

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1842

To provide for wildfire suppression operations, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. BENNET) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Budget

A BILL

To provide for wildfire suppression operations, 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 Disaster
5 Funding Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. WILDFIRE DISASTER FUNDING AUTHORITY.**

7 (a) DISASTER FUNDING.—Section 251(b)(2)(D) of
8 the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act
9 of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(D)) is amended—

10 (1) in clause (i)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding subclause (I),
 2 by striking “the total of—” and inserting “an
 3 amount equal to the difference between—”;

4 (B) by redesignating subclauses (I) and
 5 (II) as items (aa) and (bb), respectively, and in-
 6 denting the items appropriately;

7 (C) by inserting before item (aa) (as so re-
 8 designated) the following:

9 “(I) the sum obtained by add-
 10 ing—”;

11 (D) in item (bb) of subclause (I) (as so re-
 12 designated)—

13 (i) by striking “subclause (I)” and in-
 14 serting “item (aa)”; and

15 (ii) by striking the period at the end
 16 and inserting “; and”; and

17 (E) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(II) the additional new budget
 19 authority provided in an appropria-
 20 tions Act for wildfire suppression op-
 21 erations pursuant to subparagraph
 22 (E) for the preceding fiscal year.”;
 23 and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(v) Beginning in fiscal year 2018
 2 and for each fiscal year thereafter, the cal-
 3 culation of the ‘average funding provided
 4 for disaster relief over the previous 10
 5 years’ shall include, for each fiscal year
 6 during that period, the additional new
 7 budget authority provided in an appropria-
 8 tions Act for wildfire suppression oper-
 9 ations pursuant to subparagraph (E) for
 10 the preceding fiscal year.”.

11 (b) WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.—Section 251(b)(2) of
 12 the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act
 13 of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)) is amended by adding at
 14 the end the following:

15 “(E) WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.—

16 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this subpara-
 17 graph:

18 “(I) ADDITIONAL NEW BUDGET
 19 AUTHORITY.—The term ‘additional
 20 new budget authority’ means the
 21 amount provided for a fiscal year in
 22 an appropriations Act that is—

23 “(aa) in excess of the 10-
 24 year average of the costs for
 25 wildfire suppression operations,

1 as calculated for fiscal year 2015;
2 and

3 “(bb) specified to pay for
4 the costs of wildfire suppression
5 operations.

6 “(II) WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION
7 OPERATIONS.—The term ‘wildfire sup-
8 pression operations’ means the emer-
9 gency and unpredictable aspects of
10 wildland firefighting including—

11 “(aa) support, response, and
12 emergency stabilization activities;

13 “(bb) other emergency man-
14 agement activities; and

15 “(cc) the funds necessary to
16 repay any transfers needed for
17 the costs of wildfire suppression
18 operations.

19 “(ii) ADDITIONAL NEW BUDGET AU-
20 THORITY.—If a bill or joint resolution
21 making appropriations for a fiscal year is
22 enacted that specifies an amount for wild-
23 fire suppression operations in the Wildland
24 Fire Management accounts at the Depart-
25 ment of Agriculture or the Department of

1 the Interior, the adjustments for that fiscal
2 year shall be the amount of additional new
3 budget authority provided in that Act for
4 wildfire suppression operations for that fis-
5 cal year, but shall not exceed—

6 “(I) for fiscal year 2017,
7 \$1,410,000,000 in additional new
8 budget authority;

9 “(II) for fiscal year 2018,
10 \$1,460,000,000 in additional new
11 budget authority;

12 “(III) for fiscal year 2019,
13 \$1,560,000,000 in additional new
14 budget authority;

15 “(IV) for fiscal year 2020,
16 \$1,780,000,000 in additional new
17 budget authority;

18 “(V) for fiscal year 2021,
19 \$2,030,000,000 in additional new
20 budget authority;

21 “(VI) for fiscal year 2022,
22 \$2,320,000,000 in additional new
23 budget authority;

1 “(VII) for fiscal year 2023,
2 \$2,650,000,000 in additional new
3 budget authority;

4 “(VIII) for fiscal year 2024,
5 \$2,690,000,000 in additional new
6 budget authority;

7 “(IX) for fiscal year 2025,
8 \$2,690,000,000 in additional new
9 budget authority; and

10 “(X) for fiscal year 2026,
11 \$2,690,000,000 in additional new
12 budget authority.

13 “(iii) AVERAGE COST AND OUTYEAR
14 CALCULATIONS.—The 10-year average of
15 the costs for wildfire suppression oper-
16 ations and the outyear forecasts of the
17 costs for wildfire suppression operations
18 shall be—

19 “(I) calculated annually; and

20 “(II) reported in the budget of
21 the President submitted under section
22 1105(a) of title 31, United States
23 Code, for each fiscal year.”.

24 (c) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—If the Secretary of
25 the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture determines

1 that supplemental appropriations are necessary for a fiscal
2 year for wildfire suppression operations (as defined in sub-
3 paragraph (E)(i) of section 251(b)(2) of the Balanced
4 Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2
5 U.S.C. 901(b)(2))), the Secretary of the Interior or the
6 Secretary of Agriculture, as applicable, shall—

7 (1) promptly submit to Congress a request for
8 the supplemental appropriations; and

9 (2) not later than 30 days after the date on
10 which the supplemental appropriations are made
11 available, submit to Congress a plan describing the
12 manner in which the Secretary of the Interior or the
13 Secretary of Agriculture, as applicable, intends to
14 obligate the supplemental appropriations.

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