

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 6618
OFFERED BY MR. CARSON OF INDIANA

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Wildfire Aerial Re-
3 sponse Safety Act”.

4 SEC. 2. STUDY ON DRONE INCURSIONS ON WILDFIRE SUP-
5 PRESSION.

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) COUNTER-UASSYSTEM; UNMANNED AIR-
8 CRAFT SYSTEM.—The terms “counter-UAS system”
9 and “unmanned aircraft system” have the meanings
10 given such terms in section 44801 of title 49, United
11 States Code.

12 (2) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM INCUR-
13 SION.—The term “unmanned aircraft system incur-
14 sion” means the operation of an unmanned aircraft
15 system within any airspace for which the Adminis-
16 trator of the Federal Aviation Administration has
17 issued a temporary flight restriction because of a
18 wildfire.

1 (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Administrator of the
2 Federal Aviation Administration, in consultation with the
3 Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture,
4 acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall con-
5 duct a study on the effects of unmanned aircraft system
6 incursions on wildfire suppression with respect to land
7 managed by the Department of the Interior or the Depart-
8 ment of Agriculture.

9 (c) STUDY CONTENTS.—In conducting the study re-
10 quired under subsection (b), the Administrator shall—

11 (1) determine, for each of the 5 most recent
12 calendar years—

13 (A) the number of occurrences in which a
14 unmanned aircraft system incursion has inter-
15 fered with wildfire suppression; and

16 (B) the estimated effect of each occurrence
17 described in subparagraph (A) on—

18 (i) the length of time required to
19 achieve complete suppression;

20 (ii) any associated delay in the field-
21 ing of aerial firefighting response units;
22 and

23 (iii) the amounts expended by the
24 Federal Government; and

1 (2) evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness
2 of—

3 (A) the dissemination of educational mate-
4 rials relating to the effects of unmanned air-
5 craft system incursions on wildfire suppression
6 operations; and

7 (B) the deployment of approved counter-
8 UAS systems by authorized entities as a means
9 to detect, mitigate, and prevent unmanned air-
10 craft system incursions during such operations.

11 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall sub-
13 mit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
14 the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on
15 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and
16 the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on
17 Appropriations, and the Committee on Transportation and
18 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report
19 describing—

20 (1) the findings of the study required under
21 subsection (b); and

22 (2) any recommendations relating to those find-
23 ings.

