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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to improve safety standards for wildland firefighters.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to improve safety standards for wildland firefighters.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Healthy Lungs for Heroes Act''.

SEC. 2. SAFETY STANDARDS FOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED PERMISSIBLE EXPOSURE LIMITS.—The term ''covered permissible exposure limits'' means—

(A) the permissible smoke exposure limit established by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; and

(B) the permissible occupational smoke exposure limit established by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ''Secretary concerned'' means—

(A) the Secretary, with respect to wildland firefighters under the direction of the Secretary; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to wildland firefighters under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER.—The term ''wildland firefighter'' means any person who participates in wildland firefighting activities under the direction of the Secretary or the Secretary of the Inte-

rior, including under a contract with the Secretary or the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) SAFETY STANDARDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2)—

(A) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, the Secretary of the Interior, and other appropriate Federal agencies, shall develop a strategy to make commercially available appropriate respiratory personal protective equipment for wildland firefighters and supporting staff in settings in which smoke exposure surpasses covered permissible exposure limits; and

(B) the Secretary, in consultation with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, shall determine appropriate respiratory personal protective equipment for wildland firefighters and supporting staff in settings in which smoke exposure surpasses covered permissible exposure limits.

(2) REVIEW.—The Secretary shall—

(A) in consultation with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and

the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, convene a task force assigned to develop an interim standard for smoke exposure that will review and update as necessary such standards relating to personal protective equipment and other safety standards for wildland firefighters and supporting staff, including the respiratory personal protective equipment determined under paragraph (1)(B), with the goal of developing an appropriate permissible exposure limit or occupational exposure limit for wildfire smoke for wildland firefighters and supporting staff participating in settings described in paragraph (1)(A); and

(B) incorporate into the standards described in subparagraph (A), by reference, the most recent edition of standard NFPA 1984, entitled ''Standard on Respirators for Wildland Fire-Fighting and Wildland Urban Interface Operations'' (and any subsequent editions), as necessary, for the safety and personal protection of wildland firefighters and supporting staff, subject to the limit described in subsection (a)(1)(A).