

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—118th Cong., 2d Sess.**

**S. 2132**

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a pilot program for the establishment and use of a pre-fire-suppression stand density index, 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 IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended  
to be proposed by Mr. LEE

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-

2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Catastrophic Wildfire

5 Prevention Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) HISTORICAL STAND DENSITY INDEX.—The

9 term “historical stand density index” means an esti-

10 mate of the naturally occurring or ecologically bal-

11 anced stand density index of a forest, as developed

1 from historical surveys or appropriate scientific in-  
2 ference of data collected not more recently than  
3 1915.

4 (2) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “National  
6 Forest System” means land of the National  
7 Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of  
8 the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources  
9 Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))) ad-  
10 ministered by the Secretary.

11 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “National  
12 Forest System” does not include any forest re-  
13 serve not created from the public domain.

14 (3) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “pilot pro-  
15 gram” means the pilot program established under  
16 subsection (b).

17 (4) RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term  
18 “resource management plan” means a land and re-  
19 source management plan prepared for 1 or more  
20 units of the National Forest System under section 6  
21 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources  
22 Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

23 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
24 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the  
25 Chief of the Forest Service.

1           (6) STAND DENSITY INDEX.—The term “stand  
2           density index” means an expression of relative stand  
3           density based on the predictable relationship be-  
4           tween average tree size and trees per unit area in  
5           dense stands.

6           (7) TREATMENT.—The term “treatment”  
7           means—

8                   (A) a mechanical treatment of hazardous  
9                   fuels;

10                   (B) a stewardship end-result contracting  
11                   project;

12                   (C) restoration services;

13                   (D) timber harvesting; or

14                   (E) other forest stand improvement activi-  
15                   ties, as determined by the Secretary.

16           (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish  
17           a pilot program under which the Secretary shall—

18                   (1) collaborate with State, local, and Tribal for-  
19                   est management agencies—

20                           (A) to identify areas of the National For-  
21                           est System for potential selection under para-  
22                           graph (2) for inclusion in the pilot program;  
23                           and

24                           (B) to research and determine an historical  
25                           stand density index for each area of the Na-

1            tional Forest System identified under subpara-  
2            graph (A);

3            (2) select, in consultation with State, local, and  
4            Tribal forest management agencies, as necessary,  
5            projects in areas of the National Forest System  
6            identified under paragraph (1)(A) for implementa-  
7            tion of treatments under subsection (c), in accord-  
8            ance with the selection criteria under subsection (d);

9            (3) evaluate the implementation of treatments  
10           conducted on areas of the National Forest System  
11           selected under paragraph (2), with respect to the ef-  
12           ficacy of the treatments in—

13                    (A) reducing catastrophic wildfire risk;

14                    (B) increasing forest health;

15                    (C) increasing forest resilience;

16                    (D) increasing ecological diversity; or

17                    (E) improving such other criteria as the

18            Secretary determines to be appropriate; and

19            (4) as practicable, compare and update the re-  
20            source management plans for areas of the National  
21            Forest System selected under paragraph (2) in ac-  
22            cordance with any findings resulting from the eval-  
23            uations under paragraph (3).

24            (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 2 years after  
25            the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall

1 begin implementation of treatments on areas of the Na-  
2 tional Forest System selected under subsection (b)(2) to  
3 achieve the historical stand density index established  
4 under subsection (b)(1)(B) for those areas of the National  
5 Forest System.

6 (d) SELECTION OF AREAS.—In selecting areas of the  
7 National Forest System for inclusion in the pilot program  
8 under subsection (b)(2) and implementing treatments  
9 under subsection (c), the Secretary shall—

10 (1) give priority to an area—

11 (A) within the wildland-urban interface (as  
12 defined in section 101 of the Healthy Forests  
13 Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511));

14 (B) constituting a municipal watershed;

15 (C) critical to maintaining water quality  
16 and yield;

17 (D) vulnerable to erosion, flooding, land-  
18 slides, or other post-fire impacts;

19 (E) hosting multiple-use activities;

20 (F) critical to supporting wildlife or plant  
21 species health;

22 (G) with respect to which a treatment is  
23 necessary to prevent catastrophic wildfire; or

24 (H) for which the comparison of forest re-  
25 siliency under an historical stand density index

1 with the contemporary stand density index  
2 would best inform forest ecology and wildland  
3 fire research; and

4 (2) select a geographically diverse sample of  
5 areas of the National Forest System with various  
6 forest cover types; and

7 (3) select not less than 1 area of the National  
8 Forest System in each region of the National Forest  
9 System.

10 (e) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall carry out this  
11 section using funds otherwise made available to the Sec-  
12 retary for—

13 (1) research and development, with respect to  
14 the requirements under paragraphs (1), (2), and (4)  
15 of subsection (b); and

16 (2) fuels reduction treatments, with respect to  
17 the implementation of treatments described in sub-  
18 section (c) and the other requirements under this  
19 section.