

Schiff_11

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to improve
safety standards for wildland firefighters

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—119th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. _____

To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural
and other programs of the Department of Agriculture
through fiscal year 2031, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by _____

Viz:

1 At the appropriate place in subtitle F of title VIII,

2 insert the following:

3 **SEC. 86____. SAFETY STANDARDS FOR WILDLAND FIRE-**
4 **FIGHTERS.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) COVERED PERMISSIBLE EXPOSURE LIM-
7 ITS.—The term “covered permissible exposure lim-
8 its” means—

9 (A) the permissible smoke exposure limit
10 established by the National Institute for Occu-
11 pational Safety and Health; and

1 (B) the permissible occupational smoke ex-
2 posure limit established by the Occupational
3 Health and Safety Administration.

4 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the For-
6 est Service.

7 (3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
8 retary concerned” means—

9 (A) the Secretary, with respect to wildland
10 firefighters under the direction of the Secretary;
11 and

12 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
13 spect to wildland firefighters under the direc-
14 tion of the Secretary of the Interior.

15 (4) WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER.—The term
16 “wildland firefighter” means any person who partici-
17 pates in wildland firefighting activities under the di-
18 rection of the Secretary or the Secretary of the Inte-
19 rior, including under a contract with the Secretary
20 or the Secretary of the Interior.

21 (b) SAFETY STANDARDS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2)—

23 (A) not later than 1 year after the date of
24 enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordi-
25 nation with the National Wildfire Coordinating

1 Group, the Secretary of the Interior, and other
2 appropriate Federal agencies, shall develop a
3 strategy to make commercially available appro-
4 priate respiratory personal protective equipment
5 for wildland firefighters and supporting staff in
6 settings in which smoke exposure surpasses cov-
7 ered permissible exposure limits;

8 (B) the Secretary, in consultation with the
9 National Institute for Occupational Safety and
10 Health and the Occupational Safety and Health
11 Administration, shall determine appropriate res-
12 piratory personal protective equipment for
13 wildland firefighters and supporting staff in set-
14 tings in which smoke exposure surpasses cov-
15 ered permissible exposure limits; and

16 (C) the Secretary concerned shall require
17 each wildland firefighter and supporting staff to
18 use the respiratory personal protective equip-
19 ment determined under subparagraph (B) in
20 settings in which smoke exposure surpasses cov-
21 ered permissible exposure limits.

22 (2) REVIEW.—The Secretary shall—

23 (A) in consultation with the National Insti-
24 tute for Occupational Safety and Health and
25 the Occupational Safety and Health Adminis-

1 tration, convene a task force assigned to de-
2 velop an interim standard for smoke exposure
3 that will review and update as necessary such
4 standards relating to personal protective equip-
5 ment and other safety standards for wildland
6 firefighters and supporting staff, including the
7 respiratory personal protective equipment deter-
8 mined under paragraph (1)(B), with the goal of
9 developing an appropriate permissible exposure
10 limit or occupational exposure limit for wildfire
11 smoke for wildland firefighters and supporting
12 staff participating in settings described in para-
13 graph (1)(A); and

14 (B) incorporate into the standards de-
15 scribed in subparagraph (A), by reference, the
16 most recent edition of standard NFPA 1984,
17 entitled “Standard on Respirators for Wildland
18 Fire-Fighting and Wildland Urban Interface
19 Operations” (and any subsequent editions), as
20 necessary, for the safety and personal protec-
21 tion of wildland firefighters and supporting
22 staff, subject to the limit described in sub-
23 section (a)(1)(A).

24 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
25 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such

- 1 sums as are necessary to carry out this section for each
- 2 fiscal year.