

Amendment offered by Rep. Andrea Salinas

Amendment description

The amendment would prohibit any funds made available by this act from being used until all the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) re-hires all qualified personnel that were terminated as part of a mass termination during the period between Jan. 20th, 2025, and the enactment of this Act. In the case a qualified terminated employee does not accept reinstatement, USFS shall have Direct Hiring Authority to hire a replacement for such employee.

AMENDMENT

OFFERED BY MS. SALINAS OF OREGON

At the end of section 10105, add the following:

1 (e) REHIRING FOREST SERVICE EMPLOYEES.—

2 (1) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS.—None of
3 the funds made available by this Act may be used
4 until the date on which the Secretary of Agriculture,
5 acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, rein-
6 states (or replaces pursuant to paragraph (2)) all
7 terminated qualified Federal employees that were
8 separated from service as part of a mass termination
9 during the period beginning on January 20, 2025,
10 and ending on the date of enactment of this Act.

11 (2) DIRECT HIRING AUTHORITY FOR REPLACE-
12 MENTS.—With respect to any terminated qualified
13 Federal employee that does not accept an offer of
14 reinstatement pursuant to paragraph (1) before the
15 date that is 60 days after the date of enactment of
16 this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
17 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall have
18 direct hiring authority to hire a replacement for
19 such employee.

20 (3) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (A) MASS TERMINATION.—The term
2 “mass termination” means not less than 15 vol-
3 untary or involuntary separations from service
4 in an Executive agency during a 30-day period
5 pursuant to the same or related actions, direc-
6 tives, orders, or activities by the Federal Gov-
7 ernment.

8 (B) QUALIFIED FEDERAL EMPLOYEE.—
9 The term “qualified Federal employee” means
10 an individual employed by the Forest Service
11 who—

12 (i) is qualified through previous expe-
13 rience with the Forest Service to—

14 (I) assist any Federal wildland
15 fire operations, including by pos-
16 sessing a certification that qualifies
17 the individual to work on a wildland
18 fire incident (commonly known as an
19 “Incident Qualification Card”);

20 (II) assist with Federal timber
21 sales; or

22 (III) assist with search and res-
23 cue operations; and

24 (ii) was not involuntarily separated
25 from the Forest Service—

1 (I) on clearly documented
2 charges of misconduct or delinquency;
3 or
4 (II) following a performance re-
5 view that was unacceptable or less
6 than fully successful, provided that
7 such review is clearly documented.

