

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 346

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Volcano Early
3 Warning and Monitoring System Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

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

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

12 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL VOLCANO EARLY WARNING AND MONI-
13 TORING SYSTEM.**

14 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
16 within the United States Geological Survey a sys-
17 tem, to be known as the “National Volcano Early
18 Warning and Monitoring System”, to monitor, warn,
19 and protect citizens of the United States from undue
20 and avoidable harm from volcanic activity.

21 (2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the System
22 are—

23 (A) to organize, modernize, standardize,
24 and stabilize the monitoring systems of the vol-
25 cano observatories in the United States, which
26 includes the Alaska Volcano Observatory, Cali-

1 fornia Volcano Observatory, Cascades Volcano
2 Observatory, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory,
3 and Yellowstone Volcano Observatory; and

4 (B) to unify the monitoring systems of vol-
5 cano observatories in the United States into a
6 single interoperative system.

7 (3) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the System is
8 to monitor all the volcanoes in the United States at
9 a level commensurate with the threat posed by the
10 volcanoes by—

11 (A) upgrading existing networks on mon-
12 itored volcanoes;

13 (B) installing new networks on
14 unmonitored volcanoes; and

15 (C) employing geodetic and other compo-
16 nents when applicable.

17 (b) SYSTEM COMPONENTS.—

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

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

21 (B) a national volcano data center; and

22 (C) an external grants program to support
23 research in volcano monitoring science and
24 technology.

1 (2) MODERNIZATION ACTIVITIES.—Moderniza-
2 tion activities under the System shall include the
3 comprehensive application of emerging technologies,
4 including digital broadband seismometers, real-time
5 continuous Global Positioning System receivers, sat-
6 ellite and airborne radar interferometry, acoustic
7 pressure sensors, and spectrometry to measure gas
8 emissions.

9 (c) MANAGEMENT.—

10 (1) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

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

16 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The management plan
17 submitted under subparagraph (A) shall in-
18 clude—

19 (i) annual cost estimates for mod-
20 ernization activities and operation of the
21 System;

22 (ii) annual milestones, standards, and
23 performance goals; and

24 (iii) recommendations for, and
25 progress towards, establishing new, or en-

1 hancing existing, partnerships to leverage
2 resources.

3 (2) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Secretary
4 shall establish an advisory committee to assist the
5 Secretary in implementing the System, to be com-
6 prised of representatives of relevant agencies and
7 members of the scientific community, to be ap-
8 pointed by the Secretary.

9 (3) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may enter
10 into cooperative agreements with institutions of
11 higher education and State agencies designating the
12 institutions of higher education and State agencies
13 as volcano observatory partners for the System.

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

17 (A) the Secretary of Transportation;

18 (B) the Administrator of the Federal Avia-
19 tion Administration;

20 (C) the Administrator of the National Oce-
21 anic and Atmospheric Administration; and

22 (D) the Director of the Federal Emergency
23 Management Administration.

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

4 **SEC. 4. FUNDING.**

5 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act
7 \$55,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through
8 2023.

9 (b) EFFECT ON OTHER SOURCES OF FEDERAL
10 FUNDING.—Amounts made available under this section
11 shall supplement, and not supplant, Federal funds made
12 available for other United States Geological Survey haz-
13 ards activities and programs.

Passed the Senate May 17, 2018.

Attest:

Secretary.

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