

5. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE HEFLEY OF COLORADO, OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES:

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**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1588, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. HEFLEY OF COLORADO**

At the end of title X (page 333, after line 21), insert
the following new section:

1 **SEC. ____ PILOT PROGRAM TO IMPROVE USE OF AIR**
2 **FORCE AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD MODULAR**
3 **AIRBORNE FIRE-FIGHTING SYSTEMS TO**
4 **FIGHT WILDFIRES.**

5 (a) TEMPORARY EXCEPTION TO ECONOMY ACT RE-
6 QUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding section 1535(a)(4) of title
7 31, United States Code, the Secretary of the Interior and
8 the Secretary of Agriculture may procure the services of
9 military aircraft (and personnel of the Armed Forces to
10 operate and maintain such aircraft) of Air Force and Air
11 National Guard Modular Airborne Fire-Fighting Systems
12 units in California, Colorado, North Carolina, and Wyo-
13 ming to fight a wildfire without first comparing the cost
14 and convenience of procuring such services from such
15 source to the cost of procuring the same services from a
16 commercial enterprise.

17 (b) DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The authority
18 provided by subsection (a) expires December 31, 2005.

19 (c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than Feb-
20 ruary 1, 2005, the Secretary of the Interior and the Sec-



1 retary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report
2 describing—

3 (1) the use of the exception provided in sub-
4 section (a) to expedite the procurement of the serv-
5 ices of Air Force and Air National Guard Modular
6 Airborne Fire-Fighting Systems units to fight
7 wildfires; and

8 (2) the ability of these units in responding to
9 wildfires in a timely and effective manner.

