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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an evaluation with respect to the use of the container aerial firefighting system (CAFFS), and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. VALADAO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an evaluation with respect to the use of the container aerial firefighting system (CAFFS), and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Wildfire
5 Fighting Technology Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONTAINER AERIAL FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM**
2 **(CAFFS).**

3 (a) **EVALUATION.**—Not later than 60 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agri-
5 culture and the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation
6 with the National Interagency Aviation Committee, and
7 the Interagency Airtanker Board, shall jointly conduct an
8 evaluation of the container aerial firefighting system to as-
9 sess the use of such system to mitigate and suppress
10 wildfires.

11 (b) **UPDATE OF DEPLOYMENT PROTOCOLS.**—Not
12 later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this
13 Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the In-
14 terior, the National Interagency Aviation Committee, and
15 the Interagency Airtanker Board shall, based on the re-
16 sults of the evaluation required under subsection (a), each
17 update the respective deployment protocols for appropriate
18 use of the container aerial fighting system.

19 (c) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date
20 of the enactment of this Act—

21 (1) the Secretary of Agriculture and the Sec-
22 retary of the Interior, in consultation with the Na-
23 tional Interagency Aviation Committee, and the
24 Interagency Airtanker Board, shall jointly submit to
25 the appropriate committees a report that includes

1 the results of the evaluation required under sub-
2 section (a); and

3 (2) the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary
4 of the Interior, the National Interagency Aviation
5 Committee, and the Interagency Airtanker Board
6 shall each submit to the appropriate committees a
7 report that includes a summary of any updates
8 made to deployment protocols pursuant to sub-
9 section (b).

10 (d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this
11 section, the term “appropriate committees” means—

12 (1) the Committees on Agriculture and Natural
13 Resources of the House of Representatives; and

14 (2) the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition,
15 and Forestry and Energy and Natural Resources of
16 the Senate.