

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 803

Recognizing the longstanding partnership between the United States and Australia to share critical firefighting resources during times of crisis.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2020

Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. LaMALFA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. COX of California, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. BERA, Mr. BOST, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SCHRADER, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. COOK, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. KILMER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. STANTON, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. CORREA, Mr. McCLINTOCK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. VELA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CASE, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. COSTA, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. ROUDA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. BASS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. TRONE, Mr. KIND, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Ms. WATERS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. HECK, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. McNERNEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the longstanding partnership between the United

States and Australia to share critical firefighting resources during times of crisis.

Whereas Australia and the United States have long held a unique relationship, marked by diplomatic, security, and economic cooperation;

Whereas Australia and the United States celebrated 100 years of mateship on July 4, 2018, marking the 100-year anniversary of the Battle of Hamel, which helped turn the tide of World War I;

Whereas the United States and Australia have shared firefighting resources, including specialist firefighters, for over 15 years;

Whereas the United States and Australia are experiencing some of the hottest and driest weather conditions on record, exacerbating the threat of wildfires and contributing to longer wildfire seasons in both nations;

Whereas over 100 Australian firefighters traveled to the United States in August 2018, to assist with efforts to contain wildfires that threatened communities in California, Oregon, and Washington;

Whereas over 200 American firefighters have been mobilized to Australia over the past month to help combat and contain devastating bushfires that have burned over 12,500,000 acres of land; and

Whereas multiple United States agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Fish and Wildlife Services, have provided American firefighters to help combat Australia's bushfires: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) recognizes the value of the longstanding
2 partnership between the United States and Australia
3 to share critical firefighting resources during times
4 of crisis;

5 (2) recognizes the efforts and bravery of Aus-
6 tralian firefighters who have not only risked their
7 lives to fight wildfires in their own country but also
8 helped contain several dangerous wildfires in North
9 America;

10 (3) recognizes the efforts and bravery of Amer-
11 ican firefighters who have not only risked their lives
12 to fight wildfires in their own country but have also
13 provided their services to combat the bushfires cur-
14 rently ravaging the Australian continent;

15 (4) expresses full support for the people of Aus-
16 tralia during the ongoing bushfire crisis;

17 (5) supports continued partnership between the
18 Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research
19 Organisation and United States Federal agencies to
20 share research, technology, and best practices re-
21 lated to wildfire mitigation and suppression; and

22 (6) supports continued cooperation and greater
23 collaboration between Australia and the United
24 States to mitigate the underlying factors driving ex-

- 1 tended and more intense wildfire years in both coun-
- 2 tries.

