

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4533

To require the temporary reinstatement of contracts for large air tankers that were canceled on May 10, 2004, by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2004

Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. SHADEGG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, 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 temporary reinstatement of contracts for large air tankers that were canceled on May 10, 2004, by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior.

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 “Air Tanker Emergency
5 Release Act of 2004”.

1 **SEC. 2. REINSTATEMENT OF CANCELED CONTRACTS FOR**
2 **LARGE AIR TANKERS.**

3 (a) OWNER REQUIREMENTS.—At the request of the
4 owner of a large air tanker whose contract to provide aer-
5 ial firefighting services was canceled on May 10, 2004,
6 by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the
7 Interior, the Secretary concerned shall reinstate the con-
8 tract if an owner provides to such Secretary—

9 (1) proof of a valid air worthiness certificate
10 issued by the Federal Aviation Administration;

11 (2) proof of a valid supplemental certificate (or
12 its equivalent) for installation of retardant tank and
13 gating systems used for fire retardant drops issued
14 by the Federal Aviation Administration;

15 (3) a completed form issued and approved by
16 the Federal Aviation Administration for major re-
17 pair and alteration (such as airframe, powerplant,
18 propeller, or appliance);

19 (4) an air tanker card issued by an aircraft in-
20 spector of the Forest Service after January 1, 2004;
21 and

22 (5) a copy of a form described in subsection
23 (b).

24 (b) DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than
25 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
26 retary of Agriculture shall provide to the owner of a large

1 air tanker seeking contract reinstatement a copy of any
2 form issued in 2004 by the Department of Agriculture,
3 signed by the owner of a large tanker and the National
4 Aviation Operations Officer for such Department, certi-
5 fying that the large air tanker has been inspected, with
6 no defects noted, in accordance with recommendations of
7 the Forest Service large tanker inspection maintenance
8 program which was developed by the Airworthiness De-
9 partment of Sandia National Laboratories.

10 (c) CONTRACT TERMINATION.—A contract reinstated
11 under this section shall terminate on December 31, 2004,
12 or such earlier date as an owner of a large air tanker may
13 request from the Secretary of Agriculture.

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