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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a review of the criteria for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of certain mitigation projects, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. STANTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a review of the criteria for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of certain mitigation projects, 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 recommend such regulations or
6 guidance as are necessary to make eligible assessments
7 and emergency stabilization to protect public safety, in-
8 cluding for the fire management assistance program under
9 section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
10 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187), irrespective
11 of the incident period for a declared fire.

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

13 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
14 of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency
15 Management Agency shall amend the Public Assistance
16 Program and Policy Guide of the Federal Emergency
17 Management Agency to include guidance on wildfire-spe-
18 cific recovery challenges, including debris removal, emer-
19 gency protective measures, and the resulting toxicity of
20 drinking water resources.

21 **SEC. 4. MITIGATION COST-EFFECTIVENESS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal
23 Emergency Management Agency shall conduct a review of
24 the criteria for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of mitiga-
25 tion projects under sections 203 and 404 of the Robert
26 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act

1 (42 U.S.C. 5133; 5170c) to consider a broader range of
2 factors, including—

3 (1) the establishment of pre-calculated benefits
4 criterion for common defensible space mitigation
5 projects;

6 (2) the use of nature-based infrastructure;

7 (3) considerations for ecological and societal
8 health;

9 (4) carbon sequestration;

10 (5) improved water quality; and

11 (6) lessening disaster impact on traditionally
12 underserved communities.

13 (b) UPDATED CRITERIA.—Not later than 1 year after
14 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
15 issue such guidance as is necessary to—

16 (1) update criteria for evaluating the cost-effec-
17 tiveness of mitigation projects under sections 203
18 and 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
19 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133;
20 5170c) based on the results of the review conducted
21 under subsection (a); and

22 (2) prioritize projects under such sections based
23 on the criteria updated under paragraph (1).