

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8516

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a review of the benefit cost analysis criteria for mitigation projects under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2022

Mr. STANTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a review of the benefit cost analysis criteria for mitigation projects under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 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 Im-
5 provement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM POL-**
2 **ICY.**

3 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
4 of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency
5 Management Agency shall issue such regulations as are
6 necessary to update the categories of eligibility and
7 timelines for the fire management assistance program
8 under section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
9 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187) to
10 be, to the maximum extent practicable, the same as such
11 categories and timelines under the public assistance pro-
12 gram under section 406 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5172).

13 **SEC. 3. CHANGES TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE POLICY GUIDE.**

14 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
15 of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency
16 Management Agency shall issue such regulations as are
17 necessary to update the Public Assistance Program and
18 Policy Guide of the Federal Emergency Management
19 Agency to include guidance on the wildfire-specific chal-
20 lenges, including debris removal, emergency protective
21 measures, and the resulting toxicity of drinking water re-
22 sources.

23 **SEC. 4. MITIGATION BENEFIT-COST ANALYSIS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal
25 Emergency Management Agency shall conduct a review of
26 the benefit cost analysis criteria for mitigation projects

1 under sections 203 and 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
2 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
3 5133; 5170c) to consider a broader range of factors, in-
4 cluding—

5 (1) the establishment of a benefit cost analysis
6 pre-calculated benefits critereon for common defen-
7 sible space mitigation projects;

8 (2) projects that use nature-based infrastruc-
9 ture;

10 (3) considerations for ecological and societal
11 health;

12 (4) carbon sequestration;

13 (5) improved water quality; and

14 (6) lessening disaster impact on traditionally
15 underserved communities.

16 (b) UPDATED CRITERIA.—Not later than 1 year after
17 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
18 issue such regulations as are necessary to—

19 (1) update the benefit cost analysis criteria for
20 mitigation projects under sections 203 and 404 of
21 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
22 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133; 5170c) based
23 on the results of the review conducted under sub-
24 section (a); and

- 1 (2) prioritize projects under such sections based
- 2 on the benefit cost analysis criteria updated under
- 3 paragraph (1).

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