

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 528, With an Amendment**

**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)**

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 528

To require the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a program for Post-Disaster Reforestation and Restoration Program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2025

Ms. PETERSEN (for herself and Mr. EDWARDS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a program for Post-Disaster Reforestation and Restoration Program, 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 “Post-Disaster Refor-  
5 estation and Restoration Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. POST-DISASTER REFORESTATION AND RESTORA-**  
2 **TION PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
4 date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter,  
5 the Secretary, in coordination with the heads of the cov-  
6 ered agencies, shall identify covered lands requiring refor-  
7 estation and restoration following unplanned disturbances  
8 that are unlikely to experience natural regeneration with-  
9 out assistance.

10 (b) PRIORITY PROJECTS.—In consultation with the  
11 heads of covered agencies, the Secretary—

12 (1) shall propose a list of priority projects for  
13 reforestation and restoration for each fiscal year;

14 (2) may carry out priority projects through—

15 (A) competitively awarded grants;

16 (B) contracts;

17 (C) contracts established under the Indian  
18 Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
19 Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.); and

20 (D) cooperative agreements, to be awarded  
21 in accordance with applicable requirements es-  
22 tablished by the Secretary; and

23 (3) may support any grant contract or coopera-  
24 tive agreement that may be necessary to ensure ade-  
25 quate and appropriate seed and seedling availability  
26 to further the objectives of priority projects.

1 (c) OUTREACH.—To fulfill requirements of this sec-  
2 tion the heads of covered agencies shall conduct outreach  
3 to—

4 (1) Indian Tribes;

5 (2) States;

6 (3) territories;

7 (4) units of local government;

8 (5) Alaska Native organizations;

9 (6) Native Hawaiian organizations;

10 (7) institutions of higher education;

11 (8) Federal agencies with jurisdiction over Fed-

12 eral land adjoining or proximal to priority projects;

13 and

14 (9) other stakeholders as determined by the

15 Secretary.

16 (d) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later

17 than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act,

18 and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the

19 relevant Congressional Committees a report that includes

20 the following:

21 (1) An accounting of all covered lands requiring

22 reforestation and restoration.

23 (2) A list of priority projects and implementa-

24 tion progress to address reforestation and restora-

25 tion objectives identified.

1           (3) An accounting of grants, contracts, and co-  
2           operative agreements established in furtherance of  
3           priority projects.

4           (4) Outreach efforts by covered agencies to ad-  
5           vance priority projects.

6           (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-  
7           ing to seed, seedling, and implementation gaps to  
8           advance priority projects and opportunities to estab-  
9           lish dedicated funding necessary to address any  
10          backlog of reforestation and restoration needs.

11          (e) SUNSET.—The authority provided under this sec-  
12          tion shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the  
13          date of enactment of this Act.

14          (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15           (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered  
16           agency” means the National Park Service, the  
17           United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau  
18           of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation,  
19           and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

20           (2) COVERED LANDS.—The term “covered  
21           lands” means—

22                   (A) any Federal land or interest in land  
23                   administered by a covered agency; or

24                   (B) Indian Forest Land or Rangeland.

1           (3) INDIAN FOREST LAND OR RANGELAND.—  
2           The term “Indian Forest Land or Rangeland”  
3           means land that—

4                   (A) is held in trust by, or with a restriction  
5                   against alienation by, the United States for an  
6                   Indian Tribe or a member of an Indian Tribe;  
7                   and

8                   (B)(i)(I) is Indian forest land (as defined  
9                   in section 304 of the National Indian Forest  
10                   Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3103));  
11                   or

12                               (II) has a cover of grasses,  
13                               brush, or any similar vegetation; or

14                               (ii) formerly had a forest cover or veg-  
15                               etative cover that is capable of restoration.

16           (4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”  
17           means any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, na-  
18           tion, pueblo, village, or community individually iden-  
19           tified (including parenthetically) in the list published  
20           most recently as of the date of enactment of this Act  
21           pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized  
22           Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131).

23           (5) NATURAL REGENERATION.—The term “nat-  
24           ural regeneration” has the meaning given the term  
25           in section (e)(4) of the Forest and Rangeland Re-

1 newable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (U.S.C. 36  
2 1601).

3 (6) REFORESTATION.—The term “reforest-  
4 ation” has the meaning given the term in section  
5 (e)(4) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-  
6 sources Planning Act of 1974 (U.S.C. 36 1601).

7 (7) RESTORATION.—The term “restoration”  
8 means assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that  
9 has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed, including  
10 the reestablishment of appropriate plant species  
11 composition and community structure.

12 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
13 the Secretary of the Interior.

14 (9) UNPLANNED DISTURBANCE.—The term  
15 “unplanned disturbance” means any unplanned dis-  
16 turbance that disrupts ecosystem structure or com-  
17 position and may include a wildfire, an infestation of  
18 insects or disease, or a weather event.