

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9908

To direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey, to establish a grant program for monitoring wildfires by satellite.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN (for herself and Mr. OBERNOLTE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey, to establish a grant program for monitoring wildfires by satellite.

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 “Strengthening Wildfire
5 Resiliency Through Satellites Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. MONITORING WILDFIRES BY SATELLITE.**

7 (a) GRANT PROGRAM TO MONITOR WILDFIRES BY
8 SATELLITE.—

1 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than one year
2 after the date of the enactment of this section, the
3 Secretary shall establish a competitive grant pro-
4 gram under which the Secretary shall make at least
5 three grants to eligible entities to monitor wildfires
6 by satellite (in this section referred to as the “Pro-
7 gram”).

8 (2) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—Each eligible entity
9 awarded a grant under the Program shall only use
10 such grant to—

11 (A) purchase and integrate, through a pub-
12 lic-private partnership, high-resolution multi-
13 spectral thermal infrared data from the latest-
14 generation of wildfire monitoring satellites; and

15 (B) use the data acquired under subpara-
16 graph (A), as well as any analyses relating to
17 such data, to detect, assess, respond to, and
18 manage wildfires, with an emphasis on—

19 (i) monitoring active fire behavior and
20 burn intensity;

21 (ii) ensuring the safety and effective-
22 ness of prescribed fire treatments; and

23 (iii) guiding post-disaster recovery.

24 (3) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a grant
25 under the Program, an eligible entity shall submit to

1 the Secretary an application at such time, in such
2 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
3 retary may require.

4 (4) GRANT AMOUNT.—Each grant awarded
5 under the Program shall be in an amount the Sec-
6 retary determines appropriate.

7 (5) REPORT.—Not later than the last day of
8 the second fiscal year beginning after the date of the
9 enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit
10 to Congress a report that includes—

11 (A) the number of applications received for
12 a grant under the Program;

13 (B) details of each eligible entity that was
14 awarded a grant under the Program;

15 (C) the impact of the Program on wildfire
16 prevention;

17 (D) any recommendation that the Sec-
18 retary determines appropriate to establish the
19 Program as a long-term grant program; and

20 (E) any other information on the effective-
21 ness of the Program that the Secretary deter-
22 mines appropriate.

23 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
24 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary

1 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2027
2 to carry out the Program.

3 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

4 (1) the term “eligible entity” means a State
5 forester, emergency manager, or equivalent State of-
6 ficial; and

7 (2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
8 of the Interior, acting through the Director of the
9 United States Geological Survey.

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