

Luján_1 (as modified)

Ben Ray Luján

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—117th Cong., 2d Sess.

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 fol-
- 2 lows through page 48, line 23, and insert the following:
- 3 **SEC. 19. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT;**
- 4 **FIRE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WORKING**
- 5 **GROUP; STRATEGIC PLAN.**
- 6 (a) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE RE-
- 7 PORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enact-
- 8 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
- 9 States shall submit to Congress a report that identifies—

1 (1) the authorities, roles, and science and sup-
2 port services relating to wildland fire prediction, de-
3 tection, forecasting, modeling, resilience, response,
4 management, and assessment provided by—

5 (A) the Department of Commerce, includ-
6 ing the Administration and the National Insti-
7 tute of Standards and Technology;

8 (B) the National Aeronautics and Space
9 Administration;

10 (C) the Department of the Interior;

11 (D) the Department of Agriculture;

12 (E) the National Science Foundation;

13 (F) the Department of Energy;

14 (G) the Federal Emergency Management
15 Agency;

16 (H) the Department of Transportation;

17 (I) the Environmental Protection Agency;

18 and

19 (J) the Department of Defense;

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

23 (A) coordination between Federal agencies,
24 State and local governments, Tribal govern-
25 ments, and other relevant stakeholders, includ-

1 ing through examination of possible public-pri-
2 vate partnerships;

3 (B) research and development, including
4 interdisciplinary research, related to fire envi-
5 ronments, wildland fires, associated smoke, and
6 the impacts of such environments, fires, and
7 smoke, in furtherance of a coordinated inter-
8 agency effort to address wildland fire risk re-
9 duction;

10 (C) data management and stewardship, the
11 development and coordination of data systems
12 and computational tools, and the creation of a
13 centralized, integrated data collaboration envi-
14 ronment for agency data, including historical
15 data, relating to weather, fire environments,
16 wildland fires, associated smoke, and the im-
17 pacts of such environments, fires, and smoke,
18 and the assessment of wildland fire risk mitiga-
19 tion measures;

20 (D) interoperability, usability, and accessi-
21 bility of the scientific data, data systems, and
22 computational and information tools of the
23 agencies listed under paragraph (1);

24 (E) coordinated public safety communica-
25 tions relating to fire weather events, fire haz-

1 ards, and wildland fire and smoke risk reduc-
2 tion strategies; and

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

7 (b) FIRE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WORKING
8 GROUP.—

9 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ex-
11 ecutive Director of the Interagency Committee for
12 Advancing Weather Services established under sec-
13 tion 402 of the Weather Research and Forecasting
14 Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8542) (in this
15 section referred to as the “Interagency Committee”)
16 shall establish a working group, to be known as the
17 “Fire Science and Technology Working Group” (in
18 this section referred to as the “Working Group”).

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

21 (3) GENERAL DUTIES.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group
23 shall seek to build efficiencies among the agen-
24 cies listed under subsection (a)(1) and coordi-
25 nate the planning and management of science,

1 research, technology, and operations related to
2 science and support services for wildland fire
3 prediction, detection, forecasting, modeling, re-
4 siliance, response, management, and assess-
5 ments.

6 (B) INPUT.—The Working Group shall so-
7 licit input from non-Federal stakeholders.

8 (c) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 540 days
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
11 Interagency Committee shall prepare and submit to
12 Congress a strategic plan for interagency coordina-
13 tion, research, and development that will improve
14 the assessment of fire environments and the under-
15 standing and prediction of wildland fires, associated
16 smoke, and the impacts of such fires and smoke, in-
17 cluding—

18 (A) at the wildland-urban interface;

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

21 (C) on ecosystem services and watersheds;

22 (D) social and economic impacts;

23 (E) by developing and encouraging the
24 adoption of science-based and cost-effective
25 measures—

1 (i) to enhance community resilience to
2 wildland fires;

3 (ii) to address and mitigate the im-
4 pacts of wildland fire and associated
5 smoke; and

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

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

12 (G) through integrations of social and be-
13 havioral sciences in public safety fire commu-
14 nication;

15 (H) by improving the forecasting and un-
16 derstanding of prescribed fires and the impacts
17 of such fires, and how those impacts may differ
18 from impacts of wildland fires that originate
19 from an unplanned ignition; and

20 (I) consideration and adoption of any rec-
21 ommendations included in the report required
22 by subsection (a) pursuant to paragraph (2) of
23 such subsection.

24 (2) PLAN ELEMENTS.—The strategic plan re-
25 quired by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

1 (A) A description of the priorities and
2 needs of vulnerable populations.

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

6 (C) A timeline and guidance for implemen-
7 tation of—

8 (i) an interagency data sharing sys-
9 tem for data relevant to performing fire
10 assessments and modeling fire risk and fire
11 behavior;

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

15 (iii) to the maximum extent prac-
16 ticable, any recommendations included in
17 the report required by subsection (a).

18 (D) A plan for incorporating and coordi-
19 nating research and operational observations,
20 including from infrared technologies, micro-
21 wave, radars, satellites, mobile weather stations,
22 and uncrewed aerial systems.

23 (E) A flexible framework to communicate
24 clear and simple fire event information to the
25 public.

1 (F) Integration of social, behavioral, risk,
2 and communication research to improve the fire
3 operational environment and societal informa-
4 tion reception and response.