

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3440

To remove a restriction on the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with other Federal agencies to acquire goods and services directly related to improving or utilizing the firefighting capability of the Forest Service and to require a report regarding the firefighting procedures of the Forest Service.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 3, 1993

Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself, Mr. BEILENSON, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. COX, Mr. DORNAN, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. DREIER, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HORN, Mr. HUFFINGTON, Mr. KIM, Mr. McKEON, Mr. MOORHEAD, Mr. POMBO, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. McCANDLESS, and Mr. WELDON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To remove a restriction on the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with other Federal agencies to acquire goods and services directly related to improving or utilizing the firefighting capability of the Forest Service and to require a report regarding the firefighting procedures of the Forest Service.

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. ACQUISITION OF GOODS AND SERVICES RELAT-**  
2 **ED TO FIREFIGHTING.**

3 The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the  
4 Chief of the Forest Service, may place an order with a  
5 major organizational unit within the Department of Agri-  
6 culture or another Federal agency for goods or services  
7 directly related to firefighting without regard to the re-  
8 striction contained in section 1535(a)(4) of title 31, Unit-  
9 ed States Code, that the Secretary determine that the  
10 goods or services cannot be provided by contract as con-  
11 veniently or cheaply by a commercial enterprise.

12 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON FOREST SERVICE FIREFIGHTING CAPA-**  
13 **BILITY AND METHODS.**

14 Not later than six months after the date of the enact-  
15 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit  
16 to Congress a report describing the decisionmaking proc-  
17 ess used by the Forest Service and the Department of Ag-  
18 riculture to deploy firefighting assets of the Forest Service  
19 and the Department for fighting forest fires and other  
20 wildfires. The report shall include—

21 (1) a description of the procedures used to alert  
22 officials, including officials of the Air National  
23 Guard, that the potential for fires exists;

24 (2) an evaluation of the feasibility of establish-  
25 ing a formal, graduated alert system in the Forest  
26 Service similar to the alert system used by the

1 Armed Forces that would allow the Air National  
2 Guard to anticipate a firefighting crisis and mobilize  
3 in a timely fashion to carry out their airborne fire-  
4 fighting mission in cooperation with the Forest Serv-  
5 ice;

6 (3) such recommendations as the Secretary con-  
7 siders to be appropriate regarding the measures that  
8 can be taken, both administratively and legislatively,  
9 to streamline the decisionmaking process and ensure  
10 timely responses to wildfires that threaten natural  
11 resources, private property, and human and animal  
12 lives; and

13 (4) a description of the additional resources  
14 that would be required to allow the Forest Service  
15 to respond adequately to future fires or implement  
16 the recommendation provided pursuant to paragraph  
17 (3).

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