

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6519

To provide an expedited permit process to authorize private landowners to conduct limited vegetation removal activities on National Forest System land or Bureau of Land Management land adjacent to their private property to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire that would threaten residential structures on the private property, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2012

Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. DREIER, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mrs. BONO MACK) 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 provide an expedited permit process to authorize private landowners to conduct limited vegetation removal activities on National Forest System land or Bureau of Land Management land adjacent to their private property to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire that would threaten residential structures on the private property, 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 “Defend Your Home
3 Against Wildfire Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. PRIVATE LANDOWNER VEGETATION REMOVAL AC-**
5 **TIVITIES ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM**
6 **LAND AND BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**
7 **LAND ADJACENT TO PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) ELIGIBLE PRIVATE PROPERTY.—The term
10 “eligible private property” means a parcel of private
11 property that—

12 (A) contains at least one residential struc-
13 ture; and

14 (B) shares a boundary with adjacent Fed-
15 eral land.

16 (2) FEDERAL LAND.—

17 (A) COVERED LAND.—The term “Federal
18 land” means the following:

19 (i) National Forest System land (as
20 such term is defined in section 11(a) of the
21 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-
22 sources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.
23 1609(a))).

24 (ii) Public lands (as such term is de-
25 fined in section 103 of the Federal Land

1 Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43
2 U.S.C. 1702)).

3 (B) EXCLUDED LAND.—The term does not
4 include a unit of the National Wilderness Pres-
5 ervation System unless a residential structure
6 on the adjacent eligible private property was
7 constructed before the date of the designation
8 of the unit.

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

11 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, in the
12 case of National Forest System land; and

13 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, in the
14 case of public lands.

15 (4) VEGETATION REMOVAL PERMIT.—The term
16 “vegetation removal permit” means a permit issued
17 pursuant to the expedited process required by sub-
18 section (b) authorizing the owner of eligible private
19 property to remove vegetation on Federal land adja-
20 cent to the eligible private property.

21 (b) EXPEDITED PERMIT PROCESS REQUIRED.—The
22 Secretary concerned shall establish a process for the expe-
23 dited consideration of a permit application submitted by
24 the owner of eligible private property to remove vegetation
25 on Federal land adjacent to the eligible private property

1 to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire that would
2 threaten a residential structure on the private property.

3 (c) DEADLINE FOR CONSIDERATION; ENVIRON-
4 MENTAL COMPLIANCE.—The final decision on an applica-
5 tion for a vegetation removal permit shall be made not
6 later than 14 days after the Secretary concerned receives
7 the application. Consideration of the application for a
8 vegetation removal permit, approval or denial of the per-
9 mit, and private landowner vegetation removal activities
10 conducted pursuant to the permit are not a major Federal
11 action for purposes of section 102(2)(C) of the National
12 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
13 4332(2)(C)).

14 (d) AREA SCOPE OF PERMIT.—A vegetation removal
15 permit may not authorize vegetation removal activities by
16 the private landowner on Federal land more than 100 feet
17 beyond the boundary or boundaries shared by the Federal
18 land and the eligible private property.

19 (e) COST ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary concerned
20 may make a grant to the recipient of a vegetation removal
21 permit to help cover a portion of the costs incurred by
22 the private landowner to conduct vegetation removal ac-
23 tivities on Federal land pursuant to the permit. The
24 amount of the grant may not exceed 25 percent of the

- 1 total amount of the cost to conduct the vegetation removal
- 2 activities.

