

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5293

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to establish prepositioning protocols for aerial wildfire suppression for early-season fine fuel wildland fires, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 6, 2026

Mr. RICKETTS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to establish prepositioning protocols for aerial wildfire suppression for early-season fine fuel wildland fires, 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 “Pilot for Regional
5 Emergency Prepositioning of Aerial Resources and Equip-
6 ment Act” or the “PREPARE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PREPOSITIONING PROTOCOLS FOR AERIAL WILD-**
2 **FIRE SUPPRESSION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, act-
4 ing through the Deputy Chief for Fire and Aviation Man-
5 agement of the Forest Service, and the Secretary of the
6 Interior, acting through the Director of the Wildland Fire
7 Service (or a successor agency), shall establish a pilot pro-
8 gram for seasonal prepositioning protocols of aerial wild-
9 fire suppression resources for early-season fine fuel
10 wildland fires in the States of Nebraska, Colorado, Kan-
11 sas, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

12 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The pilot program under sub-
13 section (a) shall be established—

14 (1) in accordance with the State’s Master Coop-
15 erative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act
16 Response Agreement; and

17 (2) in consultation with the Rocky Mountain
18 Area Coordination Center.

19 (c) FUNDING.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture
21 and the Secretary of the Interior shall carry out this
22 section using funding otherwise available for
23 wildland fire management.

1 (2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section author-
2 izes any additional appropriations to carry out this
3 section.

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