

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 369  
OFFERED BY MR. OBERNOLTE OF  
CALIFORNIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “NIST Wildland Fire  
3 Communications and Information Dissemination Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. RESEARCH ON WILDLAND FIRE COMMUNICATIONS  
5 AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—

7 (1) PUBLIC SAFETY RESEARCH.—Not later  
8 than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this  
9 Act, the Director, acting through the head of the  
10 Public Safety and Communications Research Divi-  
11 sion and in consultation with the Fire Research Di-  
12 vision and technology manufacturers, shall carry out  
13 research on the following:

14 (A) Public safety communication coordina-  
15 tion standards among Federal, State, Tribal,  
16 and local wildland firefighters, fire management  
17 response officials, and member agencies.

1 (B) Improving and integrating existing  
2 communications systems to transmit secure  
3 real-time data, alerts, and advisories to and  
4 from fire management response officials and  
5 wildland firefighters.

6 (2) FIELD TESTING AND MEASUREMENT OF IN-  
7 FORMATION DISSEMINATION AND TECHNOLOGY.—  
8 The Public Safety and Communications Research  
9 Division, in consultation with the Fire Research Di-  
10 vision and member agencies, shall conduct both live  
11 and virtual field testing of equipment, software, and  
12 other technologies to determine current times of in-  
13 formation dissemination and develop standards for  
14 the delivery of useful and secure real-time data  
15 among member agencies, fire management response  
16 officials, and wildland firefighters, based on findings  
17 from research under subsection (a).

18 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall develop  
20 and publish recommendations to improve public safe-  
21 ty communication coordination standards among  
22 wildland first responders and fire management re-  
23 sponse officials.

24 (2) TRANSMITTAL.—The Director shall trans-  
25 mit the recommendations under paragraph (1) to

1 the Office of Management and Budget and the Of-  
2 fice of Science and Technology Policy for member  
3 agencies to implement.

4 (3) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall sub-  
6 mit to the Committee on Science, Space, and  
7 Technology of the House of Representatives  
8 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
9 Transportation of the Senate a report con-  
10 taining the recommendations published under  
11 paragraph (1).

12 (B) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1  
13 year after the date of the publication of the Di-  
14 rector's recommendations under paragraph (1),  
15 the Comptroller General of the United States  
16 shall submit to the Committee on Science,  
17 Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-  
18 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce,  
19 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a re-  
20 port on the extent to which member agencies  
21 have implemented such recommendations.

22 (c) FUNDING.—From amounts made available to the  
23 National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Di-  
24 rector shall allocate \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
25 2024 through 2028 to carry out this section.

1 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
3 the Director of the National Institute of Standards  
4 and Technology.

5 (2) MEMBER AGENCY.—The term “member  
6 agency” means a member agency of the National  
7 Interagency Fire Center, including the Bureau of In-  
8 dian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National  
9 Park Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
10 Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, For-  
11 est Service, United States Fire Administration, and  
12 the Department of Defense.

13 (3) WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER.—The term  
14 “wildland firefighter” means any person who partici-  
15 pates in wildland firefighting activities.

16 (4) FIRE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE OFFI-  
17 CIALS.—The term “fire management response offi-  
18 cials” means regional fire directors, deputy regional  
19 fire directors, agency officials who directly oversee  
20 fire operations, fire management officers, and indi-  
21 viduals serving on incident management teams.

22 (5) TECHNOLOGY MANUFACTURERS.—The term  
23 “technology manufacturers” means private sector  
24 entities that manufacture communications tech-

- 1 nologies used by Federal, State, Tribal, or local
- 2 wildland fire authorities.

