

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 4235
OFFERED BY MR. WESTERMAN OF ARKANSAS**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Wildfire Technology
3 Demonstration, Evaluation, Modernization, and Optimiza-
4 tion Act” or the “Wildfire Technology DEMO Act”.

**5 SEC. 2. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY TESTBED
6 PARTNERSHIP.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act, the term:

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

10 (A) each Federal land management agency
11 (as such term is defined in the Federal Lands
12 Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C.
13 6801));

14 (B) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
15 Administration;

16 (C) the United States Fire Administration;

17 (D) the Federal Emergency Management
18 Agency;

1 (E) the National Aeronautics and Space
2 Administration;

3 (F) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

4 (G) the Department of Defense;

5 (H) a State, Tribal, county, or municipal
6 fire department or district operating through
7 the United States Fire Administration or pur-
8 suant to an agreement with a Federal agency;
9 and

10 (I) any other Federal agency involved in
11 wildfire response.

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

14 (A) a private entity;

15 (B) a nonprofit organization; or

16 (C) an institution of higher education (as
17 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education
18 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

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

22 (4) TESTBED PILOT PROGRAM.—The term
23 “Testbed Pilot Program” means the testbed pilot
24 program developed under subsection (b).

1 (b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in co-
3 ordination with the heads of the covered agencies, shall
4 establish a testbed pilot program for new and innovative
5 wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitiga-
6 tion technologies.

7 (c) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Testbed Pilot
8 Program, the Secretaries shall—

9 (1) incorporate the Testbed Pilot Program into
10 the National Wildfire Coordinating Group;

11 (2) in consultation with the heads of covered
12 agencies, identify key technology priority areas with
13 respect to the deployment of wildfire prevention, de-
14 tection, communication, and mitigation technologies,
15 including—

16 (A) hazardous fuels reduction treatments
17 or activities;

18 (B) dispatch communications;

19 (C) remote sensing and tracking;

20 (D) safety equipment; and

21 (E) common operating pictures or oper-
22 ational dashboards; and

23 (3) partner with each covered entity selected to
24 participate in the Testbed Pilot Program with the
25 appropriate covered agency to coordinate real-time

1 and on-the-ground testing of technology during
2 wildland fire mitigation activities and training.

3 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To participate in the Testbed
4 Pilot Program, a covered entity shall submit to the Secre-
5 taries an application at such time, in such manner, and
6 containing such information as the Secretaries may re-
7 quire, which shall include a proposal to test technologies
8 specific to key technology priority areas identified under
9 subsection (c)(2).

10 (e) PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECH-
11 NOLOGIES.—In selecting covered entities to participate in
12 the Testbed Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall give pri-
13 ority to covered entities developing and applying emerging
14 technologies, including artificial intelligence, quantum
15 sensing, computing and quantum-hybrid applications, aug-
16 mented reality, and 5G private networks and device-to-de-
17 vice communications supporting nomadic mesh networks,
18 for wildfire mitigation.

19 (f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination
20 with the heads of covered agencies, shall make public the
21 key technology priority areas identified under subsection
22 (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply to test and dem-
23 onstrate their technologies to address those priority areas.

24 (g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later
25 than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,

1 and each year thereafter for the duration of the Testbed
2 Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall submit to the Com-
3 mittees on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Science,
4 Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives
5 and the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
6 estry, Energy and Natural Resources, and Commerce,
7 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that
8 includes the following with respect to the Testbed Pilot
9 Program:

- 10 (1) A list of participating covered entities.
- 11 (2) A brief description of the technologies test-
12 ed by such covered entities.
- 13 (3) An estimate of the cost of acquiring the
14 technology tested in the program and applying it at
15 scale.
- 16 (4) Outreach efforts by Federal agencies to cov-
17 ered entities developing wildfire technologies.
- 18 (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-
19 ing to, new technologies with potential adoption and
20 application at-scale in Federal land management
21 agencies' wildfire prevention, detection, communica-
22 tion, and mitigation efforts.

1 (h) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out the Testbed
2 Pilot Program shall terminate on the date that is 7 years
3 after the date of enactment of this Act.

