

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 575

To expedite the process by which the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may utilize military aircraft to fight wildfires, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 2003

Mr. HEFLEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Resources, Government Reform, and Armed Services, 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

A BILL

To expedite the process by which the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may utilize military aircraft to fight wildfires, 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 “Wildfire Response Act
5 of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPEDITED AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF THE IN-**
2 **TERIOR AND SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE**
3 **TO UTILIZE MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO FIGHT**
4 **WILDFIRES.**

5 (a) EXCEPTION TO ECONOMY ACT REQUIREMENT.—
6 Notwithstanding section 1535(a)(4) of title 31, United
7 States Code, the Secretary of the Interior and the Sec-
8 retary of Agriculture may procure the services of military
9 aircraft (and personnel of the Armed Forces to operate
10 and maintain such aircraft) to fight a wildfire without first
11 comparing the cost and convenience of procuring such
12 services from the Armed Forces to the cost of procuring
13 the same services from a commercial enterprise.

14 (b) CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE.—Whenever the Sec-
15 retary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture uses
16 the exception provided in subsection (a) to expedite the
17 procurement of the services of military aircraft (and per-
18 sonnel of the Armed Forces to operate and maintain such
19 aircraft) to fight a wildfire, the Secretary concerned shall
20 submit to Congress notice of the use of the exception and
21 the reasons for the use of the exception.

○