

improve the carbon sequestration potential of our forests.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER) for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) for hosting this Special Order on wildfire.

Mr. Speaker, over the past decade, there has been an average of 64,100 wildfires and 6.8 million acres burned every year.

With over 10 million acres burned, we saw the highest number of Federal acres burned in 2015—and nearly that amount in 2017.

But this year, it has been even worse. 2020 has been an extremely difficult wildfire year for our firefighters, our responders, and many rural communities in and near the forests.

As of today, October 1, over 44,000 wildfires have burned nearly 7.7 million acres this year alone.

In addition to the destruction of these forests, homes, and property, we sadly continue to see lost lives.

Over the past 25 years, active management has plummeted across the national forest system; consequently, it is no coincidence that the larger, more intense fires are happening on Federal lands, where there is less management, versus State and private lands.

More individual fires occur in the East, but the wildfires in the West are larger and burn more acres. Wildfires also have significant impacts on eastern forests because of the budgetary effects on the Forest Service's ability to manage and personnel.

We must be encouraging more active forest management across the National Forest system. This includes thinning, prescribed fires, and hazardous fuels reduction, especially in the roughly 19 million acres of Federal lands that are already known to be at high risk.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. WESTERMAN, for his great work during the last farm bill and his leadership with the Resilient Federal Forests Act and the Trillion Trees Act.

Through the next farm bill, I am hopeful that we can continue to build on those commonsense reforms, and we will provide more authorities to help the Forest Service better manage and encourage more partnerships.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for being here tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to illustrate here that this isn't difficult. It is not rocket science.

This is a control in the first picture. You see all the underbrush, the ladder fuels. This is on Federal land as well.

You see the forest management in the middle where you thin it out, you do controlled burns. You do those every few years, and you get a resilient forest that looks like this.

California and Oregon and Arizona and Washington State, Nevada, they

could have forests that look like this. Now, it would be those species that are out there, and the management would be done accordingly, but there is no reason we can't do this.

It is Speaker PELOSI's State that is on fire. It is Chairman GRIJALVA's State that is on fire. It is Chairman DEFAZIO's State that is on fire.

I wish that Democrats would take time to do what is right, to address these fires, to quit playing politics with relief bills that are going nowhere and do something that could really help the people and their States.

We want to help, but we can't do it on our own. We are in the minority.

We will work together and offer suggestions, but it is going to take a bipartisan effort to change these rules so that management can take place.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our firefighters who put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe every day. As new wildfires start every week, these brave men and women selflessly join the fight to protect life and property, while their families must live with the uncertainty of the threats they face on the frontlines. I commend these individuals, and Congress must provide all the support necessary to ensure our firefighters can return safely to their families.

I also commend the heroes joining the fight from across the country. California's firefighting resources are strained by the sheer number and size of the fires we face, and it is a testament to our nation's highest ideals that firefighters from across the West have come to our aid as these historic fires rage in every corner of our state.

Riverside County has already faced four distinct fires this wildfire season, burning over 60,000 acres in and around my district. In these fires alone, 17 individuals have been injured, and one firefighter lost his life trying to put out the El Dorado fire. Charlie Morton was a 14-year veteran of the Forest Service, and I send my deepest condolences to Charlie's family for their terrible loss.

Nearly every year California seems to break some record during the fire season.

It doesn't have to be this way.

For years, top congressional Democrats have rejected bipartisan proposals to reform our nation's forest management practices. Many Democrats have outright rejected the idea that how we manage our National Forests has anything to do with the increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires in the West.

Well, here are some of the facts:

Since 2010, approximately 150 million trees have died across federal, state, and private lands in California.

It is estimated that over 2 million properties are at extreme risk of wildfire due to high fuel loads nearby.

Between 60 and 80 million acres of national forest are at high- to very-high risk of catastrophic wildfire, but the Forest Service treats between just 1 and 2 percent of high risk acres each year.

In January, a study in Nature found that California needs to treat approximately 20 million acres to meaningfully impact wildfire risk. We treat closer to 13,000 acres annually.

Bureaucratic delays and frivolous lawsuits have halted much of this proactive work. The town of Berry Creek, received a grant to remove hazardous fuels, but it took the state nearly two years to review the project and allow it to proceed. By the time they did, it was too late, and the North Complex fire was already raging, destroying more than 50 homes in this community.

Salvage logging is another example of a win-win solution where companies still have an economic incentive to harvest the timber while helping prevent the next catastrophic wildfire. Charred trees left in the wake of wildfires are extremely flammable and hazardous fuels. Salvage operations must be conducted quickly or the economic value is lost, and extreme environmental groups frequently file lawsuits to halt these efforts.

In 2018 when I served as Chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, I worked in a bipartisan fashion with Congresswoman MCCOLLUM to prioritize forest management and fuel reduction on our federal lands. We worked in good faith to achieve some meaningful reforms including a funding fix for the Forest Service and some limited regulatory reforms. Still, much more needs to be done to protect our communities.

We need to eliminate the red-tape that prevents these common-sense management efforts. We must take forest management decisions out of the courts and put the forest managers back in the driver's seat. Fortunately, House Republicans have solutions.

Congressman MCCLINTOCK's Proven Forest Management Act takes lessons learned from a pilot program in Lake Tahoe National Forest. Land managers were able to approve the first forest management project in under four months in a 16-page report, compared to an average of 4.5 years and 500 pages. We should pass this bill and expand this successful program nationwide.

Congressman WESTERMAN's Resilient Federal Forests Act is another example. This legislation has passed the House twice with overwhelming bipartisan support but was never considered by the Senate. This bill would streamline permitting for a wide array of forest management projects. When it comes to forest management, time is of the essence, and this legislation would dramatically increase our national capability to reduce the frequency and severity of catastrophic fires across the West.

I call on Speaker PELOSI to take up these bills and pass meaningful, comprehensive forestry reform. More bureaucracy is not the answer to our wildfire crisis, and we in Congress must act like there are lives at stake, because that is the reality of the threat we face.

EXPENDITURES BY THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL UNDER HOUSE RESOLUTION 6, 116TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,

Washington, DC, October 1, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 302(c) of House Resolution 6 (116th Congress) I hereby submit the attached statement "setting forth the aggregate amounts expended by the Office of General Counsel on outside counsel and other experts pursuant

to this title on a quarterly basis” for the quarter beginning on July 1, 2020 and ending on September 30, 2020, for publication in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

ZOE LOFGREN,
Chairperson.

Attachment.

AGGREGATE AMOUNT EXPENDED ON OUTSIDE COUNSEL OR OTHER EXPERTS—H. RES. 6

January 1–March 31, 2019	0.00
April 1–June 30, 2019	0.00
July 1–September 30, 2019	0.00
October 1–December 31, 2019	0.00
January 1–March 31, 2020	0.00
April 1–June 30, 2020	0.00
July 1–September 30, 2020	0.00
Total	0.00

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 8337. An act making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on September 30, 2020, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 8337. Making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 967, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 10 p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, October 2, 2020, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

5394. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral DeWolf H. Miller III, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5395. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Timothy J. White, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5396. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Jay B. Silveria, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5397. A letter from the OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting The Department’s final rule — Defense Intelligence Agency Privacy Program [Docket ID: DoD-2019-OS-0040] (RIN: 0790-AK65) received September 17, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5398. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of Managing Director, Performance and Records Management, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Update to Parts 2 and 25 Concerning Non-Geostationary, Fixed-Satellite Service Systems and Related Matters [IB Docket No.: 16-408] received September 17, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5399. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration’s summary presentation of an interim rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2020-09; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR-2020-0051, Sequence No. 5] received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

5400. A letter from the Secretary, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission’s Policy Statement — Vertical Merger Guidelines received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5401. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s Major temporary final rule — Prioritization and Allocation of Certain Scarce and Critical Health and Medical Resources for Domestic Use [Docket ID: FEMA-2020-0018] (RIN: 1660-AB01) received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5402. A letter from the Chairman, Office of Proceedings and the Office of Economics, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board’s final rule — Regulations Governing Fees for Services Performed in Connection with Licensing and Related Services—Update [Docket No.: EP 542 (Sub-No. 28)] received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. SCANLON: Committee on Rules, House Resolution 1164. Resolution providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1153) condemning unwanted, unnecessary medical procedures on individuals without their full,

informed consent, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1154) condemning QAnon and rejecting the conspiracy theories it promotes (Rept. 116-557). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. BARRAGÁN:

H.R. 8470. A bill to establish procedures related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in correctional facilities; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico (for herself, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, and Mr. RUTHERFORD):

H.R. 8471. A bill to establish a Federal Maritime Task Force and a private sector advisory committee to address the health, safety, security, and logistical issues relating to the continuation of maritime travel and the resumption of cruise operations in United States waters during the COVID-19 public health emergency; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 8472. A bill to provide that, due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19, applications for impact aid funding for fiscal year 2022 may use certain data submitted in the fiscal year 2021 application; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio (for himself and Mr. WESTERMAN):

H.R. 8473. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to consolidate health accounts into Medisave Accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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.

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 8474. A bill to provide for a Community-Based Emergency and Non-Emergency Response Grant Program; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and the Judiciary, 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.

By Mr. BERA:

H.R. 8475. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily increase the deduction for certain expenses of elementary and secondary school teachers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. BURGESS):

H.R. 8476. A bill to provide for strategies to increase access to telehealth under the Medicaid program and Children’s Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama (for himself, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. GODEN):

H.R. 8477. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve the H-1B visa program, to repeal the diversity visa lottery program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and