



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-032

BY SENATOR(S) King, Crowder, Herpin, Jahn, Jones, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Newell, Rivera, Roberts, Schwartz, Tochtrop, Todd;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Gardner, Becker, Buck, Buckner, Conti, Coram, Court, DelGrosso, Dore, Everett, Exum, Fields, Fischer, Foote, Garcia, Gerou, Ginal, Hamner, Holbert, Hullinghorst, Humphrey, Joshi, Kagan, Kraft-Tharp, Labuda, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, May, McCann, McLachlan, McNulty, Melton, Mitsch Bush, Moreno, Murray, Navarro, Nordberg, Pabon, Peniston, Pettersen, Primavera, Priola, Rankin, Rosenthal, Ryden, Saine, Salazar, Schafer, Scott, Singer, Sonnenberg, Stephens, Swalm, Szabo, Tyler, Vigil, Waller, Williams, Wilson, Wright, Young, Ferrandino.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The occurrence of wildfires throughout the state has increased over the last decade, resulting in billions of dollars spent in fire suppression efforts and billions more in insurance claims for lost property; and

WHEREAS, Projections show that wildfire occurrences will continue

to rise in the future, so it is important that the state immediately address this issue and focus on preparing for future outcomes; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The Colorado River Basin is a vital component of the Western United States' water supply, providing much-needed water to millions of people in California, which receives 27% of the total water from the Colorado River, with Southern California in particular receiving approximately 60% of its water from the Colorado River; and

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

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

(1) That the general assembly recognizes that:

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

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

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

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

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to Governor John Hickenlooper, California Governor Jerry Brown, CAL FIRE Director Ken Pimlott, National Director of Fire and Aviation

Management for the U.S. Forest Service Tom Harbour, each member of California's state legislature and congressional delegation, and to each member of Colorado's congressional delegation.

Morgan Carroll
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