

Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R14-0948.01 Cara Meeker x4636

SJR14-032

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

King,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Gardner,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-032

101 **CONCERNING THE COMMUNICATION OF WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING BEST**
102 **PRACTICES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF CALIFORNIA AND**
103 **COLORADO TO AID IN THE CONTINUED ADVANCEMENT OF THE**
104 **STATES' FIREFIGHTING PROGRAMS.**

1 WHEREAS, Coloradans are proud to live among the most varied
2 and wild natural landscapes in the world; and

3 WHEREAS, Wildfires in Colorado are a natural occurrence in
4 these landscapes, and though they can help restore healthy forest
5 ecosystems, wildfires are also potentially dangerous to life and property;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The occurrence of wildfires throughout the state has

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.

SENATE
Final Reading
May 5, 2014

1 increased over the last decade, resulting in billions of dollars spent in fire
2 suppression efforts and billions more in insurance claims for lost
3 property; and

4 WHEREAS, Projections show that wildfire occurrences will
5 continue to rise in the future, so it is important that the state immediately
6 address this issue and focus on preparing for future outcomes; and

7 WHEREAS, Colorado firefighting agencies would benefit greatly
8 from being able to access information on best practices, which are tested,
9 up-to-date, efficient, and effective techniques for controlling fires and
10 protecting lives and property; and

11 WHEREAS, As Colorado's firefighting strategies evolve to meet
12 the needs of the state, it is important that we make connections with other
13 states that have experience with similar wildfire strategies; and

14 WHEREAS, The California Department of Forestry and Fire
15 Protection, known as CAL FIRE, has been skillfully fighting fires within
16 the state for over 100 years, has taken the initiative to develop the only
17 state-run firefighting air fleet in the United States, and could be an
18 invaluable source of support and information as Colorado looks to hone
19 its firefighting resources; and

20 WHEREAS, CAL FIRE has utilized aircraft to fight fire within its
21 borders since the 1950s, possesses 23 air tankers, 11 helicopters, and 14
22 air tactical aircraft for use in fighting wildfires, and has an annual budget
23 of approximately \$650 million; and

24 WHEREAS, In preparing for its future firefighting resource needs,
25 Colorado would benefit from an open line of communication with CAL
26 FIRE to learn their best practices for using ground and aviation resources
27 to fight wildfires; and

28 WHEREAS, California fire officials recognize that California has
29 a unique bond with Colorado through long-standing water use agreements
30 and can reciprocate such resource sharing by communicating their best
31 practices for fighting wildfires; and

32 WHEREAS, The Colorado River Basin is a vital component of the
33 Western United States' water supply, providing much-needed water to
34 millions of people in California, which receives 27% of the total water

1 from the Colorado River, with Southern California in particular receiving
2 approximately 60% of its water from the Colorado River; and

3 WHEREAS, California and Colorado both benefit in the
4 immediate and long-term future from establishing and maintaining open
5 lines of communication and resource sharing; now, therefore,

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

8 (1) That the general assembly recognizes that:

9 (a) Wildfires within the state come at a high cost and are a
10 significant danger to life and property;

11 (b) It is important to use best practices when planning for future
12 fire seasons;

13 (c) California can provide important information regarding best
14 practices in combating wildfires; and

15 (d) An open line of communication should be established and
16 maintained between the governments of California and Colorado to aid
17 in the continued advancement of the states' firefighting programs.

18 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
19 to Governor John Hickenlooper, California Governor Jerry Brown, CAL
20 FIRE Director Ken Pimlott, National Director of Fire and Aviation
21 Management for the U.S. Forest Service Tom Harbour, each member of
22 California's state legislature and congressional delegation, and to each
23 member of Colorado's congressional delegation.