

**Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

DRAFT

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Review Committee\Bills\Resolution_16-0275.wpd*

LLS NO. R16-0275.01 Thomas Morris x42 **INTERIM COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Wildfire Matters Review Committee

House Committees

INTERIM COMMITTEE JOINT RESOLUTION [MEMORIAL]

101 **CONCERNING THE NEED FOR CONGRESS TO FUND CATASTROPHIC**
102 **WILDFIRE RESPONSE COSTS OUTSIDE OF FEDERAL FOREST**
103 **MANAGEMENT AGENCIES' NORMAL BUDGETS.**

1 WHEREAS, There are about 24 million acres of forests and
2 woodlands in Colorado, of which more than two-thirds are owned and
3 managed by the federal government; and

4 WHEREAS, Colorado's forests are increasingly susceptible to
5 forest fires, with an average of about 40,000 acres burned per year from
6 2004 through 2007 but an average of more than 140,000 acres burned per
7 year from 2008 through 2014; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the Insurance Information Institute,
9 Colorado has the second highest percentage of households that are at high
10 or extreme risk from wildfires of any state in the nation; and

11 WHEREAS, Under current federal law, money that was originally
12 budgeted to mitigate fire risk, protect and restore watersheds, increase
13 forest health, promote recreational opportunities, and conduct necessary
14 forest planning is diverted to fight fires once the amount budgeted for fire
15 fighting has been depleted; and

16 WHEREAS, The United States Forest Service spent only 16% of

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 its annual budget on fire suppression and response in 1995, but recently
2 announced that in 2015, for the first time, it will spend more than half its
3 budget to fight wildfires, and by 2025 it expects to spend 67% of its
4 budget on that task; and

5 WHEREAS, A 2013 study by Headwaters Economics showed that
6 in the 1990s, average federal spending to suppress wildfires was less than
7 \$1 billion annually, but since 2002, federal spending has risen to over \$3
8 billion annually and costs are still rising; and

9 WHEREAS, Paying for catastrophic wildfire response should not
10 come at the expense of programs that reduce the risk of wildfires, because
11 doing so plainly creates a feedback loop that increases the frequency and
12 severity of catastrophic wildfires; and

13 WHEREAS, Congress is currently considering several measures
14 that would create alternative ways to pay for catastrophic wildfire
15 response costs; and

16 WHEREAS, The General Assembly's Water Resources Review
17 Committee and Wildfire Matters Review Committee have approved this
18 Joint Resolution [Memorial]; now, therefore,

19 *Be It Resolved by the _ of the Seventieth General Assembly of the*
20 *State of Colorado, the _ concurring herein:*

21 That Congress should enact laws necessary to protect federal land
22 management agencies' ability to mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfires
23 and manage the lands within their jurisdiction by funding catastrophic
24 wildfire response in a manner analogous to that used for natural disasters.

25 *Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of this Joint Resolution*
26 *[Memorial] <{**If this is introduced in the Senate, it will need to be a***
27 ***Joint Memorial**> be provided to Colorado's congressional delegation,*
28 *Governor John Hickenlooper, the Western Governors' Association,*
29 *Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and Secretary of the Interior Sally*
30 *Jewell.*

Second Regular Session
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LLS NO. R16-0272.01 Ashley Zimmerman ~~INTERIM~~ **INTERIM COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Wildfire Matters Review Committee

BILL TOPIC: "Recognizing Firefighters Killed Line Of Duty"

INTERIM COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

101 **CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF COLORADO FIREFIGHTERS KILLED**
102 **IN THE LINE OF DUTY.**

1 WHEREAS, More than 12,000 career and volunteer firefighters
2 comprise the Colorado fire service; and

3 WHEREAS, Personnel of the Colorado fire service respond to
4 more than 500,000 calls for help each year, often placing themselves
5 directly in harm's way for the safety of others; and

6 WHEREAS, Fire services personnel are often the first to respond
7 to an emergency, whether it involves a fire, medical emergency, spill of
8 hazardous materials, natural disaster, act of terrorism, or transportation
9 accident; and

10 WHEREAS, Approximately 100 fire and emergency services
11 personnel die annually in the line of duty in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, Most recently, the following firefighters have given
13 their lives in service to the people of Colorado:

- 14 ● Richard Lee Marchman, a volunteer firefighter for the
15 Indian Peaks Fire Protection District, collapsed and died
16 on July 9, 2014, after assisting in the rescue of a hiker with
17 a broken ankle;

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

- 1 ● Willard Clapper, a volunteer firefighter for the Aspen Fire
2 Protection District, died on October 16, 2014, after battling
3 lymphoma, which was determined to be line-of-duty under
4 Colorado's presumptive cancer law;
- 5 ● John Whelan, a firefighter for the Denver Fire Department,
6 died on July 16, 2015, from injuries sustained during
7 firefighting activities;
- 8 ● Craig Moilanen, a firefighter with the North Metro Fire
9 Rescue District and formerly of the Foothills Fire
10 Protection District, died on October 8, 2015, after a
11 two-year battle with cancer; and

12 WHEREAS, The Colorado Fallen Firefighters Memorial in
13 Lakewood contains the names of 145 firefighters who have fallen while
14 working to protect lives and property in Colorado; now, therefore,

15 *Be It Resolved by the House of the Seventieth General Assembly*
16 *of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

17 (1) That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly,
18 honor and pay tribute to the ultimate sacrifice paid by these fallen
19 firefighters; and

20 (2) Express our sympathy to the families and friends of those
21 service members who have died.

22 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
23 to Ken Watkins, President, Colorado State Fire Chiefs; Mike Rogers,
24 President, Colorado Professional Fire Fighters; Paul Cooke, Director,
25 Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control; Eric Tade, Fire Chief,
26 Denver Fire Department; David Ramos, Fire Chief, North Metro Fire
27 Rescue District; Norman Bowers, Fire Chief, Indian Peaks Fire Protection
28 District; Rick Balentine, Fire Chief, Aspen Fire Protection District; and
29 Brian Zoril, Fire Chief, Foothills Fire Protection District.

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October 30, 2015

Executive Director Stan Hilkey
Colorado Department of Public Safety
700 Kipling Street, #1000
Denver, CO 80215

To Whom It May Concern:

The Wildfire Matters Review Committee (WMRC) met on October 30 to review potential legislation for the 2016 legislative session. At the meeting, the committee discussed a study it would like conducted into feasible alternatives to radio communications during wildland fire events in remote areas of the state underserved by the state's Digital Trunked Radio System (DTRS). Based on this discussion, the WMRC is formally requesting that the Center of Excellence in Aerial Firefighting, within the Division of Fire Prevention and Control in the Department of Public Safety, conduct an analysis of alternatives to the DTRS in mountainous firefighting situations, and to provide to the WMRC the preliminary results of this analysis no later than December 1, 2015, and the final results no later than January 15, 2015.

Specifically, the WMRC would like the study to address concerns raised during its September 4, 2015, meeting. These concerns centered on the issue of radio operability in certain remote areas of the state. The WMRC was made aware that a significant investment in the infrastructure of the DTRS would be required in order to improve radio communications among first responders at certain wildland firefighter events. The WMRC would like to know what other options exist to facilitate communications in remote areas of the state underserved by the DTRS. What is the cost of these alternative technologies? Would these technologies interface with the existing system or would they operate independently? What is the feasibility of using alternative technologies to improve communications during wildland fire events? Is legislation required in order to implement these new strategies or technologies? And finally, are there practical applications of these alternative technologies to other first responder situations?

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Executive Director Hilkey
October 30, 2015

In conducting the study, the Center of Excellence should, in particular, examine whether satellite technology is an effective and cost-effective solution to the current and long-term issue of emergency communications in topographically challenging areas of Colorado.

The WMRC looks forward to working with the department and the Center of Excellence during its investigation of the best technologies available to serve the public safety first responder community.

Sincerely,

Representative Jonathan Singer
Chair, WMRC

c: WMRC Members
Paul Cooke, Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Melissa Lineberger, Center of Excellence in Aerial Firefighting
Jana Locke, Department of Public Safety
Kevin R. Klein, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management