

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To direct the establishment of a public-private wildfire technology deployment and demonstration partnership, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. CURTIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the establishment of a public-private wildfire technology deployment and demonstration partnership, 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 “Fire Innovation Unit
5 Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DEPLOY-**
7 **MENT AND DEMONSTRATION PARTNERSHIP.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered
10 agency” means—

1 (A) each Federal land management agency
2 (as defined in section 802 of the Federal Lands
3 Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C.
4 6801));

5 (B) the Department of Defense;

6 (C) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

7 (D) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
8 Administration;

9 (E) the Federal Emergency Management
10 Agency;

11 (F) the National Aeronautics and Space
12 Administration;

13 (G) the United States Fire Administration;

14 (H) the General Services Administration;

15 (I) a State, Tribal, county, or municipal
16 fire department, fire district, land management
17 agency, natural resources agency, or equivalent
18 agency operating through the United States
19 Fire Administration or pursuant to an agree-
20 ment with a Federal agency; and

21 (J) any other Federal agency involved in
22 wildfire response.

23 (2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
24 tity” means—

25 (A) a private entity;

1 (B) a nonprofit organization; and

2 (C) an institution of higher education (as
3 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education
4 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

5 (3) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “Pilot Pro-
6 gram” means the deployment and demonstration
7 pilot program established under subsection (b).

8 (4) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—
9 The term “relevant committees of Congress”
10 means—

11 (A) in the Senate—

12 (i) the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
13 trition, and Forestry;

14 (ii) the Committee on Energy and
15 Natural Resources;

16 (iii) the Committee on Indian Affairs;

17 (iv) the Committee on Homeland Se-
18 curity and Governmental Affairs; and

19 (v) the Committee on Commerce,
20 Science, and Transportation; and

21 (B) in the House of Representatives—

22 (i) the Committee on Agriculture;

23 (ii) the Committee on Natural Re-
24 sources; and

1 (iii) the Committee on Science, Space,
2 and Technology.

3 (5) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
4 means the Secretary of Agriculture and the Sec-
5 retary of the Interior, acting jointly.

6 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall
8 establish a deployment and demonstration pilot program
9 for new and innovative wildfire prevention, detection, com-
10 munication, response, and mitigation technologies.

11 (c) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program,
12 the Secretaries shall—

13 (1) consult with the National Wildfire Coordi-
14 nating Group;

15 (2) in consultation with the heads of the cov-
16 ered agencies, identify and advance the demonstra-
17 tion and deployment of key technology priority
18 areas, including for mature and commercially avail-
19 able technologies, with respect to the deployment of
20 wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and
21 mitigation technologies, including—

22 (A) innovations in hazardous fuels reduc-
23 tion activities or treatments, including the use
24 of prescribed or cultural fire;

1 (B) spatial planning for unplanned human-
2 caused ignitions;

3 (C) wildfire modeling and effectiveness al-
4 gorithms;

5 (D) dispatch communications;

6 (E) remote sensing, detection, and track-
7 ing;

8 (F) safety equipment;

9 (G) common operating pictures or oper-
10 ational dashboards;

11 (H) interoperable commercial data;

12 (I) autonomous suppression systems;

13 (J) grid resilience;

14 (K) community resilience and home hard-
15 ening; and

16 (L) prioritization and decision support
17 tools;

18 (3) connect each covered entity selected to par-
19 ticipate in the Pilot Program with the appropriate
20 covered agency to coordinate real-time and on-the-
21 ground testing of technology during wildfire mitiga-
22 tion activities and training;

23 (4) define clear criteria for evaluating the suc-
24 cess of technologies (including mature and commer-
25 cially available technologies) demonstrated under the

1 Pilot Program, focusing on effectiveness, scalability,
2 and cost-efficiency; and

3 (5) coordinate with covered agencies to ensure
4 the efficient deployment of scaled technologies, in-
5 cluding through expanded public-private partner-
6 ships, multiagency contracting for procurement, and
7 authorization of covered agency staff with techno-
8 logical procurement expertise to assist other covered
9 agencies in need of that expertise.

10 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to participate in
11 the Pilot Program, a covered entity shall submit to the
12 Secretaries an application at such time, in such manner,
13 and containing such information as the Secretaries may
14 require, including a proposal to demonstrate technologies
15 specific to key technology priority areas identified under
16 subsection (c)(2).

17 (e) EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—A covered agency may sub-
19 mit a statement to the Secretaries describing the ef-
20 fectiveness, scalability, and cost-efficiency of an ex-
21 isting partnership, pilot project, or contract a cov-
22 ered entity providing a technology described in sub-
23 section (c)(2).

24 (2) SUCCESSFULNESS.—The Secretaries may
25 deem a technology described in a statement sub-

mitted under paragraph (1) to be a successful technology for purposes of this section.

(f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination with the heads of the covered agencies, shall make publicly available the key technology priority areas identified under subsection (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply under subsection (d) to deploy and demonstrate technologies to address those priority areas.

(g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of establishment of the Pilot Program, and annually thereafter for the duration of the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report that includes the following with respect to the Pilot Program:

(1) A brief description of potential technologies deployed and demonstrated.

(2) An estimate of the cost of acquiring each such technology and applying the technology at scale.

(3) Outreach efforts by covered agencies to covered entities developing wildfire technologies.

(4) Assessments of, and recommendations relating to, new technologies with potential adoption and application at-scale in the wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitigation efforts of Fed-

1 eral land management agencies (as defined in sec-
2 tion 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhance-
3 ment Act (16 U.S.C. 6801)).

4 (5) A description of the relationship and coordi-
5 nation between the Pilot Program and the activities
6 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
7 tration, including the Fire Weather Testbed.

8 (6) Barriers and solutions for procurement of
9 technologies by covered agencies.

10 (h) SUNSET.—The Pilot Program terminates on the
11 date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this
12 Act.