

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 527

To direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey, to establish a grant program for monitoring wildfires by satellite.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN (for herself and Mr. OBERNOLTE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey, to establish a grant program for monitoring wildfires by satellite.

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 “Strengthening Wildfire
5 Resiliency Through Satellites Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. MONITORING WILDFIRES BY SATELLITE.**

7 (a) GRANT PROGRAM TO MONITOR WILDFIRES BY
8 SATELLITE.—

1 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than one year
2 after the date of the enactment of this section, the
3 Secretary shall establish a competitive grant pro-
4 gram under which the Secretary shall make at least
5 three grants to eligible entities to monitor wildfires
6 by satellite (in this section referred to as the “Pro-
7 gram”).

8 (2) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—Each eligible entity
9 awarded a grant under the Program shall only use
10 such grant to—

11 (A) purchase and integrate, through a pub-
12 lic-private partnership, high-resolution multi-
13 and hyper-spectral full spectrum imaging capa-
14 bility from visible, near-infrared, shortwave in-
15 frared, thermal infrared, and radar data from
16 the latest-generation of wildfire monitoring sat-
17 ellites; and

18 (B) use the data acquired under subpara-
19 graph (A), as well as any analyses relating to
20 such data, to detect, assess, respond to, and
21 manage wildfires, with an emphasis on—

22 (i) monitoring active fire behavior,
23 burned area, intensity, and severity;

24 (ii) ensuring the safety and effective-
25 ness of prescribed fire treatments; and

1 (iii) guiding post-fire risk assessment
2 and disaster recovery.

3 (3) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a grant
4 under the Program, an eligible entity shall submit to
5 the Secretary an application at such time, in such
6 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
7 retary may require.

8 (4) GRANT AMOUNT.—Each grant awarded
9 under the Program shall be in an amount the Sec-
10 retary determines appropriate.

11 (5) REPORT.—Not later than the last day of
12 the second fiscal year beginning after the date of the
13 enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit
14 to Congress a report that includes—

15 (A) the number of applications received for
16 a grant under the Program;

17 (B) details of each eligible entity that was
18 awarded a grant under the Program;

19 (C) the impact of the Program on wildfire
20 prevention;

21 (D) any recommendation that the Sec-
22 retary determines appropriate to establish the
23 Program as a long-term grant program; and

1 (E) any other information on the effective-
2 ness of the Program that the Secretary deter-
3 mines appropriate.

4 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
5 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
6 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2028
7 to carry out the Program.

8 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

9 (1) the term “eligible entity” means a State
10 forester, emergency manager, or equivalent State of-
11 ficial; and

12 (2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
13 of the Interior, acting through the Director of the
14 United States Geological Survey.

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