

Third Extraordinary Session  
Sixty-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R02S-2087.01 Jeff Conway

HJR02S-1006

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Spradley

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Hillman

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House Committees

Senate Committees

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 02S-1006

101 CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF THE ABILITY OF THE STATE  
102 INMATE POPULATION TO PROVIDE DISASTER RELIEF.

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1 WHEREAS, Colorado is in the midst of a widespread and lengthy  
2 drought, has experienced throughout this summer a plague of dangerous  
3 and destructive wildfires in various locations, and may be in danger of  
4 experiencing calamitous flash-flooding; and

5 WHEREAS, The extraordinary challenges of these and other  
6 natural disasters demand creative and innovative approaches to prevent  
7 and mitigate the destruction caused by these and other natural and  
8 man-made forces; and

9 WHEREAS, For decades the Colorado Department of Corrections  
10 has supervised the provision of valuable services to the state and its  
11 communities by hundreds of inmates; and

12 WHEREAS, The Colorado inmate population can provide reliable  
13 and needed assistance to combat the onslaught of these disasters and to  
14 mitigate their destruction and stands ready as a flexible, trained, and  
15 capable workforce for the state; and

**Shading denotes HOUSE amendment.** Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1           WHEREAS, The Colorado Department of Corrections can easily  
2 and quickly train and mobilize hundreds of inmates to perform various  
3 critical tasks, including: Forest and vegetation management; mitigation of  
4 burned areas; flood control; reforestation and reseeded; trail and road  
5 rebuilding; and various reclamation projects; now, therefore,

6           *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third*  
7 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring*  
8 *herein:*

9           (1) That, although the state faces a severe budget crisis and must  
10 be fiscally responsible, we, the members the Sixty-third General  
11 Assembly, recognize that assistance for communities that have been  
12 devastated by wildfires is of paramount importance and needs to be  
13 accomplished in the most fiscally responsible manner possible, and we  
14 support the low-cost alternative of using the Colorado inmate population  
15 to assist communities in reestablishing their homes and businesses; and

16           (2) That we, the members the Sixty-third General Assembly,  
17 believe the use of inmates for mitigation and rehabilitation is a quicker  
18 and more cost-effective alternative for the citizens of Colorado in the  
19 current emergencies than the extensive long-term training needed to allow  
20 inmates to directly fight forest fires; and

21           (3) That we, the members the Sixty-third General Assembly  
22 hereby encourage all relevant agencies of federal, state, and local  
23 government to consider that the Colorado inmate population may be  
24 easily trained and mobilized on request to perform numerous assignments  
25 in preparing for and responding to various disasters; and

26           (4) That the Colorado Department of Corrections can provide the  
27 necessary training and supervision for those inmates to carry out those  
28 critical assignments.

29           *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be  
30 sent to each member of the state's congressional delegation, to the  
31 President of the United States, to the Governor, to the Executive Director  
32 of the Department of Corrections, and to any statewide organizations  
33 representing counties and municipalities.