

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1567

To require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2023

Mr. TIFFANY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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 require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, 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 “Accurately Counting
5 Risk Elimination Solutions Act” or the “ACRES Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION RE-**
2 **PORTS.**

3 (a) INCLUSION OF HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION
4 REPORT IN MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE
5 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fis-
7 cal year that begins after the date of the enactment
8 of this Act, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Sec-
9 retary concerned shall include in the materials sub-
10 mitted in support of the President's budget pursuant
11 to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a re-
12 port on the number of acres on which the Secretary
13 concerned carried out hazardous fuels reduction ac-
14 tivities during the preceding fiscal year.

15 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of the re-
16 port required under paragraph (1), the Secretary
17 concerned shall—

18 (A) in determining the number of acres on
19 which the Secretary concerned carried out haz-
20 ardous fuels reduction activities during the pe-
21 riod covered by the report—

22 (i) record acres on which hazardous
23 fuels reduction activities were completed
24 during such period; and

25 (ii) record each acre described in
26 clause (i) once in the report, regardless of

1 whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction
2 activities were carried out on such acre
3 during such period; and

4 (B) with respect to the acres recorded in
5 the report, include information on—

6 (i) which such acres are located in the
7 wildland-urban interface;

8 (ii) the level of wildfire risk (high,
9 moderate, or low) on the first and last day
10 of the period covered by the report;

11 (iii) the types of hazardous fuels ac-
12 tivities completed for such acres;

13 (iv) the cost per acre of hazardous
14 fuels activities carried out during the pe-
15 riod covered by the report;

16 (v) the region or system unit in which
17 the acres are located; and

18 (vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous
19 fuels reduction activities on reducing the
20 risk of wildfire.

21 (3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned
22 shall make each report submitted under paragraph
23 (1) publicly available on the website of the Depart-
24 ment of Agriculture and the Department of the Inte-
25 rior, as applicable.

1 (b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
4 concerned shall implement standardized procedures
5 for tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduc-
6 tion activities carried out by the Secretary con-
7 cerned.

8 (2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures
9 required under paragraph (1) shall include—

10 (A) regular, standardized data reviews of
11 the accuracy and timely input of data used to
12 track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

13 (B) verification methods that validate
14 whether such data accurately correlates to the
15 hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out
16 by the Secretary concerned;

17 (C) an analysis of the short- and long-term
18 effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction
19 activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

20 (D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities
21 that occur partially within the wildland-urban
22 interface, methods to distinguish which acres
23 are located within the wildland-urban interface
24 and which acres are located outside the
25 wildland-urban interface.

1 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 weeks after im-
2 plementing the standardized procedures required
3 under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall
4 submit to Congress a report that describes—

5 (A) such standardized procedures; and

6 (B) program and policy recommendations
7 to Congress to address any limitations in track-
8 ing data related to hazardous fuels reduction
9 activities under this subsection.

10 (c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the
11 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
12 of the United States shall—

13 (1) conduct a study on the implementation of
14 this Act, including any limitations with respect to—

15 (A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-
16 tivities under subsection (a); or

17 (B) tracking data related to hazardous
18 fuels reduction activities under subsection (b);

19 and

20 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes
21 the results of the study under paragraph (1).

22 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

23 (1) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIV-
24 ITY.—The term “hazardous fuels reduction activ-
25 ity”—

1 (A) means any vegetation management ac-
2 tivity to reduce the risk of wildfire, including
3 mechanical treatments and prescribed burning;
4 and

5 (B) does not include—

6 (i) a wildland fire managed for re-
7 source benefits; and

8 (ii) the awarding of contracts to con-
9 duct hazardous fuels reduction activities.

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

12 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
13 spect to National Forest System lands; and

14 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
15 spect to public lands and units of the National
16 Park System.

17 (3) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term
18 “wildland-urban interface” has the meaning given
19 the term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Res-
20 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

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