



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative David Cook (R-8)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Ad Hoc Committee Will Seek to Improve Forest & Wildfire Management in Arizona

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – State Representative David Cook (R-8) announced today that he has been appointed by House Speaker Rusty Bowers to chair a newly-created Ad Hoc Committee on Forest and Wildfire Management. Representatives Gail Griffin (R-14), Tim Dunn (R-8), Andres Cano (D-3), and Stephanie Stahl Hamilton (D-10) were also appointed to serve on the new committee.

The Committee is designed to research and make recommendations for potential changes to state and federal laws and regulations related to the management of wildfires in the state of Arizona. Consideration will be given to protocols and accountability for reducing devastation from fire management and post fire hazards, including appropriate services available to rehabilitate from both the state and federal levels of government.

“It is time that we closely examine forest and wildfire management practices and policies to assess potential improvements that will minimize the impact of these fires on Arizonans and our environment,” said Representative Cook. **“We will perform our due diligence to ensure that the citizens of Arizona are getting the help they deserve during, and after, a fire. The state needs the ability to make decisions that are best for Arizona taxpayers and rural communities, and this Committee will help us do that. I am grateful to the Speaker for entrusting me to lead on this extremely important issue.”**

“Wildfires are devastating to our communities and environment,” said Speaker Bowers. **“Given the recent history of wildfire in our state, I believe it’s appropriate for the legislature to examine how we potentially can improve management practices with the goal of better protecting people and property.”**

House ad hoc committees are formed by the Speaker to address a specific purpose and period of time.

The Committee is expected to hold a series of public hearings this year. Information regarding the first hearing will be announced soon.

David Cook is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 8, which includes areas of Pinal and Gila Counties.

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