

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 235

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 22, 2015

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. DAINES) 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 of 2015”.

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

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(b)(2) of the Balanced
8 Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2
9 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the
10 following:

1 “(E) FLAME WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.—

2 “(i) If a bill or joint resolution mak-
3 ing appropriations for a fiscal year is en-
4 acted that specifies an amount for wildfire
5 suppression operations in the Wildland
6 Fire Management accounts at the Depart-
7 ment of Agriculture or the Department of
8 the Interior, then the adjustments for that
9 fiscal year shall be the amount of addi-
10 tional new budget authority provided in
11 that Act for wildfire suppression operations
12 for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

13 “(I) for fiscal year 2016,
14 \$1,410,000,000 in additional new
15 budget authority;

16 “(II) for fiscal year 2017,
17 \$1,460,000,000 in additional new
18 budget authority;

19 “(III) for fiscal year 2018,
20 \$1,560,000,000 in additional new
21 budget authority;

22 “(IV) for fiscal year 2019,
23 \$1,780,000,000 in additional new
24 budget authority;

1 “(V) for fiscal year 2020
2 \$2,030,000,000 in additional new
3 budget authority;

4 “(VI) for fiscal year 2021,
5 \$2,320,000,000 in additional new
6 budget authority;

7 “(VII) for fiscal year 2022,
8 \$2,650,000,000 in additional new
9 budget authority;

10 “(VIII) for fiscal year 2023,
11 \$2,690,000,000 in additional new
12 budget authority;

13 “(IX) for fiscal year 2024,
14 \$2,690,000,000 in additional new
15 budget authority; and

16 “(X) for fiscal year 2025,
17 \$2,690,000,000 in additional new
18 budget authority.

19 “(ii) As used in this subparagraph—

20 “(I) the term ‘additional new
21 budget authority’ means the amount
22 provided for a fiscal year, in excess of
23 70 percent of the average costs for
24 wildfire suppression operations over
25 the previous 10 years, in an appro-

1 patriation Act and specified to pay for
2 the costs of wildfire suppression oper-
3 ations; and

4 “(II) the term ‘wildfire suppres-
5 sion operations’ means the emergency
6 and unpredictable aspects of wildland
7 firefighting including support, re-
8 sponse, and emergency stabilization
9 activities; other emergency manage-
10 ment activities; and funds necessary
11 to repay any transfers needed for
12 these costs.

13 “(iii) The average costs for wildfire
14 suppression operations over the previous
15 10 years shall be calculated annually and
16 reported in the President’s Budget submis-
17 sion under section 1105(a) of title 31,
18 United States Code, for each fiscal year.”.

19 (b) DISASTER FUNDING.—Section 251(b)(2)(D) of
20 the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act
21 of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(D)) is amended—

22 (1) in clause (i)—

23 (A) in subclause (I), by striking “and” and
24 inserting “plus”;

1 (B) in subclause (II), by striking the pe-
2 riod and inserting “; less”; and

3 (C) by adding the following:

4 “(III) the additional new budget
5 authority provided in an appropriation
6 Act for wildfire suppression operations
7 pursuant to subparagraph (E) for the
8 preceding fiscal year.”; and

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

10 “(v) Beginning in fiscal year 2018
11 and in subsequent fiscal years, the calcula-
12 tion of the ‘average funding provided for
13 disaster relief over the previous 10 years’
14 shall include the additional new budget au-
15 thority provided in an appropriation Act
16 for wildfire suppression operations pursu-
17 ant to subparagraph (E) for the preceding
18 fiscal year.”.

19 (c) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—If the Secretary of
20 the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture determines
21 that supplemental appropriations are necessary for a fiscal
22 year for wildfire suppression operations, such Secretary
23 shall promptly submit to Congress—

24 (1) a request for such supplemental appropria-
25 tions; and

1 (2) a plan detailing the manner in which such
2 Secretary intends to obligate the supplemental ap-
3 propriations by not later than 30 days after the date
4 on which the amounts are made available.

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