

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4866
OFFERED BY M .

Insert after section 6 the following:

1 SEC. 7. RESEARCH ON WILDLAND FIRE COMMUNICATIONS
2 AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—

4 (1) PUBLIC SAFETY RESEARCH.—Not later
5than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this
6Act, the Director, acting through the head of the
7Public Safety and Communications Research Divi-
8sion and in consultation with the Fire Research Di-
9vision and technology manufacturers, shall carry out
10research on the following:

11 (A) Public safety communication coordina-
12tion standards among Federal, State, Tribal,
13and local wildland firefighters, fire management
14response officials, and member agencies.

15 (B) Improving and integrating existing
16communications systems to transmit secure
17real-time data, alerts, and advisories to and
18from fire management response officials and
19wildland firefighters.

1 (2) FIELD TESTING AND MEASUREMENT OF IN-
2 FORMATION DISSEMINATION AND TECHNOLOGY.—
3 The Public Safety and Communications Research
4 Division, in consultation with the Fire Research Di-
5 vision and member agencies, shall conduct both live
6 and virtual field testing of equipment, software, and
7 other technologies to determine current times of in-
8 formation dissemination and develop standards for
9 the delivery of useful and secure real-time data
10 among member agencies, fire management response
11 officials, and wildland firefighters, based on findings
12 from research under subsection (a).

13 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall develop
15 and publish recommendations to improve public safe-
16 ty communication coordination standards among
17 wildland first responders and fire management re-
18 sponse officials.

19 (2) TRANSMITTAL.—The Director shall trans-
20 mit the recommendations under paragraph (1) to
21 the Office of Management and Budget and the Of-
22 fice of Science and Technology Policy for member
23 agencies to implement.

24 (3) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall sub-
2 mit to the Committee on Science, Space, and
3 Technology of the House of Representatives
4 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
5 Transportation of the Senate a report con-
6 taining the recommendations published under
7 paragraph (1).

8 (B) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1
9 year after the date of the publication of the Di-
10 rector’s recommendations under paragraph (1),
11 the Comptroller General of the United States
12 shall submit to the Committee on Science,
13 Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce,
15 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a re-
16 port on the extent to which member agencies
17 have implemented such recommendations.

18 (c) FUNDING.—From amounts made available to the
19 National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Di-
20 rector shall allocate \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years
21 2024 through 2028 to carry out this section.

22 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
24 the Director of the National Institute of Standards
25 and Technology.

1 (2) MEMBER AGENCY.—The term “member
2 agency” means a member agency of the National
3 Interagency Fire Center, including the Bureau of In-
4 dian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National
5 Park Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric
6 Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, For-
7 est Service, United States Fire Administration, and
8 the Department of Defense.

9 (3) WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER.—The term
10 “wildland firefighter” means any person who partici-
11 pates in wildland firefighting activities.

12 (4) FIRE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE OFFI-
13 CIALS.—The term “fire management response offi-
14 cials” means regional fire directors, deputy regional
15 fire directors, agency officials who directly oversee
16 fire operations, fire management officers, and indi-
17 viduals serving on incident management teams.

18 (5) TECHNOLOGY MANUFACTURERS.—The term
19 “technology manufacturers” means private sector
20 entities that manufacture communications tech-
21 nologies used by Federal, State, Tribal, or local
22 wildland fire authorities.

