

Guthrie	Manzullo	Rohrabacher
Hall (TX)	Marchant	Rooney
Harper	McCarthy (CA)	Ros-Lehtinen
Hastings (WA)	McCaul	Roskam
Heller	McClintock	Royce
Hensarling	McCotter	Ryan (WI)
Herger	McHenry	Scalise
Hill	McHugh	Schmidt
Hoekstra	McKeon	Schock
Hunter	McMorris	Sensenbrenner
Inglis	Rodgers	Sessions
Issa	Mica	Shadegg
Jenkins	Miller (FL)	Shimkus
Johnson (IL)	Miller (MI)	Shuster
Johnson, Sam	Moran (KS)	Simpson
Jones	Murphy, Tim	Smith (NE)
Jordan (OH)	Myrick	Smith (NJ)
King (IA)	Neugebauer	Smith (TX)
King (NY)	Nunes	Stearns
Kingston	Olson	Sullivan
Kirk	Paul	Terry
Kline (MN)	Paulsen	Thompson (PA)
Lamborn	Pence	Thornberry
Lance	Petri	Tiahrt
Latham	Pitts	Tiberi
LaTourette	Platts	Turner
Latta	Poe (TX)	Upton
Lee (NY)	Posey	Walden
Lewis (CA)	Price (GA)	Wamp
Linder	Putnam	Whitfield
LoBiondo	Radanovich	Wilson (SC)
Lucas	Rehberg	Wittman
Luetkemeyer	Reichert	Roe (TN)
Lummis	Roe (TN)	Wolf
Lungren, Daniel	Rogers (AL)	Young (AK)
E.	Rogers (KY)	Young (FL)
Mack	Rogers (MI)	

NOT VOTING—8

Cantor	Israel	Souder
Deal (GA)	Miller, Gary	Westmoreland
Engel	Olver	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain on the vote.

□ 1529

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1404.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

FEDERAL LAND ASSISTANCE, MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 281 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1404.

□ 1531

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1404) to authorize a supplemental funding source for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities on

Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy, and for other purposes, with Mr. LUJÁN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to bring before this body proactive legislation which would establish a new arsenal to provide the necessary resources to combat catastrophic wildfires.

We are all aware of the raging fires which annually sweep across parts of America. Over the last decade, wildfires have become increasingly dangerous and destructive, burning more acreage and more property more often. Yet, financially, the Federal Government continues to be ill-prepared to respond to these fires.

Every year the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the other Federal agencies are forced to dramatically shift spending priorities, rapidly increasing funding for fire fighting at the expense of other vital programs.

This “Rob Peter to Pay Paul” approach requires these agencies to borrow funds from other accounts, causing everything from basic maintenance to visitor services to suffer. In fact, as it stands, nearly half of the Forest Service’s annual budget is spent putting out fires, causing some to point out that the agency is no longer the U.S. Forest Service, but rather, the U.S. Fire Service.

The legislation before us, the Federal Land Assistance Management Enhancement Act, or FLAME Act, is a bipartisan effort to correct course by getting out in front of these tragic fire seasons. The legislation would address the funding problem by establishing a dedicated fund for catastrophic, emergency wildland fire suppression activities, separate from appropriated, fire-fighting funding. This pot of money would be available when appropriated funds run out, saving the agencies from having to cut into nonfire programs.

The Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior would be authorized to use money from the FLAME fund only after making a specific declaration that a fire was large enough and dangerous enough to warrant such action.

The bill would also require the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to present to Congress a long-overdue, comprehensive strategy for combating wildland fire, a strategy that would address the troubling shortcomings in the agencies’ response to fires identified by the Government Ac-

countability Office and the Agriculture Department’s Inspector General.

I would note that this legislation complements proposals in President Obama’s proposed budget to establish a dedicated fund for catastrophic wildfires.

This legislation also enjoys the support of the five former chiefs of the Forest Service, the National Association of State Foresters, the National Association of Counties, the National Federation of Federal Employees, the Western Governors’ Association, and nearly 40 other organizations.

I am honored to be joined by our subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA); our Interior Appropriations chairman NORM DICKS; Interior Appropriations ranking member SIMPSON; and Congressman GREG WALDEN as original cosponsors of H.R. 1404. Agriculture chairman COLLIN PETERSON is also a cosponsor of the bill.

Each of these Members understands that fire, and the cost of fighting it, is among the most serious issues facing our Federal land management agencies. If not addressed, this issue will continue to cost homes, businesses, communities, public lands, and lives.

The FLAME Act will allow the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to respond to these dangerous fires while also accomplishing other important aspects of their missions, including those that will prevent fires from devastating our communities in the future.

I ask my colleagues to support passage of the FLAME Act.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want to compliment the distinguished chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Mr. RAHALL, for sponsoring this legislation, and I urge my Republican colleagues to support it.

This bill makes budgeting and accounting for fighting fires easier for Federal agencies and for Congress, but Mr. Chairman, as written, it does nothing to prevent forest fires. This is an accounting bill but not a wildfire prevention bill.

It is regrettable that, since taking control of the House, Democrats have not moved a single piece of legislation that gives our land managers new authority or tools to manage the disastrous situation on our Nation’s forests. Funding is important, but it will not solve the problem if our land management agencies are handcuffed to wrong-headed policies backed up by special interest lawsuits.

Jobs are also at stake with the management of our Federal lands. Since 2006, Mr. Chairman, the logging, wood, paper, and cabinetry industries have lost 242,000 jobs. Two weeks ago, a Sierra Pacific timber mill in Quincy, California, closed, which means that close to 10 percent of the town’s economy will be closed down. This is an