

First Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
9.24.14

BILL 7

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LLS NO. R15-0129.01 Ashley Zimmerman ~~BY~~ **INTERIM COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Wildfire Matters Review Committee

BILL TOPIC: "Request Fed Wildland Fire Suppression Support"

INTERIM COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

101 **CONCERNING REQUESTS TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REGARDING**
102 **SUPPORT FOR WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION.**

1 WHEREAS, The threat of wildfire is a matter of serious concern
2 to Colorado residents, especially to those living in the wildland-urban
3 interface; and

4 WHEREAS, In the last decade, the average number of acres
5 burned by wildfires in Colorado has more than tripled; and

6 WHEREAS, Since 2000, Colorado has experienced some of its
7 worst fires on record, including:

- 8 ● The Hayman Fire, in 2002, which burned 137,760 acres,
9 killed 5 firefighters, destroyed 600 total structures, and
10 remains the largest wildfire in Colorado by area;
- 11 ● The High Park Fire, in 2012, which burned 87,284 acres,
12 killed one person, and destroyed at least 248 homes;
- 13 ● The Waldo Canyon Fire, in 2012, which burned 18,247
14 acres, killed 2 people, and destroyed 346 homes;
- 15 ● The Black Forest Fire, in 2013, which burned 14,280 acres,
16 killed 2 people, and destroyed 511 homes;

*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

- 1 ● The Royal Gorge Fire, in 2013, which burned 3,800 acres
2 and caused significant damage to Royal Gorge Park and the
3 Royal Gorge Bridge; and

- 4 ● The West Fork Fire Complex, in 2013, composed of 3
5 subsidiary fires that merged together, which burned
6 110,405 acres and forced the evacuation of the entire town
7 of South Fork; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the Congressional Research Service, as
9 of 2010, 36.2% of land in Colorado was federal land managed by the
10 Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife
11 Service, or the National Park Service; and

12 WHEREAS, Nearly 68% of Colorado's forests are federally
13 owned, 47% of which are owned by the United States Forest Service; and

14 WHEREAS, Other states, including California, Arizona, Oregon,
15 and Idaho, have experienced record wildfires in the last few years; and

16 WHEREAS, California has had 12 record-setting fires since 2000,
17 each one totaling over 105,000 acres burned; and

18 WHEREAS, This increase in wildfires across the western United
19 States has led to an increase in federal agency budgets for wildfire
20 suppression, decreasing available moneys for mitigation and land
21 management support; now, therefore,

22 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly*
23 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

24 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, ask the
25 federal government to:

26 (1) Create a separate fire suppression line item in the federal
27 budget; and

28 (2) Purchase and deploy additional aerial firefighting equipment
29 to assist in fighting wildfires across the country.

30 *Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent*
31 *to Steven Pischke, President of Colorado State Fire Chiefs; Paul Cooke,*
32 *Director of the Division of Fire Prevention and Control in the Department*
33 *of Public Safety; Mike Rogers, President, Colorado Professional Fire*
34 *Fighters; Steve Trujillo, President, Colorado State Fire Fighters*
35 *Association; Brian Achziger, Deputy State Fire Management Officer,*
36 *Bureau of Land Management Colorado State Office; Mark Boche, Fire*
37 *and Aviation Management Director, U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain*
38 *Region; and each member of Colorado's congressional delegation.*
39 <{*Would you like to send this to anyone else?*}>