

Union Calendar No. 747

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**H. R. 4235****[Report No. 118–914, Part I]**

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to establish a wildfire technology testbed pilot program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 21, 2023

Mrs. KIM of California (for herself and Mr. CROW) 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

DECEMBER 18, 2024

Additional sponsors: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMÉR, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. ISSA, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. CASE

DECEMBER 18, 2024

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

DECEMBER 18, 2024

Committee on Agriculture discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on June 21, 2023]

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to establish a wildfire technology testbed pilot program, 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 Technology*
 5 *Demonstration, Evaluation, Modernization, and Optimiza-*
 6 *tion Act” or the “Wildfire Technology DEMO Act”.*

7 **SEC. 2. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY TESTBED**
 8 **PARTNERSHIP.**

9 (a) *DEFINITIONS.—In this Act, the term:*

10 (1) *COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered agen-*
 11 *cy” means—*

12 (A) *each Federal land management agency*
 13 *(as such term is defined in the Federal Lands*
 14 *Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801));*

15 (B) *the National Oceanic and Atmospheric*
 16 *Administration;*

17 (C) *the United States Fire Administration;*

18 (D) *the Federal Emergency Management*
 19 *Agency;*

20 (E) *the National Aeronautics and Space*
 21 *Administration;*

22 (F) *the Bureau of Indian Affairs;*

23 (G) *the Department of Defense;*

24 (H) *a State, Tribal, county, or municipal*
 25 *fire department or district operating through the*

1 *United States Fire Administration or pursuant*
 2 *to an agreement with a Federal agency; and*

3 *(I) any other Federal agency involved in*
 4 *wildfire response.*

5 (2) *COVERED ENTITY.*—*The term “covered enti-*
 6 *ty” means—*

7 *(A) a private entity;*

8 *(B) a nonprofit organization; or*

9 *(C) an institution of higher education (as*
 10 *defined in section 101 of the Higher Education*
 11 *Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).*

12 (3) *SECRETARIES.*—*The term “Secretaries”*
 13 *means the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary*
 14 *of the Interior, acting jointly.*

15 (4) *TESTBED PILOT PROGRAM.*—*The term*
 16 *“Testbed Pilot Program” means the testbed pilot pro-*
 17 *gram developed under subsection (b).*

18 (b) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 1 year after the date*
 19 *of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordination*
 20 *with the heads of the covered agencies, shall establish a*
 21 *testbed pilot program for new and innovative wildfire pre-*
 22 *vention, detection, communication, and mitigation tech-*
 23 *nologies.*

24 (c) *FUNCTIONS.*—*In carrying out the Testbed Pilot*
 25 *Program, the Secretaries shall—*

1 (1) *incorporate the Testbed Pilot Program into*
2 *the National Wildfire Coordinating Group;*

3 (2) *in consultation with the heads of covered*
4 *agencies, identify key technology priority areas with*
5 *respect to the deployment of wildfire prevention, de-*
6 *tection, communication, and mitigation technologies,*
7 *including—*

8 (A) *hazardous fuels reduction treatments or*
9 *activities;*

10 (B) *dispatch communications;*

11 (C) *remote sensing and tracking;*

12 (D) *safety equipment; and*

13 (E) *common operating pictures or oper-*
14 *ational dashboards; and*

15 (3) *partner with each covered entity selected to*
16 *participate in the Testbed Pilot Program with the ap-*
17 *propriate covered agency to coordinate real-time and*
18 *on-the-ground testing of technology during wildland*
19 *fire mitigation activities and training.*

20 (d) *APPLICATIONS.—To participate in the Testbed*
21 *Pilot Program, a covered entity shall submit to the Secre-*
22 *taries an application at such time, in such manner, and*
23 *containing such information as the Secretaries may require,*
24 *which shall include a proposal to test technologies specific*

1 *to key technology priority areas identified under subsection*
 2 *(c)(2).*

3 *(e) PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—*

4 *In selecting covered entities to participate in the Testbed*
 5 *Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall give priority to covered*
 6 *entities developing and applying emerging technologies, in-*
 7 *cluding artificial intelligence, quantum sensing, computing*
 8 *and quantum-hybrid applications, augmented reality, and*
 9 *5G private networks and device-to-device communications*
 10 *supporting nomadic mesh networks, for wildfire mitigation.*

11 *(f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination with*
 12 *the heads of covered agencies, shall make public the key tech-*
 13 *nology priority areas identified under subsection (c)(2) and*
 14 *invite covered entities to apply to test and demonstrate their*
 15 *technologies to address those priority areas.*

16 *(g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later*
 17 *than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and*
 18 *each year thereafter for the duration of the Testbed Pilot*
 19 *Program, the Secretaries shall submit to the Committees on*
 20 *Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Science, Space, and*
 21 *Technology of the House of Representatives and the Com-*
 22 *mittees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Energy*
 23 *and Natural Resources, and Commerce, Science, and Trans-*
 24 *portation of the Senate a report that includes the following*
 25 *with respect to the Testbed Pilot Program:*

1 (1) *A list of participating covered entities.*

2 (2) *A brief description of the technologies tested*
3 *by such covered entities.*

4 (3) *An estimate of the cost of acquiring the tech-*
5 *nology tested in the program and applying it at scale.*

6 (4) *Outreach efforts by Federal agencies to cov-*
7 *ered entities developing wildfire technologies.*

8 (5) *Assessments of, and recommendations relat-*
9 *ing to, new technologies with potential adoption and*
10 *application at-scale in Federal land management*
11 *agencies' wildfire prevention, detection, communica-*
12 *tion, and mitigation efforts.*

13 (h) *SUNSET.—The authority to carry out the Testbed*
14 *Pilot Program shall terminate on the date that is 7 years*
15 *after the date of enactment of this Act.*

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