

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4475

To provide for the establishment of the National Volcano Early Warning
and Monitoring System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the National Volcano
Early Warning and Monitoring System.

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 “National Volcano Early
5 Warning and Monitoring System Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
10 rector of the United States Geological Survey.

1 (2) SYSTEM.—The term “System” means the
2 National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring
3 System established under section 3(a)(1).

4 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL VOLCANO EARLY WARNING AND MONI-**
5 **TORING SYSTEM.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
8 within the United States Geological Survey a sys-
9 tem, to be known as the “National Volcano Early
10 Warning and Monitoring System”, to monitor, warn,
11 and protect citizens of the United States from undue
12 and avoidable harm from volcanic activity.

13 (2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the System
14 are—

15 (A) to organize, modernize, standardize,
16 and stabilize the monitoring systems of the vol-
17 cano observatories in the United States, which
18 include the Alaska Volcano Observatory, Cali-
19 fornia Volcano Observatory, Cascades Volcano
20 Observatory, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory,
21 and Yellowstone Volcano Observatory; and

22 (B) to unify the monitoring systems of vol-
23 cano observatories in the United States into a
24 single interoperative system.

1 (3) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the System is
2 to monitor all the volcanoes in the United States at
3 a level commensurate with the threat posed by the
4 volcanoes by—

5 (A) upgrading existing networks on mon-
6 itored volcanoes;

7 (B) installing new networks on unmoni-
8 tored volcanoes; and

9 (C) employing geodetic and other compo-
10 nents when applicable.

11 (b) SYSTEM COMPONENTS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The System shall include—

13 (A) a national volcano watch office that is
14 operational 24 hours a day and 7 days a week;

15 (B) a national volcano data center; and

16 (C) an external grants program to support
17 research in volcano monitoring science and
18 technology.

19 (2) MODERNIZATION ACTIVITIES.—Moderniza-
20 tion activities under the System shall include the
21 comprehensive application of emerging technologies,
22 including digital broadband seismometers, real-time
23 continuous Global Positioning System receivers, sat-
24 ellite and airborne radar interferometry, acoustic

1 pressure sensors, and spectrometry to measure gas
2 emissions.

3 (c) MANAGEMENT.—

4 (1) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
6 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
7 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a 5-year
8 management plan for establishing and oper-
9 ating the System.

10 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The management plan
11 submitted under subparagraph (A) shall in-
12 clude—

13 (i) annual cost estimates for mod-
14 ernization activities and operation of the
15 System;

16 (ii) annual milestones, standards, and
17 performance goals; and

18 (iii) recommendations for, and prog-
19 ress towards, establishing new, or enhanc-
20 ing existing, partnerships to leverage re-
21 sources.

22 (2) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Secretary
23 shall establish an advisory committee to assist the
24 Secretary in implementing the System, to be com-
25 prised of representatives of relevant agencies and

1 members of the scientific community, to be ap-
2 pointed by the Secretary.

3 (3) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may enter
4 into cooperative agreements with institutions of
5 higher education and State agencies designating the
6 institutions of higher education and State agencies
7 as volcano observatory partners for the System.

8 (4) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall co-
9 ordinate the activities under this Act with the heads
10 of relevant Federal agencies, including—

11 (A) the Secretary of Transportation;

12 (B) the Administrator of the Federal Avia-
13 tion Administration;

14 (C) the Administrator of the National Oce-
15 anic and Atmospheric Administration; and

16 (D) the Director of the Federal Emergency
17 Management Administration.

18 (d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Annually, the Secretary shall
19 submit to Congress a report that describes the activities
20 carried out under this Act.

21 **SEC. 4. FUNDING.**

22 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
24 out this Act \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018
25 through 2024.

1 (b) EFFECT ON OTHER SOURCES OF FEDERAL
2 FUNDING.—Amounts made available under this section
3 shall supplement, and not supplant, Federal funds made
4 available for other United States Geological Survey haz-
5 ards activities and programs.

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