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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct a study on drone incursions on wildfire suppression, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. BYNUM introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct a study on drone incursions on wildfire suppression, 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 Aerial Re-
5 sponse Safety Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON DRONE INCURSIONS ON WILDFIRE SUP-**
7 **PRESSION.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) DRONE.—The term “drone” means an un-
2 manned aircraft system owned by a private indi-
3 vidual or entity.

4 (2) DRONE INCURSION.—The term “drone in-
5 cursion” means the operation of a drone within any
6 airspace for which the Administrator of the Federal
7 Aviation Administration has issued a temporary
8 flight restriction because of a wildfire.

9 (3) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term
10 “unmanned aircraft system” means an unmanned
11 aircraft and associated elements (including, if appli-
12 cable, communication links and the components that
13 control the unmanned aircraft) that are required for
14 the operator to operate safely and efficiently.

15 (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Administrator of the
16 Federal Aviation Administration, in consultation with the
17 Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture,
18 acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall con-
19 duct a study on the effects of drone incursions on wildfire
20 suppression with respect to land managed by the Depart-
21 ment of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture.

22 (c) STUDY CONTENTS.—In conducting the study re-
23 quired under subsection (b), the Administrator shall—

24 (1) determine, for each of the 5 most recent
25 calendar years—

1 (A) the number of occurrences in which a
2 drone incursion interfered with wildfire suppres-
3 sion; and

4 (B) the estimated effect of each occurrence
5 described in subparagraph (A) on—

6 (i) the length of time required to
7 achieve complete suppression;

8 (ii) any associated delay in the field-
9 ing of aerial firefighting response units;
10 and

11 (iii) the amounts expended by the
12 Federal Government; and

13 (2) evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of
14 various actions to prevent drone incursions, includ-
15 ing—

16 (A) the use of counter-drone radio towers;

17 (B) the use of reasonable force to disable,
18 damage, or destroy a drone;

19 (C) the seizure of a drone, including sei-
20 zure with a net device; and

21 (D) the dissemination of educational mate-
22 rials relating to the effects of drone incursions
23 on wildfire suppression.

24 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
25 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall sub-

1 mit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
2 the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on
3 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and
4 the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on
5 Appropriations, and the Committee on Transportation and
6 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report
7 describing—

8 (1) the findings of the study required under
9 subsection (b); and

10 (2) any recommendations relating to those find-
11 ings.