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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** 1567

To require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. TIFFANY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, 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 “Accurately Counting  
5 Risk Elimination Solutions Act” or the “ACRES Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION RE-**  
2 **PORTS.**

3 (a) INCLUSION OF HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION  
4 REPORT IN MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE  
5 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fis-  
7 cal year that begins after the date of the enactment  
8 of this Act, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Sec-  
9 retary concerned shall include in the materials sub-  
10 mitted in support of the President's budget pursuant  
11 to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a re-  
12 port on the number of acres on which the Secretary  
13 concerned carried out hazardous fuels reduction ac-  
14 tivities during the preceding fiscal year.

15 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of the re-  
16 port required under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
17 concerned shall—

18 (A) in determining the number of acres on  
19 which the Secretary concerned carried out haz-  
20 ardous fuels reduction activities during the pe-  
21 riod covered by the report—

22 (i) record acres on which hazardous  
23 fuels reduction activities were completed  
24 during such period; and

25 (ii) record each acre described in  
26 clause (i) once in the report, regardless of

1           whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction  
2           activities were carried out on such acre  
3           during such period; and

4           (B) with respect to the acres recorded in  
5           the report, include information on—

6                   (i) which such acres are located in the  
7                   wildland-urban interface;

8                   (ii) the level of wildfire risk (high,  
9                   moderate, or low) on the first and last day  
10                  of the period covered by the report;

11                  (iii) the types of hazardous fuels ac-  
12                  tivities completed for such acres;

13                  (iv) the cost per acre (disaggregated  
14                  by treatment type) of hazardous fuels ac-  
15                  tivities carried out during the period cov-  
16                  ered by the report;

17                  (v) the region or system unit in which  
18                  the acres are located; and

19                  (vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous  
20                  fuels reduction activities on reducing the  
21                  risk of wildfire.

22           (3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned  
23           shall make each report submitted under paragraph  
24           (1) publicly available on the website of the Depart-

1       ment of Agriculture and the Department of the Inte-  
2       rior, as applicable.

3       (b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

4           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
5       the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
6       concerned shall implement standardized procedures  
7       for tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduc-  
8       tion activities carried out by the Secretary con-  
9       cerned.

10          (2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures  
11       required under paragraph (1) shall include—

12           (A) regular, standardized data reviews of  
13       the accuracy and timely input of data used to  
14       track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

15           (B) verification methods that validate  
16       whether such data accurately correlates to the  
17       hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out  
18       by the Secretary concerned;

19           (C) an analysis of the short- and long-term  
20       effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction  
21       activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

22           (D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities  
23       that occur partially within the wildland-urban  
24       interface, methods to distinguish which acres  
25       are located within the wildland-urban interface

1           and which acres are located outside the  
2           wildland-urban interface.

3           (3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 weeks after im-  
4           plementing the standardized procedures required  
5           under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall  
6           submit to Congress a report that describes—

7                   (A) such standardized procedures; and

8                   (B) program and policy recommendations  
9           to Congress to address any limitations in track-  
10          ing data related to hazardous fuels reduction  
11          activities under this subsection.

12          (c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the  
13          date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
14          of the United States shall—

15                (1) conduct a study on the implementation of  
16          this Act, including any limitations with respect to—

17                   (A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-  
18          tivities under subsection (a); or

19                   (B) tracking data related to hazardous  
20          fuels reduction activities under subsection (b);  
21          and

22                (2) submit to Congress a report that describes  
23          the results of the study under paragraph (1).

24          (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

1           (1) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIV-  
2           ITY.—The term “hazardous fuels reduction activ-  
3           ity”—

4                   (A) means any vegetation management ac-  
5           tivity to reduce the risk of wildfire, including  
6           mechanical treatments, control of noxious weeds  
7           that contribute to wildfire, and prescribed burn-  
8           ing; and

9                   (B) does not include—

10                          (i) a wildland fire managed for re-  
11           source benefits; and

12                          (ii) the awarding of contracts to con-  
13           duct hazardous fuels reduction activities.

14           (2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-  
15           retary concerned” means—

16                   (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-  
17           spect to National Forest System lands; and

18                   (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-  
19           spect to public lands and units of the National  
20           Park System.

21           (3) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term  
22           “wildland-urban interface” has the meaning given  
23           the term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Res-  
24           toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).