

REFERENCE TITLE: wildfire suppression budget reform

State of Arizona
Senate
Forty-eighth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2008

SCR 1031

Introduced by
Senator O'Halleran; Representatives Mason, Tobin

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING VARIOUS REFORM MEASURES REGARDING WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION COSTS IN
THE BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, the United States forest service's wildland fire suppression
2 costs have exceeded one billion dollars in three of the last six years and
3 have exceeded the annual appropriations for several years. Fire suppression
4 costs will require funding levels that will equal more than one-half of the
5 agency budget in 2008; and

6 Whereas, the escalating costs of wildland fire suppression activities
7 have resulted in the agency shifting monies from other programs to cover
8 these costs, thereby reducing the positive impacts these other programs have
9 in Arizona and the rest of the country; and

10 Whereas, wildland fire suppression costs are negatively impacting the
11 abilities of the United States forest service and the department of the
12 interior to provide the United States citizens with their core agency program
13 and duties; and

14 Whereas, the funding of ever increasing wildland fire suppression costs
15 through a static budget will continue to eat up larger percentages of the
16 agency budget, negatively impacting the State of Arizona and its citizens.
17 Therefore

18 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of
19 Representatives concurring:

20 1. That the Members of the Legislature support the need for the
21 Congress and the President of the United States to address the increasing
22 wildland fire suppression costs.

23 2. That the Members of the Legislature support the partitioning of
24 emergency wildfire suppression costs from the agency budget, thereby allowing
25 emergency wildland fire events to be dealt with as true emergencies.

26 3. That the Members of the Legislature support increased investment in
27 the core duties and programs of the United States forest service, such as
28 community assistance, rehabilitation and restoration programs and fire
29 preparedness.

30 4. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy
31 of this Resolution to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
32 of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress
33 from the State of Arizona.