

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4038

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to establish a standard for the response time to wildfire incidents, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 2025

Mrs. KIM (for herself and Mr. GRAY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science, Space, and Technology, 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 the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to establish a standard for the response time to wildfire incidents, 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 Response and
5 Preparedness Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. STANDARDS FOR RESPONSE TIME TO WILDFIRE IN-**
2 **CIDENTS.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
5 TEES.—The term “relevant congressional commit-
6 tees” means—

7 (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural
8 Resources of the Senate;

9 (B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
10 tion, and Forestry of the Senate;

11 (C) the Committee on Natural Resources
12 of the House of Representatives; and

13 (D) the Committee on Agriculture of the
14 House of Representatives.

15 (2) RESPONSE TIME.—The term “response
16 time”, with respect to a wildland fire incident,
17 means the period of time between ignition of the
18 wildland fire and evaluation for purposes of suppres-
19 sion of that wildland fire, on the ground or in an
20 aircraft, by—

21 (A) a Federal, State, or local public safety
22 officer; or

23 (B) a public safety volunteer.

24 (3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
25 retary concerned” means—

1 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
2 spect to Federal land administered by the For-
3 est Service;

4 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
5 spect to Federal land administered by the Bu-
6 reau of Land Management, the Bureau of In-
7 dian Affairs, the National Park Service, or the
8 United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

9 (C) the Administrator of the Federal
10 Emergency Management Agency, with respect
11 to consultation with the United States Fire Ad-
12 ministration relating to wildland fires in the
13 wildland-urban interface.

14 (b) STANDARDS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
16 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary con-
17 cerned shall establish a standard for the response
18 time to any wildland fire incident occurring on Fed-
19 eral land administered by the Secretary concerned.

20 (2) GOAL.—To the extent practicable, the re-
21 sponse time established by the Secretary concerned
22 for a wildland fire incident under paragraph (1)
23 shall—

24 (A) be not more than 30 minutes; and

1 (B) include the deployment of fire suppres-
2 sion assets in a response time of not more than
3 3 hours.

4 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
5 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries
6 concerned shall jointly submit to the relevant congres-
7 sional committees a report that includes—

8 (1) identification of a single point of contact for
9 Federal wildland fire response at the Department of
10 the Interior;

11 (2) a unified budget request that covers all
12 wildland fire activities of the Secretaries concerned;

13 (3) a description of key performance indicators
14 for wildland fire response for each of—

15 (A) the Forest Service;

16 (B) the Bureau of Land Management;

17 (C) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

18 (D) the National Park Service; and

19 (E) the United States Fish and Wildlife
20 Service;

21 (4)(A) a description of the composition of the
22 aviation and ground wildland firefighting fleet as of
23 the date on which the report is submitted; and

24 (B) an estimation of the size of that fleet re-
25 quired to provide a response time of not more than

1 30 minutes for wildland fires occurring in the
2 United States, including the deployment of fire sup-
3 pression assets in a response time of not more than
4 3 hours;

5 (5) a description of necessary changes to the
6 Federal ordering and dispatch system to enable Fed-
7 eral wildland firefighting assets to be dispatched
8 faster;

9 (6) a description of Federal contracting mecha-
10 nisms relating to wildland firefighting assets that
11 may be streamlined to ensure that contract activa-
12 tion and awards may be provided within a 1-year pe-
13 riod; and

14 (7) a description of all resources and authorities
15 needed to ensure that wildland firefighting assets
16 under Federal contracts are available year-round
17 and nationwide.

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