

WILDFIRE

Legislative Package



U.S. CONGRESSMAN
JOE NEGUSE

Congressman Joe Neguse (CO-02) is introducing a package of bills to improve wildfire prevention, mitigation, and management in communities affected by wildfires. The Cross-Boundary Wildfire Solutions Act, The Wildfire Coordination Act, Wildfire Risk Evaluation Act, and the Disaster Management Costs Modernization Act are derived from five key recommendations developed by the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission in their report *ON FIRE*.

The Cross-Boundary Wildfire Solutions Act (*Recommendation 24*) will:

- Direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study on existing federal programs, rules, and authorities that enable or inhibit wildfire mitigation across federal and non-federal land ownership boundaries, to improve collaboration and access to funding for federal, state, local, and tribal governments.
- By identifying gaps and opportunities in current wildfire management practices, the bill aims to inform recommendations for more effective and efficient wildfire strategies, enhance the capacity of various government agencies to mitigate wildfire risks, reduce the frequency and severity of wildfires, and protect vulnerable communities.

The Wildfire Coordination Act (*Recommendations 110/116*) will:

- Establish an advisory board responsible for coordinating federal wildfire research, translating it into practical applications, and establishing partnerships with private and federally funded research entities.
- The Wildfire Science and Technology Advisory Board will comprise members from various federal departments, including the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce, and representatives from the Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, FEMA, and others. Additional members will include representatives from state, local, or tribal governments and experts in relevant fields like public health and meteorological science.

The Wildfire Risk Evaluation Act (*Recommendations 135/148*) will:

- Mandate a quadrennial review of the wildfire landscape in the United States by directing the Secretaries of Agriculture, the Interior, and Homeland Security to assess wildfire management challenges, and evaluate the intersection of wildfires and public health. This review will inform the development of long-term strategies to enhance wildfire preparedness and response.
- Strengthen interagency collaboration and strategic planning by integrating insights from various government levels and the latest scientific research to achieve the goals of resilient landscapes, fire-adapted communities, and safe wildfire response.