H. R. ___

To allow the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to use a fire retardant, chemical, or water for fire suppression, control, or prevention activities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LA MALFA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ____________________

A BILL

To allow the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to use a fire retardant, chemical, or water for fire suppression, control, or prevention activities.

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 “Forest Protection and
5 Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023”.

March 7, 2023 (1:01 p.m.)
SEC. 2. PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN DISCHARGES OF FIRE RETARDANT.

(a) AUTHORIZED USES.—The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture are each authorized to discharge a fire retardant, chemical, or water for fire suppression, control, or prevention activities.

(b) PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), a permit under section 402 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) shall not be required for the activities authorized by subsection (a) or for similar activities conducted by a covered entity.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “covered entity” means—

(1) the Forest Service;
(2) the National Park Service;
(3) the Bureau of Land Management;
(4) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;
(5) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;
(6) the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
(7) a State or a political subdivision thereof; or
(8) a Tribal government.