115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide for the establishment of the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ____________________________

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
3
4 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
5 This Act may be cited as the “National Volcano Early
6 Warning and Monitoring System Act”.
7
8 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.
9 In this Act:
(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

(2) SYSTEM.—The term “System” means the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System established under section 3(a)(1).

SEC. 3. NATIONAL VOLCANO EARLY WARNING AND MONITORING SYSTEM.

(a) Establishment.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish within the United States Geological Survey a system, to be known as the “National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System”, to monitor, warn, and protect citizens of the United States from undue and avoidable harm from volcanic activity.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the System are—

(A) to organize, modernize, standardize, and stabilize the monitoring systems of the volcano observatories in the United States, which include the Alaska Volcano Observatory, California Volcano Observatory, Cascades Volcano Observatory, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, and Yellowstone Volcano Observatory; and
(B) to unify the monitoring systems of volcano observatories in the United States into a single interoperative system.

(3) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the System is to monitor all the volcanoes in the United States at a level commensurate with the threat posed by the volcanoes by—

(A) upgrading existing networks on monitored volcanoes;

(B) installing new networks on unmonitored volcanoes; and

(C) employing geodetic and other components when applicable.

(b) SYSTEM COMPONENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The System shall include—

(A) a national volcano watch office that is operational 24 hours a day and 7 days a week;

(B) a national volcano data center; and

(C) an external grants program to support research in volcano monitoring science and technology.

(2) MODERNIZATION ACTIVITIES.—Modernization activities under the System shall include the comprehensive application of emerging technologies, including digital broadband seismometers, real-time
continuous Global Positioning System receivers, satellite and airborne radar interferometry, acoustic pressure sensors, and spectrometry to measure gas emissions.

(c) MANAGEMENT.—

(1) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a 5-year management plan for establishing and operating the System.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The management plan submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) annual cost estimates for modernization activities and operation of the System;

(ii) annual milestones, standards, and performance goals; and

(iii) recommendations for, and progress towards, establishing new, or enhancing existing, partnerships to leverage resources.

(2) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee to assist the
Secretary in implementing the System, to be comprised of representatives of relevant agencies and members of the scientific community, to be appointed by the Secretary.

(3) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with institutions of higher education and State agencies designating the institutions of higher education and State agencies as volcano observatory partners for the System.

(4) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate the activities under this Act with the heads of relevant Federal agencies, including—

(A) the Secretary of Transportation;

(B) the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration;

(C) the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(D) the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Annually, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes the activities carried out under this Act.

SEC. 4. FUNDING.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
out this Act $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018
through 2024.

(b) E FFECT ON OTHER SOURCES OF FEDERAL
FUNDING.—Amounts made available under this section
shall supplement, and not supplant, Federal funds made
available for other United States Geological Survey haz-
ards activities and programs.