

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To direct the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to study the effects of drone incursions on wildfire suppression, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. ROMNEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To direct the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to study the effects of drone incursions on wildfire suppression, 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 “Aerial Incursion Re-
5 percussion Safety Act of 2020” or the “AIR Safety Act
6 of 2020”.

7 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF DRONE INCURSIONS ON**
8 **WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) DRONE.—The term “drone” means an un-
2 manned aircraft system owned by a private indi-
3 vidual or entity.

4 (2) DRONE INCURSION.—The term “drone in-
5 cursion” means the operation of a drone within any
6 airspace for which the Administrator of the Federal
7 Aviation Administration has issued a temporary
8 flight restriction because of a wildfire.

9 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
11 rector of the Bureau of Land Management.

12 (4) WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.—The term “wild-
13 fire suppression” has the meaning given the term in
14 section 46320(d) of title 49, United States Code.

15 (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary, in consulta-
16 tion with the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
17 Chief of the Forest Service, shall conduct a study on the
18 effects of drone incursions on wildfire suppression with re-
19 spect to land managed by the Department of the Interior
20 or the Department of Agriculture.

21 (c) STUDY CONTENTS.—In conducting the study re-
22 quired under subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

23 (1) determine, for each of the 5 most recent
24 calendar years—

1 (A) the number of occurrences in which a
2 drone incursion interfered with wildfire suppres-
3 sion; and

4 (B) the effect of each occurrence described
5 in subparagraph (A) on—

6 (i) the length of time required to
7 achieve complete suppression;

8 (ii) the effectiveness of aerial fire-
9 fighting responses; and

10 (iii) the amounts expended by the
11 Federal Government; and

12 (2) evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of
13 various actions to prevent drone incursions, includ-
14 ing—

15 (A) the use of reasonable force to disable,
16 damage, or destroy a drone;

17 (B) the seizure of a drone, including sei-
18 zure with a net device; and

19 (C) the dissemination of educational mate-
20 rials relating to the effects of drone incursions
21 on wildfire suppression.

22 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
23 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
24 to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of

1 the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of
2 the House of Representatives a report describing—

3 (1) the findings of the study required under
4 subsection (b); and

5 (2) any recommendations of the Secretary relat-
6 ing to those findings.