AMENDMENT NO.______ Calendar No.______

Purpose: To modify provisions relating the Government Accountability Office report, the Fire Science and Technology Working Group, and the strategic plan.


S. 4237

To establish and maintain a coordinated program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that improves wildfire, fire weather, fire risk, and smoke related forecasting, detection, modeling, observations, and service delivery, and to address growing needs in the wildland-urban interface, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on __________ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. Luján

Viz:

1. Beginning on page 44, strike line 18 and all that follows through page 48, line 23, and insert the following:

   SEC. 19. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT;

   FIRE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP; STRATEGIC PLAN.

   (a) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that identifies—
(1) the authorities, roles, and science and support services relating to wildland fire prediction, detection, forecasting, modeling, resilience, response, management, and assessment provided by—

(A) the Department of Commerce, including the Administration and the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(B) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(C) the Department of the Interior;

(D) the Department of Agriculture;

(E) the National Science Foundation;

(F) the Department of Energy;

(G) the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(H) the Department of Transportation;

(I) the Environmental Protection Agency;

and

(J) the Department of Defense;

(2) recommended areas in and mechanisms by which the agencies listed under paragraph (1) could support and improve—

(A) coordination between Federal agencies,

State and local governments, Tribal governments, and other relevant stakeholders, includ-
ing through examination of possible public-private partnerships;

(B) research and development, including interdisciplinary research, related to fire environments, wildland fires, associated smoke, and the impacts of such environments, fires, and smoke, in furtherance of a coordinated inter-agency effort to address wildland fire risk reduction;

(C) data management and stewardship, the development and coordination of data systems and computational tools, and the creation of a centralized, integrated data collaboration environment for agency data, including historical data, relating to weather, fire environments, wildland fires, associated smoke, and the impacts of such environments, fires, and smoke, and the assessment of wildland fire risk mitigation measures;

(D) interoperability, usability, and accessibility of the scientific data, data systems, and computational and information tools of the agencies listed under paragraph (1);

(E) coordinated public safety communications relating to fire weather events, fire haz-
ards, and wildland fire and smoke risk reduc-

(F) secure and accurate real-time data,
alerts, and advisories to wildland firefighters
and other decision support tools for wildland
fire incident command posts.

(b) FIRE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WORKING

GROUP.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days
after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ex-
cecutive Director of the Interagency Committee for
Advancing Weather Services established under sec-
tion 402 of the Weather Research and Forecasting
section referred to as the “Interagency Committee”)
shall establish a working group, to be known as the
“Fire Science and Technology Working Group” (in
this section referred to as the “Working Group”).

(2) CHAIR.—The Working Group shall be
chaired by the Under Secretary, or designee.

(3) GENERAL DUTIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group
shall seek to build efficiencies among the agen-
cies listed under subsection (a)(1) and coordi-
nate the planning and management of science,
research, technology, and operations related to science and support services for wildland fire prediction, detection, forecasting, modeling, resilience, response, management, and assessments.

(B) INPUT.—The Working Group shall solicit input from non-Federal stakeholders.

(c) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 540 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Interagency Committee shall prepare and submit to Congress a strategic plan for interagency coordination, research, and development that will improve the assessment of fire environments and the understanding and prediction of wildland fires, associated smoke, and the impacts of such fires and smoke, including—

(A) at the wildland-urban interface;

(B) on communities, buildings, and other infrastructure;

(C) on ecosystem services and watersheds;

(D) social and economic impacts;

(E) by developing and encouraging the adoption of science-based and cost-effective measures—
(i) to enhance community resilience to wildland fires;

(ii) to address and mitigate the impacts of wildland fire and associated smoke; and

(iii) to restore natural fire regimes in fire-dependent ecosystems;

(F) by improving the understanding and mitigation of the effects of weather and long-term drought on wildland fire risk, frequency, and severity;

(G) through integrations of social and behavioral sciences in public safety fire communication;

(H) by improving the forecasting and understanding of prescribed fires and the impacts of such fires, and how those impacts may differ from impacts of wildland fires that originate from an unplanned ignition; and

(I) consideration and adoption of any recommendations included in the report required by subsection (a) pursuant to paragraph (2) of such subsection.

(2) PLAN ELEMENTS.—The strategic plan required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:
(A) A description of the priorities and needs of vulnerable populations.

(B) A description of high-performance computing, visualization, and dissemination needs.

(C) A timeline and guidance for implementation of—

(i) an interagency data sharing system for data relevant to performing fire assessments and modeling fire risk and fire behavior;

(ii) a system for ensuring that the fire prediction models of relevant agencies can be interconnected; and

(iii) to the maximum extent practicable, any recommendations included in the report required by subsection (a).

(D) A plan for incorporating and coordinating research and operational observations, including from infrared technologies, microwave, radars, satellites, mobile weather stations, and uncrewed aerial systems.

(E) A flexible framework to communicate clear and simple fire event information to the public.
(F') Integration of social, behavioral, risk, and communication research to improve the fire operational environment and societal information reception and response.