely affected  
7           by the project of—

8                           (I) the short- and long-term ef-  
9                           fects of undertaking the agency ac-  
10                          tion; against

11                         (II) the short- and long-term ef-  
12                         fects of not undertaking the agency  
13                         action.

14           (e) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—Each Secretary  
15           concerned shall seek to use existing statutory and adminis-  
16           trative authorities, including a good neighbor agreement  
17           entered into under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act  
18           of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a), to carry out each forest land-  
19           scape project.

20           (f) REPORTS.—Not later than the last day of each  
21           fiscal year, each Secretary concerned shall submit a report  
22           describing the impacts on wildfire risk and the environ-  
23           ment of forest landscape projects carried out under this  
24           section to—

1 (1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-  
2 sources of the Senate;

3 (2) the Committee on Natural Resources of the  
4 House of Representatives;

5 (3) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
6 and Forestry of the Senate; and

7 (4) the Committee on Agriculture of the House  
8 of Representatives.

9 (g) FUNDING.—

10 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

11 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
12 this section such sums as may be necessary for each  
13 fiscal year.

14 (2) NON-FEDERAL FUNDING.—Each Secretary  
15 concerned shall seek additional funding to carry out  
16 this section from private and State sources.

17 **SEC. 102. WILDFIRE DETECTION EQUIPMENT.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VI of the Healthy Forests  
19 Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591 et seq.) is  
20 amended by adding at the end the following:

21 **“SEC. 607. WILDFIRE DETECTION EQUIPMENT.**

22 “To the extent practicable, the Secretary of Agri-  
23 culture and the Secretary of the Interior shall—

1           “(1) expedite the placement of wildfire detec-  
2           tion equipment, such as sensors, cameras, and other  
3           relevant equipment, in areas at risk of wildfire;

4           “(2) expand the use of satellite data to assist  
5           wildfire response; and

6           “(3) expedite any permitting required by the  
7           Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the In-  
8           terior for the installation, maintenance, or removal  
9           of wildfire detection equipment.”.

10          (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
11         for the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16  
12         U.S.C. 6501 note; Public Law 108–148) is amended by  
13         adding at the end of the items relating to title VI the fol-  
14         lowing:

          “Sec. 607. Wildfire detection equipment.”.

15         **SEC. 103. ESTABLISHMENT OF FUEL BREAKS IN FORESTS**  
16                                 **AND OTHER WILDLAND VEGETATION.**

17         (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18           (1) HABITAT OF SIGNIFICANT VALUE.—The  
19           term “habitat of significant value” means a wildlife  
20           habitat (as defined in section 101(a))—

21                                 (A) of national, statewide, or regional eco-  
22                                 logical importance;

23                                 (B) that is identified as a candidate for  
24                                 protection, fully protected, sensitive, or as a

1 habitat for a species of special status by a State  
2 or Federal agency; or

3 (C) that is essential to the movement of  
4 resident or migratory wildlife.

5 (2) RIPARIAN AREA.—The term “riparian area”  
6 means an area—

7 (A) that is transitional between terrestrial  
8 and aquatic ecosystems;

9 (B) that is distinguished by gradients in  
10 biophysical conditions, ecological processes, and  
11 biota;

12 (C) through which surface and subsurface  
13 hydrology connect bodies of water with adjacent  
14 uplands;

15 (D) that is adjacent to perennial, intermit-  
16 tent, and ephemeral streams, lakes, or estuarine  
17 or marine shorelines; and

18 (E) that includes the portions of terrestrial  
19 ecosystems that significantly influence ex-  
20 changes of energy and matter with aquatic eco-  
21 systems.

22 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” has  
23 the meaning given the term in section 101 of the  
24 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.  
25 6511).

1 (b) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ESTABLISHED.—For-  
2 est management activities described in subsection (c) are  
3 a category of actions designated as being categorically ex-  
4 cluded from the preparation of an environmental assess-  
5 ment or an environmental impact statement under section  
6 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
7 U.S.C. 4332).

8 (c) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES DESIGNATED  
9 FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The category of forest man-  
11 agement activities designated under subsection (b)  
12 for a categorical exclusion are forest management  
13 activities described in paragraph (2) that are carried  
14 out by the Secretary on Federal land (as defined in  
15 section 3 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of  
16 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6502)) the primary purpose of  
17 which is to establish and maintain linear fuel breaks  
18 that are—

19 (A) up to 1,000 feet in width adjacent to,  
20 and incorporating, existing linear features, such  
21 as roads, trails, transmission lines, and pipe-  
22 lines of any length on Federal land; and

23 (B) intended to reduce the risk of wildfire  
24 on the Federal land or an adjacent at-risk com-  
25 munity.

1           (2) ACTIVITIES.—Subject to paragraph (3), the  
2 forest management activities that may be carried out  
3 pursuant to the categorical exclusion established  
4 under subsection (b) are—

5                   (A) mowing or masticating;

6                   (B) thinning by manual and mechanical  
7 cutting;

8                   (C) piling, yarding, and removal of slash;

9                   (D) selling of vegetation products, includ-  
10 ing timber, firewood, biomass, slash, and fence-  
11 posts;

12                   (E) targeted grazing;

13                   (F) application of—

14                           (i) pesticide;

15                           (ii) biopesticide; or

16                           (iii) herbicide;

17                   (G) seeding of native species;

18                   (H) controlled burns and broadcast burn-  
19 ing; and

20                   (I) burning of piles, including jackpot  
21 piles.

22           (3) EXCLUDED ACTIVITIES.—A forest manage-  
23 ment activity described in paragraph (2) may not be  
24 carried out pursuant to the categorical exclusion es-

1        established under subsection (b) if the activity is con-  
2        ducted—

3                (A) in a wilderness area or wilderness  
4        study area;

5                (B) for the construction of a permanent  
6        road or permanent trail;

7                (C) on National Forest System land or  
8        land managed by the Bureau of Land Manage-  
9        ment on which the removal of vegetation is pro-  
10        hibited or restricted by Congress or the Presi-  
11        dent; or

12                (D) in an area in which the activity  
13        would—

14                        (i) be inconsistent with the applicable  
15        land and resource management plan;

16                        (ii) have a substantial adverse impact  
17        on—

18                                (I) wetlands, as defined in the  
19        United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-  
20        ice Manual, part 660 FW 2 (June 21,  
21        1993);

22                                (II) a riparian area; or

23                                (III) a habitat of significant  
24        value; or

25                        (iii) harm—

1 (I) any species protected by the  
2 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16  
3 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

4 (II) the habitat of a species de-  
5 scribed in subclause (I).

6 (4) EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.—The  
7 Secretary shall apply the extraordinary cir-  
8 cumstances procedures under section 220.6 of title  
9 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor reg-  
10 ulation), in determining whether to use a categorical  
11 exclusion under subsection (b).

12 (d) ACREAGE AND LOCATION LIMITATIONS.—Treat-  
13 ments of vegetation in linear fuel breaks covered by the  
14 categorical exclusion established under subsection (b)—

15 (1) may not contain treatment units in excess  
16 of 3,000 acres; and

17 (2) shall be located primarily in an area de-  
18 scribed in section 605(c)(2) of the Healthy Forests  
19 Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(c)(2)).

20 **SEC. 104. EMERGENCY ACTIONS.**

21 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) EMERGENCY ACTION.—The term “emer-  
23 gency action” means an action carried out pursuant  
24 to an emergency situation determination to mitigate  
25 the harm to life, property, or important natural or



1 cultural resources on National Forest System land  
2 or adjacent land.

3 (2) EMERGENCY SITUATION.—The term “emer-  
4 gency situation” means a situation on National For-  
5 est System land for which immediate implementation  
6 of a decision is necessary to achieve 1 or more of the  
7 following results:

8 (A) Relief from hazards threatening  
9 human health and safety.

10 (B) Mitigation of threats to natural re-  
11 sources on National Forest System land or ad-  
12 jacent land.

13 (3) EMERGENCY SITUATION DETERMINATION.—  
14 The term “emergency situation determination”  
15 means a determination made by the Secretary under  
16 subsection (b)(1)(A).

17 (4) LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
18 PLAN.—The term “land and resource management  
19 plan” means a plan developed under section 6 of the  
20 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Plan-  
21 ning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

22 (5) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.—The  
23 term “National Forest System land” means land of  
24 the National Forest System (as defined in section

1 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-  
2 sources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

3 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
4 the Secretary of Agriculture.

5 (b) AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY ACTIONS TO RE-  
6 SPOND TO EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.—

7 (1) DETERMINATION.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
9 make a determination that an emergency situa-  
10 tion exists with respect to National Forest Sys-  
11 tem land.

12 (B) REVIEW.—An emergency situation de-  
13 termination shall not be subject to objection  
14 under the predecisional administrative review  
15 processes under part 218 of title 36, Code of  
16 Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

17 (C) APPLICABILITY.—An emergency situa-  
18 tion determination shall not be subject to the  
19 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
20 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or any other applicable  
21 law.

22 (2) AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY ACTIONS.—After  
23 making an emergency situation determination with  
24 respect to National Forest System land, the Sec-

1       retary may carry out emergency actions on that Na-  
2       tional Forest System land, including through—

3               (A) the salvage of dead or dying trees;

4               (B) the harvest of trees damaged by wind  
5       or ice;

6               (C) the commercial and noncommercial  
7       sanitation harvest of trees to control insects or  
8       disease, including trees already infested with in-  
9       sects or disease;

10              (D) the reforestation or replanting of fire-  
11       impacted areas through planting, control of  
12       competing vegetation, or other activities that  
13       enhance natural regeneration and restore forest  
14       species;

15              (E) the removal of hazardous trees in close  
16       proximity to roads and trails;

17              (F) the reconstruction of existing utility  
18       lines; and

19              (G) the replacement of underground ca-  
20       bles.

21              (3) RELATION TO LAND AND RESOURCE MAN-  
22       AGEMENT PLANS.—To the maximum extent prac-  
23       ticable, an emergency action carried out under para-  
24       graph (2) shall be conducted consistent with the  
25       land and resource management plan.

1           (4) ACREAGE LIMITATIONS.—A treatment area  
2 covered by an emergency situation determination on  
3 which an emergency action is carried out pursuant  
4 to paragraph (2) shall consist of not more than  
5 10,000 acres of National Forest System land.

6           (c) ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS.—

7           (1) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OR ENVI-  
8 RONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—If the Secretary  
9 determines that an emergency action requires an en-  
10 vironmental assessment or an environmental impact  
11 statement pursuant to section 102(2) of the Na-  
12 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.  
13 4332(2)), the Secretary shall study, develop, and de-  
14 scribe—

15                   (A) the proposed agency action; and

16                   (B) the alternative of no action.

17           (2) PUBLIC NOTICE.—The Secretary shall pro-  
18 vide notice of each emergency action that the Sec-  
19 retary determines requires an environmental assess-  
20 ment or environmental impact statement under  
21 paragraph (1), in accordance with applicable regula-  
22 tions and administrative guidelines.

23           (3) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretary shall  
24 provide an opportunity for public comment during  
25 the preparation of any environmental assessment or

1 environmental impact statement under paragraph  
2 (1).

3 (4) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this sub-  
4 section prohibits the Secretary from making an  
5 emergency situation determination, including a de-  
6 termination that an emergency exists pursuant to  
7 section 220.4(b) of title 36, Code of Federal Regula-  
8 tions (or successor regulations), that makes it nec-  
9 essary to take an emergency action before preparing  
10 an environmental assessment or environmental im-  
11 pact statement under the National Environmental  
12 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

13 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OF EMERGENCY AC-  
14 TIONS.—An emergency action carried out under this sec-  
15 tion shall not be subject to objection under the  
16 predecisional administrative review processes established  
17 under section 105 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act  
18 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6515) and section 428 of the Depart-  
19 ment of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
20 Appropriations Act, 2012 (16 U.S.C. 6515 note; Public  
21 Law 112–74).

22 (e) JUDICIAL REVIEW OF EMERGENCY ACTIONS.—  
23 Section 106 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of  
24 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6516) shall apply to an emergency action  
25 carried out under this section.

1 **SEC. 105. NEW INFORMATION IN LAND MANAGEMENT**  
2 **PLANS.**

3 (a) REINITIATION OF CONSULTATION; ACTIONS ON  
4 FEDERAL LAND.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned  
6 shall not be required to reinitiate consultation under  
7 section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of  
8 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) on a Federal action  
9 described in subsection (b) for new information af-  
10 fecting the listing of a species as threatened or en-  
11 dangered or the designation of critical habitat under  
12 that Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) unless the new in-  
13 formation was—

14 (A) influential scientific information (as  
15 defined in the guidance document prepared by  
16 the Office of Management and Budget entitled  
17 “Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer  
18 Review” and dated December 16, 2004);

19 (B) peer reviewed; and

20 (C) printed in a publication that is publicly  
21 accessible.

22 (2) ACTIONS ON FEDERAL LAND.—While any  
23 consultation initiated under paragraph (1) is pend-  
24 ing, the Secretary concerned may take an action on  
25 Federal land to implement a land management plan,  
26 a resource management plan, or a regulation relat-

1       ing to Federal land that is the subject of the new  
2       information, if the Secretary concerned complies  
3       with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of  
4       1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536) regarding that action.

5       (b) FEDERAL ACTIONS DESCRIBED.—A Federal ac-  
6       tion referred to in subsection (a) is any of the following:

7             (1) An action on Federal land.

8             (2) A land management plan or resource man-  
9       agement plan.

10       (c) IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMIT-  
11       MENTS.—An action described in subsection (a)(2) shall  
12       not be considered an irreversible or irretrievable commit-  
13       ment of resources to implement a land management plan,  
14       a resource management plan, or a regulation relating to  
15       Federal land.

16       (d) EFFECT OF SECTION.—Nothing in this section  
17       affects any applicable requirement of the Secretary con-  
18       cerned to consult with the head of any other Federal de-  
19       partment or agency—

20             (1) regarding any project carried out, or pro-  
21       posed to be carried out, to implement a land man-  
22       agement plan or resource management plan pursu-  
23       ant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16  
24       U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), including any requirement to  
25       consult regarding the consideration of cumulative

1 impacts of completed, ongoing, and planned projects;  
2 or

3 (2) with respect to—

4 (A) an amendment or revision to a land  
5 management plan; or

6 (B) a regulation relating to Federal land.

7 **SEC. 106. HAZARD MITIGATION USING DISASTER ASSIST-**  
8 **ANCE.**

9 Section 404(f)(12) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster  
10 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
11 5170c(f)(12)) is amended—

12 (1) by inserting “and wildfire” after “wind-  
13 storm”;

14 (2) by striking “including replacing” and in-  
15 serting the following: “including—

16 “(A) replacing”;

17 (3) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated)—

18 (A) by inserting “, wildfire,” after “ex-  
19 treme wind”; and

20 (B) by adding “and” after the semicolon  
21 at the end; and

22 (4) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(B) the installation of fire-resistant wires  
24 and infrastructure and the undergrounding of  
25 wires;”.



## TITLE II—BIOMASS

### SEC. 201. BIOMASS ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AREA OF ECONOMIC NEED.—The term “area of economic need” has the meaning given the term “qualified opportunity zone” in section 1400Z-1(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(2) BIOMASS.—The term “biomass” means slash, thinnings, or invasive species from National Forest System land and public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)) that—

(A) are byproducts of preventive treatments that are removed—

(i) to reduce hazardous fuels;

(ii) to reduce or contain disease or insect infestation; or

(iii) to restore ecosystem health;

(B) are byproducts of wildfire fuel treatments;

(C) would not otherwise be used for higher-value products; and

(D) are harvested—

(i) in accordance with applicable law and land management plans;

1 (ii) in accordance with the require-  
2 ments for—

3 (I) old-growth maintenance, res-  
4 toration, and management direction  
5 under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of  
6 subsection (e) of section 102 of the  
7 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of  
8 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6512); and

9 (II) large tree retention under  
10 subsection (f) of that section; and

11 (iii) in a manner that retains a min-  
12 imum quantity of coarse woody debris for  
13 habitat, nutrient recycling, and soil con-  
14 servation.

15 (3) BIOMASS CONVERSION FACILITY.—The  
16 term “biomass conversion facility” means a facility  
17 that converts or proposes to convert biomass, includ-  
18 ing through gasification, into—

19 (A) heat;

20 (B) power;

21 (C) biobased products;

22 (D) advanced biofuels; or

23 (E) any combination of the outputs de-  
24 scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

1           (4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
2           ty” means—

3                   (A) a business;

4                   (B) a limited liability company;

5                   (C) a cooperative or an entity with a busi-  
6           ness arrangement similar to a cooperative, as  
7           determined by the Secretary;

8                   (D) a nonprofit organization; and

9                   (E) a public entity.

10           (5) HIGH HAZARD ZONE.—The term “high haz-  
11           ard zone” means an area identified as being at high  
12           risk of wildfire—

13                   (A) through the use of a fire hazard map-  
14           ping tool; and

15                   (B) by—

16                           (i) the Secretary; and

17                           (ii) the Governor of the State in which  
18           the area is located.

19           (6) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means  
20           the program established under subsection (b).

21           (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
22           the Secretary of Energy.

23           (b) PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the  
24           date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish

1 a program to provide grants, direct loans, and loan guar-  
2 antees to eligible entities—

3 (1) to establish a biomass conversion facility;

4 (2) to expand the infrastructure of a biomass  
5 conversion facility;

6 (3) to make infrastructure or technological  
7 changes to a biomass conversion facility; or

8 (4) to remove, harvest, and transport dead or  
9 dying trees and small diameter low-value trees.

10 (c) GRANT AMOUNT.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a grant  
12 awarded under the program shall be based on—

13 (A) in the case of a grant for an activity  
14 described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of sub-  
15 section (b), the number of kilowatt hours of en-  
16 ergy generated by the biomass conversion facil-  
17 ity; and

18 (B) in the case of a grant for an activity  
19 described in paragraph (4) of that subsection,  
20 the contribution of the activity to reducing the  
21 risk of wildfire in high hazard zones.

22 (2) MAXIMUM PAYMENT.—An eligible entity  
23 shall not receive more than \$750,000 in grant funds  
24 under the program in a single calendar year.

1 (d) PRIORITIES.—In awarding a grant, direct loan,  
2 or loan guarantee under the program, the Secretary shall  
3 give priority to an eligible entity that—

4 (1) seeks to remove dead or dying trees and  
5 small diameter low-value trees;

6 (2) seeks to locate a biomass conversion facility  
7 in—

8 (A) an area of economic need; or

9 (B) an area in which there has been a de-  
10 cline in forest occupation, as determined by the  
11 Secretary; or

12 (3) is a small business, as determined by the  
13 Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

14 (e) GRANT MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Each eligible  
15 entity that receives a grant under the program shall pro-  
16 vide an amount equal to 50 percent of the amount of the  
17 grant to carry out the activities supported by the grant.

18 (f) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appro-  
19 priated to the Secretary \$100,000,000 to award grants  
20 under the program, to remain available until expended.

## **TITLE III—TIMBER EXPORTS**

### **SEC. 301. EXEMPTION TO PROHIBITION ON EXPORT OF UN- PROCESSED TIMBER OF DEAD AND DYING TREES IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.**

Section 489 of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “or such timber is exempted under subsection (c).”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by striking “to specific” and inserting the following: “to—

“(A) specific”;

(B) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) unprocessed timber originating from National Forest System land in the State of California that—

“(i) is included in a hazardous fuels reduction treatment; and

“(ii) for which there is no current domestic market.”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(c) EXEMPTION FOR UNPROCESSED SURPLUS TIM-  
3 BER OF DEAD AND DYING TREES IN THE STATE OF CALI-  
4 FORNIA.—

5 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

6 “(A) DEAD.—The term ‘dead’, with re-  
7 spect to a tree, means that the tree is des-  
8 ignated by a registered professional forester or  
9 a designee of the Secretary concerned as dead.

10 “(B) DYING.—The term ‘dying’, with re-  
11 spect to a tree, means that—

12 “(i)(I) 50 percent or greater of the fo-  
13 liage-bearing crown of the tree is dead or  
14 fading in color (other than through normal  
15 autumn coloration changes) from a normal  
16 green to a yellow, sorrel, or brown;

17 “(II) successful bark beetle attacks  
18 are exhibited on the tree, with indications  
19 of dead cambium and brood development  
20 distributed around the circumference of  
21 the bole of the tree; or

22 “(III) 50 percent or greater of the cir-  
23 cumference of the lower bole of the tree is  
24 girdled by wildlife; or

1           “(ii) the tree is designated by a reg-  
2           istered professional forester or a designee  
3           of the Secretary concerned as likely to die  
4           within 1 year.

5           “(C) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means the  
6           State of California.

7           “(2) APPLICATION OF PROHIBITION.—Subject  
8           to paragraph (3), the prohibition under subsection  
9           (a) shall not apply to unprocessed surplus timber  
10          originating from a dead or dying tree on Federal  
11          land in the State.

12          “(3) DETERMINATION OF SURPLUS SPECIES.—

13                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60  
14                 days after the date of enactment of the Emer-  
15                 gency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020,  
16                 and each year thereafter, the Secretary con-  
17                 cerned shall issue a list establishing which spe-  
18                 cies and sizes of trees are considered to be ‘sur-  
19                 plus’ for purposes of paragraph (2).

20                 “(B) IMPLEMENTATION.—Except with re-  
21                 spect to the first list issued under subparagraph  
22                 (A), the Secretary concerned shall implement  
23                 and administer this paragraph in accordance  
24                 with—



1 “(i) the rulemaking and notice and  
2 comment provisions of section 553 of title  
3 5, United States Code; and

4 “(ii) chapter 35 of title 44, United  
5 States Code (commonly known as the ‘Pa-  
6 perwork Reduction Act’).

7 “(4) PREFERENCE FOR DOMESTIC TIMBER  
8 PROCESSING.—Notwithstanding the exemption de-  
9 scribed in paragraph (2), the Secretary concerned,  
10 to the maximum extent practicable, shall give pref-  
11 erence for domestic processing of timber covered by  
12 the exemption.

13 “(5) INAPPLICABILITY OF SUBSTITUTION LIM-  
14 TATIONS.—Section 490 shall not apply to unproc-  
15 essed surplus timber exempted under paragraph (2).

16 “(6) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later  
17 than March 1, 2023, the Secretaries concerned shall  
18 submit to Congress a report evaluating the impacts  
19 of the exemption described in paragraph (2) on for-  
20 est health, domestic timber supply, local processing  
21 capacity, reduction in risk from wildfire, public safe-  
22 ty, and the total quantity of timber exported.

23 “(7) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—This  
24 subsection shall cease to be effective on the date that

1 is 5 years after the date of enactment of the Emer-  
2 gency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020.”.

### 3 **TITLE IV—OTHER MATTERS**

#### 4 **SEC. 401. INNOVATIVE FOREST WORKFORCE DEVELOP-** 5 **MENT PROGRAM.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) CAREER IN THE FOREST SECTOR.—The  
8 term “career in the forest sector” means a career in  
9 forestry, including—

10 (A) in timber operations;

11 (B) as a registered professional forester;

12 (C) in vegetation treatment, including as a  
13 member of a hand crew, a machine operator,  
14 and in conducting prescribed fires;

15 (D) in ecological restoration, including res-  
16 toration of watersheds;

17 (E) in wildland fire fighting; and

18 (F) in community fire resilience, including  
19 workforce development projects.

20 (2) FOREST SECTOR.—The term “forest sector”  
21 includes the areas of forestry described in subpara-  
22 graphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1).

23 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
24 the Secretary of Agriculture.

1 (b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall es-  
2 tablish a competitive grant program—

3 (1) to assist in the development and utilization  
4 of innovative activities relating to workforce develop-  
5 ment in the forest sector and opportunities for ca-  
6 reers in the forest sector; and

7 (2) to expand public awareness about the forest  
8 sector and connect individuals to careers in the for-  
9 est sector.

10 (c) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—In award-  
11 ing grants under subsection (b), the Secretary shall, to  
12 the extent practicable, select nonprofit professional or  
13 service organizations, labor organizations, State agencies,  
14 community colleges, institutions of higher education, or  
15 other training and educational institutions—

16 (1) that have qualifications and experience—

17 (A) in the development of training pro-  
18 grams and curricula relevant to the workforce  
19 needs of the forest sector;

20 (B) working in cooperation with the forest  
21 sector; or

22 (C) developing public education materials  
23 appropriate for communicating with groups of  
24 various ages and educational backgrounds; and

1           (2) that will address the human resources and  
2 workforce needs of the forest sector.

3           (d) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under sub-  
4 section (b) may be used for activities such as—

5           (1) targeted internship, apprenticeship, pre-ap-  
6 prenticeship, and post-secondary bridge programs  
7 for skilled forest sector trades that provide—

8                   (A) on-the-job training;

9                   (B) skills development;

10                   (C) test preparation for skilled trade ap-  
11 prenticeships;

12                   (D) advance training in the forest sector  
13 relating to jobs as forest restorationists, mem-  
14 bers of hand crews, wildland fire fighters, ma-  
15 chine operators, licensed timber operators, reg-  
16 istered professional foresters, ecologists, biolo-  
17 gists, or workers in construction in support of  
18 resilient infrastructure, including residential  
19 buildings; or

20                   (E) other support services to facilitate  
21 post-secondary success;

22           (2) education programs designed for elemen-  
23 tary, secondary, and higher education students  
24 that—

1 (A) inform people about the role of for-  
2 estry, vegetation management, and ecological  
3 restoration in the communities of those people;

4 (B) increase the awareness of opportunities  
5 for careers in the forest sector and exposure of  
6 students to those careers through various work-  
7 based learning opportunities inside and outside  
8 the classroom; and

9 (C) connect students to pathways to ca-  
10 reers in the forest sector;

11 (3) the development of a model curriculum and  
12 related vocational programs to be adopted by com-  
13 munity colleges, which, to the extent practicable and  
14 feasible, shall—

15 (A) provide professional training in imple-  
16 menting prescribed fire projects, including the  
17 knowledge and skills necessary to plan and im-  
18 plement broad-scale surface and ladder fuel  
19 treatments within the wildland-urban interface,  
20 wildlands, and urbanized areas, as appropriate;

21 (B) include a focus on the ecological con-  
22 cerns, economics, and practices necessary to im-  
23 prove community safety and forest resilience;  
24 and

25 (C) train students in—

- 1 (i) the retrofitting of houses, including  
2 the use of fire-resistant materials and the  
3 maintenance of defensible space;
- 4 (ii) urban forestry; and
- 5 (iii) policies or guidance relating to  
6 the management of vegetation near utility  
7 infrastructure and relevant portions of  
8 electric utility wildfire mitigation plans;
- 9 (4) regional industry and workforce develop-  
10 ment collaborations, including the coordination of  
11 candidate development, particularly in areas of high  
12 unemployment;
- 13 (5) integrated learning laboratories in sec-  
14 ondary educational institutions that provide students  
15 with—
- 16 (A) hands-on, contextualized learning op-  
17 portunities;
- 18 (B) dual enrollment credit for post-sec-  
19 ondary education and training programs; and
- 20 (C) direct connection to industry or gov-  
21 ernment employers; and
- 22 (6) leadership development, occupational train-  
23 ing, mentoring, or cross-training programs that en-  
24 sure that workers are prepared for high-level super-  
25 visory or management-level positions.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry  
3 out this section such sums as are necessary.

4 **SEC. 402. WESTERN PRESCRIBED FIRE CENTER.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture and  
6 the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section  
7 as the “Secretaries”) shall establish a center to train indi-  
8 viduals in prescribed fire methods and other methods rel-  
9 evant to the mitigation of wildfire risk (referred to in this  
10 section as the “center”).

11 (b) LOCATION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The center shall be located  
13 in any State the entirety of which is located west of  
14 the 100th meridian.

15 (2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretaries shall con-  
16 sult with the Joint Fire Science Program to solicit  
17 and evaluate proposals for the location of the center.

18 (3) SELECTION.—Not later than 1 year after  
19 the date of enactment of this Act, based on the con-  
20 sultation under paragraph (2), the Secretaries shall  
21 select a location for the center.

22 **SEC. 403. RETROFITS FOR FIRE-RESILIENT COMMUNITIES.**

23 (a) DEFINITION OF WEATHERIZATION MATE-  
24 RIALS.—Section 412(9) of the Energy Conservation and  
25 Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6862(9)) is amended—

1           (1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” at  
2 the end;

3           (2) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as sub-  
4 paragraph (K); and

5           (3) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the fol-  
6 lowing:

7                   “(J) materials that are resistant to high  
8 heat and fire; and”.

9           (b) WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 413(b)(5) of the En-  
11 ergy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C.  
12 6863(b)(5)) is amended—

13                   (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
14 “and” at the end;

15                   (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the  
16 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

17                   (C) by adding at the end the following:

18                           “(E) owners of such dwelling units shall  
19 use fire- and drought-resistant building mate-  
20 rials and incorporate wildfire and drought pre-  
21 vention and mitigation planning, as directed by  
22 the State.”.

23           (2) LIMITATIONS.—Section 415(c) of the En-  
24 ergy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C.  
25 6865(c)) is amended—



1 (A) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs  
3 (A) through (E) as clauses (i) through (v),  
4 respectively, and indenting appropriately;

5 (ii) in the matter preceding clause (i)  
6 (as so redesignated), in the second sen-  
7 tence, by striking “Labor” and all that fol-  
8 lows through “to—” and inserting the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 “(B) LABOR AND WEATHERIZATION MATE-  
11 RIALS.—Labor, weatherization materials, and  
12 related matter described in subparagraph (A)  
13 includes—”;

14 (iii) by striking “(c)(1) Except” and  
15 inserting the following:

16 “(c) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

17 “(1) AVERAGE COST.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except”;

19 (iv) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-  
20 ignated)—

21 (I) by striking “exceed an aver-  
22 age of \$6,500” and inserting the fol-  
23 lowing: “exceed—

24 “(i) an average of \$13,000 (adjusted  
25 annually for inflation)”;

1 (II) in clause (i) (as so des-  
2 ignated), by striking the period at the  
3 end and inserting “; or”; and

4 (III) by adding at the end the  
5 following:

6 “(ii) another average amount that is  
7 greater than the amount described in  
8 clause (i), if the Secretary determines it  
9 necessary to waive or adjust the average  
10 amount established under that clause.”;  
11 and

12 (v) in subparagraph (B) (as so des-  
13 ignated)—

14 (I) in clause (iv) (as so redesign-  
15 ated), by striking “, and” and insert-  
16 ing “; and”; and

17 (II) in clause (v) (as so redesign-  
18 ated), by adding a period at the end;  
19 and

20 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$3,000”  
21 and inserting “\$6,000 (adjusted annually for  
22 inflation)”.

23 **SEC. 404. CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND MICROGRID**  
24 **PROGRAM.**

25 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) CRITICAL FACILITY.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “critical fa-  
3 cility” means a facility that provides services or  
4 may be used—

5 (i) to save lives;

6 (ii) to protect property, public health,  
7 and public safety; or

8 (iii) to lessen or avert the threat of a  
9 catastrophe.

10 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “critical facil-  
11 ity” includes—

12 (i) a hospital;

13 (ii) an outpatient clinic;

14 (iii) a nursing home;

15 (iv) a police station;

16 (v) an emergency operation center;

17 (vi) a jail or prison;

18 (vii) a fire station;

19 (viii) a facility in the communications  
20 sector, as determined by the Secretary;

21 (ix) a facility in the chemical sector,  
22 as determined by the Secretary;

23 (x) a school or other large building  
24 that may serve as a temporary gathering  
25 space;

1 (xi) a utility station, such as a water  
2 and wastewater station; and

3 (xii) any facility described in subpara-  
4 graph (A) that is owned or operated by, or  
5 provides services to, an Indian tribe (as de-  
6 fined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-  
7 mination and Education Assistance Act  
8 (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

9 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
10 the Secretary of Energy.

11 (b) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND MICROGRID  
12 PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall use the funds made avail-  
13 able under subsection (d)—

14 (1) to improve the energy resilience and power  
15 needs of critical facilities through the use of  
16 microgrids, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and  
17 on-site storage; and

18 (2) to improve the energy efficiency of critical  
19 facilities by decreasing the size and cost of genera-  
20 tors.

21 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—In carrying out subsection (b),  
22 the Secretary shall ensure that the funds made available  
23 under subsection (d) shall be used for, with respect to crit-  
24 ical facilities—

1           (1) provision of on-site back-up power with re-  
2           newable and low-carbon liquid fuels; and

3           (2) installation, at the transmission and dis-  
4           tribution level, of interoperable technologies, ad-  
5           vanced power flow control, dynamic line rating, to-  
6           pology optimization, and communications systems.

7           (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
8           authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary  
9           \$100,000,000 to carry out this section, to remain available  
10          until expended.

○