

ALEX PADILLA

U.S. SENATOR  for CALIFORNIA

Wildfire Intelligence Collaboration and Coordination Act

Co-led by: Senator Sheehy, Senator Hickenlooper, and Senator Daines

Responses to wildfires are varied across local, state, and federal entities, with each stakeholder playing a unique role in preparing for and responding to wildfires. At the federal level, different departments and agencies have their own fire management goals, their own firefighters, and their own jurisdictions in which they respond to fires. However, wildfires do not respect jurisdictional boundaries, necessitating cooperation between local, state, tribal, and federal agencies, and also between the private and public sectors.

The scale, size, and intensity for the wildfire crisis demands a singular, whole-of-government Wildfire Intelligence Center. Such a center could compile comprehensive information on wildfires at all stages to better prepare for wildfires, assist with decision-support during a crisis, inform recovery, and streamline federal wildfire response to ensure that states have a one-stop-shop within the federal government. This center would also increase monitoring and imaging capabilities that land management agencies currently cannot achieve.

Although advances in wildfire technology hold great promise, available technological services are highly fragmented across more than 50 federal programs. Simply put, the technology is available, but the government currently lacks the ability to get these tools in the hands of those who desperately need it, when they need it. The Wildfire Intelligence Center will leverage cutting-edge technology and improve the interoperability and effectiveness of the many entities engaged in wildfire work.

What the *Wildfire Intelligence Collaboration and Coordination Act* would do:

- Establish a Wildfire Intelligence Center between the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and Department of the Interior to study, plan, coordinate, and implement the federal wildfire response.
- Provide comprehensive assessment and modeling of wildfires to inform responses, land and fuels management, risk reduction, post-wildfire recovery, and rehabilitation.
- Improve emergency planning with enhanced evacuation plans, power shutoff strategies, and fire response tactics.
- Facilitate cross-coordination and information-sharing between departments and state, local, and tribal jurisdictions.
- Leverage cutting-edge technologies for wildfire mitigation and response.

Endorsed by: Megafire Action, Federation of American Scientists, Association of FireTech Innovation, Alliance for Wildfire Resilience, Climate and Wildfire Institute, Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition, The Stewardship Project, Tall Timbers, Grassroots Wildland Firefighters, American Forests, Environmental Defense Fund, American Property Casualty Insurance Association