

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8523

To prohibit any reduction in force or involuntary separation at the Department of the Interior and the United States Forest Service, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2026

Mr. NEGUSE (for himself and Mr. HUFFMAN) 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 prohibit any reduction in force or involuntary separation at the Department of the Interior and the United States Forest Service, 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 “Public Lands Work-
5 force Stability Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON REDUCTIONS IN FORCE AND IN-**
2 **VOLUNTARY SEPARATIONS AT DEPARTMENT**
3 **OF THE INTERIOR AND UNITED STATES FOR-**
4 **EST SERVICE.**

5 (a) PROHIBITION.—During the period beginning on
6 the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on Sep-
7 tember 30, 2030, without prior notification and approval
8 of the chairs and ranking members of the Committees on
9 Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the
10 Senate, no Federal funds may be obligated or expended
11 to—

12 (1) initiate, implement, or otherwise carry out
13 a reduction in force within the Department of the
14 Interior or the United States Forest Service; or

15 (2) carry out an involuntary separation of any
16 employee in the competitive service, any career em-
17 ployee in the excepted service, or any career ap-
18 pointee in the Senior Executive Service at the De-
19 partment of Interior or the United States Forest
20 Service except for cause on charges of misconduct,
21 delinquency, or performance.

22 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In subsection (a), the terms
23 “competitive service”, “excepted service”, and “career ap-
24 pointee” have the meaning given those terms in sections

1 2102, 2103, and 3132(a), respectively, of title 5, United
2 States Code.

