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2D SESSION

# H. R. 4866

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 30, 2024

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation

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## AN ACT

To direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrator to improve fire weather and fire environment forecasting, detection, and local collaboration, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Fire Weather Develop-  
3 ment Act of 2024”.

4 **SEC. 2. FIRE WEATHER FORECASTING AND DETECTION.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of the Na-  
6 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall es-  
7 tablish a program (in this Act referred to as the “Pro-  
8 gram”) to improve fire weather and fire environment fore-  
9 casting, detection, and delivery of products or services  
10 through collaboration with Federal and State agencies or  
11 departments, local emergency managers, and relevant enti-  
12 ties.

13 (b) GOALS.—The goals of the Program shall be to  
14 develop and improve accurate fire weather and fire envi-  
15 ronment forecasts and warnings in order to reduce loss  
16 of life, reduce injuries, protect property, and reduce dam-  
17 age to the economy from wildfires. The Program shall seek  
18 to improve the assessment of fire weather and fire environ-  
19 ments, the understanding and prediction of wildfires, and  
20 the communications regarding such assessments with  
21 State and local emergency officials in a timely and stream-  
22 lined fashion, with a focus on improving the following:

23 (1) The prediction of ignition, intensification  
24 and spread of wildfires.

25 (2) The observation and monitoring of fire  
26 weather and fire environments.

1           (3) The forecast and communication of smoke  
2 dispersion from wildfires.

3           (4) Information dissemination and risk commu-  
4 nication to develop more effective watch and warning  
5 products relating to wildfires.

6           (5) The early detection of wildfires, including  
7 pre-ignition analysis and ground condition character-  
8 izations.

9           (6) The development, testing, and deployment  
10 of novel tools and techniques related to under-  
11 standing, monitoring, and predicting fire weather  
12 and fire environments.

13           (7) The understanding and association of cli-  
14 mate change and its impacts on fire weather and  
15 fire environments.

16           (8) The unique characteristics, including obser-  
17 vation or modeling requirements, related to fires at  
18 the wildland-urban interface.

19           (9) The forecasting and understanding of the  
20 impacts of prescribed burns (as such term is defined  
21 in section 2 of the Prescribed Burn Approval Act of  
22 2016 (16 U.S.C. 551c–1 note)).

23           (c) COLLABORATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS.—In de-  
24 veloping the Program required under this section, the Ad-  
25 ministrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-

1   ministration shall solicit and take into consideration input  
2   from the weather industry, such academic entities as the  
3   Administrator considers appropriate, and other relevant  
4   stakeholders.

5       (d) ACTIVITIES.—To achieve the goals specified in  
6   subsection (b), the Administrator of the National Oceanic  
7   and Atmospheric Administration may conduct research,  
8   development, testing, demonstration, and operational  
9   transition activities related to fire weather and fire envi-  
10   ronments, including regarding the following:

11           (1) Tools and services to inform, support, and  
12       complement active land management, local emer-  
13       gency personnel, the United States Forest Service,  
14       and State, local, and Tribal entities during their re-  
15       sponse and mitigation efforts.

16           (2) Sensing technologies, such as infrared,  
17       microwave, and active sensors suitable for potential  
18       deployment on spacecraft, aircraft, and unmanned  
19       aircraft systems, to improve the monitoring and  
20       forecasting of fire fuel and active wildfires, wildfire  
21       behavior models and forecasts, mapping efforts, and  
22       the prediction of wildfires and the impacts of such.

23           (3) Grid-based assessments and outlooks of fuel  
24       moisture and danger levels.

1           (4) Social and behavior sciences related to fire  
2 weather and fire environment warning products.

3           (5) Advanced satellite detection products cou-  
4 pled with atmosphere and fire weather modeling sys-  
5 tems.

6           (6) Education and training to expand the num-  
7 ber of students and researchers in areas of study  
8 and research related to wildfires, fire weather, and  
9 fire environments.

10          (7) Modeling systems to link long-term climate  
11 predictions to localized or general land management  
12 decisions.

13          (8) Communication and outreach to commu-  
14 nities, energy utilities, owners and operators of crit-  
15 ical infrastructure, and other relevant stakeholders  
16 regarding fire weather and fire environment risk.

17          (9) Stewardship and dissemination, to the ex-  
18 tent practicable, of National Oceanic and Atmos-  
19 pheric Administration scientific data and related  
20 products and services in formats meeting shared  
21 standards to enhance the interoperability, usability,  
22 and accessibility of such data in order to better meet  
23 the needs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
24 Administration, other Federal agencies, and relevant  
25 stakeholders.

1           (10) Improvement of spatial and temporal reso-  
2           lution observations.

3           (11) Any other topic or activity the Adminis-  
4           trator determines relevant.

5           (e) NOVEL TOOLS FOR MONITORING AND PRE-  
6           DICTION.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic  
7           and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation with the  
8           heads of the agencies specified in section 3, or other ap-  
9           propriate stakeholders, including commercial partners,  
10          shall develop novel tools and technologies to support the  
11          activities of the Program and which may be applied to  
12          broader wildland fire research, monitoring, and mitigation  
13          activities, as practicable and appropriate.

14          (f) EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH.—The Administrator of  
15          the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
16          shall collaborate with and support the non-Federal  
17          wildland fire research community, which includes institu-  
18          tions of higher education, private sector entities, non-  
19          governmental organizations, and other relevant stake-  
20          holders, by making funds available through competitive  
21          grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements.

22          (g) COMMERCIAL DATA.—

23                 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
24                 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-  
25                 ministrator of the National Oceanic and Atmos-

1       pheric Administration, in consultation with the  
2       heads of other Federal agencies and relevant stake-  
3       holders, may enter into contracts with one or more  
4       private sector entities to obtain additional airborne  
5       and space-based data and observations that may en-  
6       hance or supplement the understanding, monitoring,  
7       and prediction, of fire weather and fire environ-  
8       ments, and the relevant Program activities under  
9       this section.

10           (2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out activities  
11       under paragraph (1), the Administrator of the Na-  
12       tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall  
13       consult with private sector entities through the Na-  
14       tional Advisory Committee on Wildfires under sec-  
15       tion 4 to identify needed tools and data that can be  
16       best provided by National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
17       Administration satellites and are most beneficial to  
18       wildfire and smoke detection and monitoring.

19           (h) NONDUPLICATION.—To the maximum extent  
20       practicable, the Administrator of the National Oceanic  
21       and Atmospheric Administration shall consult with the  
22       National Interagency Fire Center, including the Joint Fire  
23       Science Program, to avoid duplication of activities under  
24       this section and ensure the Administration’s focus on

1 unique research activities best suited for transition to op-  
2 erations.

3 (i) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the  
5 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
6 shall—

7 (A) assess the role and potential benefits  
8 of unmanned aircraft systems to improve data  
9 collection in support of fire weather and fire en-  
10 vironment modeling, meteorological observa-  
11 tions, predictions, and forecasts;

12 (B) identify objectives for testing such sys-  
13 tems' use for obtaining fire weather and fire en-  
14 vironment observations, and other relevant ac-  
15 tivities; and

16 (C) transition unmanned aircraft systems  
17 technologies from research to operations as the  
18 Administrator considers appropriate.

19 (2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 270 days after  
20 the date of enactment of the Act, the Administrator  
21 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-  
22 tration shall brief the appropriate committees of  
23 Congress on the activities under paragraph (1).

24 (3) PILOT PROGRAMS.—Not later than 18  
25 months after the date of the enactment of this Act,



1 the Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-  
2 mospheric Administration may conduct pilot pro-  
3 grams of unmanned aircraft systems for fire weather  
4 and fire environment observations, including relating  
5 to the following:

6 (A) Testing of unmanned aircraft systems  
7 in approximations of real-world scenarios.

8 (B) Assessment of the utility of meteorolo-  
9 gical data collected from fire response and as-  
10 sessment aircraft.

11 (C) Input into appropriate models of col-  
12 lected data to predict fire behavior, including  
13 coupled atmosphere and fire models.

14 (D) Collection of best management prac-  
15 tices for deployment of unmanned aircraft sys-  
16 tems for fire weather and fire environment ob-  
17 servations.

18 (4) PROHIBITION.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided  
20 under subparagraphs (B) and (C), the Adminis-  
21 trator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
22 Administration may not procure any unmanned  
23 aircraft system that is manufactured or assem-  
24 bled by an entity in a foreign country of con-  
25 cern.

1 (B) EXEMPTION.—The prohibition under  
2 subparagraph (A) shall not apply to the Admin-  
3 istrator of the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
4 pheric Administration if the Administrator de-  
5 termines, in consultation with the Secretary of  
6 Homeland Security, that the procurement of an  
7 unmanned aircraft system is necessary for the  
8 sole purpose of marine or atmospheric science  
9 or management.

10 (C) WAIVER.—The Administrator of the  
11 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-  
12 tion may waive the prohibition under subpara-  
13 graph (A) on a case-by-case basis—

14 (i) with the approval of the Secretary  
15 of Homeland Security; and

16 (ii) upon written or electronic notifica-  
17 tion to appropriate committees of Congress  
18 not later than 30 days after any such waiv-  
19 er.

20 (5) AIRSPACE OPERATIONS SYSTEM.—The Ad-  
21 ministrator of the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
22 pheric Administration, in cooperation with the Ad-  
23 ministrator of the National Aeronautics and Space  
24 Administration, shall utilize the capabilities of un-  
25 manned aircraft systems as appropriate for fire

1 weather and fire environment observations, and may  
2 use a wildfire airspace operations system that ac-  
3 counts for piloted aircraft, unmanned aircraft sys-  
4 tems, and other new and emerging capabilities after  
5 such airspace operations system is developed and de-  
6 termined ready for operational use by the Adminis-  
7 trator of the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-  
8 ministration.

9 (6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

10 There is authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000  
11 for fiscal year 2025 to carry out this subsection.

12 (j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
14 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-  
15 gress” means the Committee on Science, Space, and  
16 Technology and the Committee on Homeland Secu-  
17 rity of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
18 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
19 and the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-  
20 ernmental Affairs of the Senate.

21 (2) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term  
22 “critical infrastructure” has the meaning given such  
23 term in section 1016(e) of Public Law 107–56 (42  
24 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

1           (3) FOREIGN COUNTRY OF CONCERN.—The  
2 term “foreign country of concern” has the meaning  
3 given such term in section 9901 of the William M.  
4 (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization  
5 Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651).

6           (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
7 term “institution of higher education” has the  
8 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-  
9 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

10           (5) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term  
11 “unmanned aircraft system” has the meaning given  
12 such term in section 44801 of title 49, United  
13 States Code.

14           (6) WEATHER INDUSTRY.—The term “weather  
15 industry” has the meaning given such term in sec-  
16 tion 2 of the Weather Research and Forecasting In-  
17 novation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8501).

18 **SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON**  
19 **WILDFIRES.**

20           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after  
21 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the  
22 Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish an  
23 interagency coordinating committee to be known as the  
24 “Interagency Coordinating Committee on Wildfires” (in  
25 this section referred to as the “Committee”). The chair

1 of the Committee shall be the Administrator of the Na-  
2 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

3 (b) PURPOSE.—The Committee shall coordinate the  
4 development of accurate and timely wildfire forecasting,  
5 detection, monitoring, and delivery of related products or  
6 services that best assist State and local emergency officials  
7 while avoiding duplication of activities.

8 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—In addition to the chair, the  
9 Committee shall be composed of the heads or appropriate  
10 designees of the following program agencies:

11 (1) The Federal Emergency Management Agen-  
12 cy.

13 (2) The United States Fire Administration.

14 (3) The United States Forest Service.

15 (4) The National Aeronautics and Space Ad-  
16 ministration.

17 (5) The Department of the Interior.

18 (6) The Department of Agriculture.

19 (7) The United States Geological Survey.

20 (8) The Office of Science and Technology Pol-  
21 icy.

22 (9) Any other Federal department or agency  
23 the Director of the Office of Science and Technology  
24 Policy considers appropriate.

1 (d) STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than one year after  
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Committee shall  
3 submit to Congress a strategic plan for the Program that  
4 includes the following:

5 (1) A description of short-term, mid-term, and  
6 long-term objectives to achieve the purpose specified  
7 in subsection (b).

8 (2) A description of how agencies specified in  
9 subsection (c) will collaborate with stakeholders and  
10 take into account stakeholder needs and rec-  
11 ommendations in developing such objectives.

12 (3) A description of existing and new observa-  
13 tional and data infrastructure needed to accomplish  
14 such objectives.

15 (4) A description of the role of each such agen-  
16 cy in achieving such objectives.

17 (5) Guidance regarding how the Committee’s  
18 recommendations are best used in climate adapta-  
19 tion planning for Federal, State, local, Tribal, and  
20 territorial entities.

21 (e) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS.—The heads of  
22 agencies specified in subsection (c) may enter into one or  
23 more interagency agreements providing for cooperation  
24 and collaboration in the development of wildfire fore-  
25 casting, detection, and monitoring tools, instruments,

1 technologies, and research to accomplish the purpose de-  
2 scribed in subsection (b).

3 (f) COLLABORATION.—The head of each agency spec-  
4 ified in subsection (c) shall, to the extent practicable, in-  
5 crease engagement and cooperation with international,  
6 academic, State, and local communities regarding the in-  
7 frastructure, data, and scientific research necessary to  
8 best advance the forecasting, detection, and monitoring of  
9 and preparation for wildfires.

10 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WILDFIRES.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
13 the submission of the strategic plan required by sec-  
14 tion 3(d), the Director of the Office of Science and  
15 Technology Policy shall establish a national advisory  
16 committee to be known as the “National Advisory  
17 Committee on Wildfires” (in this section referred to  
18 as the “Advisory Committee”). The Advisory Com-  
19 mittee shall consist of not fewer than seven and not  
20 more than 15 members who are qualified to provide  
21 advice regarding wildfire forecasting, detection, mon-  
22 itoring, and delivery of related products or services,  
23 including from the following entities:

24 (A) Research and academic institutions.

1 (B) Public communication or broadcast en-  
2 tities.

3 (C) Emergency management agencies.

4 (D) State, local, or Tribal governments.

5 (E) The National Association of State For-  
6 esters.

7 (F) Business communities.

8 (G) Other entities as designated by the Di-  
9 rector of the Office of Science and Technology  
10 Policy.

11 (2) PROHIBITION.—Members of the Advisory  
12 Committee may not be employees of the Federal  
13 Government.

14 (b) ASSESSMENT.—The Advisory Committee shall  
15 offer assessments and recommendations relating to the  
16 following:

17 (1) Tailored forecasting, detection, and moni-  
18 toring products and tools.

19 (2) Communication and delivery methods of  
20 wildfire forecasting, detection, and monitoring infor-  
21 mation.

22 (3) Opportunities to streamline Federal fore-  
23 casting, monitoring, and detection information to  
24 local emergency personnel and communities.



1           (4) The management, coordination, implemen-  
2           tation, and activities of the Interagency Coordi-  
3           nating Committee on Wildfires under section 3.

4           (5) The effectiveness of the Interagency Coordi-  
5           nating Committee on Wildfires in meeting its pur-  
6           poses.

7           (c) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Advisory Com-  
8           mittee shall serve without compensation.

9           (d) REPORTS.—Not less frequently than biennially,  
10          the Advisory Committee shall report to the Director of the  
11          Office of Science and Technology Policy on the assess-  
12          ments carried out under subsection (b) and its rec-  
13          ommendations for ways to improve the coordination and  
14          dissemination of wildfire forecasts, warnings, and detec-  
15          tion and monitoring information.

16          (e) CHARTER.—Notwithstanding section 1013(b)(2)  
17          of title 5, United States Code, the Advisory Committee  
18          shall not be required to file a charter subsequent to its  
19          initial charter, filed under section 1008(c) of such title,  
20          before the termination date specified in subsection (f) of  
21          this section.

22          (f) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Committee shall  
23          terminate on September 30, 2028.

24          (g) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—An Advisory Com-  
25          mittee member shall recuse himself or herself from any

1 Advisory Committee activity in which he or she has an  
2 actual pecuniary interest.

3 **SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF FIRE WEATHER TESTBED.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Na-  
5 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall es-  
6 tablish a fire weather testbed to enable engagement across  
7 the Federal Government, State and local governments,  
8 academia, private and federally funded research labora-  
9 tories, the private sector, and end-users in order to evalu-  
10 ate the accuracy and usability of technology, models, fire  
11 weather products and services, and other research to accel-  
12 erate the implementation, transition to operations, and use  
13 of new capabilities by the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
14 pheric Administration, Federal and land management  
15 agencies, and other relevant stakeholders.

16 (b) RESOURCES.—In carrying out this section, the  
17 Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
18 Administration may not transfer or reprogram any funds,  
19 detail any personnel, or make use of any infrastructure  
20 from cooperative institutes of the National Oceanic and  
21 Atmospheric Administration in existence as of the date of  
22 the enactment of this Act for the fire weather testbed es-  
23 tablished under subsection (a).

1 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
2 authorized to be appropriated \$4,000,000 for each of fis-  
3 cal years 2025 through 2028 to carry out this section.

4 **SEC. 6. INCIDENT METEOROLOGIST WORKFORCE.**

5 (a) WORKFORCE AND TRAINING ASSESSMENT.—Not  
6 later than six months after the date of the enactment of  
7 this Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and  
8 Atmospheric Administration shall submit to the Com-  
9 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House  
10 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,  
11 Science, and Transportation of the Senate the results of  
12 an assessment of National Weather Service workforce and  
13 training challenges for Incident Meteorologists, and a  
14 roadmap for overcoming such challenges. Such assessment  
15 shall take into consideration information technology sup-  
16 port, logistical and administrative operations, anticipated  
17 weather and climate conditions, and feedback from rel-  
18 evant stakeholders, and shall include, to the maximum ex-  
19 tent practicable, an identification by the National Weather  
20 Service of the following:

- 21 (1) The expected number of Incident Meteorolo-  
22 gists needed over the next five years.
- 23 (2) Potential hiring authorities necessary to  
24 overcome any identified workforce and training chal-  
25 lenges.

1           (3) Alternative services or assistance options  
2 the National Weather Service could provide to meet  
3 operational needs.

4           (b) OVERTIME PAY.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—Any premium pay for serv-  
6 ices performed by Incident Meteorologists of the Na-  
7 tional Weather Service that are determined by the  
8 Secretary of Commerce to be primarily related to  
9 emergency wildland fire suppression activities shall  
10 be disregarded in calculating the aggregate of such  
11 employee’s basic pay and premium pay for purposes  
12 of a limitation under section 5547 of title 5, United  
13 States Code, or under any other provision of law.

14           (2) RATES.—Section 5542(a)(5) of title 5,  
15 United States Code, is amended by inserting “, the  
16 National Weather Service,” after “Interior”.

17 **SEC. 7. RESEARCH ON WILDLAND FIRE COMMUNICATIONS**  
18 **AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.**

19           (a) IN GENERAL.—

20           (1) PUBLIC SAFETY RESEARCH.—Not later  
21 than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this  
22 Act, the Director, acting through the head of the  
23 Public Safety and Communications Research Divi-  
24 sion and in consultation with the Fire Research Di-

1 vision and technology manufacturers, shall carry out  
2 research on the following:

3 (A) Public safety communication coordina-  
4 tion standards among Federal, State, Tribal,  
5 and local wildland firefighters, fire management  
6 response officials, and member agencies.

7 (B) Improving and integrating existing  
8 communications systems to transmit secure  
9 real-time data, alerts, and advisories to and  
10 from fire management response officials and  
11 wildland firefighters.

12 (2) FIELD TESTING AND MEASUREMENT OF IN-  
13 FORMATION DISSEMINATION AND TECHNOLOGY.—  
14 The Public Safety and Communications Research  
15 Division, in consultation with the Fire Research Di-  
16 vision and member agencies, shall conduct both live  
17 and virtual field testing of equipment, software, and  
18 other technologies to determine current times of in-  
19 formation dissemination and develop standards for  
20 the delivery of useful and secure real-time data  
21 among member agencies, fire management response  
22 officials, and wildland firefighters, based on findings  
23 from research under paragraph (1).

24 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall develop  
2           and publish recommendations to improve public safe-  
3           ty communication coordination standards among  
4           wildland first responders and fire management re-  
5           sponse officials.

6           (2) TRANSMITTAL.—The Director shall trans-  
7           mit the recommendations under paragraph (1) to  
8           the Office of Management and Budget and the Of-  
9           fice of Science and Technology Policy for member  
10          agencies to implement.

11          (3) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

12           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall sub-  
13           mit to the Committee on Science, Space, and  
14           Technology of the House of Representatives  
15           and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
16           Transportation of the Senate a report con-  
17           taining the recommendations published under  
18           paragraph (1).

19           (B) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1  
20           year after the date of the publication of the Di-  
21           rector’s recommendations under paragraph (1),  
22           the Comptroller General of the United States  
23           shall submit to the Committee on Science,  
24           Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-  
25           resentatives and the Committee on Commerce,

1 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a re-  
2 port on the extent to which member agencies  
3 have implemented such recommendations.

4 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
6 the Director of the National Institute of Standards  
7 and Technology.

8 (2) MEMBER AGENCY.—The term “member  
9 agency” means a member agency of the National  
10 Interagency Fire Center, including the Bureau of In-  
11 dian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National  
12 Park Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
13 Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, For-  
14 est Service, United States Fire Administration, and  
15 the Department of Defense.

16 (3) WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER.—The term  
17 “wildland firefighter” means any person who partici-  
18 pates in wildland firefighting activities.

19 (4) FIRE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE OFFI-  
20 CIALS.—The term “fire management response offi-  
21 cials” means regional fire directors, deputy regional  
22 fire directors, agency officials who directly oversee  
23 fire operations, fire management officers, and indi-  
24 viduals serving on incident management teams.

1           (5) TECHNOLOGY MANUFACTURERS.—The term  
2           “technology manufacturers” means private sector  
3           entities that manufacture communications tech-  
4           nologies used by Federal, State, Tribal, or local  
5           wildland fire authorities.

6 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

7           In this Act:

8           (1) FIRE ENVIRONMENT.—The term “fire envi-  
9           ronment” means—

10                   (A) the environmental conditions, such as  
11                   soil moisture, vegetation, topography, snowpack,  
12                   atmospheric temperature, moisture, and wind,  
13                   that influence—

14                           (i) fuel and fire behavior; and  
15                           (ii) smoke dispersion and transport;  
16                   and

17                   (B) the associated environmental impacts  
18                   occurring during and after fire events.

19           (2) FIRE WEATHER.—The term “fire weather”  
20           means the weather conditions that influence the  
21           start, spread, character, or behavior of wildfires or  
22           fires at the wildland-urban interface and relevant  
23           meteorological and chemical phenomena, including  
24           air quality, smoke, and meteorological parameters  
25           such as relative humidity, air temperature, wind



1 speed and direction, and atmospheric composition  
2 and chemistry, including emissions and mixing  
3 heights.

Passed the House of Representatives April 29, 2024.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
*Clerk.*