



SENATOR PADILLA INTRODUCES WILDFIRE INTELLIGENCE COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION ACT OF 2024

Contact Information: Matt Weiner, CEO of Megafire Action, matt@megafire.org

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Today, Sen. Alex Padilla took a major step toward enhancing wildfire management by introducing the Wildfire Intelligence Collaboration and Coordination Act of 2024. This legislation would establish a joint Wildfire Intelligence Center within the departments of Agriculture, Interior, and Commerce, bringing together federal, state, tribal, local, and private sector efforts to tackle the growing wildfire crisis. Megafire Action, a non-profit dedicated to advancing policies to end the megafire crisis, strongly supports this bill as it prioritizes collaboration and data-driven solutions to improve wildfire outcomes and protect communities.

“Senator Padilla’s legislation reflects a bold vision to modernize wildfire management through enhanced collaboration and cutting-edge technology. We are particularly optimistic about the bill’s prospects, given its synergies with the Fireshed Center proposal included in the Fix Our Forests Act, which recently passed the House with strong bipartisan support. Together, these efforts represent a coordinated, innovative approach to addressing the megafire crisis,” said Matt Weiner, CEO of Megafire Action.

The Wildfire Intelligence Collaboration and Coordination Act of 2024 builds upon the recommendations of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission’s 2023 report, which emphasized the importance of integrating advanced technologies and multi-jurisdictional strategies to address the challenges posed by destructive wildfire. This legislation’s Wildfire Intelligence Center will:

- Provide real-time analytical services and predictive tools for all wildfire phases, including pre-fire mitigation, active fire response, and post-fire recovery.
- Assess and monitor wildfire conditions, including ignition, behavior, smoke, erosion, and debris flows, while modeling fire risks and intensity.
- Offer integrated data, mapping, and consultation services, including risk catalogs, evacuation planning, and a framework for testing new tools.
- Consolidate air quality data to inform public health risks and support planning for prescribed fire.
- Develop/deploy interoperable tools and real-time data interfaces to aid decision-making for emergency responders and planners.
- Establish common data standards, big-data architecture, and secure protocols for sharing wildfire information across Federal, State, Tribal, and local entities.
- Enhance training and resources for officials to improve wildfire preparedness and response.

Megafire Action commends Senator Padilla for his leadership in introducing this transformative legislation. By modernizing how the nation approaches wildfire management, the Wildfire Intelligence Collaboration and Coordination Act has the potential to save lives, protect communities, and reduce the devastating impacts of wildfires on our landscapes and ecosystems.

For more information about the Wildfire Intelligence Collaboration and Coordination Act or to schedule an interview with Matt Weiner, please contact eric@megafire.org.