



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE IMMEDIATE MODIFICATION OF INEFFECTIVE FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AND WILDFIRE POLICIES IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF MONTANA'S COMMUNITIES.

WHEREAS, according to the Montana Legislature's Fire Suppression Interim Committee, with limited state and federal resources and current fuel and climatic conditions, it is likely that communities in Montana will burn and that firefighters and members of the public will be seriously injured or killed; and

WHEREAS, the contributing factors of drought, extensive tree mortality due to insect infestation, and ineffective federal land management policies that allow for extensive accumulations of biomass make Montana's forest lands highly susceptible to catastrophic and environmentally destructive wildfires that put Montana communities in imminent danger; and

WHEREAS, without safe and aggressive initial attack on wildfires on all federal lands that have the potential to move to state or private land, the public health, safety, and welfare is threatened, the state's fire suppression costs will substantially increase, and damage to property and natural resources will continue to grow.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

(1) That the United States Congress and the President of the United States immediately modify federal land management and wildfire policies to ensure that:

(a) there is safe and aggressive initial attack on wildfires on all federal lands if there is a potential for the fire to move to state or private land;

(b) state and local governments may actively engage in land and wildfire management operations on federal land in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and

(c) federal forest road closures that may restrict access to areas for wildland fire suppression be minimized.

(2) That the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Montana Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, the Chief of the United States Forest Service, the Regional Forester of the United States Forest Service Region 1, and the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within joint resolution,
HJ 0007, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2009.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2009.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

INTRODUCED BY C. VINCENT

BY REQUEST OF THE FIRE SUPPRESSION COMMITTEE

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