

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 575

To expedite the process by which the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may utilize military aircraft to fight wildfires, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 2003

Mr. HEFLEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Resources, Government Reform, and Armed Services, 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

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## A BILL

To expedite the process by which the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may utilize military aircraft to fight wildfires, 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 Response Act  
5 of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPEDITED AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF THE IN-**  
2 **TERIOR AND SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE**  
3 **TO UTILIZE MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO FIGHT**  
4 **WILDFIRES.**

5 (a) EXCEPTION TO ECONOMY ACT REQUIREMENT.—  
6 Notwithstanding section 1535(a)(4) of title 31, United  
7 States Code, the Secretary of the Interior and the Sec-  
8 retary of Agriculture may procure the services of military  
9 aircraft (and personnel of the Armed Forces to operate  
10 and maintain such aircraft) to fight a wildfire without first  
11 comparing the cost and convenience of procuring such  
12 services from the Armed Forces to the cost of procuring  
13 the same services from a commercial enterprise.

14 (b) CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE.—Whenever the Sec-  
15 retary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture uses  
16 the exception provided in subsection (a) to expedite the  
17 procurement of the services of military aircraft (and per-  
18 sonnel of the Armed Forces to operate and maintain such  
19 aircraft) to fight a wildfire, the Secretary concerned shall  
20 submit to Congress notice of the use of the exception and  
21 the reasons for the use of the exception.

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