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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
Washington, DC.

NONDEPARTMENTAL WITNESSES

[CLERK'S NOTE.—The subcommittee was unable to hold hearings on nondepartmental witnesses. The statements and letters of those submitting written testimony are as follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE 1854 TREATY AUTHORITY

1854 TREATY AUTHORITY

The 1854 Treaty Authority (Authority) is a Tribal organization funded by a Public Law 93–638 contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) under its Trust-Natural Resources Management-Rights Protection Implementation (RPI) budget.

—The Authority supports funding of the BIA Rights Protection Implementation Program at the approved fiscal year 2017 level and a proportionate share for the Authority. We believe that the funding (as well as any increase in funding) should be allocated in the same proportions as it has historically been distributed.

—The Authority supports the full finding of contract support for its Public Law 93–638, Self-Determination contract.

—The Authority supports maintaining funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative budget at least at its current level.

The Authority is a Tribal organization responsible for protecting, preserving, and regulating the Treaty-reserved hunting, fishing and gathering rights in the territory ceded to the United States by the Chippewa in the Treaty of September 30, 1854, 10 Stat. 1109. The Bois Forte Band and the Grand Portage Band created the authority following Federal court affirmation of the rights in 1988. As part of a court-approved agreement with the State of Minnesota, the Bands have obligations to preserve the natural resources in the five (5) million acre ceded territory and to regulate the activities of Band members through a conservation code, enforcement officers, and a court. The Authority has been involved with a variety of inter-agency efforts to study the effect of invasive species, climate change, and other activities that impact treaty resources.

Although it has significant responsibilities in a geographic area the size of Massachusetts, the Authority has only fourteen (14) full-time employees. With those limited resources, the Authority has been able to collaborate with State, Tribal and Federal agencies to become a prominent presence in the conservation of resources critical to the subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering activities of the Chippewa. The challenges facing all natural resource management agencies mean that we need to continue cooperative research and restoration at the present level or risk setbacks that have a negative impact on future generations.

The successes of the Authority are overshadowed by the challenges facing the trust resources that are at the heart of the Treaty rights. For reasons unknown, the Minnesota moose population has declined significantly in just a few years and both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species and climate change threaten the Treaty fishing and wild rice production areas across the ceded territory. In addition, human activities continue to deplete or displace wildlife populations.

The Authority urges the Committee and the Congress to acknowledge that the resources we seek to protect are trust resources, reserved in treaties that the United States has a legal obligation to protect and preserve.

[This statement was submitted by Millard J. Myers, Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF ISLANDS ASSOCIATION, INC.

The requests of the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) for the fiscal year 2019 Indian Health Service (IHS) budget are as follows:

—Fund a health facility replacement project in Atka, Alaska.
—Fund leases for healthcare facilities under Section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.
—Continue mandatory funding of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians and fund health education and Community Health Representatives.
—Place IHS funding on an advance appropriations basis.
—Continue to fully fund contract support costs.
—Support ending the cap on telecommunications connectivity subsidies.

The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. (APIA) is a regional non-profit Tribal organization of the Aleut people of Alaska, with members consisting of federally recognized Tribes of the Aleutian Chain and Pribilof Islands Region. APIA is a co-signer to the Alaska Tribal Health Compact with the IHS under Title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), under which APIA provides a comprehensive range of healthcare services to the Alaska Natives in the Tribal communities of our Region. APIA also receives funding through various non-IHS grants and agreements. Our mission in this remote area of the United States is to promote self-sufficiency and independence of the Unangan/Unangas; to assist in meeting the health, safety and well-being needs of each Unangan/Unangas community; to promote, strengthen and ensure the unity of the Unangan; and to strengthen and preserve Unangax cultural heritage.

ATKA CLINIC REPLACEMENT

We are requesting funding for a health facility replacement in Atka, Alaska.

—The Atka health clinic is a Community Health Center operated by APIA. The clinic serves the entire community of Atka regardless of race, Tribal affiliation or ability to pay.
—During World War II, Atka Health Clinic was destroyed along with the entire community by the United States Navy to keep our enemies from using the area.
—The replacement of the Atka Health Clinic was identified by community members as high priority during a community planning session held in 1994 and again during public meetings held during comprehensive planning sessions held in 2014.
—The City of Atka initially started planning for replacement of the clinic in 2003. A concept plan that included site selection was done using a First Alaskans Institute grant and City funds.
—A business plan was approved by the Denali Commission in 2005. The project was ready for the design phase in 2005.
—Design work was finally started in 2012 and then temporarily halted in 2013 at 65 percent design complete.
—The City became partners with the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association on the project in 2014. Through this partnership it was determined that the best approach would be to get design work completed using the funds available.
—In 2015 design work was restarted. Between the concept plan and design phases the needs of the project changed.
—The City of Atka, APIA, and Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association (APICDA) contributed a total of $128,765 to do design work.
—The total cost of the 3,850 sq. ft. replacement Clinic is $2,734,926. More than 30 funding request letters have been sent to potential funders along with a funder's packet detailing the need for the project.
—The current Atka health clinic is inadequate to provide the care the community deserves, it is beyond repair and even a simple window replacement cannot be supported with the existing structure. It is vulnerable to weather and the life safety code.
—We are ready to take this project to the next level to finish the design and begin the construction phase.
—In Unalaska a Joint Venture Construction Project with the IHS was approved, in which Atka is included in the scope.

—We are specifically requesting support for construction funding in the amount of $2,734,926

FUNDING FOR HEALTH FACILITIES LEASES—SECTION 105(L) AGREEMENTS

Section 105(l) of the ISDEAA provides for fully funded leases used by Tribes and Tribal organizations for carrying out services under an ISDEAA agreement. This funding is critical to being able to operate and maintain health clinics, which have typically been severely underfunded, to the point that many clinics without having a Section 105(l) lease in place with the IHS are dangerous or unfit for provision of health services. Many clinics have had to be closed. The Federal court's decision in *Maniilaq Association v. Burwell,* 170 F. Supp. 3d 243 (D.D.C. 2016), has thus identified a key source of funding to remedy these problems. Rather than support this funding, the administration has again this year asked Congress to amend the ISDEAA so that it can avoid providing full compensation for Section 105(l) leases. The proposed bill language seeks to overrule the *Maniilaq* decision, in which the court determined that Section 105(l) of the ISDEAA provides an entitlement to full compensation for leases of Tribal facilities being used to carry out ISDEAA agreements. We ask the subcommittees to again treat this year's proposal the same way—decline to include the administration's proposed language in the fiscal year 2019 IHS appropriations bill.

CONTINUE MANDATORY FUNDING FOR THE SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS (SDPI)

APIA wishes to extend our appreciation to Congress for reauthorizing the SDPI through fiscal years 2018 and 2019 at the mandatory funding level of $150 million each year. Diabetes continues to be a major epidemic in our Region, but we have made great strides through SDPI funding toward increased access to prevention and treatment services.

We understand that despite these and other victories toward combating diabetes, the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2019 would change SDPI funding from mandatory appropriations to discretionary funding. We join with others in Indian Country to ask that the subcommittees reject that proposal and continue to fund the SDPI in multi-year authorizations on a mandatory basis. Switching SDPI funding to a year-to-year discretionary basis could have disastrous outcomes for our ability to hire professionals and staff, and to plan for and carry out our diabetes programs. We see no reason to make that change, and we look forward to continued improved outcomes in our communities. We also request that the SDPI be made permanent at an increased funding level of $200 million per year, or higher.

We also ask that the subcommittees continue to fund other programs under the Department of Health and Human Services that have a direct impact on the quality of health in our and other Tribal communities across the country, including health education, Community Health Representatives, Community Services Block Grants, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

IHS ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS

As in our previous years' testimony, we continue to ask for your support for placing the IHS budget on an advance appropriation basis, as Congress has done for the Veterans Administration (VA) health accounts. This continues to be important to the predictable and timely funding of healthcare for our Alaska Native and American Indian patients, particularly in this budget climate of continuing resolutions. Under advance appropriations, we would know a year in advance what the budget would be. Without having our full year's funding secured, and receiving it in bits and pieces over the fiscal year, it is making it incredibly difficult for us to effectively use our resources, maintain healthcare professionals and plan for the future.

FULL FUNDING OF CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS (CSC)

APIA is very thankful to the subcommittee for its support for full funding of CSC over the past several fiscal years. We appreciate that the current and past administrations have supported that CSC be maintained as a separate appropriations account in IHS and that funding be indefinite ("such sums are may be necessary"). However, the IHS has in the past two appropriations cycles requested limiting language from the fiscal year 2016 Appropriations Act that would deny the CSC carryover authority granted by the ISDEAA and would deny CSC for IHS's grant programs, including the Domestic Violence Prevention grants and the Substance Abuse

and Suicide Prevention grants. We believe this is contrary to the ISDEAA and ask that Congress again reject the IHS's proposals in fiscal year 2019.

SUPPORT USAC SUBSIDIES FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONNECTIVITY

APIA is very concerned about a development relating to the subsidies being provided to APIA and other Tribal health providers in rural Alaska for telecommunications connectivity, including Internet service, through the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). The USAC has recently imposed a pro-rata reduction in Rural Health Care funding due to a funding cap. This reduction is hitting Alaska very hard—it has resulted in what we understand is a $50 million cut to subsidies nationwide, of which $18.1 million is an unplanned shortfall for connectivity specifically in Alaska for Tribal health programs. This cut is impacting us right now, and is expected to double next year. We, like other Alaska Tribal health programs, fear that the shortage could be more than $35 million next year, all of which has to be made up out of our healthcare funding and other limited resources. We need Internet connectivity in order to provide health services, including telecommunications services and care coordination. We should not have to cannibalize our healthcare funding for this critical service, but that is in fact what we are now having to do. We thus request the subcommittees' support while we advocate with the Federal Communications Commission for ending these caps and restoring the USAC subsidies.

We appreciate your consideration of our requests outlined in this testimony. On behalf of APIA and all of the people we serve, I would be happy to provide any other additional information as desired by the subcommittees.

[This statement was submitted by Dimitri Philemonof, President and CEO.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in support of fiscal year 2019 appropriations for ENERGY STAR® and other voluntary programs administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Alliance to Save Energy is a non-profit, bipartisan coalition of business, government, environmental, and consumer-interest leaders that advocates for enhanced U.S. energy productivity to achieve economic growth; a cleaner environment; and greater energy security, affordability, and reliability. The Alliance enjoys the participation of nearly 130 businesses and organizations that collectively represent more than $870 billion in market capital. The Alliance was founded in 1977 by Sens. Charles Percy (R-Illinois) and Hubert Humphrey (D-Minnesota), and today has 15 Members of Congress serving on an Honorary Board of Advisors, including Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tennessee).

Energy efficiency is our country's greatest energy resource—creating jobs, stimulating economic activity, enhancing energy security, lowering harmful emissions, and improving U.S. competitiveness in global markets. Energy efficiency gains made since 1973 have cut energy waste dramatically to fuel the U.S. economy more productively. Thanks in part to Federal energy efficiency programs, including ENERGY STAR and other voluntary programs managed by EPA, the U.S. today extracts twice as much gross domestic product (GDP) from each unit of energy we consume when compared to 1980.[1]

As energy efficiency has increased, so have stable, good-paying jobs. More than 2.2 million American workers design, manufacture, install, and repair the devices, appliances, equipment and buildings that deliver cost-effective savings, representing one-third of the entire energy-related workforce. Most of these are construction and manufacturing jobs. In fact, members of the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies represent about 677,000 Americans employed in whole or in part in the energy efficiency sector (see Table 1).[2]

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[1] In 1980, the U.S. consumed 78 quads (quadrillion British thermal units (BTUs)) while GDP was $6.4 trillion, which produces an energy productivity ratio of 82.6. This compares to energy productivity of 176.4 in 2017 (i.e., 96.8 quads and GDP of $17 trillion). Energy consumption data is from the Energy Information Administration. GDP (real dollars, 2009) is provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

[2] Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) and E4TheFuture, "Energy Efficiency Jobs in America," December 2016, https://www.e2.org/energyefficiencyjobs/. Last accessed March 27, 2018.

TABLE 1. ENERGY EFFICIENCY SECTOR JOBS IN STATES REPRESENTED BY SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Member	State	Jobs	Member	State	Jobs
Senator Lisa Murkowski, *Chairwoman*	Alaska	8,194	Senator Tom Udall, *Ranking Member*	New Mexico	13,554
Senator Lamar Alexander	Tennessee	27,529	Senator Dianne Feinstein	California	321,177
Senator Roy Blunt	Missouri	38,146	Senator Patrick J. Leahy	Vermont	8,585
Senator Mitch McConnell	Kentucky	27,278	Senator Jack Reed	Rhode Island	8,112
Senator Steve Daines	Montana	6,101	Senator Jon Tester	Montana	6,101
Senator Shelley Moore Capito	West Virginia	20,506	Senator Jeff Merkley	Oregon	26,755
Senator Marco Rubio	Florida	106,491	Senator Chris Van Hollen	Maryland	46,724
Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith	Mississippi	8,455			
Total Energy Efficiency Sector Jobs: 676,708					

The contributions of Federal energy efficiency programs to the long history of economic, environmental and security benefits to our country are difficult to overstate. And, notwithstanding the tremendous gains already made, the opportunities to continue to drive cost-effective energy efficiency improvements are even greater. Therefore, the Alliance respectfully urges your support for fiscal year 2019 appropriations at or above current levels for ENERGY STAR and the following voluntary programs:

ENERGY STAR

—The Alliance recommends at least $46 million for ENERGY STAR in fiscal year 2019.

—The Alliance opposes the implementation of a fee-based funding model for ENERGY STAR, which is unnecessary, and which would erode the program's integrity.

—ENERGY STAR enjoys brand awareness of more than 90 percent, which makes it the most widely recognized symbol for energy efficiency, and is extremely cost-effective. For every extra dollar Americans invested in energy efficiency under ENERGY STAR, they reduced their energy bills by an average of $4.50. Since 1992, managed jointly by EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy, ENERGY STAR has helped families and businesses save $430 billion on utility bills, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2.7 billion metric tons.

—ENERGY STAR serves broad constituencies across every State in the country, working with over 16,000 partners. ENERGY STAR includes over 1,800 manufacturing partners of over 70 different product categories, who sold more than 300 million qualified products in the U.S. in 2015. About 45 percent of the commercial building floor space in the U.S. has been benchmarked for tracking and analyzing energy consumption using ENERGY STAR's Portfolio Manager. ENERGY STAR also counts more than 3,100 home builder partners who constructed almost 1.8 million certified new homes since 1995. In 2015, families living in ENERGY STAR certified homes saved over $625 million on utility bills, while 89,000 households hired 1,600 contractors to implement improvements and whole-house retrofit projects with Home Performance with ENERGY STAR. States and 700 utilities across the country—including 45 local sponsors of Home Performance programs—use ENERGY STAR in their own energy efficiency programs and rely on it to reliably and affordably meet their energy needs.

OTHER VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

—The Alliance recommends at least level funding for Environmental Programs and Management—Clean Air and—Water Quality Protection in fiscal year 2019 accompanied by clear direction to EPA to continue administering its portfolio of voluntary and partnership programs that encourage energy efficiency practices in industry and deliver savings across the energy sector.

—The Combined Heat and Power Partnership aims to reduce pollution from electricity and thermal power generation by working with industry and other stakeholders to develop new projects.

—The SmartWay Transport Partnership with the freight transportation industry supports efforts to improve the fuel efficiency of vehicles. This program has worked with more than 3,500 shippers and logistics companies to save almost $28 billion in fuel.

—Natural Gas STAR is a partnership with industry that supports the identification and implementation of technologies that reduce methane pollution and provides public recognition of high achievements.

—AgStar promotes the use of biogas recovery systems to reduce methane emissions from livestock waste.
—WaterSense offers homeowners, consumers, and businesses information about water-efficient products marked by a recognizable and trusted label.
—Other programs, such as the State and Local Energy and Environment Program and the State and Local Energy Efficiency Action Network, are important collaborations between the public and private sectors that provide specific and tailored technical assistance and platforms for sharing information and best-practices.

NATIONAL VEHICLE AND FUEL EMISSIONS LABORATORY

—The Alliance recommend at least $117 million in Science and Technology—Clean Air, including at least level funding in vehicle and fuel standards and in greenhouse gas reporting.
—This laboratory is a global leader that oversees vehicle fuel economy and emissions testing, which are closely related. The laboratory manages programs that also address fuel economy labels, the Green Vehicle Guide, fuel standards, and nonroad engines.

The Alliance also urges the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies to oppose the inclusion of any bill amendments or report language that could undermine or prevent EPA from continuing to successfully manage ENERGY STAR and other voluntary programs. Furthermore, in light of the recent Government Accountability Office impoundment finding concerning the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy program, the Alliance recommends clear and direct instructions to EPA in report language to obligate and expend appropriated funds consistent with Congressional intent and in a timely manner.[3] With respect to ENERGY STAR, the Alliance encourages the subcommittee to reject the administration's proposal to implement a fee-based mechanism to fund the program. Similar proposals have been suggested by previous administrations and repeatedly denied by Congress.

Unpredictable energy costs and growing consumer and business demand make today's investments in energy efficiency ever more vital to America's economic health and energy security. It is important to emphasize that ENERGY STAR and these other EPA programs are voluntary initiatives that work with private-sector partners and support their efforts to increase business opportunities while reducing energy waste. The wide-ranging benefits of ENERGY STAR and these other voluntary programs, realized across the entire U.S. economy and accrued to even those who do not choose to participate, are worthy of your support in fiscal year 2019.

Thank you for your consideration.

[This statement was submitted by Daniel Bresette, Vice President for Policy and Research.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF MUSEUMS

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee, thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony. My name is Laura Lott and I serve as President and CEO of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). We urge your support for at least $155 million each in fiscal year 2019 for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), as well as sufficient funding for the Smithsonian Institution. We also request your support for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), including at least $55 million for State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), $15 million for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) and $25 million to preserve the sites and stories of the Civil Rights Movement. We request restored funding of $30 million and $4.6 million respectively for the Save America's Treasures (SAT) and Preserve America programs.

Before detailing these funding priorities for the museum field, I want to express my deepest appreciation for the increases enacted in fiscal year 2018. The additional funds for the NEH, NEA, Smithsonian Institution and historic preservation activities will enhance museums' work to enrich their communities and preserve our many heritages. The subcommittee's choice to make these investments in fiscal year

[3] Government Accountability Office, "Impoundment of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy Appropriation Resulting from Legislative Proposals in the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2018," B–329092, December 12, 2007, https://www.gao.gov/products/D18212. Last accessed March 27, 2018.

2018 speaks volumes about its commitment to our Nation's cultural institutions. AAM remains deeply troubled by continuous proposals from the Trump administration to slash many of these priorities, and we look forward to working with you—our bipartisan allies—to reject them.

Representing more than 35,000 individual museum professionals and volunteers, institutions—including aquariums, art museums, botanic gardens, children's museums, cultural museums, historic sites, history museums, maritime museums, military museums, natural history museums, planetariums, presidential libraries, science and technology centers, and zoos—and corporate partners serving the museum field, the Alliance stands for the broad scope of the museum community.

Museums are essential in their communities for many reasons:

—*Museums are economic engines and job creators.*—According to Museums as Economic Engines: A National Report, U.S. museums support more than 726,000 jobs and contribute $50 billion to the U.S. economy per year. The economic activity of museums generates more than $12 billion in tax revenue, one-third of it going to State and local governments. For example, the total financial impact that museums have on the economy in the State of Alaska is $280 million, including supporting 3,240 jobs. For New Mexico it is a $298 million impact supporting 4,934 jobs. This impact is not limited to cities: more than 25 percent of museums are in rural areas.

—*Museums are key education providers.*—Museums spend more than $2 billion yearly on education activities; the typical museum devotes 75 percent of its education budget to K–12 students, and museums receive approximately 55 million visits each year from students in school groups. Children who visited a museum during kindergarten had higher achievement scores in reading, math and science in third grade than children who did not, including children most at risk for delays in achievement. Also, students who attended a half-day field trip to an art museum experienced an increase in critical thinking skills, historical empathy and tolerance. For students from rural or high-poverty regions, the increase was even more significant. Museums help teach the State and local curriculum in subjects ranging from art and science to history, civics, and government. Museums have long served as a vital resource to homeschool learners. For the approximately 1.8 million students who are homeschooled—a population that has increased by 60 percent in the past decade—museums are quite literally the classroom. It is not surprising that in a 2017 public opinion survey, 97 percent of respondents agreed that museums were educational assets in their communities. The results were statistically identical regardless of political persuasion or community size.

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent Federal agency created by Congress in 1965. Grants are awarded to nonprofit educational institutions—including museums, colleges, universities, archives, and libraries—for educational programming and the care of collections. NEH supports museums as institutions of learning and exploration, and as keepers of our cultural, historical, and scientific heritages that can foster critical dialogues on challenging issues of our time.

In fiscal year 2017, as a whole, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded 743 grants to institutions across the U.S., including museums. These grants total $70,644,137.88. NEH also continued its support for the activities of 56 State humanities councils in each State and U.S. territory. Many of NEH's divisions and offices support museums, including:

—NEH's Division of Public Programs offers grants that bring the ideas and insights of the humanities to life in museums and other spaces by supporting exhibitions, community conversations, and place-based history. Additionally, Positions in the Public Humanities supplements provide professional development opportunities for new museum professionals.

—NEH's Division of Preservation and Access provides funding to museums for a variety of efforts—such as audiovisual preservation, digital preservation and preventive conservation—to preserve and provide access to our nation's rich cultural heritage.

—NEH's Division of Education Programs support efforts to bring educators into museums for intensive summer training programs on humanities topics.

—NEH's Office of Digital Humanities offers grants to support innovations in technology at museums, universities, and other institutions.

—Beginning again in 2018, Challenge Grants will offer matching grants to support critical capacity building and infrastructure projects at museums.

In calendar year 2017, 232 NEH-funded permanent and traveling exhibitions were open around the Nation, providing life-long learning opportunities to a wide

public audience. Humanities councils in every state and U.S. territory sponsor family literacy programs, speakers' bureaus, cultural heritage tourism, exhibitions, and live performances. In 2017, 55 State councils supported 2,222 exhibitions, 185 preservation projects, and 1,585 local history programs, attracting a total audience of close to 7 million people.

NEH funding has supported museums' work in your communities, including:

—$360,000 for reinstallation of the Gallery of Alaska in the University of Alaska's Museum of the North. The funding will allow the museum to hire an anthropologist, who will visit Native communities to solicit their input into the gallery project, as well as consult with a team of humanities scholars. This funding helped leverage a lead gift of $1 million by longtime museum supporters and $500,000 from smaller individual donations.

—$150,000 for the Museum of New Mexico's initiative of cultural and educational activities designed to increase knowledge and understanding around the nineteenth-century forced relocation of Navajo and Mescalero Apache peoples from their homelands to Fort Sumner, New Mexico.

The National Endowment for the Arts makes art accessible to all and provides leadership in arts education. Established in 1965, NEA supports great art in every congressional district. Its grants to museums help them exhibit, preserve, and interpret visual material through exhibitions, residencies, publications, commissions, public art works, conservation, documentation, services to the field, and public programs.

Since 2010, the National Endowment for the Arts has collaborated with Blue Star Families and the U.S. Department of Defense on Blue Star Museums, a program which provides free museum admission to active duty military and their families all summer long. Each year, more than 2,000 museums participate, reaching on average more than 856,000 military members and their families.

In 2017, the NEA provided more than 167 awards directly to museums, totaling more than $5.1 million. Communities' demands on museums continue to climb, increasing pressure to serve more people with limited financial and human resources. Receiving a grant from the NEA confers prestige on supported projects, strengthening museums' ability to attract matching funds from other public and private funders. On average, each dollar awarded by the NEA leverages nine dollars from other sources, resulting in $500 million in matching support in 2016. The Federal role of the National Endowment for the Arts is uniquely valuable. No other funder—public or private—funds the arts in every State and the U.S. territories. Forty percent of NEA's grant funds are distributed to State arts agencies for re-granting.

NEA funding has supported museums' work in your communities, including:

—The Anchorage Museum received a $60,000 Creativity Connects grant to support a series of programs exploring the ecology of the Artic, in partnership with the University of Alaska Anchorage. The organizations will work with artists and scientists on exhibitions, events, and online presentations to engage the public, conveying the complexity of the northern landscape through curated experiences.

—The International Folk Art Foundation in Santa Fe, New Mexico received a $60,000 Art Works grant this year to support an exhibit featuring folk art from the United States and international artists. The artists' work may reflect responses to societal crises, such as war, political instability, dislocation, and ecological challenges. The exhibit will be accompanied by artist residencies, lecture, and demonstrations.

In addition to these direct grants, NEA's Arts and Artifacts Indemnity program also allows museums to apply for Federal indemnity on major exhibitions, saving them roughly $30 million in insurance costs every year and making many more exhibitions available to the public—all at virtually no cost to the American taxpayer.

The Smithsonian Institution comprises some of the most visited museums in the world. The National Museum of African American History and Culture has captivated audiences from around the world, underscoring the power of our national museums to educate and inspire. We applaud the fiscal year 2018 funding increase and support further funding increases that would allow these world-class museums to undertake critical collections care, make needed technology upgrades, conduct cutting edge research of every type, and increase access for all.

The Historic Preservation Fund is the funding source of preservation awards to States, Tribes, local governments, and nonprofits. State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices carry out the historic preservation work of the Federal Government on State and Tribal lands. These duties include making nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, reviewing impacts of Federal projects, providing assist-

ance to developers seeking a rehabilitation tax credit, working with local preservation commissions, and conducting preservation education and planning. This Federal-State-local foundation of America's historic preservation program was established by the National Historic Preservation Act. Historic preservation programs are not only essential to protecting our many heritages; they also serve as economic development engines and job creators. We urge you to provide $55 million for SHPOs and $15 million for THPOs through the Historic Preservation Fund.

We applaud the fiscal year 2018 restoration of funding for the Save America's Treasures program, and urge you to fully restore it to $30 million in fiscal year 2019. From 1999 to 2010, total Federal funding of $315 million for 1,287 Save America's Treasures projects leveraged an additional $400 million in non-Federal funds, and created more than 16,000 jobs nationwide. These projects protected some of America's most iconic and endangered artifacts, including Ansel Adams' prints and negatives, Frank Lloyd Wright structures including Fallingwater, and the American flag that inspired the Star Spangled Banner. We request $4.6 million for the Preserve America program, which has not been funded in recent years.

We also applaud the fiscal year 2018 investment in competitive grants to preserve the sites and stories of the Civil Rights Movement. The initial round of grants for this initiative is currently helping museums and historic sites around the country conserve endangered structures, document stories, and share resources with the public. We support fiscal year 2019 funding of $25 million for these Civil Rights Movement grants.

I want to acknowledge the difficult choices that the subcommittee faces. I hope that my testimony has made it clear why these priorities are of critical importance to the nation and will provide a worthwhile return on investment to the American taxpayer. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy and our supporters, please support effective bird conservation programs, and oppose harmful policy riders and proposed funding cuts in the fiscal year 2019 Interior Appropriations bill that would erode the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and undermine the recovery of listed U.S. birds. We are particularly concerned about the declining conservation status of one-third of all U.S. migratory bird species, and the ESA listing exemption, proposed budget cuts, and renewed threats to the Greater Sage-Grouse. We greatly appreciate that proposed funding cuts for the conservation of critically endangered birds in Hawaii were not agreed to in the fiscal year 2018 agreement, and that State of the Birds Activities was increased to $3 million.

—Please Increase the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to $6.5 million.

—Please Increase Migratory Bird Joint Ventures to $19.9 million.

—Please Continue State of the Birds Activities for Critically Endangered Hawaiian Birds.

—Please Oppose Cuts to Endangered Species and Sage Grouse Conservation.

—Please Oppose Harmful Environmental Policy Changes.

PLEASE INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT

Since 2002, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) has functioned as a matching grant program to fund projects that conserve neotropical migratory birds—those that breed in or migrate through the United States and Canada and spend the non-breeding season in Latin America and the Caribbean. NMBCA has helped conserve 400 species, representing more than 4 billion birds, including some of the most endangered birds in North America. All NMBCA grant requests must be matched with non-Federal funds at least 3 to 1, and to date, the match has been 4 to 1. Please support increasing NMBCA to $6.5 million.

PLEASE INCREASE FUNDING FOR MIGRATORY BIRD JOINT VENTURES

Migratory Bird Joint Ventures are regional partnerships managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that identify conservation priorities and carry out projects to reverse population declines of at-risk bird species. The Joint Ventures (JVs) are essential to address the conservation needs of migratory birds, and they leverage significant matching contributions from partner organizations and foundations. Since the program's inception in 1986, Joint Ventures have conserved over 22 million acres of critical habitat for wildlife and people and leveraged 34 dollars of support for every Federal dollar spent. We urge that the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures be fully funded at $19.9 million.

PLEASE INCREASE ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY FUNDING

The administration's fiscal year 2019 budget request would significantly set back the protection and recovery of endangered species. The budget proposes to cut the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Ecological Services program by $26.6 million. Among the conservation cuts include −$2.975 million for Gulf Coast Restoration, −$1.48 million for the Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem, and −$2.88 million for Candidate Conservation. While some funds have been added to Recovery, new rules to downgrade or delist are not a high conservation priority given the restoration and recovery needs of other listed species.

The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund is proposed for elimination, and State and Tribal Wildlife Grants are severely cut. A $53 million dollar reduction to Cooperative Endangered Species and a $30 million cut to State Wildlife Grants would greatly reduce the proactive conservation and restoration work being undertaken by States and private landowners.

Seventy-eight percent of mainland birds listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA have populations that are now stable, increasing, or have recovered enough to be delisted, according to a 2016 report published by ABC. The Endangered Species Act: A Record of Success analyzed population trends and recovery success for all U.S. listed birds, including those in the Hawaiian Islands and U.S. territories. Added ESA funding can help continue the upward trend of 41 listed U.S. bird populations and make possible their eventual recovery.

Please reverse these proposed cuts to ESA Recovery and other programs that support habitat restoration and the recovery of endangered species. Given the large number of listed birds with recovery population numbers, it makes sense to continue that trend by bolstering ESA Recovery.

PLEASE CONTINUE STATE OF THE BIRDS ACTIVITIES FOR CRITICALLY ENDANGERED HAWAIIAN BIRDS

We are particularly concerned about the proposed −$2.483 million cut to State of the Birds Activities which have been dedicated to arresting the bird extinction crisis in Hawaii. Please support continuing these funds which were increased to $3 million in the fiscal year 2018 agreement.

More than 90 Hawaiian bird species have become extinct, and nine listed Hawaiian bird species are currently in decline. This prompted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide $2.5 million in annual State of the Birds Activities funding since 2009, but that funding is now at risk. $5 million per year is needed to fully fund ESA recovery funding for Hawaiian birds.

GREATER SAGE-GROUSE CONSERVATION AT RISK

Greater Sage-Grouse conservation was also supported in the fiscal year 2018 budget agreement and proposed cuts to the Bureau of Land Management's conservation efforts were not approved. However, a rider since 2014 prevents the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from taking any steps to list the sage-grouse under the ESA. In September 2015, listing the Greater Sage-Grouse was found to be not warranted for listing due to Federal management plans that have reduced threats to sage-grouse. Those plans are now at risk of being weakened under a new process initiated by the Department of the Interior, yet this ESA rider would prevent a listing for sage grouse, even if this species slips even closer to extinction. Please restore the ESA safety net for Greater Sage-Grouse.

PLEASE OPPOSE HARMFUL POLICY CHANGES

Please oppose species-specific exemptions or the inclusion of any amendments or following bills that would weaken the Endangered Species Act. H.R. 717 would undermine the ESA listing process by factoring in economic considerations now only

considered during the designation of critical habitat. It would also remove deadlines necessary to ensure petitions are ruled on in a timely fashion. H.R. 1274 would direct the Federal Government to utilize State and local data in its listing decisions, regardless of whether the data is based in science, and H.R. 3131 would undercut citizen enforcement of the ESA by impeding citizens' ability to obtain counsel and challenge government actions.

We are also concerned about forestry riders that would limit or eliminate opportunities for public involvement and scientific analysis in Federal forest management decisions. Use of categorical exclusions for large-scale logging projects is inappropriate due to impacts to wildlife habitat, water quality, recreational access, and carbon storage.

We urge you to support conserving birds by increasing funding for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, and ESA Recovery, and opposing all harmful anti-wildlife measures and cuts to ESA recovery efforts on spending legislation for fiscal year 2019. Thank you for considering these requests. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

STEVE HOLMER
Vice President of Policy
American Bird Conservancy
sholmer@abcbirds.org

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION

The American Forest Foundation (AFF), a non-profit conservation organization, works with the over 21 million family forest owners who own more than 282 million acres nationally, to help them sustainably manage their land and provide countless public benefits to rural communities across America. In fiscal year 2019, AFF urges the subcommittee to support funding levels for the Forest Service's State and Private Forestry programs at levels sufficient to support robust action. Understanding that these partnership programs are essential to helping family woodland owners, whose lands cover one-third of America's forests, conserve and manage their lands to provide the numerous public benefits forests produce. Maintenance of these programs will help family forest owners adequately prepare for increasing threats and save landowners, communities, and industries from expensive restoration in the future.

Because America's forests are both public and privately owned in a patchwork across the rural landscape, strategies to grow jobs, strengthen rural economies, and protect forests from threats like wildfire must take a "shared stewardship" approach where both public and private landowners are working to manage our national forest resources. Family forest owners want to manage their land well, contribute to this shared stewardship and continue to provide these benefits and address important threats, but they need partners who are also willing to act to ensure the landscape remains well cared for.

While there are many programs in the Forest Service that co-invest in stewardship with family forest owners, because of their effects on forest conservation, we especially call on the Subcommittee to support:

—$83 million for the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program
—$27 million for the Forest Products Laboratory
—$29 million for the Forest Stewardship Program
—$23 million for the Landscape Scale Restoration Program
—$5 million for the Community Wood Energy Program

FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM (FIA)

Known as "America's Forest Census", the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program (FIA) provides State forestry and resource professionals with detailed information on the conditions of their State's forest land across all ownerships. Conducted since the 1930s, FIA is crucially important in understanding and planning for the unique needs and challenges of forests nationwide. Adequate funding in this program is critical to addressing future resource and forest health management challenges. We

urge your support of $83 million in fiscal year 2019 appropriations to fund this vital resource for forest managers.

FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY

One of the largest challenges to private forestland management is a lack of markets for wood products, especially markets for low-value timber. The Forest Products Laboratory, through research partnerships in nearly all States, conducts groundbreaking research into innovative uses for wood and wood products. This research into innovative wood and fiber utilization directly supports the conservation of forestlands by spurring private-sector markets for wood and driving down the cost of management on all lands—private, State, Federal, and Tribal. In past years, funding for the Forest Products Laboratory has been repeatedly decreased, and we urge the subcommittee to support a restoration of full funding at the $27 million level in fiscal year 2019.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (FSP)

A cooperative project with State forestry agencies, the Forest Stewardship Program assists private landowners with the management of non-Federal forests to increase buffer zones and overall resilience of Federal forests in combating cross-boundary challenges like insects, disease, and wildfire. Not only does this program save the taxpayer millions of dollars by mitigating these impacts on Federal lands, but the program is a crucial component of an overall strategy of keeping forests as forests by encouraging private forest landowners to develop comprehensive management plans and assisting them along the way. We request the subcommittee support an appropriation of $29 million to support the Forest Stewardship Program in fiscal year 2019.

LANDSCAPE SCALE RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Landscape Scale Restoration program (LSR) is a shining example of a shared stewardship approach to management that works across ownership boundaries to ensure targeted action on forest challenges. Underpinned by State Forest Action Plans, and built on the collaboration of State and local agencies, LSR targets limited State and Federal resources on the same landscapes, ensuring the maximum effectiveness on landscape-scale challenges. The LSR program has already demonstrated powerful State-wide, regional, and national effectiveness, and we strongly encourage the subcommittee to support a fiscal year 2019 funding level of $23 million.

COMMUNITY WOOD ENERGY PROGRAM (CWEP)

The Community Wood Energy Program addresses critical needs for forest landowners and State and local governments. Designed to provide matching grants to State and local governments to acquire community wood energy systems for public buildings, the program encourages the use of carbon-neutral forest biomass in heating and energy production in areas without affordable access to fuels. It also encourages the development of markets for otherwise low-value timber cleared from responsibly managed lands. Created in the 2008 Farm Bill, the Community Wood Energy Program was authorized at $5 million per year, an amount we encourage the committee to support in fiscal year 2019.

Thank you for considering these requests. We recognize that the subcommittee must find areas to reduce spending, but we hope that the subcommittee will consider the impact these reductions have on millions of family forest owners, along with all other Americans who benefit from well-managed, working forests. The American Forest Foundation would also like to thank the subcommittee for the opportunity to provide insight into the value of these programs and appreciate consideration of our testimony. If you have any questions, please contact Tristan Daedalus at tdaedalus@forestfoundation.org or Rita Hite at rhite@forestfoundation.org.

[This statement was submitted by Tom Martin, President and CEO.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF AMERICAN FORESTS

DEAR CHAIRMAN MURKOWSKI, RANKING MEMBER UDALL, AND HONORABLE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

American Forests appreciates the opportunity to submit public testimony regarding our fiscal year 2019 appropriation recommendations. We sincerely thank the subommittee for the fiscal year 2018 appropriation levels and for the comprehensive wildfire suppression funding fix. These combined actions have put our Nation's for-

ests in a strong position for restoration, resiliency and recovery. American Forests' funding recommendations are modestly above the fiscal year 2018 enacted levels.

Founded in 1875, American Forests is the oldest national nonprofit conservation organization in the United States. Its mission is to inspire and advance the conservation of forests, which are essential for life. We do this by protecting and restoring threatened forest ecosystems, promoting and expanding urban forests, and increased the understanding of the importance of forests. American Forests has planted more than 50 million trees in thousands of forest restoration projects and works in cities across the country helping to increase urban forest canopy, demonstrating innovative greenspace creation.

The Nation's forests yield a significant return on investment, whether those forests are public or private, in urban areas or in wildlands. The economic, social, and environmental benefits healthy forests provide are clear incentives for continued Federal investment. Forests and forest products currently sequester and store 13 percent of annual U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. The trend, for now, is up—U.S. EPA reports that land-based sequestration has increased 13.5 percent in the past decade. It is important to maintain this important resource by addressing rising threats to forest health and slowing forest conversion to non-forest uses. We can take steps to protect and increase this carbon benefit, and accelerate the ability of U.S. forests to provide a sustained level of climate mitigation service to the Nation. Many of these same investments are leveraged to strengthen the resiliency of the Nation's forests and thus protect additional public services beyond carbon such as watersheds, wildlife habitat, recreational resources and economic prosperity for rural and urban communities.

Respectfully, we ask you to reject the drastic cuts proposed in the President's fiscal year 2019 budget. We are deeply concerned by the zeroing out of important and effective programs like Urban and Community Forestry, Landscape Scale Restoration, Community Forests and Open Space Conservation, and Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration. Defunding or severely cutting these programs will have profound and lasting repercussions on people and communities across the country—particularly those in rural areas where these funds are essential.

USDA FOREST SERVICE (USFS)

State and Private Forestry

Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF): U&CF plays an integral part in promoting sound stewardship of our Nation's urban and community forests and trees. By providing important technical and financial support, U&CF helps cities and towns across the Nation enhance tree and forest cover, prepare for storms and other disturbance events, contain threats from native and invasive pests, and maximize the economic, social, and ecological benefits of their tree resources. U&CF is a smart investment as Federal support is often leveraged 2:1 (or in many cases significantly more) by States and partner organizations. As a model Federal program, U&CF consistently increases communities served, brings together diverse partners and resources, and shows that Federal investment can have lasting impacts on communities of all sizes. *American Forests recommends U&CF be funded at $31.3 million.*

Landscape-Scale Restoration: The Landscape Scale Restoration program strategically prioritizes resources by competitively allocating the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act funds. It focuses on targeting Federal investments —leveraged by State funding resources— to areas of greatest need, highest value, or strongest innovation potential as stipulated in each State Forest Action Plan. *American Forests recommends funding the Landscape Scale Restoration program at $23 million.*

Community Forests and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP): CFP has made substantial progress in preserving forests by increasing opportunities for Americans to connect with forests in their own communities and fostering new public-private partnerships. It provides financial assistance grants to local governments, Tribes, and qualified nonprofit organizations to acquire and establish working community forests that provide public benefits. Projects are selected through a competitive process that evaluates community benefits, contribution to landscape conservation initiatives, and likelihood of land conversion. *American Forests recommends an increase in funds to $5 million in fiscal year 2019.*

Forest Health Management: The Forest Health Management programs provide essential expertise and assistance to State and municipal agencies and private landowners in countering non-native pests. Municipal governments across the country are spending more than $3 billion each year to remove trees on city property killed by these non-native pests. Homeowners are spending an additional $1 billion to remove and replace trees on their properties and are absorbing an additional $1.5 bil-

lion in reduced property values. *American Forests asks that the Subcommittee appropriate $59 million for Federal lands and $48 million for cooperative lands.*

Forest Legacy Program: Since authorization in 1990, the Forest Legacy Program has protected 2.8 million acres of private forests through voluntary conservation easements. It is imperative to continue protecting our Nation's forests for future generations. Although still in private ownership, these lands provide a myriad of ecosystem services to Americans today. *American Forests supports $70 million allocated through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.*

National Forest System

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP): CFLRP was created to promote job stability, a reliable wood supply, and forest health while reducing emergency wildfire costs and risks. Given the program's well-documented success improving forest health and safety, a permanent extension of CFLRP is essential. Continued and increased funding levels would allow for additional projects to be selected across the country while capitalizing on the growing energy and successes of collaborative management and shared stewardship. By extending CFLRP to new forests and communities, we can affect meaningful economic and environmental change that addresses the critical needs of our Federal forests and sustains the values and resources we all depend upon. *We urge Congress to act today to permanently extend the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. CFLRP was funded at $40 million in fiscal year 2018; to expand the demonstrated success and buying power of this program we recommend an increase to at least $60 million per year.*

Vegetation Management & Watershed Management: Reforestation of our national forests, especially after destructive wildfires, should be a priority not just for the U.S. Forest Service, but for the country. Nearly 9 million acres of national forests have burned since 2010. Estimated costs for reforesting just 1 million acres is $371.4 million. Putting trees back in the ground needs to be on par with the level of funding for forest products, as you cannot have one without the other. *American Forests recommends $366 million for vegetation management, equal to the fiscal year 2018 enacted level for forest products.*

Forest and Rangeland Research

The USFS's Forest and Rangeland Research program is essential in providing support for urban and wildland forestry research activities. These focus on understanding conditions and trends in our Nation's urban and community forests and in providing tools and best management practices. Agency researchers help policymakers and practitioners to understand the environmental, economic, and social services that trees and forests provide. We urge the subcommittee to continue including language in Interior Appropriations reports encouraging the Forest Service to maintain a strong and vibrant urban forest research program. *American Forests requests funding for the Forest and Rangeland Research line item at $303 million with $83 million allocated to the Forest Inventory Analysis.*

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

Public Domain Forest Management: The BLM is entrusted with the management of 58 million acres of forests and woodlands across 12 western States, including Alaska. 14 million acres—or 24 percent—of BLM forests are overstocked, increasing insect and disease attacks and catastrophic wildfire. Increased funding to address these serious risks is necessary across all land management agencies. *American Forests supports $10.08 million for the forests managed by the Bureau.*

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (FWS)

Ecological Services: Ecological Services achieves conservation of FWS trust resources, focusing on imperiled species, and works closely with external partners and agencies for the conservation of natural resources across the landscape. The Ecological Services Program facilitates implementation of the Endangered Species Act. *American Forests supports $252.29 million for Ecological Services.*

National Wildlife Refuge System: The National Wildlife Refuge System, with 566 refuges covering more than 150 million acres across the country, is vital to protecting America's wildlife and ensuring that their habitats are a priority. Refuges are visited by more than 53 million people each year, contribute more than $4.5 billion to the economy, and support at least 35,000 jobs. Investment in the Refuge system is an investment in our communities. With over 100 refuges within 25 miles of major population centers, the Refuge System is a vital component of our urban forests, as well. *American Forests supports $508.20 million.*

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF): Green infrastructure is a cost-effective and resilient approach to stormwater infrastructure needs that also provide many other community benefits. American Forests supports EPA's goal of strengthening green infrastructure activities to further its sustainability goals. *American Forests requests that not less than 20 percent the CWSRF funding be made available for green infrastructure or environmentally innovative projects that promote watershed protection, restoration and build community resilience.*

LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE REQUESTS

Land and Water Conservation Fund

American Forests supports the permanent authorization of full and dedicated funding, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation, for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). LWCF programs protect natural resource lands, outdoor recreation opportunities, and working forests at the local, State and Federal levels. This program ensures that these important lands are protected for current and future generations. *American Forests supports permanent authorization of $900 million in mandatory funding for LWCF programs in the Departments of Interior and Agriculture.*

[This statement was submitted by Rebecca Turner, Senior Director of Programs and Policy.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION

The American Geophysical Union (AGU), a non-profit, non-partisan scientific society, appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the fiscal year 2019 budget request for the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The AGU, on behalf of its 60,000 Earth and space scientist members, respectfully requests Congress to appropriate $1.2 billion for the USGS. Restoring strong funding to USGS will allow the agency to sustain current programs and invest in geologic, environmental, and ecological data needed by decision makers across the country.

USGS is uniquely positioned to provide informed responses to many of our Nation's greatest challenges and has a mission that positively impacts the lives of all Americans. The Survey plays a crucial role in assessing water quality and quantity; reducing risks from natural hazards; providing emergency responders with live-saving data; assessing mineral and energy resources; and managing our Nation's ecosystems. Through its offices across the country, the USGS provides high-quality research and data to policymakers, emergency responders, natural resource managers, civil and environmental engineers, educators, and the public. A few examples of the USGS' valuable work are provided below.

MONITORING AND EVALUATING WATER QUALITY

The Survey collects information on water availability and quality to inform the public and decision makers about the status and history of freshwater resources. During the past 130 years, the USGS has collected streamflow data at over 21,000 sites, water-level data at over 1,000,000 wells, and chemical data at over 338,000 surface-water and groundwater sites. This information is needed to effectively manage freshwaters—both above and below the land surface—for public, agricultural, commercial, recreational, and ecological purposes.

PREDICTING AND OBSERVING NATURAL HAZARDS

The USGS works to reduce risks from floods, wildfires, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, landslides, and other natural hazards that jeopardize human lives and cost billions of dollars in damages every year. Seismic networks and hazard analysis are used to formulate earthquake probabilities and to establish building codes. The USGS monitors volcanoes and provides warnings about impending eruptions that are used by aviation officials to prevent planes from flying into volcanic ash clouds. Data from the USGS network of streamgages enable the National Weather Service to issue flood and drought warnings. The bureau and its Federal partners monitor seasonal wildfires and provide maps of current fire locations and the potential spread of fires. In domestic and global events, emergency managers and public officials rely on the USGS to inform them of risks and hazards posed to human and natural systems.

MAPPING AND ASSESSING MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES

The USGS assessments of mineral and energy resources—including rare earth elements, coal, oil, unconventional natural gas, and geothermal—are essential for making decisions about the Nation's future. The Survey identifies the location and quantity of domestic mineral and energy resources, and assesses the economic and environmental effects of resource extraction and use. The USGS also maps domestic supplies of rare earth elements to be used in new energy technologies, which can reduce dependence on foreign oil. The USGS is the sole Federal source of information on mineral potential, production, and consumption.

SUPPORTING AND INFORMING LAND MANAGEMENT

The USGS plays a critical role in informing sound management of natural resources on Federal and State lands. The Survey conducts research and monitoring of fish, wildlife, and vegetation—data that informs management decisions by other Interior bureaus regarding protected species and land use. Ecosystems research is also used to control invasive species and wildlife diseases that would otherwise cause billions of dollars in economic losses. The Survey provides information for resource managers as they develop strategies for restoration and long-term use of the Nation's natural resources in the face of environmental change.

COLLECTING AND ASSESSING DATA

Research and data collected by the USGS is vital to predicting the impacts of land use and climate change on water resources, wildfires, and ecosystems. For 44 straight years, Landsat satellites have collected the largest archive of remotely sensed land data in the world, allowing for access to current and historical images that are used to assess the impact of natural disasters on communities and the environment and monitor global agriculture production. A 2013 National Research Council study found that the economic benefit of Landsat data was estimated to be $2 billion for 2011 alone. The consistency of data sets like those provided by Landsat is vital for advances in science, more efficient natural resource management, and profitable applications of data in commerce and industry.

DEVELOPING AND PROVIDING MAPPING FOR THE NATION

The USGS utilizes unique technologies that enable the nationwide collection of accurate terrain information. This information improves our knowledge of water supply and quality issues; better prepares emergency responders for natural disasters; and provides businesses with more accurate data. Modernized, high-resolution topographic maps are provided by the USGS through their 3D Elevation Program (3DEP). 3DEP leverages funds from the private sector and other Federal Agencies throughout the U.S. The initiative provides open-access elevation data for a wide variety of users. From better flood-inundation maps, to cost-effective precision farming, to the development of renewable energy projects, 3DEP data supports cutting edge resource management and energy projects.

MAINTAINING AND EVALUATING PUBLIC HEALTH

The USGS helps to maintain public health at the local, State, and national level. By monitoring changes in ecosystem and environmental health, the Survey can evaluate human susceptibility to contaminants, pathogens, and environmental disease. This unique perspective into the intersection between the physical environment, living environment, and human allows the USGS to provide valuable insight regarding public health concerns. For example, the agency assesses negative health effects caused by the dispersion of contaminants after natural and man-made disasters, such as hurricanes and oil spills. In one such instance, after Hurricane Sandy, the USGS provided soil, water, and sediment information to public health agencies to help them protect citizens from toxic contaminants.

ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS

The USGS meets monthly with other Department of Interior (DOI) divisions to collaborate on projects that will engage the next generation of scientists. Collectively, the DOI is actively working to provide at least 10 million students with educational, work, and training opportunities. In 2015, the USGS offered learning opportunities to 113,375 students and teachers in activities such as science fairs, mentoring opportunities, camps, and hands-on learning experiences. Programs such as the USGS' Cooperative Research Units (CRU) provide under-represented under-

graduate students with mentoring and hands-on experience designed as a pathway to DOI recruitment.

CONCLUSION

While AGU was very pleased to see that USGS received a 6 percent funding increase in the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus, USGS has been historically strained by a large workload and too few resources. As we face unprecedented challenges, such as demand for limited energy, vulnerability to natural hazards, and the need for clean water, continued substantial funding increases are needed for USGS to maximize support for the Nation's economic, environmental, and national security.

AGU respectfully requests that Congress appropriate $1.2 billion for USGS in fiscal year 2019. We appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony to the subcommittee and thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our request.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN GEOSCIENCES INSTITUTE

Thank you for this opportunity to provide the perspective of the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) on fiscal year 2019 appropriations for geoscience-related programs within the subcommittee's jurisdiction.

AGI applauds Congress for successfully negotiating and passing the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018. We are grateful to the Members of Congress and congressional staff who crafted this significant legislation. The fiscal year 2018 appropriations bill creates a robust baseline for future budgets, and we encourage the administration to obligate all appropriated funds.

To strengthen the Nation's economy, public safety, and national security, AGI requests sustained funding increases for geoscience agencies. Specifically, we ask the subcommittee to support $1.2 billion for the United States Geological Survey (USGS), $1.2 billion for Management of Lands and Resources at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), $190 million for the Bureau of Offshore Energy Management (BOEM), $190 million for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), $8.1 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), $1.1 billion for the Smithsonian Institution, and $3.2 billion for the National Park Service (NPS).

The next frontier lies under our feet. We know relatively little about the 2 miles of the Earth's crust immediately below the surface, even though we rely heavily on it for many of our energy, mineral, and water supplies; we use it as a disposal site for waste products; and it is the source of damaging earthquake and volcanic hazards. Scientific and technological innovations now equip us to characterize the subsurface, identify the wealth that may lie in the shallow subsurface, and better prepare for and mitigate natural hazards. AGI suggests a coordinated national effort to examine and characterize the shallow subsurface of the country to support wise development of the Earth and its resources.

AGI is a nonprofit federation of 52 scientific and professional associations representing approximately 260,000 geoscientists across the Nation who work in industry, academia, and government. Founded in 1948 under a directive of the National Academy of Sciences, AGI provides information services to geoscientists, serves as a voice of shared interests in our profession, plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education, and strives to increase public awareness of the vital role the geosciences play in society's use of resources, resilience to natural hazards, and the health of the environment.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

AGI supports $1.2 billion for the USGS to support the agency's scientific mission. We recommend a balanced portfolio of research, monitoring, and assessment, including geologic mapping, geophysics, geochemistry, and minerals information functions to support responsible decisions about the Nation's earth, land, and water resources.

Strengthen core geoscience functions at USGS: The need for geological information has not diminished since USGS was established in 1879. On the contrary, as we place increasing demands on Earth's system, many critical decisions rely on accurate and publicly available, geoscience information. While there is merit to USGS's broad remit, its unique geological mission should be paramount. The proposed Three Dimensional mapping and Economic Empowerment Program (3DEEP), would improve the topographic, geological, and geophysical mapping of the country. This fundamental step in characterizing the Nation's surface and subsurface would create new jobs at State geological surveys and in the private sector. AGI supports the President's request for $10.6 million in new funds for 3DEEP, in addition to maintaining current investment in key USGS programs.

Invest in long-term data collection and analysis: USGS is renowned for the quality and consistency of its long-term data collection and analysis. The financial, intelligence, emergency response, agricultural, policy, and commercial sectors depend on this impartial, reliable flow of information to identify short-term and long-term trends in key indicators. Landsat, a series of Earth-observing satellites, represents the world's largest archive of continuously collected land remote sensing data. The USGS collects a vital range of information: from stream gages monitoring water flow across the U.S. to the National Minerals Information Center tracking the global supply and flow of mineral materials. The Nation cannot afford any disruption in the continuity and quality of these programs and we urge Congress to invest in the infrastructure and staffing needed to maintain long-term data collection and analysis programs at USGS.

Optimize USGS facilities: Aging infrastructure is a significant factor affecting the sustainability of the USGS. We are grateful to the Committees for recognizing these much needed facility improvements and providing increased funding for deferred maintenance in fiscal year 2018. AGI supports additional fiscal year 2019 funding for USGS Facilities to maintain essential monitoring, observation, and analytical instrumentation to best serve the agency's mission. Investing in USGS infrastructure now will increase efficiency and yield considerable savings in the future.

Core Science Systems:

The National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program (NCGMP) is an important, decades-long partnership between the USGS, State geological surveys, and universities that has a proven track record of delivering cost-effective geological maps. AGI asks that Congress increase funding for NCGMP to $30 million in fiscal year 2019 to meet growing demand from many sectors.

AGI also requests sustained funding at $67.9 million for the National Geospatial Program. Topographic mapping has been a core activity at USGS since its inception, and we strongly support the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) interagency partnership to build a modern elevation map of the Nation's territories using LIDAR and IFSAR technologies.

We urge Congress to reject the President's request to cut funding for the USGS Libraries by almost 50 percent, which would drastically curtail access to this key resource and driver of economic development. Please protect the USGS Libraries from becoming a dark archive and maintain funding at $6 million for these vital collections.

Natural Hazards:

Natural disasters and hazards can cause substantial damage throughout the Nation, but, with the right information, communities can take preventative action to avoid and mitigate potential impacts. The USGS earthquake and volcano hazards programs, plus the agency's work on geomagnetism and coastal and marine geology, provide vital information and tools that strengthen resilience to hazards and ensure the security and prosperity of the Nation. AGI echoes the Committee's concern about landslide risk to local communities, and recommends increased investment in the USGS landslide program. AGI supports robust funding of at least $179 million for the Natural Hazards mission area for its research and efforts that help protect our communities and citizens and reduce the human and financial toll of hazards.

Energy, Minerals, & Environmental Health:

USGS minerals and mapping programs provide the baseline geologic information needed to stimulate and target renewed interest in domestic mineral resources. Funding these programs will support national defense and economic priorities. In addition, we believe the President's proposal to eliminate the Environmental Health mission area, transferring only a small fraction of its work to other programs, is regrettable; therefore, we encourage Congress to continue funding this program which conducts important research on the effects of contaminants and toxic substances on our water and environment. AGI supports the President's request for $85 million for Mineral and Energy Resources, in addition to the proposed new funding for the 3DEEP initiative, plus continued investment of $21 million for Environmental Health.

Land Resources:

One of the most fundamental concepts of the geosciences is that the Earth changes through time. The importance of long-term, consistent monitoring of the Earth to provide a sound basis for decisionmaking cannot be overstated. AGI supports increased funding in fiscal year 2019 for Land Resources, which includes Landsat and other Earth observing systems, and we commend Congress for its deci-

sion to continue funding climate research and monitoring programs at fiscal year 2017 enacted levels in the fiscal year 2018 appropriations bill.

Water Resources:

Drought and challenges in water supply and water quality highlight the importance of understanding the quality, quantity, and distribution of our groundwater and surface water resources. AGI urges Congress to ensure the continuity and expansion of nationwide, long-term data collection and research programs that support water planning and decisionmaking across all States, and to fund Water Resources at $218 million in fiscal year 2019.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The fiscal year 2019 budget includes $137.2 million to strengthen overall program capacity, improve management, and expedite permitting to facilitate increased environmentally responsible energy development. AGI supports efforts by the Energy and Minerals Management program to modernize its data systems and administrative processes. The BLM needs staff with appropriate skills to carry out energy and minerals inspections, data collection and analysis, and administration. AGI supports funding BLM's Management of Lands and Resources at $1.2 billion, including Energy and Minerals activities at $175 million, and we urge investment in BLM's workforce to ensure efficient technical and administrative service.

BUREAUS OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT & SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

AGI requests $175 million for BOEM, and $190 million for BSEE. AGI supports the efforts of these bureaus to ensure responsible, science-informed management and sustainable, safe production of the Nation's energy and mineral resources. In order to administer and oversee offshore energy development effectively and efficiently, BOEM and BSEE need sufficient, appropriately-skilled staff. AGI recommends continued investment in workforce development to avoid delays in the functioning of both bureaus.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

We request that Congress consider the value of the EPA science programs, especially their value to States, Tribes, partners, and grant recipients, when making budget decisions. EPA provides many benefits to the Nation, and we support funding of $8.1 billion for the agency.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The Smithsonian Institution not only cultivates world-class artifacts, but also conducts notable research at its facilities, which support thousands of employees and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) training opportunities. The National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) plays a multifaceted role in communicating the excitement of the geosciences to the public, and enhancing knowledge through research, education, and the sharing of geoscience collections. We thank Congress for their commitment to protecting the Nation's scientific, historic, and cultural treasures with increased investment in the Smithsonian Institution in fiscal year 2018, and gratefully ask for continued support in fiscal year 2019. AGI supports $1.1 billion for the Smithsonian Institution, with $49.8 million for the NMNH.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National parks showcase and protect the unique geologic heritage of our country and offer unparalleled opportunities for scientific research, education, and outdoor recreation activities. AGI supports $3.2 billion for the NPS, and we note its significant role in educating students and the general public about all aspects of Earth and human history. We also applaud the subcommittee's investment in fiscal year 2018 to address the construction backlog, maintenance, and funding for new park units.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony to the subcommittee. If you have questions or would like additional information for the record, please contact Anna Normand at anormand@americangeosciences.org, or 4220 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302–1502.

[This statement was submitted by Allyson K. Anderson Book, Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

REQUEST SUMMARY

On behalf of the Nation's Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), which collectively are the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), thank you for this opportunity to present our fiscal year 2019 appropriations recommendations for the 29 colleges funded under Titles I and II of the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act (Tribal College Act); the two tribally chartered career and technical postsecondary institutions (Tribal College Act, Title V); the two Bureau of Indian Education postsecondary institutions; and the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA). The Bureau of Indian Education administers each of these programs, with the exception of IAIA, which is congressionally chartered and funded in its own account. The following is a list of recommended funding levels:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

—$86,354,000 to fund institutional operations under Titles I ($68,544,000) and II ($17,009,000), TCU Endowments ($109,000) and technical assistance ($701,000) authorized in the *Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act of 1978,* or Tribal College Act, which would fund 29 TCUs at the authorized level for the first time in 40 years and provide an additional $100,000, for increasingly needed technical assistance. The technical assistance program has been level funded for 13 years despite growing demands for assistance for developing TCUs.

—$10,000,000 for Title V of the Tribal College Act, which provides partial institutional operations funding for two tribally chartered postsecondary career and technical institutions.

—$9,960,000 for the Institute of American Indian Arts.

—$25,000,000 for Haskell Indian Nations University and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, the Bureau of Indian Education's two postsecondary institutions.

—$31,000,000 for TCU Infrastructure Improvement, authorized under section 113 of the Tribal College Act.

OPPORTUNITY AND INNOVATION IN INDIAN COUNTRY

Tribal Colleges and Universities are essential to success in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) education. Currently, 38 TCUs operate more than 75 campuses and sites in 17 States, within whose geographic boundaries 80 percent of all American Indian reservations and Federal Indian trust land lie. TCUs serve students from well over 250 federally recognized Tribes and 30 States. More than 85 percent of our students receive Federal financial aid—primarily Pell grants. In total, the TCUs annually serve 160,000 AI/ANs and other community members through a wide variety of academic and community-based programs. TCUs are public institutions accredited by independent regional accreditation agencies, and like all U.S. institutions of higher education, must regularly undergo stringent performance reviews to retain their accreditation status. Each TCU is committed to improving the lives of its students through higher education and to moving AI/ANs toward self-sufficiency. To do this, TCUs serve many roles in their reservation communities, functioning as workforce and job creation engines, community centers, public libraries, Tribal archives, entrepreneurial, small business, and career centers, computer labs, summer camps, community farms and gardens, economic development centers, applied research hubs, child care centers, and more.

The Federal Government, despite its direct trust responsibility and binding treaty obligations, has never fully funded TCU institutional operations as authorized under the Tribal College Act. Despite funding challenges, TCUs are leading the Nation in preparing an AI/AN workforce, including nurses, land managers, and teachers for our Native schools. For example, half of all AI/AN special education teachers in Montana are graduates of one college: Salish Kootenai College. TCUs prepare other professionals in high-demand fields, including agriculture and natural resources management, human services, IT, and building tradesmen. By teaching the job skills most in demand on our reservations, TCUs are laying a solid foundation for Tribal economic growth, which is the only way to move Tribes and Tribal members to self-sufficiency. But workforce development is not enough. TCU leadership understands that we must do more to accelerate the move to self-sufficiency—we must move beyond simple workforce training. Today, TCUs are tackling the tougher—but much more significant—issue of job creation, because we know that to break the cycle of generational poverty and end the culture of dependency that grips so much of Indian Country, simply filling jobs that would be filled anyway is not enough. We

must create new industries, new businesses, and build a new culture of innovation. Our job creation initiative is focusing initially on advanced manufacturing, through a partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy, National Laboratories, TCUs, and industry. Already, we are seeing results, with new TCU-Tribal-industry partnerships, new contracting opportunities, and new jobs for our students and graduates.

Tribal Colleges continually seek to instill a sense of hope and identity within Native youth, who one day will lead our Tribal nations. Unacceptably, the high school drop-out rate for Native students remains around 50 percent. TCUs are reaching back to create a bridge for Indian students as early as the elementary school, encouraging them to stay focused on achievable goals and believe that the natural course is to finish high school and go on to the local TCU. TCUs offer dual credit courses for high school students, provide math teachers for local high schools as a strategy for improving course delivery, host weekend academies, after school programs and summer camps for middle and high school students, and at the other end of the spectrum, offer GED or HiSET training and testing, and 2+2 partnerships to bridge programs with regional universities. All are solid steps to bolster the prospects for future of Native youth and breaking the cycle of generational poverty.

TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES: A SOUND INVESTMENT FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL GOVERNMENT

Aaron Sansosie of Flatrock, Arizona, is a U.S. Army veteran, father of four, and Navajo Technical University (NTU) student. He is one of thousands of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) students gaining valuable education and technical skills to enter the workforce at Tribal Colleges. Aaron is enrolled in NTU's Carpentry certificate program and Building Information Modeling Applied Science associate's degree program. To achieve his goals, Aaron has been taking 17–19 credits each semester, which keeps his days busy. While the schedule may seem grueling for any student, it is important to note that Aaron does this all while sleeping out of his truck. "The cost of living here is pretty high, especially in the dorms and having three meals a day. Sometimes Pell won't cover it all, which leaves me in debt. Even with my veteran benefits, which help me out a lot, [I need to save]," explained Aaron, whose desire to help his family and community is powerful.

Stories like Aaron's can be found across Indian Country as TCUs attempt to stretch Federal dollars to meet the unique needs of AI/AN students. In fact, a 2015 economic impact study on the TCUs, conducted by Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI), revealed that for every Federal dollar invested in the TCUs, the taxpayers receive a cumulative value of $2.40. The average annual rate of return is 6.2 percent, a solid rate of return that compares favorably with other long-term investments. On an individual basis, TCU students see an annual return of investment of 16.6 percent, and the vast majority of TCU-trained workers remain in Indian Country and contribute to the local economy. TCUs benefit taxpayers through increased tax receipts and reduced demand for Federal social services—a win all-round.

FUND TCU INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY FOR FIRST TIME EVER ($31 MILLION/YEAR)

We urge Congress to finally fund section 113 (25 U.S.C. 1813) of the Tribal College Act, established 40 years ago, and create a TCU Infrastructure Improvement program for Tribal Colleges. A key mission of TCUs is to prepare AI/ANs and other rural community members to be self-sufficient members of the Nation's workforce. For TCUs to realize this goal, they need facilities to educate and train their students in a safe environment for 21st century jobs. Facilities construction and maintenance are needed at the Tribal Colleges, many of which have hazards such as leaking roofs, asbestos insulation, exposed and substandard wiring, crumbling foundations, and outdated computer labs. One TCU needs-assessment revealed a need of $120 million to address current shovel-ready projects and rehabilitation needs at our Nation's 38 Tribal Colleges. We urge the subcommittee to allocate a tiny portion of its increased funding allocation, resulting from the 2 year budget deal, to help meet the dire facilities and infrastructure needs of the TCUs.

CHALLENGES: INDIAN STUDENT COUNT, TAX BASE & GAMING MISCONCEPTIONS

ISC Formula and Non Beneficences

As noted earlier, the TCUs' operations funding remains insufficient, and their budgets are further disadvantaged because unlike other institutions of higher education, most TCUs receive operations funding based on the number of Indian stu-

dents served, with "Indian student" defined as a member of a federally recognized Tribe or a biological child of enrolled Tribal members. Yet, approximately 15 percent of the TCUs' collective enrollments are non-Indian students. While many TCUs do seek operating funds from their respective State legislatures for their non-Indian State-resident students (also referred to as "non-beneficiary" students) successes have been, at best, inconsistent. Given their locations, often hundreds of miles from another postsecondary institution, TCUs are open to all students, Indian and non-Indian, believing that education in general, and postsecondary education in particular, is a catalyst to a better economic future in remote areas.

Local Tax and Revenue Base

TCUs cannot rely on a local tax base for revenue. Although tribes have the sovereign authority to tax, high reservation poverty rates, the trust status of reservation lands, and the lack of strong reservation economies hinder the creation of a reservation tax base. As noted earlier, on Indian reservations that are home to TCUs, the unemployment rate can well exceed 70 percent. By contrast, the national unemployment rate is currently 4.5 percent.

Gaming and the TCUs

Although several of the reservations served by TCUs have gaming operations, they are not the mega-casinos located in urban areas and featured in the broad-based media. Only a handful of TCUs receive regular income from the chartering Tribe's gaming revenue, and the amounts received can vary greatly from year to year. Most reservation casinos are small businesses that use their gaming revenue to improve the local standard of living and potentially diversify into other, more sustainable areas of economic development. In the interim, where relevant, local TCUs offer courses in casino management and hospitality services to formally train tribal members to work in their local tribally run casinos.

Some form of gaming is legalized in 48 States, but the Federal Government has not used the revenues generated from State gaming as a justification to decrease Federal funding to other public colleges or universities in those States. Some have suggested that those Tribes that operate the handful of extremely successful and widely publicized casinos located in or near urban areas, should be financing higher education for all American Indians. And yet, no State is expected to share its gaming revenue with a less successful or non-gaming State.

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

As noted earlier, the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act will be 40 years old this year. As we approach this significant milestone, it is disheartening to note that in 40 years, the TCUs have yet to receive the Congressionally authorized per Indian student funding level. A significant step toward adequate funding for the TCUs' institutional operating grants and technical assistance under Titles I and II in fiscal year 2019 would require an increase of $16,562,630 over the fiscal year 2018 appropriated level. These TCUs, which serve some of the largest Indian Tribes in the Nation, have been level-funded since fiscal year 2014. Since that time, the College of the Muscogee Nation (Okmulgee, Oklahoma) and Red Lake Nation College (Red Lake, Minnesota) have become eligible for funding under Title I of the Tribal College Act, and several more could potentially gain eligibility in the next few years.

CONCLUSION

AIHEC Member institutions/Tribal Colleges and Universities provide quality higher education to thousands of American Indians and other reservation residents, as well as essential community programs and services to those who might otherwise not have access to such opportunities. The modest Federal investment that has been made in TCUs has paid great dividends in terms of employment, education, economic development and has significantly reduced social, healthcare, and law enforcement costs. Continuation of this investment makes sound moral and fiscal sense.

We greatly appreciate the subcommittee's past and continued support of the Nation's Tribal Colleges and Universities and your thoughtful consideration of our fiscal year 2019 appropriations requests.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of appropriations for the United States Geological

Survey (USGS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Smithsonian Institution for fiscal year 2019. We encourage Congress to provide the USGS with $1.2 billion in fiscal year 2019 and $174 million for the Ecosystems mission area. We ask that Congress restore support for the Biological Survey Unit to the fiscal year 2018 level of $1.6 million and direct USGS to sustain the program. We further request that Congress provide EPA Science and Technology with at least $760 million, equal to the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. We also request the restoration of funding for Science Support in USFWS to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level of $17.0 million. Lastly, we urge Congress to provide new funding to the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum of Natural History.

AIBS is a nonprofit scientific association dedicated to promoting informed decisionmaking that advances biological research and education for the benefit of science and society. AIBS works to ensure that the public, legislators, funders, and the community of biologists have access to and use information that will guide them in making informed decisions about matters that require biological knowledge. Founded in 1947 as a part of the National Academy of Sciences, AIBS became an independent, member-governed organization in the 1950s. Today, AIBS has individual members and more than 130 member organizations with a combined individual membership and staff of more than 200,000.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The USGS provides unbiased, independent research, data, and assessments that are needed by public and private sector decision-makers. Data generated by the USGS save taxpayers money by enabling more effective management of water and biological resources and providing essential geospatial information that is needed for commercial activity and natural resource management. The data collected by the USGS are not available from other sources.

The Ecosystems activity within USGS is integral to the agency's other science mission areas. It conducts research required to understand the impacts of such things as water use and natural hazards on environmental systems. The USGS conducts research on and monitoring of fish, wildlife, and vegetation—data that informs management decisions by other Interior bureaus regarding protected species and land use.

Biological science programs, housed within the Ecosystems line, collect and analyze long-term data not available from other sources. The knowledge generated by USGS is used by Federal and State natural resource managers to maintain healthy and diverse ecosystems while balancing the needs of public use.

Examples of successful USGS Ecosystem initiatives include:

—Development of comprehensive geospatial data products that characterize the risk of wildfires on all lands in the United States. These products are used to allocate firefighting resources and to plan wildfire fuel reduction projects. These tools require the input of information about plant species distribution, plant production, and how different animals within the landscape may influence the distribution of this vegetation.

—Identification and evaluation of control measures for Asian carp, sea lamprey, Burmese pythons, and other invasive species that cause billions of dollars in economic losses annually.

—New insights on the spread of avian flu, white-nose syndrome, chronic wasting disease, and other diseases spread by wildlife in North America.

The President's fiscal year 2019 budget request cuts the Ecosystems mission by 40 percent relative to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. Simply put, there is no way the agency can absorb these cuts without negatively affecting scientific research and jeopardizing data quality. As a science agency, much of the USGS budget is dedicated to staff as well as equipment and facilities that must be maintained and updated to ensure the continuity of data acquisition and that data gathered are reliable and available for future scientific investigations.

Among the proposed reductions are:

—*Elimination of curation of and research on fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals that is conducted by the Biological Survey Unit at the Smithsonian Institution.* USGS has more than a million specimens of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles that are housed at the Smithsonian. These curatorial and research positions are required to maintain and use these specimens and the data associated with them. This management arrangement has been in place since 1889.

—*Elimination of the Cooperative Research Units (CRUs).* CRUs are located on 40 universities in 38 States and conduct actionable research, provide technical as-

sistance, and develop scientific workforces through graduate education and mentoring programs.

—*Elimination of research on the ecological effects of fracking.* Research by the USGS on this topic compliments research conducted by the EPA on water quality issues associated with fracking. This information is vital to Federal and State management of energy development.

—*Reduced wildlife and fisheries research.* USGS conducts this research for the benefit of Federal and State stakeholders. Without these research programs, USFWS, the National Park Service, and other Interior bureaus will not have the scientific information required to fulfill agency missions to manage wildlife, as these agencies do not have scientific research capacities. Moreover, the USGS is a non-regulatory agency, which means that its research is independent of the entities responsible for developing and implementing rules and regulations.

—*Reduced research on ecosystems of concern.* This research is a critical component of efforts to restore important national resources, such as the Everglades and the Chesapeake Bay. The Arctic ecosystem research and monitoring program addresses the needs of Native communities, and also promotes public health throughout the U.S. by monitoring avian influenza, which can spread to humans.

Although we are pleased that the Invasive Species Program was spared from large cuts in the administration's request, we urge Congress to reject the deep cuts to other parts of the Ecosystems mission area.

The President has also proposed cuts to climate research. The National and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers (formerly regional Climate Science Centers) are responsible for developing the science and tools to address the effects of climate change on land, water, wildlife, fish, ecosystems, and communities. These centers play a vital role in addressing the unique weather patterns of different areas across the country and are slated for a 49 percent budget cut and possible closures. This is irresponsible.

We request Congress to fund the agency at $1.2 billion in fiscal year 2019, with $174 million for the Ecosystems mission area and restored funding for the Biological Survey Unit, CRUs, and the climate science centers.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Funding for EPA Science and Technology supports valuable research used to identify and mitigate environmental problems facing our Nation. EPA research informs decisions made by public health and safety managers, natural resource managers, businesses, and other stakeholders concerned about air and water pollution, human health, and land management and restoration. In short, this program provides the scientific basis upon which EPA monitoring and enforcement programs are built.

Despite the important role of the Science and Technology appropriation, the proposed funding level for fiscal year 2018 is roughly half of what the program received in fiscal year 2002. The EPA Science Advisory Board has expressed concern repeatedly about the long-term decline in research funding at EPA. "These limitations pose a vulnerability for EPA at a time when the agency faces significant science questions with long-term implications for protecting the environment and public health."

We are especially concerned to see the proposed eliminations of the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Research Grants and climate change research. These programs are important parts of the Federal Government's ability to ensure clean air and water for its citizens.

We ask Congress to provide at least $760.0 million in fiscal year 2019 to support scientific research at the EPA.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The President's budget request eliminates the Science Support program within USFWS. This program provides scientific information needed by USFWS, such as research on conservation of priority species prior to Endangered Species Act listing, the impacts of energy production on wildlife, and best management practices for combating invasive species. For this program to be eliminated in conjunction with significant reductions in USGS biological research means that USFWS will not have access to the unbiased data required to fulfill its mission to conserve, protect, and enhance the living resources of the United States for the benefit of the American people.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The Smithsonian Institution, particularly the National Museum of Natural History, is a valuable Federal partner in the curation and research on scientific specimens. The scientific experts at the National Museum of Natural History care for 140 million specimens and ensure the strategic growth of this national treasure. To increase the availability of these scientific resources to researchers, educators, other Federal agencies, and the public, Smithsonian is working on a multi-year effort to digitize its collections. That effort will substantially increase the scientific uses of these collections.

The National Museum of Natural History has also been working to strengthen curatorial and research staffing and to backfill positions left open by retirements and budget constraints. The current staffing level is insufficient to provide optimal care for the collections. Future curatorial and collections management staffing levels may be further jeopardized given the proposed funding cuts at science agencies, such as the USGS, that support staff positions at the National Museum of Natural History.

We urge Congress to make additional investments in the National Museum of Natural History that will allow the museum to undertake critical collections care, make needed technology upgrades, and conduct cutting edge research.

CONCLUSION

We urge Congress to reject the administration's budget request for fiscal year 2019 and continue the bipartisan tradition of investing in our Nation's scientific capacity.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

[This statement was submitted by Jyotsna Pandey, Ph.D., Public Policy Manager and Robert Gropp, Ph.D., Co-Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

On behalf of our 2.5 million supporters, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies. Founded in 1866, the ASPCA is the first humane organization established in the Americas and serves as the Nation's leading voice for animal welfare. We request that the subcommittee consider the following concerns when making fiscal year 2019 appropriations.

WILD HORSES AND THE BLM

In the 45 years since Congress charged the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with protecting our country's wild horses and burros, Americans have witnessed the agency's Wild Horse and Burro Program deteriorate into a continuous cycle of costly roundups and removals with little regard for the preservation-focused mandate specified in the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act or on-range management of the herds. Our wild horses and burros should be revered as historical icons, treated humanely, and managed fairly and respectfully on our public lands. We appreciate BLM's recognition of the need for reform in the Wild Horse and Burro Program and are encouraged by their recognition of the need for long-term strategies for on-range management that will require substantial front loaded investment of resources. This approach will, within a few years, provide significant relief for the range and enable all the stakeholders to come together around a single solution. It is critical for the agency to commit to non-lethal management rather than pressing to relax legal restrictions on sale to slaughter or mass killing of healthy horses. It is also critical for the agency to augment its capacity for gathers and focus its attention on the high priority HMAs where horses, wildlife and the range are most at risk. It is also important that robust fertility control work begin immediately.

Prohibit BLM funding for euthanasia or sale of wild horses as management methods

In December 2004, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2005, which amended the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to allow for the sale of certain wild horses and burros. This instant transfer of title from the U.S. Government to the individual purchaser strips key protections for wild mustangs and burros making them vulnerable to the still-thriving horse slaughter industry. Additionally, we take issue with the characterization of large-scale killing of healthy wild horses as "euthanasia". The agency currently has the authority to euthanize horses who are old, sick or injured, but not healthy horses as a means

of population control. If allowed to destroy healthy horses, this would most likely be accomplished using gunshot from some distance and does not qualify as humane euthanasia.

The fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019 Presidential budgets request authorization to use lethal management techniques for wild horses and burros. This is problematic not only because of the method by which animals would likely be killed, but also because if this option becomes available there is no end to it in sight. In 2007 the number of wild equids on the range was very near the agency's appointed national appropriate management level (AML). The failure to employ available and effective fertility control methods has led to the situation we face today. BLM's history of ineffective on-range management of horses makes it likely that if lethal techniques are made available, they will become the status quo management option, locking the agency into a cycle of killing.

Instead, the ASPCA has joined with other organizations to offer a humane solution that enables the agency to combine non-lethal strategies (roundup and removal to sanctuaries, fertility control, and adoption augmentation) to bring the population to the agency's desired AML in a 10–12 year timeframe. We provided this proposal to the Secretary of the Interior last fall (2017) and urge Congress to work with the Agency to fund this approach.

In past appropriations bills, Congress has repeatedly confirmed its opposition to the slaughter of our Nation's wild horses and burros; it did so most recently in the fiscal year 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act, the current funding vehicle for the Department of Interior. The ASPCA requests that the subcommittee continue to include the following language: "Appropriations herein made shall not be available for the destruction of healthy, unadopted, wild horses and burros in the care of the Bureau or its contractors or for the sale of wild horses and burros that results in their destruction for processing into commercial products."

Implement existing, and explore new, methods for on-range and off-range management

The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act makes clear that on-the-range management should be preferred over roundup and removal as the primary method of wild horse management. BLM has multiple options at its disposal to follow that guidance in the Act. Effective, humane management will require a multifaceted approach. We suggest that the following strategies be implemented simultaneously:

—Conduct targeted gathers and removals at densely populated Herd Management Areas (HMAs) to reduce herd size in the short term.
—Treat gathered horses with fertility control prior to being returned to the range. This program should continue until 90 percent of mares on the range have been treated, followed by continued consistent fertility control.
—Relocate horses in holding facilities, and those taken off the range, to large cost-effective pasture facilities funded through public-private partnerships.
—Promote adoptions in order to reduce captive populations and costs.

The four tiers of this approach—gathers and removals, fertility treatment, public-private partnerships, and adoptions—are crucial to the ultimate success of the program. Failure to effectively implement any part of this program jeopardizes the success of a holistic and sustainable wild horse and burro program. If employed correctly, this plan will result in a natural population decline over the next two decades. We support this humane, effective, and financially sustainable approach.

The ASPCA realizes that population control is necessary in some circumstances, and we appreciate BLM's public acknowledgement that fertility control methods must be a significant part of wild horse population management. Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP), the contraceptive vaccine that has been used for decades to manage horse and deer populations, is registered by EPA and commercially available. In fiscal year 2018, the BLM administered 777 fertility control treatments.[1] If PZP is to be a serious part of the solution, its use must be increased to levels that will significantly impact population growth. A 2013 National Academy of Sciences report noted the promising capabilities of this and other forms of chemical fertility control.[2] The ASPCA recommends that the subcommittee direct BLM to prioritize the use of fertility control when necessary to stem the population growth of wild horse or burro herds.

The administration's fiscal year 2019 budget request appeals for the authority to use a "full suite of tools" to manage horses. If combined with the agency's recent

[1] "Program Data." U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. April 27, 2018. https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/about-the-program/program-data.

[2] "Using Science to Improve the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program: A Way Forward." National Research Council. The National Academies Press, 2013.

report to Congress including the suggestion that it is appropriate to sell or transfer thousands of our wild mustangs to other countries, where they would lose their protected status, we see cause for concern. We encourage congress to prohibit the shipment of wild horses across the borders where they may fall prey to slaughter and cruelty. The ASPCA strongly encourages the subcommittee to prioritize and fund humane on-range management methods as it crafts the fiscal year 2019 Interior appropriations bill.

[This statement was submitted by Nancy Perry, Senior Vice President, Government Relations.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ANDEAN TAPIR FUND/WILD HORSE AND BURRO FUND

April 2, 2018

DEAR SENATORS:

Achieving justice for our wild horses and burros depends on Federal officials exercising the authority to legally reduce private, usually corporate, domestic livestock grazing in the wild horses' and wild burros' legal areas, whether on BLM or USFS lands. Such exercise would be legally covered under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) 4710.3–2 and 43 C.F.R. 4710.5(a). In particular 43 C.F.R. 4710.5 clearly states that the Bureau of Land Management can legally reduce or even close livestock grazing in order "to provide habitat for wild horses and burros."

Our Nation's present Herd Management Areas (BLM) and Territories (U.S. Forest Service) for wild horses and wild burros represent only about one-half of the original Herd Areas and Territories as far as their size, or acreage. Indeed, the United States Government has eliminated wild horses from many millions of acres and has then added further injustice by allocating only small fractions of the grazing resource to the wild horses within their remaining occupied areas. Generally it is getting harder to find any maps of the original Herd Areas probably because both officials and benefactors in wild horse elimination or marginalization do not want the greater truth to be known by the public.

In America today, the unique and legally defined areas in which wild horses should be allowed to live unmolested are decreasing both in number and in size. And the horses' access to resources needed for survival are likewise being reduced. Both national laws, and laws of basic decency, mandate that the present wild horse populations be restored to higher, more genetically viable levels. Today, the upgrading of America's wild horse herds and habitats is imperative to insure their long-term viability.

Higher, more genetically viable population levels are required; and the proven principles of Reserve Design should be employed to allow for the natural adaptation of wild horses, both individually and collectively, within their inhabited ecosystems.

My recommendations include an enlightened phasing in of progressive changes whereby the major environmental disturbance factors are reduced so that a more truly natural balance among all appropriate species can be achieved within a positively regarded wild-horse-containing ecosystem. Too often wild horses are maligned by established interests accustomed to monopolizing (or nearly so) the natural resources of any given area. These profit-seeking interests will filter and even twist what purports to be objective field observations so as to discredit their target: the wild horses. Their underlying motivation is not to realize the Greater Truth and Justice concerning these animals and the life community, but rather to perpetuate or even expand their unquestioned exploitation of the public lands for their own private benefit, or what they believe to be so.

Once larger more truly viable herds and habitats are established, various means exist for limiting the increase and expansion of a herd. One of the chief of which is to allow the mature social units, or wild horse bands, to establish themselves over the generations. The older dominant stallions and mares can and do inhibit reproduction in younger males and females. Another means concerns natural predators. These act as significant checks and balances—but are by no means the sole limiting factors for wild horses, wild burros, or other prey species. It is possible to design a reserve with natural boundaries or barriers to constrain herd activities or to opt for artificial barriers, bearing in mind that the reserve itself must contain sufficient appropriate habitat to provide all the needs of a viably sized, vigorous and dynamic wild horse population. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) indicates this should be around 2,500 individuals (Duncan 1992), though BLM policies are grounded on the supposition numbers should not fall below 50 actively breeding adults in a given population, which would entail a total population of 200

or more. A well-planned reserve would ensure appropriate niche space and forage abundance and availability to govern a balanced herd size, but management must allow natural processes to operate over significant periods for ecological harmonization to take place.

It has been proven that the mass removals of wild horses, e.g. BLM helicopter roundups removing half or even 90 percent or more of the horses, result in "compensatory reproduction" among those horses who remain (Jenkins & Ashley 2003). These traumatized horses then go into a desperate survival mode and reproduce at a higher rate because they feel threatened. Also this is a consequence of their lacking a stable social structure in the form of mature bands. This sort of behavior is observed among many species after sustaining severe reduction in numbers and disorganization of their societies. Drastic herd reduction results in a tragic loss of both social and resource interaction memories. And this, in turn, results in larger, more chaotic, and less harmonious populations. Perhaps, the latter is the devious design of the wild horses' human enemies.

Although the following suggestion seems like pandering to some of the wild horses' traditional enemies, I propose the following for your consideration: Create financial incentives for livestock grazing permit holders to voluntarily include wild horses upon the lands they graze and to decrease equivalent numbers of livestock. This idea has been proposed by rancher and wild horse advocate Lynn McCormick of Colorado. Conflicts between public and private interests are increasing as resources dwindle and human populations (and demand for recreation) increase. Certain solid studies indicate that ranching in much of the arid to semi-arid West (and elsewhere) is generally unprofitable and that net profit is typically only between $50 and $100 dollars per animal per year (Torell *et al.* 2012, Torell & Kincaid 1996, Taylor et al. 2004). This situation adds pressure to increase livestock numbers and/or weight/size, demonize perceived competitors (wild horses/burros, wildlife), and overlook trespass grazing (see revealing report: United States Government Accountability Office 2016).

Ms. McCormick suggests paying willing grazing permit holders some agreed and rational rate, say one U.S. dollar per day per wild horse on a year-round basis, in order to manage some reasonable number of wild horses within their grazing permit area. This would represent a substantial savings to taxpayers over current off-range holding costs. In exchange, permit holders would decrease an equivalent number of domestic livestock from the same grazing permit area. This system could be based on standard Animal Unit Months (AUMs) used in calculating sustainable grazing pressure, and each agreement would be independently tailored to suit each rancher's situation and one option would be to have this program entirely voluntary. This would entail no or only minimal extra work for the rancher, and allow permit holders to realize higher profits than they otherwise would from their public lands grazing permits. It would also save U.S. taxpayers significant amounts of money while resulting in the better monitoring and managing of shared habitat. It would keep wild horses where they belong on the range as wild animals. Though this alternative would rankle with those with a keener sense of justice, it is one that might just work in the immediate future and help many wild horses as well as wild burros regain their rightful place in the wild.

Today, an inordinate percentage of the forage and water that is so important to entire ecosystems is diverted to support a relative few, often ecologically incongruous livestock operations, whose owners often describe people on welfare as "unjustly enjoying entitlements," while overlooking the immense entitlements and subsidies needed to continue propping up their ranching way of life at public expense. Much time and taxpayer expense is also diverted to accommodate and then mitigate the ill-effects of these shared and often competing uses of our public lands.

More hopefully, most of the wild horse and wild burro herds today have some type of citizen fan club composed of passionately protective people. Many are very proactive in collaborating with BLM and U.S. Forest Service officials to perform volunteer work and provide people trained for citizen science-related monitoring, record keeping and documentation, etc. Such collaborations can ease tension while taking pressure off decreasing Federal budgets and encouraging better public relations on our public lands, and should be encouraged and expanded.

Below for your consideration please find elements of a:

RESERVE DESIGN PROPOSAL FOR RESTORING AMERICA'S WILD HORSES AND BURROS TO LONG–TERM VIABLE LEVELS IN LONG-TERM VIABLE HABITATS AND AS NATURALLY SELF-STABILIZING HERDS

The small number of horses and burros our Government intends to leave on each of the 179 remaining. BLM-designated areas will result—indeed, has already re-

sulted—in an over fragmentation of populations that jeopardizes their long-term survival and the preservation of their true vigor in the wild.

To remedy this, Americans must immediately and audaciously respond with a well-conceived plan for change. As a wildlife ecologist and fourth-generation Nevadan personally familiar with the wild horses and burros of the West, I have come up with such a plan—a way to restore these animals, proven to be returned-native species, to viable natural herds throughout the West. My plan entails ending the cruel, disruptive roundups and reproductive manipulations—practices that make a mockery of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act and cause untold suffering and death to these freedom-loving creatures, while compromising their long-term survival in the wild.

Wildlife, wilderness, and conservation professionals call this strategy Reserve Design. Reserve Design combines ecological, biological, social, and political considerations in order to achieve desired results. Basically, wild horse/burro Reserve Design involves the setting aside of areas of wild-equid-containing, year-round habitat where human intervention is buffered against and/or strictly controlled, and where natural processes are allowed to reestablish natural checks and balances. In this way, a significant degree of internal harmony is achieved for all diverse, yet interrelated, species living in the ecosystem.

Critical steps for realizing Reserve Design in various wild horse & wild burro habitats in the project:

—Properly identify the long-term survival requirements for viable population levels of the principal equine species to be accommodated in each reserve. Our chief focus would be to promote a wild horse/burro-containing ecosystem, where all species allowed to adapt naturally over the generations.

—Conscientiously identify appropriate geographical areas suitable for the implementation of wild horse/burro-containing reserves. This would involve travel to, on-ground inspection of, and flights over, a wide variety of places throughout the West.

—Wherever possible, wisely incorporate natural equid predators (such as puma, bear, and wolf) that would limit, tone and strengthen wild horse and burro populations.

—Wherever possible, wisely incorporate natural barriers that would limit the ingress and/or the egress of certain species, including the wild horses and burros. This would avoid conflicts and set up conditions for the natural self-regulation of populations.

—Identify where buffer zones, artificial barriers or other means of impeding movements in and out of a reserve should be established in order to keep the species in question from coming into conflict with humans. Buffer zones possibly involving non-injurious means of "adverse conditioning" could be employed as well as "positive reinforcement" means of encouraging the wild equids to stay within the reserve. Also, "semi-permeable barriers" that do not restrict most species but do prevent equids from passing out of the reserve may be used. These means would be described in practical detail.

—Identify the presence and abundance of necessary food, water, shelter, mineral procurement sites, elevation gradients for seasonal migrations, etc., that will accommodate the long-term habitat needs of viable wild equid populations and allow the natural rest-rotation of grazing and foraging between the natural subdivisions of the reserve. Fences within the reserve that impede the free-roaming lifestyle of the wild equids would be located and their removal planned. This would also involve determining the intrinsic Carrying Capacity of the land in question that would be based on the Productivity of forage adequate to a viable population of wild horses/burros found in this region and taking into account other survival factors such as water, shelter, breeding and nurturing habitat, seasonal migrations, mineral, and existing threats to the wild equids.

—Identify geographical regions whose human inhabitants are benignly disposed toward the creation and long-term implementation of extensive, ecologically balanced wild horse/burro-containing reserves. This would involve travelling and setting up meetings with pertinent individuals, town and government officials, etc.

—Identify ways of and benefits from implementing Reserve Design that would result in win-win relationships centered on the presence of wild horses and burros. Ecotourism is one major possibility here. Restoring native ecosystems, including soils and native species, would be another major benefit. The reduction of flammable vegetation through equid grazing and the restoration of hydrographic basins through enrichment of soils would be other major positive contributions of the wild horses and burros. Indeed, the restoration of the "equid

element" in North America is crucial to combating life-disrupting Global Warming itself.

—Identify how best to educate the public concerning the many ways that horses and burros, as ecological "climax" species, have of self-limiting their own populations once their respective ecological niches are filled. This knowledge is key to our realizing a truly humane relationship with wild horses and burros in America, one that does justice to these magnificent animals and allows them to fulfill their important role within the life community.

This list does not exhaust all the considerations for soundly establishing Reserve Design that should be included in this enlightened plan for the treasured equid herds and their habitats throughout the West. Anxiously awaiting your response, Sincerely, Craig C. Downer, Wildlife Ecologist, President: Andean Tapir Fund/Wild Horse and Burro Fund, P.O. Box 456, Minden, NV 89423. Email: ccdowner@aol.com Cc: Secretary of the Interior, BLM National Director, U.S. Forest Service National Director, and other interested parties.

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PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE

The Animal Welfare Institute, a national animal welfare advocacy nonprofit organization, asks the subcommittee to reject the administration's fiscal year 2019 budget, which represents a wholesale abdication of responsibility to protect the Nation's wildlife and the environment.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)—WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND BURROS ACT

The BLM continues to mismanage America's wild horses and burros, emphasizing their removal from public lands instead of implementing humane solutions, including the use of immuno-contraception to control fertility rates, to manage the animals on the range. We ask the Committee to urge the agency to continue exploring more effective and longer lasting fertility control agents. Moreover, we strongly support the continued inclusion of the Committee's "no-kill" language to ensure that BLM does not kill healthy wild horses and burros: "Appropriations herein made shall not be available for the destruction of healthy, unadopted, wild horses and burros in the case of the Bureau or its contractors or for the sale of wild horses and burros that results in their destruction for processing into commercial products."

ANTI-ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT RIDERS

We urge you to reject any riders that would undermine the Endangered Species Act (ESA), including both those that legislate species-specific listing decisions and those that weaken core tenets of the ESA. In 1973, when an increasing number of plant and animal species were on the decline, Congress passed the Endangered Species Act with overwhelming bipartisan support. This law is just as important today as it was then, if not more so. As a result of human impacts on our environment, species today are disappearing at the highest rate since the extinction of the dinosaurs. In addition, undermining the ESA does not reflect the values of most Americans, who treasure America's wildlife, and the law itself enjoys the support of 90 percent of American voters (Tulchin Research, 2015). We specifically ask that you block any riders that would remove Federal protections for gray wolves. Decisions about protecting species under the Endangered Species Act should be made based upon science, and judicial review should remain available for challenging such deci-

sions. Using legislation to delist a species is contrary to Congress' intent that the best available science underpin decisions made under this bedrock conservation law.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PROGRAMS: ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

We are deeply concerned by the reduction in funding for Ecological Services, and urge the Committee to commit the maximum possible funding to this crucial program area responsible for implementing the Endangered Species Act. The fiscal year 2018 funding level is barely sufficient for the agency to carry out basic administrative functions required under the ESA, and does not enable the staffing necessary to address the backlog of hundreds of species awaiting listing decisions or other time-sensitive actions mandated by the law. In the decades since the ESA was enacted, we have seen irrefutable proof that this law works. Ninety-nine percent of species listed under the ESA have been spared from extinction. Furthermore, accusations of regulatory burden and impediments to industry are unfounded. An analysis published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) revealed that out of over 88,000 Section 7 consultations that the FWS conducted between 2008 and 2015, not a single project was stopped as a result of the agency finding that it would jeopardize a listed species or cause adverse modification to critical habitat. However, this record of success can only be maintained if the law is funded and enforced fully, and we urge the Committee to allocate the amount necessary to do so.

FWS PROGRAMS: NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

We request that the Committee maintain fiscal year 2018 funding levels, at minimum, for the National Wildlife Refuge System, given the crucial role that refuges across the country play in species conservation and nonconsumptive outdoor recreation. Furthermore, given the NWRS' stated purpose of conserving wildlife (including species threatened with extinction), and to ensure that these refuges are safe for the millions of Americans who visit them, we ask the Committee to maintain the language in its fiscal year 2018 report (H. Rpt. 115–238) regarding enforcement of a previous directive to institute signage on refuges where body-gripping traps are used, and to post information about trapping on NWRS websites. Such signage and other public alerts are needed to promote public safety and greater transparency regarding the use of such devices on wildlife refuges. Currently, over half of the System's 563 refuges allow trapping. Steel-jaw leghold traps, Conibear traps, and strangulation snares pose distinct risks to humans, wildlife, and other animals (e.g., pets) given their indiscriminate nature and the trauma such devices inflict upon those caught in these traps.

FWS PROGRAMS: OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

We urge the Committee to maintain at least the fiscal year 2018 enacted level for the Office of Law Enforcement at FWS. The OLE is one of the most important lines of defense for wildlife both at home and abroad. It enforces over a dozen Federal wildlife and conservation laws that frequently impact both domestic and global security. Poaching is a brutal, bloody practice. Animals are shot with military-grade weapons, and tusks and horns are harvested by cutting the faces off of the sometimes still-living animals. Tight-knit herds are torn apart and babies orphaned or even killed. Poaching is also a national security concern. Extremist groups, terrorist organizations, and other criminal networks use poaching to finance their military operations. Wildlife trafficking now produces profits of upwards of $20 billion a year, placing it among the top five criminal enterprises (alongside narcotics, human trafficking, weapons, and counter-feiting). OLE is a crucial line of defense in the fight against poaching and the trafficking of wildlife parts.

FWS PROGRAMS: INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

We urge the Committee to fund all program components within International Affairs at fiscal year 2018 levels or higher. While cuts were not proposed to all IA program components in the fiscal year 2019 budget, we oppose the overall reduction in funds. The activities undertaken by IA build capacity and develop partnerships with other nations for species conservation, which enables maximum cooperation in fighting the terrorist organizations and international crime syndicates that profit from wildlife trafficking. U.S. involvement in combating wildlife trafficking is essential for species conservation and national and global security, as outlined in the National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking and the associated Implementation Plan. Congress has demonstrated a strong bipartisan commitment to this work and it is important to ensure adequate funding to continue implementing Public

Law 114–231, the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016, which provides financial assistance to projects in foreign countries that counter wildlife trafficking activities. With poaching and illegal wildlife trade reaching unprecedented levels, governments and private entities here and abroad have turned to FWS for leadership in coordinating, guiding, and implementing a response. Additionally, adequate funding for implementation of agreements made under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) facilitates international cooperation and solidifies the U.S.'s leadership role on conservation issues.

FWS PROGRAMS: MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

We urge the Committee not to implement cuts to the Multinational Species Conservation Fund, as requested in the fiscal year 2019 budget, but rather maintain at least fiscal year 2018 funding levels. The MSCF is comprised of five Congressionally established funds that support public-private partnerships for conservation projects protecting tigers, African and Asian elephants, rhinos, great apes, and marine turtles in their native habitats. Since 1989, these programs—which enjoy longstanding bipartisan support—have awarded more than 3,500 grants, focusing on key species and priority regions to ensure the protection of some of the world's most endangered and treasured animals. Administrative costs are low, with more than 95 percent of the fiscal year 2016 appropriation going directly to grants. Full funding of this popular, targeted, and efficient program is imperative to maintain the consistency and efficacy of the projects it supports.

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME (WNS)

—*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*—$6.5 million total; $2 million restored to Endangered Species Recovery; $4.5 million in Science Support
—*U.S. Geological Survey.*—$1.6 million in Ecosystems/Wildlife
—*National Park Service.*—$3,155,000 in Natural Resource Stewardship
—*Bureau of Land Management.*—$500,000
—*U.S. Forest Service.*—$2.5 million, Research & Development; $500,000, Forest Systems.

Twelve years after the first-known observation of white-nose syndrome, this bat disease remains at the heart of North America's most precipitous wildlife die-off of the past century, but Federal agencies and their partners are making progress in addressing this crisis. Caused by an invasive species of fungus, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (*Pd*), WNS has killed more than 6 million bats, and has spread from its first site in upstate New York to 32 States and 5 Canadian provinces. Mortality has been so severe that some populations have declined by over 90 percent. WNS has struck nine species, including the federally endangered Indiana and gray bats. The disease is also responsible for the population crash of the northern long-eared bat, leading to its 2015 designation as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

In the last few years, several events have taken place that are significant for the WNS outlook. First is the discovery of WNS and *Pd* in Washington State last year, the first known incidence of WNS or *Pd* in western North America, occurring 1,300 miles from the previous westernmost detection of the disease or fungus. Second is the discovery of *Pd* in the panhandle of Texas in 2017 and more recently in central Texas. Texas has the greatest diversity of bat species of any U.S. State. It is also located at the intersection of the ranges of eastern, southern, and western bat species. Two of these species have extensive distributions in the western United States and Central America. Third is the discovery of the first southeastern bat (Myotis austroriparius) with WNS, adding another species to the list of those threatened by the disease. Finally, fourth is the recent discovery of WNS in the State of Kansas, home to 15 species of bats, including big brown bats, which are known to eat about one-third of their body weight in insects each night. If WNS were to spread further, the number of species and ecosystems affected by the disease would escalate. Moreover, bat ecology in the West poses additional challenges for managing the disease. Western bat species roost and hibernate singly or in small groups, making the bats hard to locate for surveillance or treatment purposes. This is compounded by the difficulty of finding or accessing potential bat roosts or hibernacula in the West's mountainous, rugged topography.

The loss of bats from WNS is expected to have serious implications for our economy and environment. Bats are primary predators of night-flying insects, including agricultural pests that attack corn, soybeans, cotton, and other crops. By eating these pests, bats reduce the need for pesticides and lower food production costs; in

this way, bats save U.S. farmers an average of $22.9 billion per year. Bats also perform ecological services for 66 plant species that produce timber.

In July 2017, USFWS announced a grant of $1 million to States affected by WNS, bringing its total funding for States with WNS to $7 million over the last 8 years. In addition to making grants to States and other entities for WNS research, monitoring, and management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the lead agency for WNS response, created a new WNS funding initiative in partnership of FWS, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and U.S. Forest Service: the Bats for the Future Fund. The BFF provides grants for developing and deploying WNS treatments. NFWF administers the fund and match government contributions with private-sector monies. FWS provided $1 million to launch BFF. In collaboration with partners, the agency also began developing a structured decisionmaking model for prioritizing WNS scientific efforts. In this way, FWS hopes to help Federal, State, and other entities working on WNS get the best results possible with limited funds. For example, NFWF/BFF has been supporting research on whether UV light can be used as a treatment for bats suffering from white-nose syndrome. Research to date has found extreme sensitivity to UV light in the fungus. This study will measure the survival of little brown bats during hibernation after being treated with UV-light compared to control groups. The researchers are also exploring whether there are any non-target effects by measuring changes in the bat skin microbiome (both fungal and bacterial communities).

The U.S. Geological Survey continues its role in WNS research and data-gathering. The agency supports state WNS and *Pd* surveillance, particularly in regions on the edge of the disease spread. Confirming a diagnosis of WNS requires both the analysis of bat skin tissue samples by culture or molecular methods to detect the fungus AND viewing of samples under a microscope by a trained pathologist to document signs of skin infection. USGS hired a coordinator for NABat, with additional funding from FWS. The agency is validating software for acoustic detection of bats, which in the western United States is one of the only bat-survey methods available. This supports not only the goals of NABat but also FWS's requirements for monitoring listed bat species. Topics of current USGS WNS-related research include: the fungi normally found on various species of bats and possible correlations to the differential WNS susceptibility of those species; determining ideal environmental conditions for bat refugia in case populations must be taken from the wild to ensure their survival; and evolving hibernation behavior in post-WNS bats. USGS staff also are lending expertise to the development of the structured decisionmaking model led by FWS.

The National Park Service monitors bat populations on its lands, both in post-WNS areas to assess the disease's impacts and species' survival, and in unaffected areas to gather baseline data on bat populations and ecology. NPS's Bat Acoustic Survey Database is a repository for acoustic monitoring data gathered from these activities, providing guidance for collecting acoustic data, allowing for standardization and data comparability across the Service. Furthermore, the data-base is designed to allow for integration of data into NABat. As the Federal agency that welcomes the largest number of visitors every year, NPS plays an key role in educating the public about WNS, through ranger outreach, visitor infrastructure, and multimedia materials. Finally, NPS continues to fund research into WNS.

Congress has never allocated money for the U.S. Forest Service to engage on WNS, despite the fact that since the early days of the crisis the agency has contributed proactively to research and on-the-ground management to address the disease. Ongoing USFS research includes: DNA sequencing of bats across eastern and midwestern States, looking for possible adaptive selection of immune systems and comparing them; silencing WNS-related genes to increase bat resistance to the disease; the effects of UV light to treat WNS-stricken bats; a so-called electronic nose to identify WNS and *Pd* without direct contact with bats; and the use of alternate winter roosts to protect tricolored bats from WNS. It is clear that the Forest Service has made and continues to make major contributions to our understanding, detection, and treatment of *Pd* and WNS, but it has been doing so at the expense of other programs. We believe that the redirection of surplus funds from other accounts (such Forest Inventory and Analysis), as well as new funds, are more than justified.

[This statement was submitted by Nancy Blaney, Director, Government Affairs.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX TRIBES OF THE FORT PECK RESERVATION

The Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation thanks the Senate appropriations subcommittee for the opportunity to submit written testimony con-

cerning fiscal year 2018 appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health Service (IHS).

The Fort Peck Reservation is in northeast Montana, 40 miles west of the North Dakota border, and 50 miles south of the Canadian border, with the Missouri River defining its southern border. The Reservation encompasses over 2 million acres of land. We have approximately 12,000 enrolled Tribal members, with approximately 7,000 Tribal members living on the Reservation. We have a total Reservation population of approximately 11,000 people.

Congress has long recognized that the foundation for economic development and prosperity in Indian Country lay in community stability, which begins with infrastructure such as safe drinking water, roads, public safety, and healthcare. We ask the subcommittee to reject the administration's proposal for fiscal year 2019 to reduce appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education and Indian Health Service which are core Federal programs serving the Fort Peck Reservation and our members. Reducing funding for Federal program funding that at current appropriation levels do not fully address the full measure of well documented tribal needs, makes little sense.

FORT PECK RESERVATION RURAL WATER SYSTEM ($2.634 MILLION)

We ask the subcommittee to continue to fund the required $2.634 million for the Operation and Maintenance (OM&R) funding for the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System for fiscal year 2019, within appropriations to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Construction account. This funding increase, of $234,000, is necessary for this System to safely operate with the correct level of staff and operating supplies, including chemicals. The System provides drinking water to more than 17,000 residents in Northeast Montana and several social and governmental agencies, including the BIA Agency Office, Poplar Schools, and Poplar hospital, Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Fort Union Trading Post National Historic site, as well as several towns including Wolf Point, Frazier, Culbertson, and Medicine Lake.

The Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System was authorized by the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System Act of 2000, Public Law 106–382. The measure ensures a safe and adequate municipal, rural and industrial water supply for the residents of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation and assists the citizens of Roosevelt, Sheridan, Daniels, and Valley Counties in Montana develop safe and adequate municipal, rural and industrial water supplies. As noted in the President's budget: "Groundwater from shallow alluvial aquifers . . . fort the municipal systems . . . is generally poor with concentrations of iron, manganese, sodium, sulfates, bicarbonates and total dissolved solids above recommended standards." We must timely remedy this health risk.

The Project called for the construction of a single treatment plant on the Missouri River near Poplar, Montana that distributes water through 3,200 miles of pipeline to both the Reservation Tribal system and, through three interconnections, to the Dry Prairie system. A single water source on the Missouri River replaced nearly two dozen individual community water sources ensuring a clean, plentiful and safe water supply. The Project is now 75 percent complete and thus the corresponding increase in O&M funding is needed. The Fort Peck Tribes are very concerned that this major Federal investment and the source of the Tribes' drinking water is no threatened by the construction of the Keystone Pipeline. This pipeline will be built upstream of the Project intake and there is no way that the intake and the water treatment plant can continue to do their job if tar sands oil is leaked into the Missouri River. We would ask Congress to direct the Interior Department to consider the impacts this pipeline poses to the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System, as it considers the necessary permits to construct and operate this oil pipeline.

The Federal legislation authorizing the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System requires that the OM&R of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System—the portion on the Reservation that is held in trust by the Federal Government—be paid in full by the BIA as a Federal obligation. This is consistent with the Federal trust responsibility to the Tribes who were promised a permanent home when we agreed to move to the Reservation. A permanent home requires safe drinking water. If this funding is not made available to the Tribes, this system will have to shut down and all of the people, towns, and Federal, Tribal, State, public and private agencies, and businesses will have no source of drinking water.

Thus, the $2.634 million requested in fiscal year 2019 for the OM&R of this vital infrastructure project is critical. The increased funding of $234,000 over the fiscal year 2018 level for the O&M of the Project is needed as the Project buildout has increased the service population and thus requires additional personnel and other costs (power, chemicals, maintenance) to operate the water treatment plant to con-

tinue to meet this expanded service. If Congress does not appropriate the required funds for OM&R, then this System will not operate and the people of Northeast Montana will have no drinking water.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

We continue to build government services and programs on the Reservation and attract businesses to improve the quality of life for our members. The IHS operates two clinics on the Reservation; the Verne E. Gibbs IHS Health Center in Poplar, and the Chief Redstone IHS Health Center in Wolf Point. In-patient services are available at the non-IHS Poplar Community Hospital and Trinity Hospital in Wolf Point. To combat the high incidence of heart disease, cancer and diabetes, the Tribes supplement health services on the Reservation through our Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (HPDP) Wellness Program and the Spotted Bull Resource and Recovery Center, which we operate pursuant to an ISDA contract with the IHS. A 2016 study found that a barrier to healthcare is the failure of the IHS to fill critical healthcare provider positions at our two IHS clinics in Wolf Point and Poplar.

We greatly appreciate the work of this subcommittee to increase the level of funding for the Indian Health Service. The healthcare provided through these dollars, whether it be direct medical care, dental care, substance abuse treatment or purchased/referred care, is saving lives and is making a difference on our Reservation. Our members know well what it means to have access to care, so the Tribes can only ask that you continue to fund these critical programs and reject the administration's proposal to reduce IHS.

We would urge the members of the subcommittee to continue to emphasize the need for additional mental health and substance abuse treatment. Every day we are seeing the impact of abuse on our Reservation, where we continue to be plagued by methamphetamine abuse. Meth is cheap and very easy to find on our Reservation. This drug has destroyed families and is tearing at the very fabric of our society.

We need more treatment options and we need mental health specialists to be available to as individuals strive to remain clean. We need more funding for programs like our Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, which is focused on teaching our children about living a healthy lifestyle and taking care of their health as young people. Finally, we need mental health support for our children, who are experiencing the trauma that accompanies living in a household in the grip of addiction. We all know the statistics of childhood trauma in Indian country and this no different on the Fort Peck Reservation. A 2016 study indicated that 13 percent of our youth attempted suicide, that means that more than 1 in 10 of our children have tried to take their own lives. This is unacceptable.

BIA ROAD MAINTENANCE

We are again appreciative of subcommittee's recognition of the importance of transportation safety and economic development on Indian reservations by increasing fiscal year 2018 funding for the BIA Road Maintenance Program to $34.65 million, an increase of $4.35 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. Within the funding increase for fiscal year 2018, Congress directs that 1 million be used by Tribes and the BIA to improve the condition of unpaved school bus routes. We share the subcommittee's concern that poorly maintained BIA System routes contribute to higher absenteeism rates among our school children, greater wear on our buses and higher maintenance costs, as noted in a 2017 GAO Report (No. 17–423).

CONCLUSION

We thank the subcommittee for the opportunity to present testimony concerning the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service fiscal year 2019 budget.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCIES

The Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies (AAPCA)[1] appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on the fiscal year 2019 proposed budget for

[1] AAPCA is a national, non-profit, consensus-driven organization focused on assisting State and local air quality agencies and personnel with implementation and technical issues associated with the Federal Clean Air Act. AAPCA represents more than 40 State and local air agencies, and senior officials from 20 State environmental agencies currently sit on the AAPCA Board of Directors. AAPCA is housed in Lexington, Kentucky as an affiliate of The Council of State Governments. You can find more information about AAPCA at: http://www.cleanairact.org.

U.S. EPA, including State and local air quality management grants under the State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) program. AAPCA's State and local air agency members believe that stable, adequate resources, including state and local air quality management grants funded at a level at least equal to fiscal year 2018, are critical to core Clean Air Act activities.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (H.R. 1625), passed on March 23 of this year, recognized the need for these investments. H.R. 1625 funded the STAG program at $3.562 billion, with $1.076 billion provided for categorical grants, including $228.219 million for the State and Local Air Quality Management grant program, and $75 million for the Diesel Emission Reductions Grant program (prior to rescissions).[2]

Grants to State and local air agencies, including under Sections 103 and 105 of the Clean Air Act, fund essential activities related to planning, modeling, monitoring, training, developing emissions inventories and rules, permitting, inspections, and enforcing key elements of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), air toxics, and regional haze programs. State and local air agencies have found creative ways to amplify these Federal grant resources to fulfill core Clean Air Act functions, and, through the framework of cooperative Federalism, achieve significant success in virtually every measure of air pollution control.[3]

On February 12, the White House released the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2019.[4] The budget requests $5.4 billion to fund U.S. EPA, approximately a 33-percent decrease from the appropriations omnibus that passed on March 23. The budget also proposes a nearly 45-percent reduction in categorical grants, or $478.65 million less than enacted fiscal year 2018 levels. Further, U.S. EPA's fiscal year 2019 Justification of Appropriation Estimates for the Committee on Appropriations shows the elimination of several air-related programs, including reducing State and local air quality management grants by more than 33 percent.[5]

AAPCA recognizes that your subcommittee is in the early stages of the fiscal year 2019 appropriations process, and that H.R. 1625 did not adopt similar figures proposed by the administration for fiscal year 2018. Congressional budgets for at least the past 15 fiscal years have recognized the need for stable, adequate funding for State and local air quality management grants. Since fiscal year 2008, funding for these grants has averaged nearly $230 million, and the average year-to-year change has never been less than 3 percent.[6]

Instability in funding for key grant programs may affect each State or local air agency differently. Recent communication from the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) indicated that "As Categorical Grants make up on average 27 percent of State environmental agency budgets, decreases in these grants have significant impacts on the work that State environmental agencies are able to accomplish."[7] Providing stable, adequate funding for these grant programs through the appropriations process allows for State and local air agencies to continue the important and essential work that has driven success in air quality.

Thank you for the attention to this testimony. AAPCA and its members look forward to working with your subcommittee as Congress develops its priorities for fiscal year 2019 appropriations.

Sincerely,

STUART SPENCER
Associate Director, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
President, AAPCA

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[2] H.R. 1625—Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141).
[3] http://cleanairact.org/documents/GreatestStory4-17-17.pdf.
[4] https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/budget-fy2019.pdf.
[5] https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-02/documents/fy-2019-congressional-justification-all-tabs.pdf.
[6] Figures assume dollars not adjusted for inflation.
[7] https://www.ecos.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/FY18-EPA-Budget-Letter.pdf.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ART MUSEUM DIRECTORS

The Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) requests funding of at least $155 million each for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for fiscal year 2019. We also ask that the subcommittee provide the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) with the funding necessary to staff and train personnel in order to avoid placing any additional impediments on American art museums that are importing works of art containing ivory for the purposes of temporary public exhibition.

INDEMNITY PROGRAM

AAMD reminds the subcommittee that the NEA administers exhibition indemnity agreements under the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Act of 1975 on behalf of the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. In the indemnity program's 44 years of existence, it has facilitated the presentation of more than a thousand significant exhibitions. Absent the indemnity program, museums would be unable to present exhibitions of the size and value that it covers. Careful review and stringent standards have kept loss or damage to a minimum, while a high deductible provides taxpayers with additional protection: to date only two validated claim payments have been appropriated by Congress, for a net sum of $4,700.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

We have been gratified to see bipartisan support on this Committee and in Congress as a whole for the NEA's work. We particularly note the widespread commendation of the NEA pioneering programs for military personnel, veterans, and their families. AAMD also commends NEA for its commitment to the Blue Star Museums initiative, now in its ninth year. AAMD members have responded with overwhelming enthusiasm to Chairman Chu's invitation to offer free admission to active duty military and their families at least from Memorial Day through Labor Day. In 2016, approximately 90 percent of AAMD members in the United States either formally joined the program or already offered free admission to all. Each year, more than 2,000 museums participate, reaching on average more than 856,000 military members and their families. According to a survey conducted by Blue Star Families, fifteen percent of participants reported that it was the first time they had visited a museum. AAMD is grateful to Blue Star Families and the NEA for the opportunity to serve this new audience.

The NEA provides modest but important grants to art museums across the country. Examples of recent grants include:

Anchorage Museum, Anchorage, Alaska, Fiscal Year 2018

To support the exhibition "Walrus and the Polar Bear: Asveq and Nanook," and accompanying catalogue. The exhibition will examine the region's iconic and endangered walrus and polar bear, through contemporary art, culture and indigenous traditions, providing a more complex portrait of these animals than the romanticized portrayal outside of the Arctic. The exhibition will feature existing works, as well as newly commissioned works by native Alaskan and other artists.

Frist Art Museum, Nashville, Tennessee, Fiscal Year 2018 (formerly Frist Center for the Visual Arts)

To support the exhibition "Chaos and Awe: Painting for the 21st Century." The exhibition, slated to open in June 2018, will be presented thematically around specific themes that will explore issues related to technological challenges, interpretation of history, alienation and the sense of community, and the capacity and brilliance of the mind. Works by approximately 50 established and emerging artists will be presented. Educational programming includes a scholarly symposium, in-gallery talks, workshops, and classes.

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri, Fiscal Year 2017

To support provenance research on works in the museum's collection, specifically with respect to paintings and sculptures that may have a Holocaust-related connection. The funding enables provenance specialists to travel to specific archives and venues to complete research on paintings and begin research on the sculptures. Research results are being made public on the museum's online object database in the form of provenance narratives. In-gallery didactics, webpages dedicated to major contributors to the collection, and public programs are being developed to educate visitors about the provenance of the collection. The Nelson-Atkins welcomes any information that might help to clarify the provenance history of artwork in its collection.

Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings, Montana, Fiscal Year 2017

To support an exhibition of work by Jaune Quick-to-See Smith and accompanying catalogue. The exhibition featured paintings and prints spanning five decades of Quick-to-See Smith's career, exploring how she navigated Native and non-Native painterly expression as well as concerns related to coming of age as a female during the height of the male-dominated era of Abstract Expressionism. Quick-to-See Smith created her own visual language, one that is vivid, layered, symbolic, and unique in the canon of American art history. The exhibition included extensive public programming.

Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, Florida, Fiscal Year 2018

To support the exhibition "The World to Come" at the Harn Museum of Art. The exhibition exploring environmental challenges will feature works by more than 50 international contemporary artists who work in all media. Lectures, an interactive touch table, a panel discussion, workshops, and special youth educational programs will complement the exhibition. It opens in September 2018.

Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Fiscal Year 2018

To support the exhibition "Cult of the Machine" which opened in March 2018. Presented at the de Young Museum, the exhibition features approximately 150 works by modernists such as Georgia O'Keeffe, and Charles Demuth, shedding scholarly light on the aesthetic and intellectual concerns of Precisionism, underlying the development of an important strand of American Modernism. Public outreach includes a catalogue, musical performances, hands-on art activities, films, artist demonstrations, scholarly talks, and school programs.

RISD Museum, Providence, Rhode Island, Fiscal Year 2017

To support Project Open Door. The free, after-school and summer visual arts education program is a college access initiative for high school students and teachers from underserved communities. Participating youth develop technical skills in the visual arts and prepare competitive college entrance portfolios. Graduate students provide arts instruction in various artistic media. Students have the opportunity to work in an open studio, build portfolios of creative work, and make museum and gallery visits-including an annual visit to New York City. Its goals are to encourage teens to graduate from high school, to provide under-served teens attending Rhode Island urban public and charter high schools with opportunities to develop their artistic skills, to help prepare teens to enroll in post-secondary education by offering guidance on college selection and preparation of college applications, especially portfolio preparation for art and design college programs, to provide RISD MA & MAT students an authentic learning site that serves as a foundation for professional practices that will engage in social justice and community arts endeavors, and to provide RISD students, faculty, staff and alumni a platform for community engagement.

Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, Maryland, Fiscal Year 2018

To support a project featuring contemporary artist Roberto Lugo, invited to make new work and create an installation using the museum's ceramics collection. The new installation will tell the intersecting stories of the people who designed, built, occupied, and worked at One West Mount Vernon Place, a mid-19th-century Greek Revival mansion. Lugo aims to make the environment of the art museum accessible by permitting individuals, physically and symbolically, to occupy spaces that were previously denied to them. Public programming will include a community conversation, clay workshops, gallery talks, and after-school programs. Opening later this year.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

This important agency assists art museums in presenting humanities scholarship to the general public. NEH also plays an invaluable role in assisting with the preservation and conservation of important collections. This is exactly the type of unglamorous work for which it is chronically difficult to raise private funding, making Federal support all the more valuable.

AAMD notes NEH's support of grant programs to benefit wounded warriors and to ensure educational opportunities for veterans and service members transitioning to civilian life. We also note NEH's new Infrastructure and Capacity-Building Challenge Grants program, which seeks to strengthen the institutional base of the humanities in the United States. Examples of recent grants include:

SFMoMA, San Francisco, California, Fiscal Year 2017

One of the first museums to recognize photography as an art form, SFMOMA has more than 17,800 photographic works, dating from the advent of the medium in 1839 to the digital images of today. Deepening and expanding its commitment to photography, the new Pritzker Center for Photography nearly triples the space dedicated to photography, filling the majority of the third floor, the largest space permanently dedicated to photography in any art museum in the United States. The center includes enhanced permanent collection galleries and new special exhibition galleries, along with a study center and the Photography Interpretive Gallery, which was supported by a major grant from the NEH.

Louisville-Jefferson County. Louisville, Kentucky, Fiscal Year 2017

The grant has enabled the purchase of new software, training costs, printing, transportation of participating youth, and staff compensation through the Cultural Pass Program, which provides free access for children to Louisville culture all summer long, including the Speed Art Museum.

Cummer Museum Foundation. Jacksonville, Florida, Fiscal Year 2018

For conservation of outdoor collections damaged by Hurricane Irma.

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Eugene, Oregon, Fiscal Year 2018

For the rehousing of 134 Asian paintings. This work will improve preservation of historic scrolls, including Chinese, Japanese, and Korean paintings, and promote access to these significant 19th-century works for use within the university community, for undergraduate research projects, museum exhibitions, as well as for related public programs that reach a broad audience.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

We also ask that the subcommittee provide FWS with the funding necessary to staff and train personnel in order to avoid placing impediments on American art museums as they carry out their mission, not only to temporarily exhibit works of art to the public, which contain ivory, but also to be able to legally acquire works of antique ivory from abroad.

FWS staff have worked well with the art museum community on several important issues related to its mission and, as they continue to craft regulations that recognize the importance of maintaining historic works, we urge that they be given all necessary support and resources.

ABOUT AAMD

The purpose of the Association of Art Museum Directors is to support its members in increasing the contribution of art museums to society. The AAMD accomplishes this mission by establishing and maintaining the highest standards of professional practice, serving as forum for the exchange of information and ideas, acting as an advocate for its member art museums, and being a leader in shaping public discourse about the arts community and the role of art in society.

[This statement was submitted by Christine Anagnos, Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC AND LAND-GRANT (APLU) UNIVERSITIES BOARD ON NATURAL RESOURCES (BNR)

On behalf of the APLU Board on Natural Resources (BNR), we thank you for your support of science and research programs within the Department of Interior (DOI) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS). We appreciate the opportunity to provide recommendations for the following programs within USGS: $9 million for the Water Resources Research Institutes and $23.9 million for the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units. We also recommend a minimum of $5.9 million of funding for the Joint Fire Science Program within DOI.

APLU BNR requests $9 million for the Water Resources Research Institutes (WRRI). The APLU BNR request is based on the following: $7,500,000 in base grants for the WRRI as authorized by Section 104(b) of the Water Resources Research Act, including State-based competitive grants; $1,500,000 to support activities authorized by section 104(g) of the Act. Federal funding for the WRRI program is the catalyst that moves States and cities to invest in university-based research to address their own water management issues. State WRRIs take the relatively modest amount of Federal funding appropriated, match it 2:1 with State, local and other funds and use it to put university scientists to work finding solutions to the

most pressing local and State water problems that are of national importance. The Institutes have raised more than $16 in other funds for every dollar funded through this program. The added benefit is that often research to address State and local problems helps solve problems that are of regional and national importance. Many of the projects funded through this program provide the knowledge for State or local managers to implement new Federal laws and regulations. Perhaps most important, the Federal funding provides the driving force of collaboration in water research and education among local, State, Federal and university water professionals. This program is essential to solving State, regional and inter-jurisdictional water resources problems. As USGS itself has stated: "The Water Institutes have developed a constituency and a program that far exceeds that supported by their direct Federal appropriations."

The institutes also train the next generation of water resource managers and scientists. In 2016, these institutes provided research support for more than 279 undergraduate and graduate students studying water-related issues in the fields of agriculture, biology, chemistry, earth sciences, engineering and public policy. Institute-sponsored students receive training in both the classroom and the field, often working shoulder-to-shoulder with the top research scientists in their field on vanguard projects of significant regional importance.

In addition to training students directly, Water Resources Research Institutes work with local residents to overcome water-related issues. For example, the California Institute for Water Resources, like most of its peers, holds field days, demonstrations, workshops, classes, webinars, and offers other means of education to transfer their research findings to as many users as possible. Outreach that succeeds in changing a farmer's approach to nitrogen application or reducing a homeowner's misuse of lawn treatments can reduce the need for restrictive regulation. Recently, CIWR has served as a go-to resource for information regarding the historic drought.

Below are some examples of work being done in various States:

—The Alaskan Water and Environmental Research Center (WERC) at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, has contributed has partnered with the U.S. Department of Energy and the Alaska Department of Transportation to support transportation planning and tundra travel on Alaska's North Slope, an important area for energy development. At the same time, WERC established a methane bubbling monitoring program utilizing a team of scientists, teachers, and enthusiastic citizens. Methane, naturally produced in lakes and wetlands, is a greenhouse gas thought to contribute to climate change. The pan-arctic bubbling monitoring team, which began in Alaska but will extend beyond the State's borders, feeds information back to climate scientists to better predict the response of methane production in lakes as a feedback to climate warming.

—In the southwest, three university-based water resources research institutes have teamed with USGS Water Science Centers. Researchers at New Mexico State University, Texas A&M, and the University of Arizona worked with USGS colleagues on the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program. Populations in El Paso, Texas, Las Cruces, New Mexico, Nogales, Arizona and towns in Mexico, share aquifers that cross the national boundary between the U.S. and Mexico. https://webapps.usgs.gov/taap/.

APLU BNR requests at least $23.9 million for the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units (CRUs). This program: (1) trains the next generation of fisheries and wildlife managers; (2) conducts research designed to meet the needs of unit cooperators; and (3) provides technical assistance to State, Federal and other natural resource managers. Originally established in the 1930s to provide training for students in fisheries and wildlife biology, today the CRUs provide experience and training for approximately 600 graduate students per year, a critical need as State and Federal workforces face unprecedented retirements over the next 5 to 10 years. The CRUs also provide valuable mission-oriented research for their biggest clients, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and cooperating State agencies. Today, there are 40 Cooperative Research Units in 38 States.

Each unit is a true Federal-State-university-private sector collaboration in that it is a partnership between the U. S. Geological Survey, a State natural resources management agency, a host university, and the Wildlife Management Institute. For every $1 the Federal Government puts into the program, $3 more are leveraged through the other partners. The U.S. economy has long relied on the bountiful natural resources bestowed upon this land. Federal investment in the CRUs will be returned many times over though the training of future natural resource managers who will guide the Nation in sustainable use of our natural resources. The research conducted by CRU scientists directly supports the difficult management challenges

faced by natural resources managers. The examples below demonstrate the value of the CRUs to wildlife issues with local and national importance.

—*Alaska:* The Alaska unit is currently working with Federal and State stakeholders to model the effects of climate on available forage for moose and caribou, two important species for both subsistence and sport hunting in the State. This CRU is also examining the availability of habitat for Chinook Salmon juveniles in the Chena River; improving data collection on the productivity of the Black Oystercatcher population in southwest Alaska; developing a research framework for studying impacts of climate and land use on migratory waterfowl; and researching the foraging and migration patterns of Broad Whitefish on the Arctic Coastal Plain, a valuable subsistence species that may be troubled by a changing climate.

—*California:* Because the marbled murrelet, a bird that feeds in the ocean and nests in old forests, is listed as a threatened species through the Endangered Species Act, State and Federal natural resources managers have implemented many conservation tactics to aid the species recovery. Despite these efforts, researchers are realizing that a combination of changing foraging conditions and nesting habitat loss is potentially driving continued trouble for the species. Current research will help specify what the bird is eating in hopes of helping natural resources managers bridge the gap between marine management and forest management.

—*Minnesota:* The Minnesota CRU is currently researching the olfactory sensitivity of Asian carps to putative sex pheromones. This work has recently received national attention, because Asian carps are an invasive species that threatens many of the Nation's freshwater native fishes through competition for food. The Minnesota CRU hopes to use the sex pheromones to attract and trap Asian carp, removing them permanently from the Nation's freshwater lakes and rivers.

The APLU request of $23.9 million would allow the CRUs to be fully staffed, which currently they are not. There are a record number of 35 vacancies nationwide. For example, the California CRU currently has only one Federal staff member where there should be 2–4. These vacancies leave the CRUs less able to fulfill their critical roles in bridging the gap between Federal fish and wildlife policies and the States that charged with managing the Nation's fish and wildlife resources.

APLU strongly recommends funding the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) at a minimum of $5.9 million.

According to NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), which tracks U.S. climate events that have great economic and societal impacts (www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions), the U.S. had an extraordinarily damaging wildfire season in 2017 burning more than 9.8 million acres. The cumulative costs approach $18 billion, which triples the previous U.S. annual wildfire season cost record of $6 billion (Consumer Price Inflation-adjusted) that occurred in 1991. These wildfire conditions were enhanced by the preceding drought conditions in the Western United States.

The height of the wildfire season occurred in October, as a historic firestorm damaged or destroyed over 15,000 homes, businesses and other structures across central California and caused 44 deaths. Incredibly, another California firestorm developed in early December from persistent Santa Ana winds and extremely dry conditions. These wildfires burned another 1,000 homes and structures in southern California. The largest was Thomas fire that consumed over 285,000 acres making it the largest California wildfire on record. It is worth noting that none of the top 20 largest California wildfires have occurred after October, making the Thomas fire temporally unprecedented and a harbinger of longer western wildfire seasons.

Despite this abysmal tally of damage from wildfires in 2017, the administration has recommended no funding for the Joint Fire Science Program within the Department of Interior. The JFSP model for funding critical research, based on management priorities and with requirements for active science delivery, makes the program uniquely valuable and the only one of its kind. No other program offers researchers the opportunity to address fire management challenges in direct response to manager priorities. Based on direction from Congress, the program is a partnership of Federal land management agencies that work together to identify and address problems associated with managing wildland fuels, fires, and fire-impacted ecosystems. They competitively allocate funding to researchers to tackle those issues via applied research, and require active delivery of science to managers and policymakers, linking science to management.

With a relatively limited budget, the Joint Fire Science Program has improved efficacy and accountability of agency activities by funding research to address impor-

tant topics. Past research has focused on such salient issues as understanding smoke impacts to communities, overcoming barriers to prescribed fire, identifying how drivers of fire costs affect decisionmaking, analyzing fire behavior, and understanding fire effects on resources and communities. The program supports regional Fire Science Consortia that support science delivery to the management and practitioner communities. Research and science delivery under this program have proven valuable for both Federal land managers and partner organizations working to restore fire-adapted landscapes and promote fire-adapted communities.

BNR thanks you for the opportunity to provide our views to the subcommittee. We look forward to working with you through the fiscal year 2019 appropriations process.

About APLU and the Board on Natural Resources

APLU's membership consists of 224 State universities and State-university systems. APLU institutions enroll more than 4.1 million undergraduate students, and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1.1 million degrees, employ 1.1 million faculty and staff and conduct $42.4 billion annually in university-based research annually. The Board's mission is to promote university-based programs dealing with natural resources, fisheries, wildlife, ecology, energy, and the environment. BNR representatives are chosen by their president's office to serve and currently number over 500 scientists and educators, who are some of the Nation's leading research and educational expertise in environmental and natural-resource disciplines.

[This statement was submitted by Susan White, Executive Director of the North Carolina Sea Grant and Director of the Water Resources Research Institute of the University of North Carolina System, North Carolina State University.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE DRINKING WATER ADMINISTRATORS

Summary of Request: The Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) respectfully submits the following recommendations for fiscal year 2019 appropriations on behalf of the drinking water programs in the 50 States, five territories, District of Columbia, and Navajo Nation. ASDWA requests funding for two programs that ensure appropriate public health protection and that will result in enhancing economic stability and prosperity in American cities and towns. ASDWA requests $200 million for the Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) program, $1.16 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) program, and $50 million for the three new drinking water grant programs.

OVERVIEW: THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR OUR COMMUNITIES AND THE ECONOMY & THE ROLE OF STATE DRINKING WATER PROGRAMS

States need sustained Federal support to maintain public health protection and to support the needs of the water systems they oversee. State drinking water programs strive to meet the Nation's public health protection goals through two principal funding programs: the Public Water System Supervision Program and the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program. These two programs, with their attendant State match requirements, provide the means for States to work with drinking water utilities to ensure that American citizens will have safe and adequate water supplies.

Vibrant and sustainable communities, their citizens, workforce, and businesses all depend on a safe, reliable, and adequate supply of drinking water. Economies only grow and sustain themselves when they have safe and reliable water supplies. Over 90 percent of the population receives water used for bathing, cooking, and drinking from a water system that is overseen by State drinking water program personnel. Water systems—as well as the cities, villages, schools, and businesses they support—rely on State drinking water programs to ensure they comply with all applicable Federal requirements.

In addition to the water we drink in our homes, water produced by water systems is also used to fight fires, transport wastewater, cook, wash clothes and dishes, as well as by businesses for manufacturing, food processing, and cooling. State drinking water programs must have adequate funding to protect public health and maintain the economic health of communities. Incidents such as the chemical spill in Charleston, West Virginia; algal toxins in the water for Toledo, Ohio; and the leaching of lead from lead-containing pipelines into the water supply in Flint, Michigan all serve as stark reminders of the critical nature of the work that State drinking water programs do—every day—and the reason why the funding for State drinking water programs must be not only sustained but enhanced. More recently, the perva-

sive incidents of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) contamination adds to the urgency of the need for funding.

STATE DRINKING WATER PROGRAMS: HOW THEY OPERATE, WHY SUPPORT IS NEEDED, AND JUSTIFICATIONS FOR REQUESTED AMOUNTS

The Public Water System Supervision Program

How the PWSS Program Operates: To meet the requirements of the SDWA, States have accepted primary enforcement responsibility for oversight of regulatory compliance and technical assistance efforts for more than 150,000 public water systems to ensure that potential health-based violations do not occur or are remedied in a timely manner. This involves more than 90 federally regulated contaminants and the complexity of regulations has increased in the past decade. Beyond the contaminants covered by Federal drinking water regulations, States are also implementing an array of proactive initiatives to protect public health from "source to tap." These include source water assessments and protections for communities and watersheds; outreach and education on programs such as asset management and workforce, technical assistance for water treatment and distribution for challenged utilities; and enhancement of overall water system performance.

In recent years, States have also taken on an increasingly prominent role in working with Federal and local partners to help ensure sufficient water quantity. Many States have worked intensively with numerous small water systems in recent years that were within days of running completely dry. In short, State activities go well beyond simply ensuring compliance at the tap—and States perform these tasks more efficiently and cheaply than would be the case if the program were federally implemented.

Why Adequate Support is Needed: Inadequate Federal funding cannot support the principles of Cooperative Federalism. States will be unable to protect public health without adequate Federal funding support. Inadequate Federal funding for State drinking water programs has several negative consequences. For example, consider the proposed Long-Term Revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule (LT–LCR). As part of ASDWA's comments on EPA's Federalism Consultation, ASDWA conducted a Costs of States' Transaction Study (CoSTS). The resulting data estimated that the costs of States' staff time for the LT–LCR would be in the range of 72 percent-95 percent of current PWSS funding. Without additional funding, this rule will be an unfunded mandate for States. Many States are facing difficult choices on what implementation activities to not do, such as conducting less frequent inspections or providing technical assistance to systems that need it. Others are looking to EPA for assistance, which is challenged by the Agency's own resource constraints and lack of "on the ground" expertise. States also want to offer the flexibilities allowed under existing rules to local water systems. However, fewer State resources mean less opportunity to work individually with water systems to improve their systems and protect public health.

State drinking water programs are extremely hard pressed financially and the funding gap continues to grow. State-provided funding has historically compensated for inadequate Federal funding, but State budgets have been less able to bridge this funding gap in recent years. State drinking water programs are stretched to the breaking point. Insufficient Federal support for this critical program increases the likelihood of contamination events that puts the public's health at risk. $101.9 million was appropriated for the PWSS program in fiscal year 2018—the same funding level as was appropriated in fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017. The administrations fiscal year 2019 request of $67.9 million represents a 34 percent decrease for PWSS funding. This level of funding has not been seen since 1995, nearly 25 years ago. This is an untenable situation—a significant decrease in funding to work with a growing population who are increasingly concerned about drinking water contaminants. The number of public water systems to be overseen has not decreased; and the number of regulatory requirements to be implemented also has not decreased. In fact, several non-regulatory actions such as addressing PFAS and algal toxins and providing oversight for the development of water systems' inventories of lead service lines have increased States' workloads. States always step in to help resolve the problems and return the systems to providing safe water as quickly as possible. The $101.9 million that was appropriated for the PWSS program for fiscal year 2018 was sorely needed for States to be able to implement their public health protection responsibilities and more is still needed today. Any reduction, no matter how small, exacerbate States' existing financial difficulties.

For the PWSS Program in fiscal year 2019, ASDWA Respectfully Requests $200 million: The number of regulations requiring State implementation and oversight as well as performance expectations continue to grow while at the same time, the Fed-

eral funding support has been essentially "flat-lined." Inflation has further eroded these static funding levels. This recommended amount is based on ASDWA's December 2013 Resource Needs Report and begins to fill the above-described resource gap. These funds are urgently needed for implementing existing drinking water rules, taking on new initiatives, and to account for the eroding effects of inflation. It is a small price to pay for public health protection.

The Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program

How the DWSRF Program Operates: Drinking water in the U.S. is among the safest and most reliable in the world, but it is threatened by aging infrastructure. Through low interest loans provided by the DWSRF, States help water utilities overcome this threat. The historical payback to the DWSRF on this investment has been exceptional. Since its inception, the DWSRF has touched millions of Americans through projects that enhance drinking water capabilities at water utilities. In the core DWSRF program, nearly $21 billion in cumulative Federal capitalization grants since 1997 have been leveraged by States into over $35 billion in infrastructure loans to 14,000 small and large communities across the country. 26.3 percent of the cumulative DWSRF assistance, including negative interest loans and principal forgiveness, has been provided to disadvantaged communities. Such investments pay tremendous dividends—both in supporting our economy and in protecting our citizens' health. States have very effectively and efficiently leveraged Federal dollars with State contributions to improve health protection for millions of Americans.

An important feature of the DWSRF program is the State "set-aside" fund component and another key reason to adequately fund this critical program. Set-asides function as a proactive way for States to work with drinking water systems to maintain compliance and avoid violations. States may reserve up to 31 percent of these funds for a variety of critical tasks, such as increasing the technical, managerial, and financial capacity of water systems; providing training and certification for water system operators; and continuing wellhead and source water protection efforts. Set-asides are an essential source of funding for States' core public health protection programs and these efforts work in tandem with infrastructure loans.

Drinking Water Infrastructure Investment is Well below the Documented Need: EPA's 6th Drinking Water Needs Survey concluded that $427.6 billion of capital investment was needed for the next 20 years. The total translates to $21.4 billion annually. Continued investment is needed for aging treatment plants, storage tanks, pumps, and distribution lines that carry water to our Nation's homes, businesses and schools. The DWSRF must continue to be a key part of the infrastructure solution. The newly created WIFIA program will complement the DWSRF, as the DWSRF can also offer project subsidization for disadvantaged communities, funds for training or technical assistance, or health-based drivers. Both the DWSRF and WIFIA support drinking water needs but neither should serve as a replacement for the other.

For the DWSRF Program in fiscal year 2019, ASDWA respectfully requests $1.16 billion: Multiple years of flat DWSRF funding has hampered solving the Nation's infrastructure problem. DWSRF funding has been static at $863 million since fiscal year 2016, until Congress provided a partial solution in the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus appropriation by adding a one-time boost of $300 million. ASDWA supports maintaining the increased funding. The primary purpose of the DWSRF is to improve public health protection by facilitating water system compliance with national primary drinking water regulations through the provision of loans. Physical water infrastructure improvements coupled with critical assistance initiatives are essential to support public health protection as well as a sustainable economy. ASDWA believes that funding the DWSRF at the recently increased $1.16 billion level will better enable the DWSRF to meet the SDWA compliance and public health protection goals.

Three New Drinking Water Grant Programs in Fiscal Year 2018 Omnibus

ASDWA respectfully requests continuation of $50 million of funding for the three new grant programs: ASDWA applauds the addition of $50 million of new funding in the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus for three new grants programs for disadvantaged communities ($20 million), lead reduction ($10 million), and voluntary lead testing in schools and child care centers ($20 million). These three new grants programs will provide significant public health improvements if continued beyond fiscal year 2018, as a single year is not enough time for the multiple organizations are needed to develop and implement these complex programs. A multi-year grant program, for at least 5 years, is needed for these grants to be effective.

Conclusion: ASDWA respectfully recommends that the Federal fiscal year 2019 budget needs for States' role in the provision of safe drinking water be adequately

funded by Congress. A strong State drinking water program supported by the Federal-State partnership will ensure that the quality of drinking water in this country will not deteriorate and, in fact, will continue to improve—so that the public can be assured that a glass of water is safe to drink no matter where they travel or live. States are willing and committed partners. However, additional Federal financial assistance is needed to meet ongoing and ever growing regulatory, infrastructure, and security needs.

[This statement was submitted by J. Alan Roberson, P.E., Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON

April 8, 2018

To: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies (Senate)

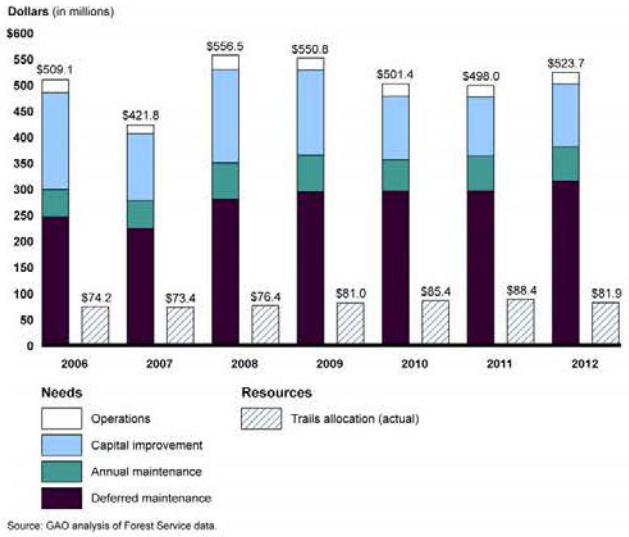
Re: U.S. Forest Service 2019 Proposed Capital Improvement and Maintenance budget

The Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) is a non-profit 501c-3 organization that works through the volunteer efforts of our members to maintain trails, trailheads, and campgrounds on our state and Federal public lands in Washington State. We are one of the primary organizations that provide volunteer support for clearing trails on the U.S. National Forest system and have been part of the National Sustainability and Stewardship strategies. However, our efforts to assist with addressing the growing backlog of trail maintenance on Forest Service lands can only be productive if the Forest Service (USFS) has the funds for planning, management, materials, and supplies to design, lead, and complete trail projects on their trail systems. Otherwise the trails do not get repaired, become unusable, and over time disappear off the trail inventory. This is at a time when the public need for outdoor recreational access for health and social benefit is growing, not shrinking.

We in BCHW are stock users and packers. For us to be able to maintain trails, we need to haul our stock to the trailheads on USFS road systems which are themselves in serious need of repair due to weather damage as well as deferred maintenance. Many of the roads are impassable and can remain so for several years. We often are in the position of not just volunteering our time, labor, and stock use but also having to cover our increased vehicle repair costs. Heavy reconstruction of bridges and puncheons can require specialized equipment and bulky materials which we must not only pack but also in many cases provide. Training and safety requirements put additional cost impacts on both staff and volunteers. There is no shortage of regulations on what are best and required management practices. The shortage is in the funding to meet both the requirements and the work that needs to be completed.

BCHW volunteers have witnessed the effects of wildfires on recreational assets on USFS lands. The damage lasts many years after the fires are put out and the BAER response teams go home. Some of our most treasured areas remain wastelands with soft trails, failed puncheons, and falling dead timber. We can do very little without major dynamic support from agencies for relocating and reconstructing trails. How can they do that if they don't have any staff?

This problem has been growing for decades, and in 2013 there was a GAO study of USFS recreational trails. This graph (adjacent) from that study shows that the 80 million a year in the USFS budget for trails is sorely inadequate (Figure 7 GAO–13–618 Forest Service Trail Maintenance)



While the solution will require boosting that 80 million per year, there has been no movement to do so. Approaching 2019, the administration's proposed budget is to lower that amount to an unsustainable level (the CMTL portion for trails would be lowered from $54 million to $9.4 million).

New studies highlight how recreation on public lands contributes significantly to the national economy through visitations from tourists, recreationists, and other citizens, and this is certainly true. But the beneficiaries of this robust revenue are not the agencies that provide the services unless they are appropriated a share through the budget process. A bus may carry a lot of visitors but it needs gas, maintenance, roads to run on, and access to view sites and facilities. The investment in maintenance pays dividends in economic benefit. That reinvestment needs to come from Congress in responsible appropriations. We therefore ask that Congress do its part in supporting public lands recreation by properly funding the Capital Maintenance trails budget of the USFS at $100 million or more. Equally important is the Capital Maintenance roads budget. Instead of lowering the road funding from $138 million to $56 million, raise that item to $150 million.

Thank you,

JEFF CHAPMAN
Legislative Committee Chair
Back Country Horsemen of Washington

BCHW work party in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest 2017

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DAVID JONAS BARDIN

CHAIRMAN MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBER UDALL,

(a) Please ask the Secretary of the Interior: How best to assure long-term survival of, stability for, and adequate resources for USGS Geomagnetism Program?

(b) Please reject for fiscal year 2019 (as you did for fiscal year 2018) the President's proposal to terminate this low-cost Program which is so vital to national security and protection of our electric power grid, other critical infrastructure, and their operations from natural and hostile events.[1]

(c) Please raise USGS Geomagnetism Program line for fiscal year 2019 to $3.6 million, rather than the Public Law 115–141 level of $1.9 million (continuing to draw $500,000 from the much larger USGS Facilities line and ~$550,000 from the U.S. Air Force[2]).

USGS Geomagnetism Program has data acquisition, analytic, and information sharing capabilities. It provides geomagnetic time series and real-time data used by military and civilian agencies, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), utility firms and groups, consultants and researchers.

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[1] See Finn & Love, *Proposed elimination of USGS Geomagnetism Program* (June 3, 2017); available at https://geohazards.usgs.gov/pipermail/geomag-data/2017-June/000026.html.

[2] House Report 115–238 (available at https://www.congress.gov/115/crpt/hrpt238/CRPT-115hrpt238.pdf) shows a Geomagnetism line of $1,885,000 (at p. 136). The Program also receives $550,000 from the Air Force and $500,000 out of the USGS Facilities line for a total of about $3 million. U.S. Geological Survey 2019 Budget Justification, p. 61, states: "To address higher priorities, the USGS is not requesting funds for the Geomagnetism program."

It provides continuous outputs of its 14 geomagnetic observatories: five in Alaska, four in the Western Interconnection [Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC)] (in Washington, Colorado, Arizona, California), two in the Eastern Interconnection (in Mississippi, Virginia), one each in Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico—none in the Texas Interconnection [Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT)].[3] It reciprocates internationally. It's "most important product . . . is time series of stable magnetometer data having high accuracy and resolution."[4] We should not risk interruption or degradation of Program outputs.

Congress should fund Program preservation and at least six more USGS magnetometer stations in the Contiguous United States (CONUS), targeted on parts of the country that are under-monitored and where geomagnetic hazards are of greatest concern, to be located in consultation with stakeholders (likely in these six general regions: * New York-New England, * Minnesota-Wisconsin-Iowa, * Illinois-Indiana-Ohio-Michigan, * Pennsylvania, * Texas, * a location in Southeast U.S.)

Map below shows two gaps exposing Americans to geomagnetic blackout hazards:

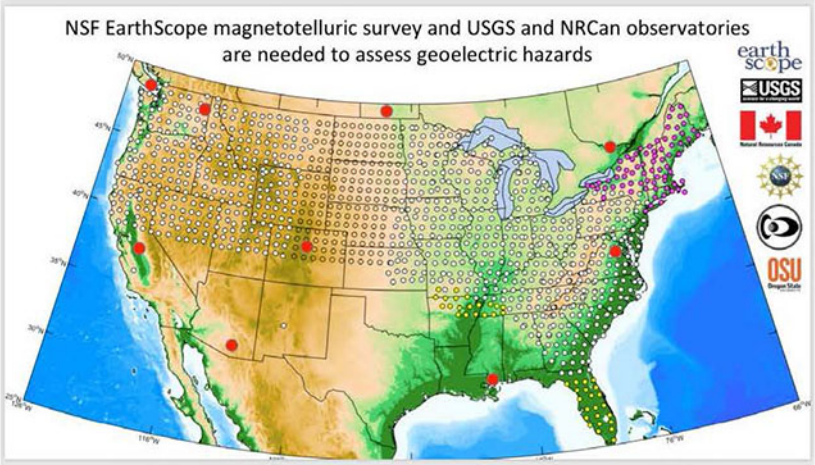
—Big circles, marking six existing USGS magnetometer stations in CONUS and three Canadian ones near border, leave a huge gap between Boulder Colorado and Fredericksburg Virginia.[5]

—Small circles mark Earth conductivity survey of two-thirds of CONUS, leaving gap for all or parts of 14 Southern and Southwestern CONUS States: ALABAMA, ARIZONA, ARKANSAS, CALIFORNIA, COLORADO, FLORIDA, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, NEBRASKA, NEVADA, NEW MEXICO, OKLAHOMA, TEXAS and UTAH.

[3] In July 2009, USGS closed and subsequently dismantled its Del Rio, Texas, observatory for budgetary reasons.

[4] See https://geomag.usgs.gov/monitoring/operations.php.

[5] See Love & Finn (2017) [*Real-time geomagnetic monitoring for space weather-related applications: Opportunities and challenges* Space Weather, 15, doi:10.1002/2017SW001665. Please ask: Considering the existing ground-based observation systems for geomagnetic storms, from the standpoints of NOAA space weather forecasts and research, USGS support for the electric power industry situational awareness and research, and the current under-monitoring of the areas of the U.S. with greatest geomagnetic blackout hazard concerns, into what general regions of the country should the magnetometer network of USGS Geomagnetism Program be usefully expanded? How many additional stations would be needed?



Protecting the electric power grid from Geomagnetic Disturbances (GMDs) caused by natural explosion from the Sun (or from E3 pulses due to a high-altitude nuclear explosion), requires data about electric conductivity of the Earth[6] which federally-funded surveys have acquired (or are acquiring) for most of the country, mainly done via National Science Foundation (NSF) EarthScope grants to Oregon State University (OSU). (Mineral Resources Program of USGS also performed a fraction of these surveys.) As NSF funding for such surveying runs out this year, completion of surveying for remainder of our country seems unlikely.

Please ask USGS and the Secretary of the Interior—in light of the National Space Weather Strategy—How best to complete CONUS Earth conductivity survey?

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID JONAS BARDIN,
Retired member,
Arent Fox LLP

[6] See Space Weather Enterprise Forum, 27 June 2017, Session 4, transcript at 5–7, available at https://swfound.org/media/205939/swef__2017__4.pdf.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATOR MICHAEL F. BENNET REQUESTING RESOURCES FOR AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND TO THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS, AIR, AND WATER

MICHAEL F. BENNET
COLORADO

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FINANCE
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April 27, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Senator Udall:

As your Subcommittee begins consideration of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year (FY) 2019, I write to request that the measure provide robust resources to the following agencies and programs that are important to address climate change and to the conservation and management of our public lands, air, and water. .

- **The Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program** provides critical resources to nearly 1.900 counties across 49 states to offset lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal lands. In states like Colorado, where more than 30 percent of lands are federally controlled, PILT provides a vital source of funding for essential community services and maintenance of infrastructure. Without full funding for the PILT program in FY 2019, counties across the nation will be unable to provide essential services such as law enforcement, search and rescue, road maintenance and public health to their residents and visitors.

- Colorado relies on **EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grants, Categorical Grants, and other enforcement funding to implement its state clean air and water and hazardous waste programs**. The state would not be able to provide basic protections without this funding. I urge you to fully fund these programs at or above FY18 levels.

- **The Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program** is critical to many communities. SRS provides rural counties with funding for public schools, road maintenance, and forest restoration projects. We appreciate the inclusion of a two-year SRS reauthorization in the FY18 Omnibus, and look forward to working with the Committee towards a permanent solution, while ensuring robust funding for this crucial program.

- The **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** is one of the country's best conservation programs, preserving public lands in rural and urban settings. For the last 50 years, it has protected lands, historic sites, national parks, wilderness areas, and urban parks in every state. LWCF has supported 42,000 state and local projects. In Colorado, LWCF resources recently supported the protection of key land parcels at Rocky Mountain National Park, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and the preservation of many important BLM and Forest Service parcels. The stateside portion of

LWCF also funds trails and urban parks in communities throughout Colorado. While I appreciate that the subcommittee faces difficult choices, I hope that you provide substantial resources for this program as we work to reauthorize this vital conservation program.

- **The Superfund Cleanup program.** Since 1987, the appropriations for the Superfund program have been cut in half, decreasing from over $2.5 billion to less than $1.2 billion in FY2018. The Superfund program is one of the only mechanisms that exist to clean up contaminated sites. Today, there are over 1300 sites on EPA's National Priorities List with known releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. About 20 to 25 new sites are added to the National Priorities List each year and a 2010 GAO report found that EPA's costs to remediate these sites far outweigh the available funding. We encourage substantial and robust funding for the Superfund Cleanup program to support these needs. This is particularly important in Colorado given the urgent need to fully fund the new Bonita Peak Superfund project in the Animas River watershed.

- Funding for **climate change research, monitoring, reporting, policy development, and implementation** is necessary to continue to protect the next generation of Americans from the effects of climate change and develop commonsense climate mitigation policies. I encourage you to fully fund EPA climate change research programs at or above FY18 levels, EPA's Green House Gas Reporting program, including voluntary programs like the Natural Gas Star and EnergyStar program, and DOI's Climate Science Research Network.

- **We must provide sufficient resources for the U.S. Forest Service to manage our national forests.** The Forest Service works hard to improve forest and stream ecosystems, reduce the risk of devastating wildfires, maintain roads and trails, and provide recreational access. I support robust funding for the following:

    - Full funding and implementation of the **National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act of 2016.** This law helps the Forest Service make better use of existing resources by establishing trail priority areas and a pilot program for outfitter and guide stewardship.
    - **The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program** addresses these overlapping goals by promoting collaborative public-private partnerships to carry out long-term forest management projects.
    - **The Urban and Community Forestry Program** helps keep trees and forests in our communities healthy, benefitting populations who live in urban areas by reducing asthma, improving stormwater control and mitigating carbon emissions.
    - **The road budget and the Forest Service Legacy Roads and Trails program.** The Forest Service maintains more than 380,000 miles of roads -- eight times more miles than that of the Federal highway system -- to support timber

management programs and the other multiple uses of national forests. Recent funding for road upkeep has decreased such that only 15 percent of the roads can be maintained in any given year. As these roads deteriorate, critical public access to our national forests is lost and clean water is jeopardized. I encourage you to consider the benefits of these programs to job creation, road maintenance, hazardous fuels reduction, and habitat improvement.

- **To decrease the risk of wildfires**, I encourage the Subcommittee to consider appropriately **increasing the targets in the Forest Service's timber sale program** and providing funding for **Wildland Fire Management and Hazardous Fuel Reduction programs**. Through the Rocky Mountain Region's timber sale program, timber mills in Colorado are putting beetle-killed trees to use, supporting the local economy, and reducing wildfire risks.
- **State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance programs** provide state and local fire departments support for wildland fire prevention, detection and suppression. During the Black Forest Fire in Colorado, the most destructive in the state's history, state and volunteer fire assistance played a key role in the immediate response and rapid containment of this event.
- I support **Forest Service National Forest Recreation and Wilderness funds**, which have decreased since 2009 resulting in closures of a number of recreational facilities in the Rocky Mountain Region and elsewhere.

- In Colorado, we understand the importance of **resources to reclaim, cleanup, and monitor abandoned mine sites**. Accounts such as the Bureau of Land Management's Abandoned Mine Land (AML) fund and the Department of Interior's Central Hazardous Materials Fund (CHF) are crucial in these efforts.

- The **Montreal Protocol** has been an example of a highly successful multi-national environmental initiative, which has successfully addressed global environmental challenges and resulted in critical investments in next-generation technologies. American innovation and investments have allowed American businesses and workers to take advantage of the economic opportunities provided by the Montreal Protocol. As other nations start making similar investments, now is not the time to slow down the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, which could result in stymied domestic economic growth. I request that your subcommittee include direction to EPA to maintain both program areas related to stratospheric ozone at no less than the FY 2018 enacted level.

- I encourage funding consistent with recent years for the **North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)**. This program leverages non-federal funds to protect, restore, and manage wetland habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife. In Colorado alone, more than 328,000 acres of wetlands have been restored through NAWCA, providing valuable wildlife habitat while improving water quality and quantity.

- I support robust funding **to preserve and increase access to our historic places**. The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), which was reauthorized for seven years in December of 2016, has provided federal funding for more than 4,200 historic preservation grants in Colorado, creating jobs, contributing tax revenues, and revitalizing communities. Additionally, National Heritage Areas (NHAs) contribute $12.9 billion annually to the national economy and the three NHAs in Colorado are economic drivers for their surrounding communities.

- **Drinking water and wastewater research and technical assistance** that the EPA funds is also critical to the protection of clean water in our communities. Robust funding is needed for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). In Colorado, these funds have financed the design and construction of more than 250 public drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects. The Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program helps state agencies keep Colorado's waters clean and protected from nonpoint source pollution and has been a key source of funding for much needed water quality monitoring on the Animas River in the wake of the Gold King spill. The National Priorities Research Program (NPRP) fosters partnerships with local wastewater and drinking water utilities and through the Water Research Foundation (WRF) and Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF), ensures that research continues to meet the needs of local utilities charged with meeting federal regulatory standards.

- Finally, the proposed **Department of the Interior (DOI) reorganization** will affect our land, water and wildlife in the West. While I support moving the BLM's headquarters to Grand Junction, any move must include resources necessary to better manage our public lands. This is not possible if DOI is simultaneously slashing critical jobs and moving decision-making authority out of Colorado, all under the guise of reorganization. We look forward to working with the Committee on this effort.

In addition to these specific programs and agencies, it is imperative that we provide full funding for land management agencies including the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These agencies drive our outdoor and recreation based economy in Colorado and they must have the funding needed to do their work or our state's economy will suffer. The recent government wide hiring freeze at all federal agencies is affecting these agencies and reducing their ability to carry out their mission and serve the public. I urge the committee to take steps to ensure these agencies are well-staffed and have the funding and direction to hire the staff they need to function properly.

I look forward to working with you to fully fund the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), protect our lands, wildlife habitat, and working forests, and support efforts to protect and conserve water. I also urge you to oppose the any riders that would modify EPA's greenhouse gas regulations. Thank you for your attention to these important issues.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator

State	Member	Agency	Account	Program (if applicable)	President's Budget ($)	Fiscal Year 2018 Enacted Amount ($)	Member Request ($)	Request Description Fiscal Year 2019	Contact
CO	Bennet	USFS	Payments in Lieu of Taxes			13,228,000	13,228,000	We support full funding for fiscal year 2019.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	USDA Forest Service/DOI	Land and Water Conservation Fund.			425,000,000	900,000,000	Full funding, both mandatory and discretionary.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	State and Tribal Assistance Grants.	Categorial Grants for Air, Water, and Waste (Summy of below).	480,671,000	886,112,000	886,112,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA		Categorical Grant: Nonpoint Source.		169,754,000	169,754,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA		Categorical Grant: Public Water System Supervision (PWSS).	67,892,000	101,271,000	101,271,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA		Categorical Grant: State and Local Air Quality Management.	151,961,000	226,669,000	226,669,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA		Categorical Grant: Pollution Control (Sec. 106).	153,683,000	229,239,000	229,239,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA		Categorical Grant: Hazardous Waste Financial Assistance.	66,381,000	99,016,000	99,016,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA		Categorical Grant: Tribal Air Quality Management.	8,963,000	12,742,000	12,742,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA		Categorical Grant: Brownfields	31,791,000	47,421,000	47,421,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	State and Tribal Assistance Grants.	Grants for Air, Water, and Brownfields (Summary of below).	62,000,000	109,253,000	109,253,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA		Brownfields Projects	62,000,000	79,457,000	79,457,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA		Targeted Airshed Grants		29,796,000	29,796,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)

CO	Bennet	USFS	Wildland Fire Management	Supression	1,165,366,000	1,556,818,000	1,556,818,000	We support funding above the 10–year average in fiscal year 2019, prior to the implementaiton of the budget cap adjustment in 2020.	
CO	Bennet	EPA	Superfund Cleanup	Hazardous Substance Superfund	1,088,830,000	1,154,947,000	1,154,947,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.		863,233,000	863,233,000	863,233,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	Clean Water State Revolving Fund.		1,393,887,000	1,393,887,000	1,393,887,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	OSMRE	Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.		20,375,000	139,672,000	139,672,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	Environmental Program and Management.		300,738,000	305,844,000	305,844,000	Cuts larger than $100 m to the entire EPM program will prevent EPA from conducting core EPM functions..	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	Environmental Program and Mangement.	Brownfields	16,082,000	25,593,000	25,593,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	Environmental Program and Mangement.	GHG Reporting	13,580,000	95,436,000	95,436,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	Climate Change Research			16,520,000	16,520,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	Stratospheric Ozone	Montreal Protocol		8,677,000	10,000,000	Al least fiscal year 2018 levels.	Candace Vahlsing (8–5433)
CO	Bennet	USFS	Stewardship	Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.		40,000,000	40,000,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	USFS	State and Private Forestry	Urban and Community Forestry Program.		27,850,000	27,850,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	USFS	Capital Improvement and Maintanance.	Roads	71,481,000	173,905,000	173,905,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	USFS	National Forest System	Hazardous Fuel Reduction	390,000,000	387,352,000	390,000,000	We support robust funding at least at the fiscal year 2018 enacted level..	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	USFS	National Forest System	Forest Products Program (e.g., Timber Sales).	341,165,000	365,307,000	365,307,000	We support robust funding consistent fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)

State	Member	Agency	Account	Program (if applicable)	President's Budget ($)	Fiscal Year 2018 Enacted Amount ($)	Member Request ($)	Request Description Fiscal Year 2019	Contact
CO	Bennet	USFS	Wildland Fire Management	State Fire Assistance	69,400,000	80,000,000	80,000,000	We support robust funding at least at fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	USFS	Wildland Fire Management	Volunteer Fire Assistance	11,600,000	16,000,000	16,000,000	We support robust funding at least at fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	USFS	Capital Improvement and Maintanance.	Legacy Roads and Trails Program		40,000,000	40,000,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	USFS	Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness.		240,236,000	262,798,000	262,798,000	We support robust funding at least at fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	NPS	Historic Preservation Fund		32,700,000	96,910,000	96,910,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	National Priorities Research Program.	Extramural research grants		4,100,000	4,100,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	DOI	Central Hazardous Materials Fund.		2,000,000	10,010,000	10,010,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	USFWS	North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA).	NAWCA Fund	33,600,000	40,000,000	40,000,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	NPS	National Heritage Areas	Heritage Partnership Program		20,321,000	20,321,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	NPS	National Park Foundation	Centennial Challenge Fund		23,000,000	23,000,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	DOI	Climate Science Centers	North Central Climate Center			25,335,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2017 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE BRISTOL BAY AREA HEALTH CORPORATION

The Requests of the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC) for the fiscal year 2019 Indian Health Service Appropriations and our comments are as follows:

—*VBC Funding.*—Direct the IHS to fully fund Village Built Clinic (VBC) leases and make it a line item in the budget and allocate at least an additional $12.5 million to the IHS for VBC leases, for a total of $17 million.

—*CSC Funding.*—Continue to fund Contract Support Costs (CSC) at 100 percent and provide funding on a permanent and mandatory basis.

—*Sequestration.*—Shield the IHS/BIA from sequestration or rescissions.

—*Increase IHS behavioral healthcare funding (Mental Health/Substance Abuse)*

—*Land Transfer Legislation.*—Enactment of H.R. 236/S. 269, to facilitate transfer of a parcel of land from IHS to BBAHC on which our dental clinic is located.

—*USAC Subsidies for Telecommunications Connectivity.*

The Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation was created in 1973 to provide healthcare services to Alaska Natives of Southwest Alaska. We began operating and managing the Kanakanak Hospital and the Bristol Bay Service Unit for the IHS in 1980, and was the first Tribal organization to do so under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA). BBAHC is a co-signer to the Alaska Tribal Health Compact with the Indian Health Service (IHS) under the ISDEAA and is now responsible for providing and promoting healthcare to the people of 28 Alaska Native Villages.

We have made significant progress but now deal with modern-day health problems. Today, rather than TB and influenza epidemics, we struggle with diseases of a modern society that include chronic illnesses such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease and behavioral and mental health needs. The life expectancy of our people has increased from 47 years of age in 1952 to 69.4 in 1998, still below that of U.S. residents and other Alaskans.

Village Built Clinics. We thank Congress for appropriating an $11 million increase over base funding for Tribal health clinic leases in the fiscal year 2017 and 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Acts We appreciate the Alaska Congressional delegation's continued support and are particularly thankful to Senator Murkowski for her leadership on this issue. We thank her for her steadfast determination in advocating for these small chronically underfunded remote clinics that serve as an essential health lifeline in rural Alaskan villages where there is no road system to connect villages to urban centers. As noted above, BBAHC serves 28 remote villages in southwest Alaska.

BBAHC hope that any infrastructure proposal that may move forward would include assistance for the Village Built Clincs. We appreciated the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs holding a hearing on Indian infrastructure needs in Indian Country, and the support and participation of Chairman Emeritus Young in the discussion that focused on the considerable unmet needs of Village Built Clinics. Many of the Village Built Clinics are in extreme disrepair and there is a considerable need for a reserve fund for upkeep and expansion of these essential village facilities. In 2015, the Alaska Native Health Board estimated that a $14 million annual appropriation would be needed to fund a replacement reserve to tackle the clinic crisis in addition to $12.5 million added to the base funding. BBAHC supports increased funding for Village Built Clinics and requests that funding be a: (1) separate line item in the IHS budget, (2) recurring funding, and (3) displayed in the Budget Justification to better enable planning and certainty.

Contract Support Costs (CSC). BBAHC thanks the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees for their leadership in committing to fully fund IHS and BIA contract support costs and for finding a way to due it through providng "such sums as may be necessary" and making it a separate account in the IHS and BIA budgets. For many years, both the IHS and BIA have vastly underpaid the contract support costs owed to Tribal organizations and this transformation makes an enormous difference in helping to ensure that Tribes and Tribal organizations can successfully exercise their rights and responsibilities under the ISDEAA. The shift is also likely to significantly improve the Federal-Tribal government-to-government relationship. We also appreciate that the proviso that would have effectively denied CSC carryover authority granted by ISDEAA is absent from fiscal year 2017 and 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Acts.

The House Committee Report language fom fiscal year 2018 encouraging IHS to pay CSC on their grant programs was welcome, and we will continue to advocate to IHS that they take this action.

BBAHC will continue to advocate for our long-term goal of ensuring that full CSC appropriations are made permanent and mandatory. Under the ISDEAA, the full

payment of CSC is not discretionary; it is a legal obligation affirmed by the Supreme Court of the United States. Funding of CSC on a discretionary basis has in the recent past placed the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, in their own words, in the "untenable position of appropriating discretionary funds for the payment of any legally obligated contract support costs." BBAHC is committed to working with the appropriate Congressional committees to determine how best to achieve that goal.

Sequestration/Rescissions. BBAHC respectfully requests the subcommittee's support in amending the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act to exempt Indian programs, such as the IHS and BIA budgets, from across-the board sequestration of funds. We supported Congress fully exempting Veterans Health Administration programs from sequestration. However, Indian healthcare, as a Federal trust responsibility, should be afforded equal treatment. A number of members of this subcommittee and other Members of Congress have publicly stated that it was an oversight that the Indian budgets were not included in the exempt category when the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act was enacted.

We are aware that there is some advocacy in Congress and within the administration to rescind some of the recent increases provided in the fiscal year 2018 Consolidated Appropritaions Act. The IHS received some of those increases, notably in the Facilities Account. It would not be right to break the bipartisan agreement that led to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 and the fiscal year 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act, and we strongly oppose any such an action.

Behavioral Health. We have testified before Congress previously regarding the hardships in providing for our communities' behavioral and mental health needs, particularly with regard to our youth. As you know, there is an epidemic of suicide among Alaska Natives, especially teens. BBAHC has well-qualified professional staff who service approximately 6,500 people in our region. But our social workers, counsellors and behavioral health aides have a theoretical caseload of 300 persons each. The ratio of mental health clinicians to clients is 1 to 1,300. Our 14-bed residential youth facility for substance abuse (Jake's Place) has an Alcohol and Drug Safety program funded by the State of Alaska but it is primarily an education program, not a treatment program, and much of the education is done remotely, via the Internet.

We urge increases under the IHS Mental health program for behavioral health integration and the Zero Suicide Initiative and under the Alchohol and Substance Abuse account for Generation Indigenous, the pilot youth project, and detoxification. We acknowledge the HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Tribal behavioral health grants ($15 million substance abuse; $15 million mental health) but the need in Indian Country is so great.

Opioid Epidemic. Indian Country has been hit especially hard by the opioid abuse epidemic and we urge that the fiscal year 2019 $150 million SAMHSA passthrough of opioid and mental health funds to the IHS be distributed as soon as possible following consultation with Tribes. We undersetand that IHS is looking as a starting point distributing the funds in a manner similar to that utilized by the Special Diabtes Program for Indians.

Land Transfer Legislation. BBAHC also asks for your support in enacting legislation that would direct the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to convey a 1.474-acre parcel of land, via warranty deed, to BBAHC for the land on which our new state-of-the-art dental clinic is located. The legislation is H.R. 236, introduced on January 3, 2017 by Congressman Young and S. 269 introduced on February 1, 2017 by Senators Murkowski and Sullivan.

The House and Senate bills are identical, and there is no reason they should not pass under unanimous consent or under suspension of the rules. The property transfer authorized by these bills would enable the land transfer from IHS to BBAHC via warranty deed, and would supersede any existing quitclaim deed. It would allow the BBAHC to have greater control over the land and more opportunities for financing as well as to remove any IHS reversionary interests.

Our new dental facility opened in September 2016, on the grounds of the Kanakanak Hospital Compound. The new clinic replaced a dilapidated clinic and is providing expanded dental care to our region where there are very few public dental clinics. Our service population is 6,500. Part of the funding for the dental facility came from BBAHC reinvesting its share of a CSC settlement with IHS that was paid to compensate for years of contract underpayments to the Tribal health organization. The clinic is the first building owned by BBAHC on the hospital campus and there is a lot of pride and self-determination that flows from the new tribally-owned dental building.

Telecommunications Connectivity Shortfall Due to Funding Cap. A major issue in Alaska is that the subsidies provided for rural healthcare providers for tele-

communications connectivity, through the Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) have been greatly reduced. USAC has imposed a pro-rata reduction in rural Health Care funding due to a funding cap. This amounts to a reduction of $18.1 million shortfall just among Alaska's Tribal health programs. We literally must have Internet connectivity in order to provide healthcare in Alaska and so any shortfall comes out of our health services. In the BBAHC area we serve a vast area covering 28 Tribal villages. The shortfall next year may be $35 million for Alaska Tribal health programs, and our potential shortfall is $4.2 million. We and others are advocating with the Federal Communications Commission to end the funding cap and we ask for your attention to and support for us on this matter.

We appreciate your leadership and commitment to the advancement of Native American people and thank you for your consideration of the concerns and requests of the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation.

[This statement was submitted by Robert J. Clark, President and CEO.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF BROWN UNIVERSITY

April 26, 2018

Submitting organization: Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

To: Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Regarding: NIEHS Superfund Research Program

This letter addresses funding for the Superfund Hazardous Substances Basic Research and Training Program (Superfund Research Program [SRP]) of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The SRP program was launched in 1987 to implement the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. The annual funding for the SRP program is determined by Congress separately from the rest of the NIH budget. Of critical importance, while the rest of NIH funding has experienced a fairly steady increase in budget by Congress, the Research Project Grants of SRP have seen a decline in funding since 2006 with a drop from $50.6 million to $46.8 million (out of a total of $77.3 million for SRP).

We urge your support for the SRP program in the fiscal year 2019 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bills. We are requesting $80,349,000 for fiscal year 2019, which is an increase of $3 million to reverse losses and sustain growth in this public health and research program. The funds will expand support for public and private universities and small businesses across the country and will continue the SRP track record of creating jobs and economic growth by allowing development of abandoned and otherwise unusable land.

The SRP focuses on human health protection against toxic substances in the environment and is frequently the first resource that concerned citizens turn to when confronted with threats to their health by exposures to environmental chemicals, which are far too common. There are currently over 84,000 such chemicals in common use. With broad geographic representation, over the years the SRP has funded universities, individual research projects and small-businesses in 35 States including: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, West Virginia and Wyoming. With continued and expanded funding the opportunities for the SRP we have the capacity to expand into other States continuing the trend in accelerating Superfund sites restoration, public health protection, job creation and the generation of millions of dollars in business revenue across the United States.

The pioneering nature of the SRP has helped to produce a distinguished record of accomplishments for the U.S. population, guaranteeing a more promising future for all. The SRP pushes the bounds of science and engineering by creating innovative technologies that save taxpayer dollars and are adopted by small-businesses for the restoration of Superfund sites. Some examples include:

—A natural soil acid strategy developed by SRP researchers was used to accelerate remediation of an arsenic-contaminated site at the Vineland Superfund Site in New Jersey. This strategy greatly reduced the cleanup time, saving taxpayers an estimated $2.4 billion over the life of the project.

—Small businesses developed new devices to treat gasoline contamination in water and a unique microwave technology for removal of contaminants that was tested at the McClellan Air Force Base.

—New technologies are being developed to use solar-powered systems to provide clean water to rural communities. Beyond restoration, SRP developed innovative exposure risk reduction strategies that are being communicated to affected communities. Risk reduction leads to significant savings in medical costs. Examples include:

—Giving folic acid supplementation to exposed individuals to lower blood arsenic levels.

—Giving calcium to nursing mothers to lower their lead levels.

—Emphasizing nutrition at all life stages as a form of risk reduction.

SRP innovations have also been and will continue to be timely for facing national natural or manmade disasters. Examples include:

—New devices to measure biological responses from oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico—created after the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill of 2010.

—New technologies to measure biological responses from the Elk River chemical spill of 2014, in West Virginia.

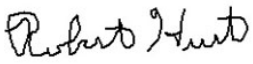
—Understanding the health effects of the World Trade Center Disaster of September 11, 2001.

The leading edge SRP is a model for a multidisciplinary research which pursues discoveries at the boundaries where scientific disciplines meet and innovation is essential. The program will continue its forward-thinking strategies by launching new companies and creating jobs with a mission of protection against toxic substances. The SRP will continue to develop innovative technologies to reduce exposures and prevent diseases, ultimately leading to reductions in healthcare costs. It will accelerate the removal of sites from the Superfund list and develop these sites for industrial use. It will continue to train workers to safely clean up and redevelop abandoned, contaminated land. It will continue to provide community-based assistance and interventions and train an advanced next-generation of interdisciplinary scientists.

Locally in Rhode Island, Brown University is home to one of the 23 national SRP centers. The Brown University SRP is entitled: Toxicant Exposures in Rhode Island: Past, Present, and Future, and is focused on complex environmental contaminant issues in Rhode Island. Rhode Island has a long history of industrial activity resulting in extensive contamination, and we are using an academic-government-community partnership to expand the understanding of the human health consequences and management of these contaminated sites in our State. The Brown center has been in operation for over 11 years, and has produced 13 patents and 2 start-up companies. Our Rhode Island Community partners include the RI Department of Environmental Management, the RI Dept. of Health, the Narragansett Indian Tribe and the Woonsaquatucket River Watershed Council.

Thank you for supporting funding of the SRP program and continuing this critical investment in education, public health, and job creation.

Sincerely,



ROBERT HURT, Ph.D.
Professor, Brown University
Director, Brown Superfund Research Program
Director, GAANN training program

PREPARED STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATORS IN SUPPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We are writing to ask you to reject the proposed cuts in funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Brownfields Program in the President's FY2019 budget request, and to include funding the program at the authorized amount. This important program drives economic growth by providing funds and technical assistance to assess and clean-up contaminated property sites for redevelopment, and helps promote successful local economic development in communities across the United States. Using funds from the Brownfields program, communities are able to convert liabilities into productive local assets. In the past, Brownfield funds have successfully laid the groundwork for manufacturing plants, commercial spaces, housing, community recreation facilities, and parks. Redeveloping contaminated properties creates jobs, improves environmental quality, and boosts local and state tax revenues.

As of March 1, 2018 the EPA's Brownfields program has assessed 27,689 properties, made 70,641 acres ready for reuse, leveraged the creation of 132,967 jobs, and $25.264 billion in funding since the program's inception in 1995. Further, EPA has found that approximately $16.99 is leveraged for each dollar the EPA Brownfields program spends and 8.9 jobs leveraged per $100,000 of EPA brownfields funds expended on assessment, cleanup, and revolving loan fund cooperative agreements. A study found that residential property values increased 5% to 15.2% once a nearby brownfield was assessed or cleaned up. Analyzing data near 48 of those brownfields, another study found an estimated $29 to $97 million in additional tax revenue for local governments in a single year after cleanup—2 to 7 times more than the $12.4 million EPA contributed to the cleanup of those brownfields.

Given the high success of EPA's Brownfields Program and its direct importance to economic recovery in rural and urban communities nationally, we are requesting that the program be adequately funded. While much has been done over the past two decades to clean-up and assess contaminated sites, a strong need still remains. EPA's Brownfields Program is making necessary investments that are helping to rebuild our country and to stimulate economic growth and jobs in our cities and towns.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We recognize that there are many competing priorities facing your subcommittee and we hope that you will support this program.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Christopher Van Hollen
United States Senator

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

On behalf of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE), I am writing to express support for fiscal year 2019 Federal investment in initiatives that help businesses manage environmental issues, foster transparency and best practices in emissions and water management, and that recognize leadership in environmental stewardship and sustainability.

This includes programs funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Office of Air and Radiation and Enforcement Division related to air quality, international climate change programs, climate change research and partnership programs, and water management, as well as the ENERGY STAR program.

BCSE is a coalition of companies and trade associations from the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors. It includes independent electric power producers, investor-owned utilities, public power, manufacturers, commercial end users and service providers in energy and environmental markets. Founded in 1992, the coalition's diverse business membership is united around the continued revitalization of the economy and the creation of a secure and reliable energy future in America.

As a business group working to advance clean energy policies over the last 25 years, BCSE has seen first-hand the importance of the Federal role EPA fills in sharing information about new technologies and practices to help speed adoption and allow consumers to make more informed decisions.

The Federal Government's role in these efforts is critical to provide transparent, standardized and independent data and expertise that cannot be replicated by private sector or non-governmental organizations with the same credibility.

MAINTAINING AMERICA'S STATUS AS AN ENERGY LEADER

Through regulatory and voluntary initiatives, EPA helps foster the U.S. leadership role in clean energy and transportation technologies globally. Many EPA programs, including the CHP Partnership, Green Power Partnership, Natural Gas Star, AgStar, SmartWay Transport Partnership, and others, embody longstanding public-private endeavors that benefit American businesses and help them continue to compete on a global scale.

For example, the Natural Gas Star program brings companies together to voluntarily evaluate emissions, work to reduce them, and gather data that adds transparency and highlights the market's eagerness to adopt energy saving measures.

EPA initiatives provide market transparency, encourage voluntary action, and identify companies that are leaders in businesses and in environmental protection. Additionally, EPA's laboratories lead the world in capabilities that make the United States preeminent in research and analysis which supports private sector capabilities to enhance economic growth and emissions reductions simultaneously.

EPA PROGRAMS PROVIDE VALUE TO U.S. TAXPAYERS

Federal investments in programs implemented by the EPA have multiple benefits including reducing air pollution, saving consumers money, and achieving energy independence and security. Additionally, clean energy supported over 3 million jobs in the United States in 2016, due in part to EPA and other government programs that encourage the use of clean energy and energy efficiency.[1]

Programs like ENERGYSTAR have proven track records success and are extremely cost-effective. Through brand recognition, information and positive publicity, the ENERGY STAR program has provided the catalyst for many consumers, homeowners, businesses, and State and local governments to invest in energy efficiency. The Council opposes moving to a fee-based funding model for ENERGYSTAR, which would erode the integrity and effectiveness of the program.

EPA PROGRAMS PROVIDE CRITICAL SUPPORT TO STATES, TRIBES, AND LOCALITIES

Many State, local, and Tribal efforts to improve the environment are dependent on the information and resources provided by Federal programs. The EPA provides valuable technical assistance, analytical tools, and outreach support to State, local, and Tribal governments that enable the States to administer robust clean energy and energy efficiency programs. Investing in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and environmental policies and programs is an important way for State and local governments to improve air quality and to improve people's health, and to save money. For example, EPA's State and Local Climate and Energy Program offers expertise about energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate change policies and programs to interested State, local, and Tribal governments. By providing these resources, EPA removes barriers that would otherwise prohibit action at the local level due to resource constraints or lack of information on best practices.

THE FEDERAL ROLE FOR AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMS

EPA can address barriers to the adoption of emissions-reducing technologies—such as a lack of reliable information, inconsistent regulatory environments, and workforce training gaps—through activities that include providing objective information, creating networks between the public and private sector and providing technical assistance. These efforts can help energy consumers in all sectors. Through its programs on renewable energy, natural gas, combined heat and power and energy efficiency, EPA encourages the use of clean, efficient, and market-ready technologies that can lower costs and improve resiliency in addition to lowering emissions.

EPA also has an important role to play as an international leader in climate science and emission reduction frameworks. EPA is engaged in a variety of international activities to advance climate change science, monitor our environment, and promote activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. EPA establishes partnerships, provides leadership, and shares technical expertise to support these activities.

The Council wishes to work with members of the Appropriations Committee to maximize the value of limited Federal dollars and we request the opportunity to meet with your staff to further discuss the Council's position and support for EPA programs.

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[1] 2017 U.S. Energy and Employment Report, Department of Energy, available at: https://energy.gov/downloads/2017-us-energy-and-employment-report.

[This statement was submitted by Lisa Jacobson, President, Business Council for Sustainable Energy.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE CATAWBA INDIAN NATION, SOUTH CAROLINA

Recommendations:

1. Provide necessary funding to support Tribal self-determination and economic development.
2. IHS—Provide full funding and parity to the Indian Health Service.
3. IHS—$71.292 increase in funding for Preventive Health services.
4. BIA OJS—$113.7 million for Tribal court development and support services.
5. BIA—$200 million for Tribal law enforcement development and support services.
6. BIA—$35 million for the BIA Road Maintenance Program.
7. EPA—Maintain adequate funding to protect environmental quality in Indian Country.
8. BIA—$30 million for the Tribal Climate Resilience Program.
9. DOI—$30 million for Department-wide Landscape Conservation Cooperatives.
10. BIA—$1 million in dedicated funding for NAGPRA implementation.
11. BIA—Increase funding for Tribal historic preservation efforts to protect sacred sites.

Introduction. Thank you Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee for the opportunity to testify on critical funding needs for American Indian and Alaska Native programs under your jurisdiction. The people of the Catawba Indian Nation thank you for your hard work on behalf of Indian Country and for inviting Tribal leaders to submit witness testimony on their communities' behalf. As you are aware, these programs are based on the political relationship that exists between the Federal Government and Tribal nations. My name is William Harris and I am the Chief of the Catawba Indian Nation, the only federally recognized Tribe in the State of South Carolina. Since before recorded history, the Catawba have lived in the Piedmont area of South Carolina, east of the Nantahala National Forest and along the life-giving waters of the river bearing our name. Like our traditional pottery, the Catawba have been created from southern soil, to be shaped and fired over time by unimaginable hardship, and now stand tall as a living testament to our ancestors and to the land we call home. To advance the socioeconomic development and well-being of my Nation and other Native communities, I offer the following budget recommendations for fiscal year 2019.

I. SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR SMALLER TRIBES

Increased Support for Non-Gaming Tribes. As a sovereign nation and industrious people, we are committed to achieving economic self-sufficiency. For the Catawba Indian Nation, this goal is immeasurably complicated by the terms of our 1993 Settlement Act with the State that inhibit meaningful Tribal economic development. For example, our Nation is currently prohibited from establishing gaming operations on Tribal lands under the terms of our Settlement Act. Instead, we are allowed to operate just two bingo halls—neither of which ever turned even a marginal profit for the Nation due to the mandatory 10 percent fee on gross bingo revenue that must be first transmitted to the State. It is our hope to come back to the Congress and ask for amendments to our Settlement Act that would restore some of our lost sovereignty and free-up our economic potential. In the interim, we continue to explore innovative avenues for economic growth. *We urge Congress to invest in economic development programs for non-gaming Tribes to further the Federal Government's policy of promoting Tribal self-determination and economic self-sufficiency.*

Expanded Access to Investment Opportunities in Indian Country. Given adequate support and the appropriate resources, the majority of Tribal nations would likely become—assuming they are not already—significant contributors to their local and regional economies. Tribal nations are economic engines of the tourism industry, renewable energies, small business development, commercial services, among many others. However, limited access to capital and investment financing remain substantial barriers in Indian Country. We struggle with uniquely burdensome Federal restrictions and regulations, poor infrastructure, and other challenges that limit their economies from flourishing. It is important to create avenues for investment funds, financial resources, and business models that are mutually advantageous to Tribes and potential partners for economic advancement, stability, and diversification. *We encourage Congress to provide increased support for investment opportunities in Indian Country in the fiscal year 2019 budget.*

II. PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN INDIAN COUNTRY

Provide Full Funding and Parity for the Indian Health Service. Indian health programs continue to suffer from the effects of annual budget cuts due to sequestration under the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–25). While other critical healthcare agencies such as Veterans Affairs were exempt from Federal sequestration in 2013, the IHS was not. The disruption in Federal funding resulted in a loss of over $219 million from the IHS budget that was never recouped in subsequent fiscal cycles through appropriate increases in the IHS budget. The compounding, negative effect of this lost funding translated into immediate and long-lasting negative health impacts on Tribal citizens through lost resources for primary and preventative healthcare services, staff recruitment and training, and other specialized health programs serving Indian Country. These losses are exacerbated every year due to the lack of full IHS funding. *We urge Congress to provide the IHS with full funding in fiscal year 2019, as well as with parity to other Federal healthcare agencies through an exemption from any reductions in the Federal budget.*

Plan for the Future with Dedicated Funding for Preventative Health Services. The Catawba Indian Nation depends on the IHS for the delivery of healthcare services in our community through the local Catawba Service Unit. Access is limited, however, due to the Service Unit's restricted operating hours and lack of emergency and urgent care services. When combined with the disproportionately high rates of chronic illness—including diabetes, heart disease, and behavioral health and substance use disorders—it becomes clear that innovation in healthcare is urgently needed to uproot these negative outcomes in Indian Country. For its part, the Catawba Indian Nation is planting the seeds for healthy generations of Tribal members through our Wellness Warriors program. The mission of the Wellness Warriors is to improve overall community health through crosscutting programs, health education, physical activity, nutrition, and tobacco cessation. The program serves as a trellis for life-long community fitness and engagement.

We believe that increased Federal funding for preventative care services as an IHS sub-activity would enable other Tribal nations to cultivate and sustain similar programs in their communities. The result would be significant long-term savings for the Federal Government by reducing future incident rates of chronic illness and associated medical costs, as well as increased life-savings by promoting the vitality of Tribal members. The President's fiscal year 2019 proposal would fund Preventive Health programs at $89.1 million—almost half of the fiscal year 2018 Annualized CR level of $158.645 million. *We urge Congress to invest heavily in the future health and well-being of our country by providing an increase of $71.292 million for Preventive Health.*

III. PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE SERVICES

Advance Public Safety with Increased Support for Tribal Courts and Law Enforcement Services. At the Catawba Indian Nation, we are proud to provide our members with governmental services designed to address their myriad socioeconomic, educational, spiritual, and other needs. Missing from this panoply is a robust Tribal justice department. We are working with the Department of Justice and Bureau of Indian Affairs to fill this critical gap through the development of a Tribal court, Healing to Wellness alternative drug court, law enforcement agency, and related justice services. We have entered into a 638 contract with the BIA to develop Tribal court services, once established we will then satisfy the necessary requirements to apply for DOJ grants. The process is long, complicated, and costly for our Nation. However, building the internal infrastructure to address these needs is a fundamental aspect of our Tribal sovereignty and one that we are dedicated to fulfilling. *To advance public safety, we recommend Congress allocate $113.7 million for Tribal court services in the BIA Office of Justice Services. We also urge Congress to provide an additional $200 million for law enforcement and detention services.*

Connect Tribal Communities to Essential Services through Increased BIA Roads Construction and Maintenance Funding. Adequate and well-maintained roads are essential to connecting our Tribal members with essential on-reservation programs and services, as well as with nearby urban centers. Funding for the BIA Road Maintenance program, however, has been level-funded at approximately $30 million for several fiscal year cycles, despite the accumulation of over $290 million in backlogged needs. The Catawba Indian Nation has 33 miles of roads included on the BIA Roads Inventory. Maintaining these roads costs $215,000 annually, but we receive only $25,000 in Federal assistance. The $190,000 difference is taken from our Tribal Transportation Roads Program allocation, which in turn reduces the amount available for new roads construction to support our housing and economic development projects. We also have several pressing roads construction and maintenance needs,

such as an access road to the Veterans Cemetery, that will require significant Tribal investment. These unmet needs place our Tribal members in harm's way due to the unnecessary risks posed by unstable and unsafe roads that impair access, damage vehicles, and obstruct the timely arrival of emergency assistance. *We urge Congress to provide at least $35 million for the BIA Road Maintenance program to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Indian Country.*

IV. NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Maintain Adequate EPA Funding to Protect the Environmental Quality of Indian Country. We depend on the EPA's fulfilment of its trust responsibilities and partnership obligations to protect human health and our shared environment. Currently we receive funding for the General Assistance Program, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and Brownfield 128a Program. We have used and leveraged these resources to advance our environmental programs with benefits at the Tribal, local, and State levels. For example, we developed an ambient air monitoring program that measures ozone and particulate matter 2.5 micron and smaller. The data is posted on Air Now South Carolina, providing Tribal members and State residents with accurate air quality information. We also partner with the State to generate air quality forecasts for a three county area. Moreover, for water equality, we established a water monitoring program using Clean Water Act funding. This program has enabled us to monitor and conduct analysis of pathogens in the water and inform Tribal members and leadership of potential health risks. Through these programs, we have cultivated an environmental presence that we have not had through history to ensure to the best of our abilities, that Catawba Tribal members have access to clean water, air, land and fish that are safe for consumption. The job is not finished. *We urge Congress to maintain adequate funding for EPA environmental quality programs serving Indian Country so that we can achieve a cleaner, healthier and more prosperous Nation today and for future generations.*

Maintain Funding for the Tribal Climate Resilience Program and Interior Landscape Conservation Cooperatives. Today, across the United States, American communities are facing increasing public health, safety, and natural resources management challenges associated with our progressively unstable natural environment. Water availability, catastrophic wildfires and floods, invasive species, disappearing tree lines, and accelerated rates of erosion are only limited examples of the ways in which our world is changing. Tribal nations are often among the first to feel the effects of these developments on our subsistence, hunting, and gathering activities. The BIA Tribal Climate Resilience Program—along with Department-wide Landscape Conservation Cooperatives run in agencies such as the BLM, FWS, NPS, BIA, and BOR—is intended to provide Tribal nations with the tools to manage resource stressors and develop adaptive management plans in coordination with Federal, State, and local actors, to mitigate and prevent environmental degradation. Maintaining and furthering this progress is critical, not only for Tribal nations but for all Americans. *We urge Congress to provide $30 million for the BIA Tribal Climate Resilience Program and $30 million for Interior Cooperative Landscape Conservation programs.*

V. PROTECTION FOR TRIBAL CULTURAL PATRIMONY

Maintain the $1 Million in Dedicated Funding for NAGPRA Implementation. The Catawba Indian Nation would like to take this opportunity to thank Congress for providing $1,000,000 to implement the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) in the fiscal year 2019 Omnibus. This directed funding within BIA Criminal Investigations and Police Services supports Bureau-wide trainings and the salary of a dedicated FTE on this issue. Because of your support, the Federal Government is undergoing a paradigm shift on the way that it views and understands the importance of safeguarding Tribal objects of patrimony. When aligned with the Federal protections of the PROTECT Patrimony Resolution, passed by the Congress in December 2016, we can see a positive path forward in ensuring that the next generation will have access to these important cultural and ceremonial resources. *We strongly encourage Congress to maintain the $1 million in dedicated funding for NAGPRA enforcement in fiscal year 2019.*

Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs). The landscapes and features that qualify as Tribal sacred sites are as diverse as the 573 Tribal nations currently recognized by the Federal Government. Each individual Tribal nation must decide for itself what does or does not constitute a sacred site. In recent years, an increasing number of Tribal governments have established THPOs equivalent to State programs under the National Historic Preservation Act. Federal funding, however, has not kept up with the expansion of THPO programs and, as a result, it is difficult

for Tribal governments to meet their preservation compliance duties and responsibilities. For fiscal years 2018 and 2019, the President proposed to eliminate all funding for Tribal historical preservation. We were and continue to be encouraged by Congress's steadfast refusal to do so—in fact, Congress provided a $1,000,000 increase in funding for fiscal year 2018. *We urge Congress to hold the course and provide an increase in THPO funding for fiscal year 2019 to better protect Tribal sacred sites.*

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE CENTER FOR INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies

DEAR CHAIRMAN MURKOWSKI, RANKING MEMBER UDALL, AND HONORABLE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The Center for Invasive Species Prevention (CISP) is a not-for-profit organization which promotes policy and non-governmental approaches to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species. One area of focus is non-native insects and diseases which threaten the tree species which compose our Nation's forests—wildland, rural, and urban.

CISP greatly appreciates this subcommittee's long support for the USDA Forest Service' important and effective programs addressing non-native pests. We ask you to again reject the drastic cuts proposed in the President's fiscal year 2019 budget, which target programs that have already suffered significant cuts in recent years.

USDA FOREST SERVICE: STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

Forest Health Management

Forests across the country are threatened by insects and disease pathogens introduced from abroad as unwanted hitchhikers on imports. Already, nearly 500 such pests are killing trees and additional species are likely to be introduced as undesired hitchhikers on imported goods. The damage usually starts in urban forests because most imported goods enter this country through urban ports. As a result, municipal governments across the country are spending an estimated $3 billion each year to remove trees on city property killed by non-native pests. Homeowners are spending an additional $1 billion to remove and replace trees on their properties and are absorbing an additional $1.5 billion in reduced property values. These costs are projected to rise to more than $36 billion as pests spread.

The pests do not stay in the cities, however. They spread to the rural and wildland forests and threaten their many values. The most recent examples are the shot hole borers in southern California, now known to be in the Angeles and Cleveland National forests.

While preventing introductions are the desired approach (this responsibility falls to the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service), it is essential that the U.S. Forest Service initiate programs countering these pests as soon as they are detected. Only such prompt and aggressive actions can protect public and private forests from massive pest spread and tree devastation.

Unfortunately, the President's budget proposes to cut the forest health protection program by 8.5 percent. The proposal would cut the "cooperative lands" account by 11 percent (from $38,735,000 to $34,376,000). The Center for Invasive Species Prevention considers this proposed cut to be extremely unwise in the face of the growing threat from non-native pests. The "cooperative lands" forest health protection program provides essential expertise and assistance to State and municipal agencies and private landowners working where the pests first appear to prevent these pests' spread and minimize the damage they cause. Consequently, the Center for Invasive Species Prevention recommends increasing funding cooperative lands programs under the Forest Health Management program to $48 million.

USDA FOREST SERVICE: FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

The Center for Invasive Species Prevention urges the subcommittee to maintain funding for the overall R&D program at $303 million. The R&D program

Non-native Insects and Diseases Research

Among the major research challenges facing R&D is the destruction of our Nation's forests caused by non-native insects and diseases. All Americans look to the USDA Forest Service R&D program to develop better tools for pest detection and protective strategies including chemical and biological controls and breeding of trees resistant to pests. The budget justification document reports that invasive species are one of six priority areas for research, receiving a total of $28.5 million (11 percent of the total budget request). However, only about $3 million of the $28 million supports studies by the Research stations on non-native insects and diseases—barely more than 1 percent of the total research budget. Funding for the Research stations to study invasive species has fallen 60 percent since fiscal year 2010. CISP believes further reductions are unwise given the large and growing threat from non-native insects and diseases. In the absence of a budget line item for invasive species research, we urge the subcommittee to include language in its Interior Appropriations report encouraging the Forest Service to increase funding for research targeting non-native insects and pathogens.

Sincerely,

Faith T. Campbell, Ph.D.
Vice President
Center for Invasive Species Prevention
www.cisp.us

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE CENTRAL ARIZONA WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Support for $1.5 Million for Salinity Control in Fiscal Year 2019 Funding for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program Under the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Soil, Water and Air Program

On behalf of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD), I encourage you to include $1.5 million for salinity specific projects in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Soil, Water and Air Program in fiscal year 2019. The funding will help protect the water quality of the Colorado River that is used by approximately 40 million people for municipal and industrial purposes and used to irrigate approximately 5.5 million acres in the United States.

CAWCD manages the Central Arizona Project (CAP), a multi-purpose water resource development and management project that delivers Colorado River water into central and southern Arizona. The largest supplier of renewable water in Arizona, CAP diverts an average of over 1.5 million acre-feet of Arizona's 2.8 million acre-foot Colorado River entitlement each year to municipal and industrial users, agricultural irrigation districts, and Indian communities.

Our goal at CAP is to provide an affordable, reliable and sustainable supply of Colorado River water to a service area that includes more than 80 percent of Arizona's population.

These renewable water supplies are critical to Arizona's economy and to the economies of Native American communities throughout the State. Nearly 90 percent of economic activity in the State of Arizona occurs within CAP's service area. The canal provides an economic benefit of $100 billion annually, accounting for one-third of the entire Arizona gross State product. CAP also helps the State of Arizona meet its water management and regulatory objectives of reducing groundwater use and ensuring availability of groundwater as a supplemental water supply during future droughts. Achieving and maintaining these water management objectives is critical to the long-term sustainability of a State as arid as Arizona.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF CONCENTRATED SALTS

Natural and man-induced salt loading to the Colorado River creates environmental and economic damages. EPA has identified that more than 60 percent of the salt load of the Colorado River comes from natural sources. The majority of land within the Colorado River Basin is federally owned, much of which is administered by BLM. Human activity, principally irrigation, adds to salt load of the Colorado River. Further, natural and human activities concentrate the dissolved salts in the River.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has estimated the current quantifiable damages at about $454 million per year to U.S. users with projections that damages would increase to approximately $574 million per year by 2035 if the program were not to continue. These damages include:

—A reduction in the yield of salt sensitive crops and increased water use to meet the leaching requirements in the agricultural sector;
—Increased use of imported water and cost of desalination and brine disposal for recycling water in the municipal sector;
—A reduction in the useful life of galvanized water pipe systems, water heaters, faucets, garbage disposals, clothes washers, and dishwashers, and increased use of bottled water and water softeners in the household sector;
—An increase in the cost of cooling operations and the cost of water softening, and a decrease in equipment service life in the commercial sector;
—An increase in the use of water and the cost of water treatment, and an increase in sewer fees in the industrial sector;
—A decrease in the life of treatment facilities and pipelines in the utility sector; and
—Difficulty in meeting wastewater discharge requirements to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit terms and conditions, and an increase in desalination and brine disposal costs due to accumulation of salts in groundwater basins.

Adequate funding for salinity control will prevent the water quality of the Colorado River from further degradation and avoid significant increases in economic damages to municipal, industrial and irrigation users.

HISTORY OF THE BLM COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL PROGRAM

In implementing the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act of 1974, Congress recognized that most of the salts in the Colorado River originate from federally owned lands. Title I of the Salinity Control Act deals with the U.S. commitment to the quality of waters being delivered to Mexico. Title II of the Act deals with improving the quality of the water delivered to users in the United States. This testimony deals specific with Title II efforts. In 1984, Congress amended the Salinity Control Act and directed that the Secretary of the Interior develop a comprehensive program for minimizing salt contributions to the Colorado River from lands administered by BLM.

In 2000, Congress reiterated its directive to the Secretary and requested a report on the implementation of BLM's program (Public Law 106–459). In 2003, BLM employed a Salinity Coordinator to increase BLM efforts in the Colorado River Basin and to pursue salinity control studies and to implement specific salinity control practices. Meaningful resources have been expended by BLM in the past few years to better understand salt mobilization on rangelands. With a significant portion of the salt load of the Colorado River coming from BLM administered lands, the BLM portion of the overall program is essential to the success of the effort. Inadequate BLM salinity control efforts will result in significant additional economic damages to water users downstream.

The threat of salinity continues to be a concern in both the United States and Mexico. On November 20, 2012, a 5-year agreement, known as Minute 319, was signed between the U.S. and Mexico to guide future management of the Colorado River. Among the key issues addressed in Minute 319 included an agreement to maintain current salinity management and existing salinity standards. The United States, Mexico, and key water users, including CAWCD, worked since 2015 to develop a successor agreement, Minute 323, which was finalized on September 27, 2017. Minute 323 continues collaboration and cooperation among the United States and Mexico with respect to salinity control in the Colorado River system. The CAWCD and other key water providers are committed to meeting these goals.

CONCLUSION

Implementation of salinity control practices through the BLM Program has proven to be a very cost effective method of controlling the salinity of the Colorado River and is an essential component of the overall Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program.

CAWCD urges the subcommittee to include $1.5 million for salinity specific projects in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Soil, Water and Air Program. The continuation of funding will prevent further degradation of the water quality of the Colorado River and further degradation and economic damages experienced by municipal, industrial and irrigation users. A modest investment in source control

pays huge dividends in improved drinking water quality for nearly 40 million Americans.

[This statement was submitted by Theodore C. Cooke, General Manager.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATORS IN SUPPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S PROGRAMS THAT IMPROVE CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITY ISSUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We are writing to support robust funding that increases the amount from last year for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) programs that improve children's environmental health and educational facility issues for FY19.

Outside of home, children spend most of their time in schools and educational institutions. Twenty years of published research has shown that indoor environmental exposure to pollutants can be more intense than outdoor exposures and that school facilities have been neglected for decades. In fact, a 2017 American Society of Civil Engineers' report rated school infrastructure a D+. These are problems affecting children and their families, personnel, the health care system, and schools themselves. Poor indoor environments in schools decrease seat time, attendance and test scores, and increase asthma and other health events, and thus increase health costs. There is clearly a significant need to educate, train, and encourage schools and childcare facilities on child-safe and effective facility management.

Led by the Office of Air and Radiation/Indoor Environments Division, the EPA has a twenty-year history of successes in educating and convening PreK-12 and childcare owner-operators and personnel, as well as child health NGOs and state and local health agencies. This program hosts an annual symposia and have provided over 42,000 school personnel, districts, and non-governmental organizations on low-costs fixes and preventative steps to improve environmental quality. Additionally, the Office of Children's Health Protection, the Office of Water/Groundwater and Drinking Water division, the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, and the Office of Research and Development collaborate to provide guidance, grants, and research for safe drinking water and reducing exposure to toxic chemicals in schools. Properly funding these programs will allow continuation of this important work.

Furthermore, in February 2018, EPA Administrator Pruitt hosted fellow cabinet members and other key senior leaders to outline a federal strategy to reduce childhood lead exposure and associated health risks as part of the *President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children.*

Funding for key EPA programs addressing School and Child Care facilities and children's health will be essential for the EPA's success.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We recognize that there are many competing priorities facing your subcommittee and we hope that you will support these small proven programs that support healthier children and better educational outcomes.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

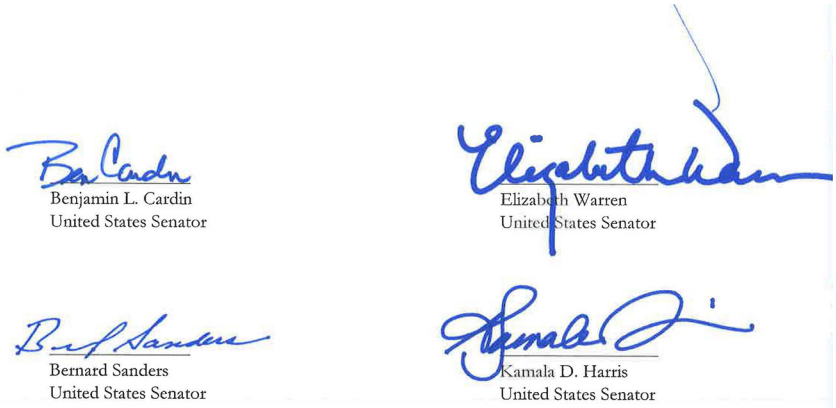
Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

On behalf of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, I am submitting written testimony for the hearing record on the fiscal year 2019 budgets for the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). This testimony identifies the funding priorities and budget issues important to the Choctaw Nation and its citizens. The Choctaw Nation requests that Congress exempt Tribal Government Services and Program Funding from Sequestrations, Unilateral Rescissions and Budget Cuts in all future appropriations. We also request that Congress continues to fully-fund Contract Support Cost (CSC) without impacting direct program funding.

The Choctaw Nation requests that the subcommittee works to approve timely appropriations for fiscal year 2019. Tribes are severely impacted under an annualized continuing resolution (CR) because of less funding being available for Tribes programs. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates the budgetary effects of interim CRs on an "annualized" basis, meaning that the effects are measured as if the CR were providing budget authority for the remainder of the fiscal year. However without the timely approval of annual budgets, Tribal government services are put on hold, decreased or eliminated until the budget is approved. We ask that Congress take into account how Tribal services are unfairly impacted repeatedly with the failure to pass an annual appropriation.

The Indian Health Service and the Indian Affairs have been without congressionally confirmed leadership since 2015. For American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) this represents a violation to the Federal trust responsibility as a legal enforceable fiduciary obligations on the United States to protect Tribal treaty rights, lands, assets, resources as well as a duty to carry out the mandates of Federal law. We are underrepresented in the budget process without Executive Branch Leadership working with us to advance our policy and budget priorities. These positions require qualified leadership who understands Tribes and how to work with us to advance a budget that includes the real needs of Tribes. We ask that you work with the administration to quickly fill these positions with Native candidates who meet the criteria and have verifiably demonstrated the qualifications for the jobs.

Thank you for appropriating staffing funds in 2017 for the Joint Venture Project (JVP) between the Choctaw Nation and Indian Health Service. We opened our medical campus, the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center, in February 2017. We are the first Tribal IHS program to have an outpatient ambulatory surgery clinic. Other services also include primary care, dental, pediatrics, a lab, diabetes care, community health nurses, optometry, radiology services (including MRI, CT, bone density, mammography, ultrasound, fluoroscopy and x-ray), pharmacy, behavioral health, physical therapy, and numerous specialty care services. This is our fourth JVP with IHS and both have been an invaluable exercise in partnership and investment in improved quality healthcare for Native American people.

Although there are many facility needs in the Choctaw Nation and Oklahoma City Area, none are included on the IHS Health Facilities Construction program listing.

The current backlog of facility needs would take decades to construct at the current pace of appropriations and yet it will still not address any needs in Oklahoma. Therefore, the only viable option for Tribal health facilities in Oklahoma is the JVP, which is a very small and highly competitive program. IHS has not held a competition for the program since 2014 and has created a similar 'queue' as the large Health Facilities Construction program. The IHS should abandon this failed approach and compete the JVP on at least a bi-annual basis to address the highest facility priorities.

We strongly urge the Committee to protect the Federal trust and treaty obligations that are funded in the Federal domestic budget. Federal funding that meets Federal Indian treaty and trust obligations also provides significant contributions to the economy. In just the Department of the Interior (DOI), the BIA and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) contribute substantially to economic growth in Tribal areas through advances in infrastructure, strategic planning, improved practices of governance, and the development of human capital.

THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is the third largest Native American Tribal government in the United States with over 230,000 members. The Choctaw Nation territory consists of all or part of 10 counties in Southeast Oklahoma, and we are proudly one of the State's largest employers. The Nation operates numerous programs and services under Self-Governance compacts with the United States, including but not limited to: a sophisticated health system serving over 60,000 patients with Choctaw Nation Health Care Center (Hospital) in Talihina, nine (9) outpatient clinics, including three Joint Venture Projects in partnership with the Indian Health Service, the most recent of which is the Choctaw Regional Medical Clinic in Durant.

The Nation also administers referred specialty care and sanitation facilities construction; higher education; Johnson O'Malley program; housing improvement; child welfare and social services; law enforcement; and, many other programs and services. The Joint Venture Construction Program (JVCP) is one of the IHS's most successful initiatives to increase access to healthcare throughout Indian Country. The Choctaw Nation has operated under the Self-Governance authority in the DOI since 1994 and in the Department of Health and Human Services' IHS since 1995. As a Self-Governance Tribe, the Nation is able to re-design programs to meet Tribally-specific needs without diminishing the United States' trust responsibility. Self-Governance is now a permanent reality for many Tribes.

The Choctaw Nation has improved the health status of our people by operating a high quality healthcare system that is responsive and designed to meet the increasing complex needs of our users. We have leveraged scarce resources that have enabled us to succeed in the challenging healthcare field. We owe much to Self-Governance which authorized flexibility to use Federal appropriations in an efficient, effective way that supports the expansion and growth of the healthcare system we are continuing to build for our people.

NATIONAL BUDGET REQUESTS—INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

1. *Special Diabetes Program for Indians—Support reauthorization of $200 million/year for 5 years (IHS).*—The administration's budget proposes to move SDPI from "mandatory funding" which Congress must authorize from time to time to "discretionary spending" which would allow Congress to control the funding going to SDPI as part of the annual appropriations process. That means SDPI will compete for other Indian programs annually, as opposed to being funded automatically outside of that environment today. Indian Country has not been consulted on this proposal and the rationale for the request has not been made available to us. We request no changes until such consultation occurs.
2. *Contract Support Costs—Indian Health Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs (IHS and BIA).*—The Nation appreciates the continued support of the Committees to fully fund CSC requirements without impacting direct Indian health programs. Beginning in fiscal year 2014, fully funding CSC has made a tremendous improvement and properly retained important health program funding to direct services. We request that IHS be instructed to consult with Tribes on every provision of the CSC Policy until both sides reach consensus; and if at any time the IHS seeks to unilaterally make changes, they should be directed to consult with Tribes prior to any changes in the CSC Policy.
3. *Purchased and Referred Care (PRC)—Provide $407.4 million.*—The Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) program pays for urgent and emergency, specialty care and other critical services that are not directly available through IHS and Tribally-operated health programs when no IHS direct care facility exists, or the

direct care facility cannot provide the required emergency or specialty care, or the facility has more demand for services than it can currently meet. Although the Nation operates a hospital facility, the hospital is located in a very rural area, we are the only provider in the community and services are limited. In fact, our hospital does not have an intensive care unit, which requires patients to be flown to another facility using PRC. Therefore, PRC is a significant need to provide intensive care and tertiary care, as well as emergency transportation.

4. *IHS Mandatory Funding (Maintaining Current Services)—Provide a total of $6.4 billion, a 33 percent increase over the fiscal year 2016 planning base. Increases include:*
   a. an increase of $421.2 million to maintain current services and other binding obligations($169.1 million for full funding of current services and $252.1 million for binding fiscal obligations); and,
   b. an increase of $1.17 billion for program expansion
5. *Opioid Funding.*—Increase funding and include Tribal set asides in any funding decisions to states. Addressing the opioid epidemic is a nationwide priority. American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) face opioid related fatalities three times the rate of non-Natives.
6. *Other IHS Program Services & Facilities Increases:*
   a. Hospital and Clinics: Increase of $295.5 million
   b. Dental Services: Increase of $67.2 million
   c. Mental Health: Increase of $122.6 million
   d. Alcohol and Substance Abuse: Increase of $114.5 million
   e. IHS Facilities: Increase of $280.4 million
7. *Provide $6 million Funding Increases to Support the IHS Office of Tribal Self-Governance (IHS) to fully staff the operations to build capacity to support the increased number of Tribes entering Self-Governance.*—Today there are 365 Self-Governance (SG) Tribes which represents over 64 percent of all federally-recognized Tribes. The Self-Governance process serves as a model program for Federal Government outsourcing, which builds Tribal infrastructure and provides quality services to Indian people.

NATIONAL BUDGET REQUESTS —BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

1. *Education.*—Support the following funding amounts:
   a. Provide $2.6 billion for system-wide Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) school construction and repair.
   b. Provide $42illion for Johnson O'Malley
   c. Provide $73 million for Student Transportation in the BIE system
   d. Provide $78 million for Tribal Grant Support Costs for Tribally-controlled schools
   e. Provide $109 million for BIE facilities operations
   f. Provide $76 million for BIE facilities maintenance
   g. Provide $431 million for the Indian School Equalization Formula
   h. Provide $41 million for Education IT
   i. Provide $5 million for BIE immersion programs
   j. Reinstate $620,000 for juvenile detention education in BIA-funded facilities
2. *Fully Fund Fixed Costs and Tribal Pay Costs.*—We strongly urge full funding of fixed costs and Tribal pay costs. Most Federal agencies receive annual increases to their Fixed Costs rates each year to address inflationary costs associated with Fringe Benefits and Pay Costs. Historically, Tribes have been disadvantaged because they have never received Fringe Benefit Fixed Cost adjustments. Previous administrations have only partially funded Pay Costs. Partially funding or failing to fund Pay Costs for Tribes has devastated Tribal communities by causing critical job losses.
3. *Increase Tribal Base Funding (instead of through grants)—Provide increases via tribal base funding instead of through grants to Tribal governments.*—Tribal leaders have grown increasingly frustrated by the increase in Indian Affairs funding offer through grants, which are inconsistently funded and unreliable upon which to build successful programs and interventions. Allocating new funds via grants marginalizes and impedes the Tribal Self-Determination and Self-Governance.
4. *Office of Self-Governance (OSG).*—Provide increase funding to the OSG to fully staff the office for the increase in the number of Tribes entering Self-Governance.

The Choctaw Nation supports the National Congress of American Indian (NCAI), the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), and the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Fiscal Year 2018 Tribal Budget Recommendations. These rec-

ommendations have been compiled in collaboration with Tribal leaders, Native organizations, and Tribal budget consultation forums.

Thank you for accepting this written testimony from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

[This statement was submitted by Mickey Peercy, Executive Director, Self-Governance.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE CHOOSE CLEAN WATER COALITION

DEAR CHAIR MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBER UDALL:

To follow a common sense path to maintain healthy local water and restore the Chesapeake Bay, which is critical for our regional economy, the undersigned members of the Choose Clean Water Coalition request funding for the following programs in fiscal year 2019:

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Chesapeake Bay Program—$73.0 million

We support level funding of $73.0 million for the base budget of the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP). At least two-thirds of the program's funds are passed through to the States and local communities for on-the-ground restoration work through the Small Watershed Grants, Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants, State Implementation Grants, and the Chesapeake Bay Regulatory and Accountability Program grants.

We strongly support the highly successful and popular Chesapeake Small Watershed Grants and the Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants—$6 million each—that Congress appropriated for the past few years. These have contributed significantly to water quality improvements throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. These are the CBP's only grants that go directly to on-the-ground restoration efforts by local governments and communities, including to family farms. Without specific Congressional direction, EPA has, in the past, reallocated this grant money for purposes other than local restoration. This is not the time to stop local implementation of restoration work. We strongly support the funding levels that Congress has appropriated each year since fiscal year 2015, and we urge you to include language similar to the Senate's Explanatory Statement for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2018, which states, "*Chesapeake Bay*—The Committee recommends $73,000,000 for the CBP. From within the amount provided, $6,000,000 is for nutrient and sediment removal grants and $6,000,000 is for small watershed grants to control polluted runoff from urban, suburban and agricultural lands."

We urge you to retain similar language in the fiscal year 2019 Interior Appropriations Bill, for both the overall CBP and for the local grant programs.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) —$2.8 billion

This program is critical to any national initiative to provide a Federal Infrastructure Spending Plan and it provides the lifeblood for the 1,779 local governments throughout the Chesapeake region to secure their water infrastructure. The funding level for this CWSRF has eroded over the years as the clean water needs of local communities have increased dramatically. The CCWC supports efforts in both the House and the Senate, and within the administration, to enhance investments in key water infrastructure projects nationwide, and the CWSRF is the single best mechanism to accomplish that goal. We support doubling the current funding for the CWSRF—and that is what we are requesting. This will help to close the gap between Federal infrastructure investment in clean water and the known need. This will also dramatically improve water quality and protect human health in our region and across the Nation.

These low interest loans are critical for clean water and for ratepayers in the Chesapeake region and nationwide. We urge you to support the $2.8 billion funding level that would provide $590 million in low interest loans to local governments in Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. We also strongly support targeting 20 percent of the CWSRF funds for green infrastructure and innovative projects including those to manage stormwater, which helps communities improve water quality while creating green space, mitigating flooding, and enhancing air quality.

The CWSRF allocates money to the States based on a set formula, which is then used for low interest loans to local governments for critical capital construction improvement projects to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution from wastewater

treatment and stormwater facilities. In addition, it provides assistance for other pollution reduction and prevention activities in rural areas, such as reforestation and stream restoration. The CWSRF enables local governments in the Chesapeake watershed to take actions to keep their rivers and streams clean. As the list of clean water infrastructure needs in the Chesapeake region continues to expand, we request that Congress double the funding of the CWSRF from the current funding level.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)—Chesapeake Bay Studies—$12.6 million

We support full funding for the USGS to continue to provide the critical science necessary for restoration and protection efforts for fish, wildlife and the 18 million people in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. USGS monitoring and assessment informs decisions made by the Department of the Interior as well as other Federal and State partners on issues related to fisheries and associated water quality, waterfowl and their habitats and land protection.

In fiscal year 2019, USGS is putting a new focus on habitat conditions supporting important recreational fisheries. Habitat conditions from headwater streams to tidal estuaries will be assessed to help focus, and evaluate, restoration and protection efforts. The efforts will include summarizing the factors affecting fish health in the watershed. The findings will also inform the development by the States of their Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans.

USGS provides the expertise to restore and conserve coastal wetlands that are critical habitat for the more than one million waterfowl that winter in the Chesapeake region. In 2019 studies of black duck habitats will be used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to adapt practices on national wildlife refuges, and USGS will begin to address shallow water habitats important for additional recreational species.

USGS will be supplying land-change forecasts to inform land protection. The National Park Service and the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership have requested the USGS to provide forecasts of where development may impact healthy watersheds and vital lands across the watershed.

Finally, USGS is leading an effort to map areas where restoration and conservation efforts will contribute to multiple Chesapeake goals—benefiting people in the watershed as well as fish and wildlife. This mapping is being used by State and Federal partners to more effectively focus actions and share available resources.

National Park Service—Chesapeake Regional Programs—$2.897 million

The National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office runs a number of small, but important programs that focus on increasing public access and the use of resources of the Chesapeake region. Expanding access and public awareness fosters stewardship and protection efforts.

We are requesting level funding for these key programs administered by the National Park Service in the Chesapeake Bay watershed: Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail ($389,000); Chesapeake Bay Gateways & Trails ($2.02 million); and support for coordinating these programs through the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office ($488,000). In addition, as in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016, we urge you to extend the authorization for the Chesapeake Bay Gateways & Trails program for 2 more years.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR/U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Park Service/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/U.S. Forest Service—Land and Water Conservation Fund Priority Projects in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed—$12.752 million

We strongly support full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In particular, we support continuation of the strategic use of funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for priority projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. These efforts target conservation funds for critical priority landscapes throughout the Chesapeake Bay region. The following projects would protect nearly 6,000 acres nationally significant resources, such as migratory bird habitat, spawning areas for economically important fish and shellfish, significant forest resources and projects to enhance public access.

—U.S Fish & Wildlife Service—James River Nat'l Wildlife Refuge (VA)—$1 million

—U.S Fish & Wildlife Service—Rappahannock River Valley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge (VA)—$2 million

—U.S. Forest Service—George Washington and Jefferson Nat'l Forests (VA)—$452,000
—U.S. Forest Service—George Washington and Jefferson Nat'l Forests (VA)—$2,300,000
—National Park Service—Captain John Smith Chesapeake Nat'l Historic Trail (VA)—$4,000,000
—National Park Service—Richmond Nat'l Battlefield Park (VA)—$3,000,000

Thank you for your consideration of these very important requests to maintain funding for these programs which are critical to clean water throughout the mid-Atlantic region. Please contact Peter J. Marx at peter@choosecleanwater.org with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

1000 Friends of Maryland
Alice Ferguson Foundation
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
American Chestnut Land Trust
American Rivers
Anacostia Watershed Society
Audubon Naturalist Society
Audubon Society of Northern Virginia
Back Creek Conservancy
Baltimore Tree Trust
Blue Heron Environmental Network
Blue Ridge Watershed Coalition
Blue Water Baltimore
Cacapon Institute
Capital Region Land Conservancy
Catskill Mountainkeeper
Center for Progressive Reform
Chapman Forest Foundation
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Chesapeake Legal Alliance
Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage
Clean Fairfax
Clean Water Action
Coalition for Smarter Growth
Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania
Delaware Nature Society
Ducks Unlimited
Earth Force
Earth Forum of Howard County
Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Elizabeth River Project
Elk Creeks Watershed Association
Environmental Working Group
Friends of Accotink Creek
Friends of Dyke Marsh
Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek
Friends of Quincy Run
Friends of St. Clements Bay
Friends of Sligo Creek
Friends of the Middle River
Friends of the Nanticoke River
Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River
Friends of the Rappahannock
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake
James River Association
Lackawanna River Conservation Assoc.
Lancaster Farmland Trust
Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania
Lynnhaven River NOW
Maryland Conservation Council
Maryland Environmental Health Network
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Maryland Native Plant Society
Mattawoman Watershed Society
Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association
Mid-Atlantic Council Trout Unlimited
Mid-Atlantic Youth Anglers & Outdoor Partners
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Muddy Branch Alliance
National Aquarium
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nature Abounds
Neighbors of the Northwest Branch
New York League of Conservation Voters
New York State Council of Trout Unlimited
Otsego County Conservation Association
Otsego Land Trust
PennEnvironment
PennFuture
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Piedmont Environmental Council
Potomac Conservancy
Potomac Riverkeeper
Potomac Riverkeeper Network
Prince William Conservation Alliance
Queen Anne's Conservation Association
Rachel Carson Council
Rivanna Conservation Alliance
Rivertown Coalition for Clean Air and Clean Water
Rock Creek Conservancy
St. Mary's River Watershed Association
Savage River Watershed Association
Severn River Association
Shenandoah Riverkeeper
Shenandoah Valley Network
ShoreRivers
Sidney Center Improvement Group
Sleepy Creek Watershed Association
South River Federation
Southern Environmental Law Center
Southern Maryland Audubon Society
SouthWings
Sparks-Glencoe Community Planning Council
Susquehanna Heritage
The Downstream Project

Trash Free Maryland
Trout Unlimited
Upper Potomac Riverkeeper
Upper Susquehanna Coalition
Virginia Conservation Network
Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper
Virginia Interfaith Power and Light
Virginia League of Conservation Voters
Warm Springs Watershed Association
Water Defense
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
West/Rhode Riverkeeper
West Virginia Citizens Action Group
West Virginia Environmental Council
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
Wicomico Environmental Trust

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE CHUGACH REGIONAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

The Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC) is pleased to submit written testimony reflecting the needs, concerns and requests of CRRC in the proposed fiscal year 2019 budget for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Our recurring funding is included in the administration's annual budget within the BIA's Tribal Management Development Program (TMDP) account. CRRC is able to leverage our limited BIA funds into real economic opportunity for those living in the small Alaska Native villages located in Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet. From an fiscal year 2017 appropriation of $410,000 in BIA funds, we leveraged those funds and operated with a budget of nearly $2 million to support community-based programs (almost a five-to-one ratio). In fiscal year 2019, the administration proposes to reduce our funding to $380,000, cut the BIA's TMDP budget of $11.65 million by 25 percent, and overall spending for BIA by $665 million below the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. We object.

CRRC opposes the administration's proposed reductions to the BIA budget and to our TMDP funds. A modest increase of $100,000 in fiscal year 2019 funding for CRRC may translate into as much as $500,000 in additional revenues that we can use to serve our Alaska Native communities. As noted in the administration's budget request for fiscal year 2019 concerning the BIA's TM/DP:

> [T]he Tribal Management/Development Program (TMDP) supports Tribal self-determination by allowing Tribal management of fish and game programs . . . Contract agreements are executed with individual fish and wildlife resource Tribes [and consortia] to accomplish management objectives. Tribes administer programs that contribute significantly towards economic development [].

CRRC is an intertribal organization organized in 1987 by the seven Native Villages located in Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet in South-central Alaska; namely, Tatitlek Village IRA Council, Chenega IRA Council, Port Graham Village Council, Nanwalek IRA Council, Native Village of Eyak, Qutekcak Native Tribe, and Valdez Native Tribe. The success of our programs, from both an economic and social standpoint, make them an integral part of our constituent Tribes' ongoing development. Reductions in our BIA funding will limit our out-reach and ability to leverage additional Federal, State, local and other Tribal resources which are critical to our program's and our constituent Tribes' success.

CRRC was created to address environmental and natural resources issues and to develop culturally-sensitive economic projects at the community level to support the sustainable development of the region's natural resources. The Native Villages' action to create a separate Tribal entity demonstrates the concern and importance the Tribal governments hold for environmental and natural resource management and protection—which is the wellspring for jobs and the perpetuation of our Alaska Native communities and culture.

Through its many important programs, CRRC provides employment for up to 35 Native people in the Chugach Region annually—an area of high unemployment—through programs that conserve and restore our natural resources and ensure a future for our Tribal communities.

An investment in CRRC has translated into real economic opportunities, savings and community investments that have a great impact on the Chugach region. Our employees are able to earn a living and support their families, thereby removing them from the rolls of people needing Alaska State and Federal support. This contributes to family and community stability and is a bulwark against depression, substance abuse, suicide and other ills that plague remote Tribal communities. With the job opportunities made possible by CRRC programs, Alaska Native members are able to reinvest their wages into the community, supporting the employment of and opportunities for other Alaska Native and non-Native families. Our programs also

support future economic and commercial opportunities for the Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet regions—protecting and developing our shellfish industry and other natural resources.

Programs. As noted above, CRRC has leveraged its recurring BIA funding of $410,000 within the Tribal Management/Development Program, into almost $2 million to support our community-based programs. Specifically, the $410,000 in base funding provided through BIA appropriations has allowed CRRC to maintain core administrative operations and seek specific project funding from other sources such as the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), the State of Alaska, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Education, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, the North Pacific Research Board and other foundations. This diverse funding pool has enabled CRRC to develop and operate several important programs that provide vital services, valuable products, and necessary employment and commercial opportunities. These programs include:

Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery. The Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery is the only shellfish hatchery in the State of Alaska. The 20,000 square foot shellfish hatchery is located in Seward, Alaska, and houses shellfish seed (cockles, littlenecks and butter clams), brood stock and algae production facilities. Alutiiq Pride is undertaking a hatchery nursery operation, as well as grow-out operation research to adapt mariculture techniques for the Alaskan Shellfish industry. The Hatchery is also conducting scientific research on blue and red king crab as part of a larger federally-sponsored program.

Alutiiq Pride has already been successful in culturing geoduck, oyster, littleneck clam, and razor clam species and is currently working on sea cucumbers. This research has the potential to dramatically increase commercial opportunities for the region in the future. The activities of Alutiiq Pride are especially important for the region; as the only shellfish hatchery in the State, it is uniquely qualified to carry out this research and production.

Alutiiq Pride staff are working on developing a shellfish sanctuary concept in Port Graham and Resurrection Bay, acquiring land use permits from the Department of Natural Resources for Port Graham and from the Alaska Railroad for Resurrection Bay. Port Graham has been stocked with 220 little neck, 200 cockles and 220 butter clam adults and CRRC is working to reduce predation and ensure greater survival rates.

Alutiiq Pride also devotes considerable time to its Ocean Acidification (OA) monitoring lab, processing 300 discrete samples collected from villages and scientific partners. A Burk-O-Later, an instrument that tests for aragonite saturation, required for shellfish to form their shells, requires frequent maintenance and calibration.

Alutiiq Pride recently implemented a preventive maintenance program to prolong the useful life of essential capital equipment. Alutiiq Pride installed chillers at its facility that were donated by the University of Alaska. The chillers will house king crab brood stock in case water temperatures are too high. In 2016, warm waters caused the crabs to release their larvae early which reduced survivability.

Natural resource curriculum development. Partnering with the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, CRRC continues its model curriculum in natural resource management for Alaska Native students. This curriculum integrates traditional knowledge with Western science. The goal of the program is to encourage more Native students to pursue careers in the sciences. In addition, we are working with the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society and Tribes across the country (including Alaska) to develop a university level textbook to accompany these courses.

In addition, we have completed a K–12 Science Curriculum for Alaska students that integrates Indigenous knowledge with western science. This curriculum is being piloted in various villages in Alaska and a thorough evaluation process will ensure its success and mobility to other schools in Alaska.

Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council. CRRC is a member of the Council responsible for setting regulations governing the spring harvest of migratory birds for Alaska Natives, as well as conducting harvest surveys and various research projects on migratory birds of conservation concern. Our participation in this state-wide body ensures the legal harvest of migratory birds by Indigenous subsistence hunters in the Chugach Region. After a nearly 30-year moratorium, the Alaska Board of Game lifted a ban on the harvest of Emperor Geese once the geese population reached sustainable levels. We are proud to have participated in this work.

Statewide Subsistence Halibut Working Group. CRRC continues to participate in a working group to ensure halibut resources are secured for subsistence purposes, and to conduct harvest surveys in the Chugach Region.

CONCLUSION

We urge Congress to protect and increase CRRC's fiscal year 2017 appropriation level of $410,000 in the BIA's fiscal year 2019 budget for TMDP. With a five-to-one return on every Federal dollar invested in CRRC, we clearly demonstrate our ability to effectively administer these dollars. Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.

[This statement was submitted by Patty Brown-Schwalenberg, Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATOR MICHAEL F. BENNET REQUESTING RESOURCES FOR AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND TO THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS, AIR, AND WATER

MICHAEL F. BENNET
COLORADO

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
FINANCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

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April 27, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Senator Udall:

As your Subcommittee begins consideration of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year (FY) 2019, I write to request that the measure provide robust resources to the following agencies and programs that are important to address climate change and to the conservation and management of our public lands, air, and water. .

- **The Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program** provides critical resources to nearly 1,900 counties across 49 states to offset lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal lands. In states like Colorado, where more than 30 percent of lands are federally controlled, PILT provides a vital source of funding for essential community services and maintenance of infrastructure. Without full funding for the PILT program in FY 2019, counties across the nation will be unable to provide essential services such as law enforcement, search and rescue, road maintenance and public health to their residents and visitors.

- Colorado relies on **EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grants, Categorical Grants, and other enforcement funding to implement its state clean air and water and hazardous waste programs**. The state would not be able to provide basic protections without this funding. I urge you to fully fund these programs at or above FY18 levels.

- **The Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program** is critical to many communities. SRS provides rural counties with funding for public schools, road maintenance, and forest restoration projects. We appreciate the inclusion of a two-year SRS reauthorization in the FY18 Omnibus, and look forward to working with the Committee towards a permanent solution, while ensuring robust funding for this crucial program.

- The **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** is one of the country's best conservation programs, preserving public lands in rural and urban settings. For the last 50 years, it has protected lands, historic sites, national parks, wilderness areas, and urban parks in every state. LWCF has supported 42,000 state and local projects. In Colorado, LWCF resources recently supported the protection of key land parcels at Rocky Mountain National Park, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and the preservation of many important BLM and Forest Service parcels. The stateside portion of

LWCF also funds trails and urban parks in communities throughout Colorado. While I appreciate that the subcommittee faces difficult choices, I hope that you provide substantial resources for this program as we work to reauthorize this vital conservation program.

- **The Superfund Cleanup program.** Since 1987, the appropriations for the Superfund program have been cut in half, decreasing from over $2.5 billion to less than $1.2 billion in FY2018. The Superfund program is one of the only mechanisms that exist to clean up contaminated sites. Today, there are over 1300 sites on EPA's National Priorities List with known releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. About 20 to 25 new sites are added to the National Priorities List each year and a 2010 GAO report found that EPA's costs to remediate these sites far outweigh the available funding. We encourage substantial and robust funding for the Superfund Cleanup program to support these needs. This is particularly important in Colorado given the urgent need to fully fund the new Bonita Peak Superfund project in the Animas River watershed.

- Funding for **climate change research, monitoring, reporting, policy development, and implementation** is necessary to continue to protect the next generation of Americans from the effects of climate change and develop commonsense climate mitigation policies. I encourage you to fully fund EPA climate change research programs at or above FY18 levels, EPA's Green House Gas Reporting program, including voluntary programs like the Natural Gas Star and EnergyStar program, and DOI's Climate Science Research Network.

- **We must provide sufficient resources for the U.S. Forest Service to manage our national forests.** The Forest Service works hard to improve forest and stream ecosystems, reduce the risk of devastating wildfires, maintain roads and trails, and provide recreational access. I support robust funding for the following:

    - Full funding and implementation of the **National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act of 2016.** This law helps the Forest Service make better use of existing resources by establishing trail priority areas and a pilot program for outfitter and guide stewardship.
    - **The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program** addresses these overlapping goals by promoting collaborative public-private partnerships to carry out long-term forest management projects.
    - **The Urban and Community Forestry Program** helps keep trees and forests in our communities healthy, benefitting populations who live in urban areas by reducing asthma, improving stormwater control and mitigating carbon emissions.
    - **The road budget and the Forest Service Legacy Roads and Trails program.** The Forest Service maintains more than 380,000 miles of roads -- eight times more miles than that of the Federal highway system -- to support timber

management programs and the other multiple uses of national forests. Recent funding for road upkeep has decreased such that only 15 percent of the roads can be maintained in any given year. As these roads deteriorate, critical public access to our national forests is lost and clean water is jeopardized. I encourage you to consider the benefits of these programs to job creation, road maintenance, hazardous fuels reduction, and habitat improvement.

- **To decrease the risk of wildfires**, I encourage the Subcommittee to consider appropriately **increasing the targets in the Forest Service's timber sale program** and providing funding for **Wildland Fire Management and Hazardous Fuel Reduction programs**. Through the Rocky Mountain Region's timber sale program, timber mills in Colorado are putting beetle-killed trees to use, supporting the local economy, and reducing wildfire risks.
- **State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance programs** provide state and local fire departments support for wildland fire prevention, detection and suppression. During the Black Forest Fire in Colorado, the most destructive in the state's history, state and volunteer fire assistance played a key role in the immediate response and rapid containment of this event.
- I support **Forest Service National Forest Recreation and Wilderness funds**, which have decreased since 2009 resulting in closures of a number of recreational facilities in the Rocky Mountain Region and elsewhere.

- In Colorado, we understand the importance of **resources to reclaim, cleanup, and monitor abandoned mine sites**. Accounts such as the Bureau of Land Management's Abandoned Mine Land (AML) fund and the Department of Interior's Central Hazardous Materials Fund (CHF) are crucial in these efforts.

- The **Montreal Protocol** has been an example of a highly successful multi-national environmental initiative, which has successfully addressed global environmental challenges and resulted in critical investments in next-generation technologies. American innovation and investments have allowed American businesses and workers to take advantage of the economic opportunities provided by the Montreal Protocol. As other nations start making similar investments, now is not the time to slow down the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, which could result in stymied domestic economic growth. I request that your subcommittee include direction to EPA to maintain both program areas related to stratospheric ozone at no less than the FY 2018 enacted level.

- I encourage funding consistent with recent years for the **North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)**. This program leverages non-federal funds to protect, restore, and manage wetland habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife. In Colorado alone, more than 328,000 acres of wetlands have been restored through NAWCA, providing valuable wildlife habitat while improving water quality and quantity.

- I support robust funding **to preserve and increase access to our historic places**. The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), which was reauthorized for seven years in December of 2016, has provided federal funding for more than 4,200 historic preservation grants in Colorado, creating jobs, contributing tax revenues, and revitalizing communities. Additionally, National Heritage Areas (NHAs) contribute $12.9 billion annually to the national economy and the three NHAs in Colorado are economic drivers for their surrounding communities.

- **Drinking water and wastewater research and technical assistance** that the EPA funds is also critical to the protection of clean water in our communities. Robust funding is needed for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). In Colorado, these funds have financed the design and construction of more than 250 public drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects. The Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program helps state agencies keep Colorado's waters clean and protected from nonpoint source pollution and has been a key source of funding for much needed water quality monitoring on the Animas River in the wake of the Gold King spill. The National Priorities Research Program (NPRP) fosters partnerships with local wastewater and drinking water utilities and through the Water Research Foundation (WRF) and Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF), ensures that research continues to meet the needs of local utilities charged with meeting federal regulatory standards.

- Finally, the proposed **Department of the Interior (DOI) reorganization** will affect our land, water and wildlife in the West. While I support moving the BLM's headquarters to Grand Junction, any move must include resources necessary to better manage our public lands. This is not possible if DOI is simultaneously slashing critical jobs and moving decision-making authority out of Colorado, all under the guise of reorganization. We look forward to working with the Committee on this effort.

In addition to these specific programs and agencies, it is imperative that we provide full funding for land management agencies including the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These agencies drive our outdoor and recreation based economy in Colorado and they must have the funding needed to do their work or our state's economy will suffer. The recent government wide hiring freeze at all federal agencies is affecting these agencies and reducing their ability to carry out their mission and serve the public. I urge the committee to take steps to ensure these agencies are well-staffed and have the funding and direction to hire the staff they need to function properly.

I look forward to working with you to fully fund the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), protect our lands, wildlife habitat, and working forests, and support efforts to protect and conserve water. I also urge you to oppose the any riders that would modify EPA's greenhouse gas regulations. Thank you for your attention to these important issues.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator

State	Member	Agency	Account	Program (if applicable)	President's Budget ($)	Fiscal Year 2018 Enacted Amount ($)	Member Request ($)	Request Description Fiscal Year 2019	Contact
CO	Bennet	USFS	Payments in Lieu of Taxes			13,228,000	13,228,000	We support full funding for fiscal year 2019.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	USDA Forest Service/DOI	Land and Water Conservation Fund.			425,000,000	900,000,000	Full funding, both mandatory and discretionary.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	State and Tribal Assistance Grants.	Categorial Grants for Air, Water, and Waste (Summy of below).	480,671,000	886,112,000	886,112,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA		Categorical Grant: Nonpoint Source.		169,754,000	169,754,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA		Categorical Grant: Public Water System Supervision (PWSS).	67,892,000	101,271,000	101,271,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA		Categorical Grant: State and Local Air Quality Management.	151,961,000	226,669,000	226,669,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA		Categorical Grant: Pollution Control (Sec. 106).	153,683,000	229,239,000	229,239,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA		Categorical Grant: Hazardous Waste Financial Assistance.	66,381,000	99,016,000	99,016,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA		Categorical Grant: Tribal Air Quality Management.	8,963,000	12,742,000	12,742,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA		Categorical Grant: Brownfields	31,791,000	47,421,000	47,421,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	State and Tribal Assistance Grants.	Grants for Air, Water, and Brownfields (Summary of below).	62,000,000	109,253,000	109,253,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA		Brownfields Projects	62,000,000	79,457,000	79,457,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA		Targeted Airshed Grants		29,796,000	29,796,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)

CO	Bennet	USFS	Wildland Fire Management	Supression	1,165,366,000	1,556,818,000	1,556,818,000	We support funding above the 10–year average in fiscal year 2019, prior to the implementaiton of the budget cap adjustment in 2020.	
CO	Bennet	EPA	Superfund Cleanup	Hazardous Substance Superfund	1,088,830,000	1,154,947,000	1,154,947,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.		863,233,000	863,233,000	863,233,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	Clean Water State Revolving Fund.		1,393,887,000	1,393,887,000	1,393,887,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	OSMRE	Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.		20,375,000	139,672,000	139,672,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	Environmental Program and Management.		300,738,000	305,844,000	305,844,000	Cuts larger than $100 m to the entire EPM program will prevent EPA from conducting core EPM functions..	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	Environmental Program and Mangement.	Brownfields	16,082,000	25,593,000	25,593,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	Environmental Program and Mangement.	GHG Reporting	13,580,000	95,436,000	95,436,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	Climate Change Research			16,520,000	16,520,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	Stratospheric Ozone	Montreal Protocol		8,677,000	10,000,000	Al least fiscal year 2018 levels.	Candace Vahlsing (8–5433)
CO	Bennet	USFS	Stewardship	Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.		40,000,000	40,000,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	USFS	State and Private Forestry	Urban and Community Forestry Program.		27,850,000	27,850,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	USFS	Capital Improvement and Maintanance.	Roads	71,481,000	173,905,000	173,905,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	USFS	National Forest System	Hazardous Fuel Reduction	390,000,000	387,352,000	390,000,000	We support robust funding at least at the fiscal year 2018 enacted level..	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	USFS	National Forest System	Forest Products Program (e.g., Timber Sales).	341,165,000	365,307,000	365,307,000	We support robust funding consistent fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)

State	Member	Agency	Account	Program (if applicable)	President's Budget ($)	Fiscal Year 2018 Enacted Amount ($)	Member Request ($)	Request Description Fiscal Year 2019	Contact
CO	Bennet	USFS	Wildland Fire Management	State Fire Assistance	69,400,000	80,000,000	80,000,000	We support robust funding at least at fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	USFS	Wildland Fire Management	Volunteer Fire Assistance	11,600,000	16,000,000	16,000,000	We support robust funding at least at fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	USFS	Capital Improvement and Maintanance.	Legacy Roads and Trails Program		40,000,000	40,000,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	USFS	Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness.		240,236,000	262,798,000	262,798,000	We support robust funding at least at fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	NPS	Historic Preservation Fund		32,700,000	96,910,000	96,910,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	EPA	National Priorities Research Program.	Extramural research grants		4,100,000	4,100,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	DOI	Central Hazardous Materials Fund.		2,000,000	10,010,000	10,010,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	USFWS	North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA).	NAWCA Fund	33,600,000	40,000,000	40,000,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	NPS	National Heritage Areas	Heritage Partnership Program		20,321,000	20,321,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	NPS	National Park Foundation	Centennial Challenge Fund		23,000,000	23,000,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)
CO	Bennet	DOI	Climate Science Centers	North Central Climate Center			25,335,000	We support robust funding consistent with fiscal year 2017 levels.	Patrick Donovan (8–5907)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE COALITION FOR THE DELAWARE RIVER WATERSHED

September 11, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
S–128 Capitol
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall, Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
S–146A Capitol
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

DEAR CHAIR MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBER UDALL:

As organizations working to protect and restore water resources throughout the four States of the Delaware River Watershed, the undersigned members of the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed request $10 million in fiscal year 2019 funding for programs to restore and protect the critical resources in this unique and valuable region. Congress recognized the significance of this special place by passing the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act, which was signed into law in December 2016.

The Act established the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program, which is a non-regulatory program under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This new Federal-State-local-private cooperative program seeks to conserve and restore fish and wildlife habitat, improve and maintain water quality, sustain and enhance water management and reduce flood damage, and improve recreational opportunities and public access in the Delaware River Basin.

The Delaware River Basin spans 13,500 square miles across Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, and Pennsylvania and is home to 6.4 million people—an additional 8 million people living outside of the watershed depend on the river for their drinking water. The basin is home to a world class trout fishery in its upper reaches, the world's largest freshwater port complex in the Philadelphia-Wilmington area and a rich estuarine system at its mouth which is home to the largest spawning population of horseshoe crabs in the world.

Funding for the following programs is essential to implementing the vision Congress had for this special region when it passed the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act in 2016. We request the following funding for fiscal year 2019:

Department of the Interior: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—Delaware River Basin Restoration Program—$10 million

With the passage of the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act in 2016, Congress directed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish this new non-regulatory Program, which would have as its centerpiece, a grants program. The Service was tasked with establishing a basin-wide plan and to set a foundation for a grant program that will implement the Act. These pieces are now in place and the House passed Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2018 (H.R. 3354) clearly directs the Service to begin implementation of the Program, "In addition, the recommendation includes $5,000,000 to begin implementing the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act; the Service is strongly encouraged to enter into an agreement with an outside party for grant management services."

We strongly support the fiscal year 2018 language and funding to begin this Program, and urge Congress to provide $10 million in fiscal year 2019 to fund a more robust grant program across this large region that will lead to real improvements throughout the watershed.

Thank you for considering our request to support Delaware River Basin Restoration Program funding for fiscal year 2019. Please contact Kelly Mooij, Co-Chair of the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, if you have any questions about our position on this or any other issues at kelly.mooij@njaudubon.org.

Sincerely,

Action Together NEPA
American Littoral Society
American Rivers
Appalachian Mountain Club
Audubon Pennsylvania

Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy
Basha Kill Area Association
Bertsch-Hokendauqua-Catasauqua Watershed Association
Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Brodhead Watershed Association
Christina Conservancy, Inc
Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania
Darby Creek Valley Association
Delaware Highlands Conservancy
Delaware Nature Society
Ducks Unlimited
Environment New Jersey
Friends for the Abbott Marshlands
Friends of Cherry Valley
Friends of the Upper Delaware River
Green Valleys Watershed Association
Isles, Inc.
Land Conservancy of New Jersey
Lackawaxen River Conservancy
National Wildlife Federation
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
Newtown Creek Coalition
New Jersey Audubon
New Jersey Conservation Foundation
New Jersey Highlands Coalition
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters
New Jersey Outdoor Alliance
New York League of Conservation Voters
Mid-Atlantic Youth Anglers & Outdoor Partners
Musconetcong Watershed Association
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
PennFuture
PennEnvironment
Pennsylvania Land Trust Association
Pennypack Ecological Trust
Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Schuylkill Headwaters Association, Inc.
Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association
Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, Inc.
Tobyhanna Creek/Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Association
Trout Unlimited
Upper Delaware Preservation Coalition
Urban Promise Ministries
Valley Creek Restoration Partnership
Western Pocono Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Wilmington Rowing Center
White Clay Watershed Association
Willistown Conservation Trust

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE COALITION FOR HEALTHIER SCHOOLS

April 26, 2018

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chairman
U.S. Senator Tom Udall, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations for US EPA

RE: EPA fiscal year 2019 appropriations for healthy school & child care facilities, healthy children

DEAR CHAIRMEN MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBERS CARPER:

America's School Infrastructure earned a D+ in 2017 from the American Society of Civil Engineers and a D in 2013. And, in 2017 the Harvard Chan School of Public Health released a new report detailing how unhealthy school facilities can damage children's "health, thinking, and learning." The Harvard findings are echoed in research produced by the University of Tulsa, University of California at Berkeley, and in countless university studies across Europe and Scandinavia over many years. This spring, American teachers and students are highlighting poor learning conditions among their issues in State and local demonstrations.

The U.S. Senate EPW Committee has recognized that children are uniquely vulnerable to environmental health hazards, as have EPA, CDC, ED, HHS, and other agencies. Every school day there are some 65 million children in schools or child care facilities. Decades of research have shown that indoor environmental exposures to pollutants can be more intense than outdoor exposures; that educators are often unaware of how facility problems impact children; and that school and child care facilities are filled with asthma triggers such as dusts, molds, chemical fumes, pests and pesticides, other contaminants. Poor indoor environments in schools decrease attention, seat time, attendance, and test scores, and increase asthma and other health complaints, thus increasing healthcare costs for children and personnel and for those who provide coverage.

Adding to the need to act, we note that in February 2018, the EPA Administrator hosted fellow cabinet members and other key senior leaders to outline a proposed Federal strategy to reduce childhood lead exposure and associated health risks as part of the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children. Funding key EPA programs that comprehensively address school and

child care facilities and children's health is essential for the success of any new lead prevention work. Sources of lead in these facilities can include paint, drinking water, construction materials, instructional products, soil, and equipment, as a recent national workshop on Eliminating Lead risks reported.

Thus, we urge the U.S. Senate to restore and increase funding for U.S. EPA's proven programs and annual symposia that educate schools and child care entities on how to site, design, maintain and operate buildings to prevent or address common problems, such as: indoor air pollution, dampness and molds, lead in drinking water and paint and products, pests and pesticides, hazardous chemical management, legacy toxics like PCBs, and more. The EPA programs also support public health services for children with suspected environmental exposures in these settings.

The urgency for educators, agencies, and communities to be smart and effective in preventing or reducing common hazards in these settings grows every year: today, there are fewer Federal and State dollars for schools, fewer personnel, fewer funds for repairs, and yet more children enrolled who are of color, in poverty, or have special health and learning needs.

U.S. EPA, uniquely among the Federal agencies, has a twenty+-year history of successes in convening and providing training grants to PK–12 and child care communities, facility owner-operators and personnel, as well as to NGOs and health agencies. The primary offices are: (1) U.S. EPA Office of Air and Radiation/Indoor Environments Division which, on a tiny budget, educated over 42,000 school and child care stakeholders through guidelines, grants, annual symposia, and webinars; and, (2) EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection which partners with the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences on research and with the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on pediatric environmental health services. Overall, the two primary offices and other schools-focused programs at EPA help reduce exposures to children and personnel in school and childcare facilities, and help preserve these facilities as healthful, productive, and valued community assets.

We urge an increase of $65 million ($1/child for the 65 million enrolled in schools and child care) to U.S. EPA's budget over the Omnibus fiscal year 2018 Act, as follows:

—$35 million for EPA's Indoor Environments Division-Reducing the Risks of Indoor Air to advance healthy indoor environments in schools and child care centers with guidelines, grants to the field, annual symposia, webinars, and to provide Federal leadership on school infrastructure concerns;

—$5 million for EPA's Office of Children's Health to strengthen pediatric environmental health capacity to address children with suspected exposures in schools and child care settings;

—$5 million for EPA's Drinking Water office to disseminate user-friendly guidance to key school and child care stakeholders regarding lead in drinking and cooking water;

—$10 million for EPA's Office of Chemical Safety to strengthen its guidelines and enforcements that address legacy toxics in schools such as asbestos, lead, PCBs, and pesticides, and to encourage the safe management and disposal of hazardous chemicals in schools;

—$10 million for EPA's Office of Research to strengthen and expand its research into children's exposures in the school/child care settings.

Sincerely,

Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Association of Asthma Educators (PA)
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO International)
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
Californians for Pesticide Reform
Cancer Prevention Coalition for Los Angeles (CA)
Center for Environmental Health
Child Care Aware of America
Children's Environmental Health Network
Coalition for Environmentally Safe Schools (MA)
Collaborative for High Performance Schools
The Deirdre Imus Environmental Health Center at Hackensack UMC (NJ)
District of Columbia Asthma Coalition
Education Law Center
Empire State Consumer Project (NY)
First Focus
Green Schools National Network
Healthy Legacy (MN)
Health Promotion Consultants (VA)
Health Resources in Action

Healthy Schools PA/Women for a Healthy Environment
Healthy Schools Network, Inc.
Improving Kids' Environment (IN)
IPM Institute of North America
Learning Disabilities Association of Georgia
Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois
Learning Disabilities Association of Maine
Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey
Learning Disabilities Association of South Carolina
Learning Disabilities Association of Tennessee
Learning Disabilities Association of Utah
Maryland Children's Environmental Health Coalition
Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health
Midwest Pesticide Action Center
National Center for Environmental Health Strategies
Nontoxic Certified (NY)
Pesticide Action Network of North America
Occupational Health & Safety Section of the American Public Health Association
Ohio Public Health Association
Parents for Students Safety (TN)
Partners for a Healthier Community (MA)
Pennsylvania Integrated Pest Management Program
Pioneer Valley Asthma Coalition (MA)
Project Green Schools (MA)
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (RAMP- CA)
School-Based Health Alliance
School Based Health Alliance of Arkansas
South Texas Asthma Coalition
Toxics Information Project (TIP—RI)
Valley Community Healthcare (CA)

Individuals *(organizational affiliations for informational purposes only):*

Rosemary Ahtuangaruak, Alaska Inter-Tribal Council; Gary Arthur, Issaquah Education Association (WA); Carl R. Baum, MD, FAAP, FACMT, Yale School of Medicine; Mary Gant, Green Science Policy Institute; Augusta Gross PhD (NY); Chip Halverson, ND, Northwest Center for Biological Medicine (OR); Kate Hewett (SC); Jerry Lamping, Take Care of Your Classroom Air (TX); Paul Landsbergis, PhD, MPH, SUNY Downstate Medical Center; Patricia A. Lasley, MPH, Great Lakes Center for Children's Environmental Health (IL); Larry K. Lowry, Southwest Center for Pediatric Environmental Health (TX); Daniel Lefkowitz (NY); Virginia Mott (ME); Christina Olbrantz, Columbia University; Larry K. Olsen, DrPH, MCHES, AT Still University; Jerome A. Paulson, MD, FAAP, Emeritus, George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health; Joseph Ponessa PhD, Rutgers University; Chelsea Alexandra Schafer, California State University, Northridge; Alexandra W. Sipiora (IL); Mariana Torchia (CA); Theodora Tsongas, PhD, MS (OR).

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL FORUM

TO: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
The Honorable Tom Udall, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations—Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

SUBJECT: Continued Funding for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program under BLM's Aquatic Habitat Management sub-activity (formerly known as the Soil, Water and Air Program)

FROM: Don A. Barnett, Executive Director
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum

DATE: March 27, 2018

Waters from the Colorado River are used by nearly 40 million people for municipal and industrial purposes and used to irrigate approximately 5.5 million acres in the United States. Natural and man-induced salt loading to the Colorado River creates environmental and economic damages. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has estimated the current *quantifiable* damages at about $454 million per year. Congress authorized the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (Program) in 1974 to offset increased damages caused by continued development and use of the waters of the Colorado River. Modeling by Reclamation indicates that the *quantifiable* damages would rise to approximately $574 million by the year 2035 without continuation of the Program. Congress has directed the Secretary of the Interior to implement a comprehensive program for minimizing salt contributions to the Colorado River from lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management

(BLM). BLM has funded these efforts through its Soil, Water and Air Program (proposed to be moved to the new Aquatic Habitat Management sub-activity in the President's 2019 Budget). BLM's efforts are an essential part of the overall effort. A funding level of $1.5 million for salinity specific projects in 2019 is requested to prevent further degradation of the quality of the Colorado River with a commensurate increase in downstream economic damages.

EPA has identified that more than 60 percent of the salt load of the Colorado River comes from natural sources. The majority of land within the Colorado River Basin is federally owned, much of which is administered by BLM. In implementing the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act in 1974, Congress recognized that most of the salts in the Colorado River originate from federally owned lands. Title I of the Salinity Control Act deals with the U.S. commitment to the quality of waters being delivered to Mexico. Title II of the Act deals with improving the quality of the water delivered to users in the United States. This testimony deals specifically with Title II efforts. In 1984, Congress amended the Salinity Control Act and directed that the Secretary of the Interior develop a comprehensive program for minimizing salt contributions to the Colorado River from lands administered by BLM. In 2000, Congress reiterated its directive to the Secretary and requested a report on the implementation of BLM's program (Public Law 106–459). In 2003, BLM employed a Salinity Coordinator to increase BLM efforts in the Colorado River Basin and to pursue salinity control studies and to implement specific salinity control practices. BLM is now working on creating a comprehensive Colorado River Basin salinity control program as directed by Congress. In January 2018 BLM issued *A Framework for Improving the Effectiveness of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program, 2018–2023.* This document lays out how BLM intends to implement Colorado River Basin salinity control activities over the next 5 years. Meaningful resources have been expended by BLM in the past few years to better understand salt mobilization on rangelands. With a significant portion of the salt load of the Colorado River coming from BLM administered lands, the BLM portion of the overall program is essential to the success of the effort. Inadequate BLM salinity control efforts will result in significant additional economic damages to water users downstream.

Concentration of salt in the Colorado River causes approximately $454 million in quantified damages and significantly more in unquantified damages in the United States and results in poor water quality for United States users. Damages occur from:

—a reduction in the ability to re-claim and reuse water due to high salinities in the water delivered to water treatment and reclamation facilities,
—a reduction in the yield of salt sensitive crops and increased water use to meet the leaching requirements in the agricultural sector,
—increased use of imported water and cost of desalination and brine disposal for recycling water in the municipal sector,
—a reduction in the useful life of galvanized water pipe systems, water heaters, faucets, garbage disposals, clothes washers, and dishwashers, and increased use of bottled water and water softeners in the household sector,
—an increase in the cost of cooling operations and the cost of water softening, and a decrease in equipment service life in the commercial sector,
—an increase in the use of water and the cost of water treatment, and an increase in sewer fees in the industrial sector,
—a decrease in the life of treatment facilities and pipelines in the utility sector, and
—difficulty in meeting wastewater discharge requirements to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit terms and conditions, and an increase in desalination and brine disposal costs due to accumulation of salts in groundwater basins.

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum) is composed of gubernatorial appointees from Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. The Forum is charged with reviewing the Colorado River's water quality standards for salinity every 3 years. In so doing, it adopts a Plan of Implementation consistent with these standards. The level of appropriation requested in this testimony is in keeping with the adopted Plan of Implementation. If adequate funds are not appropriated, significant damages from the higher salinity concentrations in the water will be more widespread in the United States and Mexico.

In summary, implementation of salinity control practices through BLM is a cost effective method of controlling the salinity of the Colorado River and is an essential component to the overall Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. Continuation of adequate funding levels for salinity within the Aquatic Habitat Manage-

ment sub-activity (formerly the Soil, Water and Air Program) will assist in preventing the water quality of the Colorado River from further degradation with a commensurate significant increase in economic damages to municipal, industrial and irrigation users. A modest investment in source control pays huge dividends in improved drinking water quality to nearly 40 million Americans.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

TO: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
The Honorable Tom Udall, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations—Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

SUBJECT: Continued Funding for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program under BLM's Soil, Water and Air Program

FROM: Christopher S. Harris, Executive Director
Colorado River Board of California

DATE: March 27, 2018

This testimony is in support of fiscal year 2019 funding for the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) associated activities that assist the implementation of Title II of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act of 1974 (Public Law 93–320). This long-standing successful and cost-effective salinity control program in the Colorado River Basin is being carried out pursuant to the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act and the Clean Water Act (Public Law 92–500). Congress has directed the Secretary of the Interior to implement a comprehensive program for minimizing salt contributions to the Colorado River from lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). BLM funds these efforts through its Soil, Water and Air Program (proposed to be moved to the new Aquatic Habitat Management sub-activity in the President's 2019 budget). BLM's efforts are an essential part of the overall effort. A funding level of $1.5 million for salinity specific projects in 2019 is requested to prevent further degradation of the quality of Colorado River water supplies and increased economic damages.

The Colorado River Board of California (Colorado River Board) is the State agency charged with protecting California's interests and rights in the water and power resources of the Colorado River system. In this capacity, California participates along with the other six Colorado River Basin States through the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum), the interstate organization responsible for coordinating the Basin States' salinity control efforts. In close cooperation with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and pursuant to requirements of the Clean Water Act, the Forum is charged with reviewing the Colorado River water quality standards every 3 years. Every 3 years the Forum adopts a Plan of Implementation consistent with these water quality standards. The level of appropriation being supported in this testimony is consistent with the Forum's *2017 Plan of Implementation.* The Forum's *2017 Plan of Implementation* can be found on this website: http://coloradoriversalinity.org/docs/2017%20Review%20-%20FINAL.pdf. If adequate funds are not appropriated, significant damages associated with increasing salinity concentrations of Colorado River water will become more widespread in the United States and Mexican portions of the Colorado River Basin.

The EPA has determined that more than 60-percent of the salt load of the Colorado River comes from natural sources. The majority of land within the Colorado River Basin is federally owned, much of which is administered by BLM. Through passage of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act in 1974, Congress recognized that much of the salts in the Colorado River originate on federally-owned lands. Title I of the Salinity Control Act deals with the U.S. commitment to efforts related to maintaining the quality of waters being delivered to Mexico pursuant to the 1944 Water Treaty. Title II of the Act deals with improving the quality of the water delivered to U.S. users. In 1984, Congress amended the Salinity Control Act and directed that the Secretary of the Interior develop a comprehensive program for minimizing salt contributions to the Colorado River from lands administered by BLM. In 2000, Congress reiterated its directive to the Secretary and requested a report on the implementation of BLM's program (Public Law 106–459). In 2003, BLM employed a Salinity Coordinator to coordinate BLM efforts in the Colorado River Basin States to pursue salinity control studies and to implement specific salinity control practices. BLM is now working on creating a comprehensive Colorado River Basin salinity control program as directed by Congress. In January 2018 BLM

issued *A Framework for Improving the Effectiveness of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program, 2018–2023.* This document lays out how BLM intends to implement Colorado River Basin salinity control activities over the next 5 years. Meaningful resources have been expended by BLM in the past few years to better understand salt mobilization on rangelands. With a significant portion of the salt load of the Colorado River coming from BLM-administered lands, the BLM portion of the overall program is essential to the success of the entire effort. Inadequate BLM salinity control efforts will result in significant additional economic damages to water users downstream.

Over the 34 years since the passage of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act, much has been learned about the impact of salts in the Colorado River system. Currently, the salinity concentration of Colorado River water causes about $454 million in quantifiable economic damages in the United States annually. Economic and hydrologic modeling by Reclamation indicates that these economic damages could rise to more than $574 million by the year 2035 without continued implementation of the Program. For example, damages can be incurred related to the following activities:

—A reduction in the ability to re-claim and reuse water due to high salinities in the water delivered to water treatment and reclamation facilities;
—A reduction in the yield of salt-sensitive crops and increased water use to meet the leaching requirements in the agricultural sector;
—Increases in the amount of imported water;
—Increased costs of desalination and brine disposal for recycled water in the municipal sector;
—A reduction in the useful life of galvanized water pipe systems, water heaters, faucets, and other household appliances, and increased use of bottled water and water softeners in the municipal and industrial sectors;
—Increased costs of cooling operations and the cost of water softening, and a decrease in equipment service life in the commercial sector;
—Increases in the use of water and cost of water treatment, and an increase in sewer fees in the industrial sector;
—Decreased life of treatment facilities and pipelines in the utility sector;
—Increasing difficulty in meeting wastewater discharge requirements to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit terms and conditions; and
—Increased desalination and brine disposal costs due to accumulation of salts in groundwater basins.

The Colorado River is, and will continue to be, a major and vital water resource to the nearly 20 million residents of southern California, including municipal, industrial, and agricultural water users in Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura Counties. The protection and improvement of Colorado River water quality through the continuation and expansion of an effective salinity control program will avoid, or reduce, additional economic damages to water users in California and the other States that rely on Colorado River water resources.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE FOR REFUGE ENHANCEMENT

CHAIRMAN MURKOWSKI, RANKING MEMBER UDALL, AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE:

The National Wildlife Refuge System stands alone as the only Federal land and water conservation system with a mission that prioritizes wildlife and habitat conservation alongside wildlife-dependent recreation. Since 1995, the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) has worked to showcase the value of the Refuge System and to secure a strong congressional commitment for conserving these special landscapes.

Found in every U.S. State and territory, national wildlife refuges conserve a diversity of America's environmentally sensitive and recreationally vital ecosystems, including wetlands, coasts, forests, prairie, tundra, deserts, and oceans, and provide Americans with an opportunity to encounter and engage with these areas.

We ask that the Committee provide a funding level of $586 million for the Operations and Maintenance accounts of the National Wildlife Refuge System for fiscal year 2019.

This testimony is submitted on behalf of CARE's 23 member organizations, which represent over 16 million American hunters, anglers, bird and wildlife watchers, sci-

entists, managers, and concerned citizens passionate about wildlife conservation and related recreational opportunities.

American Birding Association
American Fisheries Society
American Sportfishing Association
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Defenders of Wildlife
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Izaak Walton League of America
Marine Conservation Institute
National Audubon Society
National Rifle Association
National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Safari Club International
The Corps Network
The Nature Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
The Wildlife Society
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trout Unlimited
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute

We also thank you for the much needed $2.8 million funding increase for fiscal year 2018, as well as the added funding to continue to reduce the refuge maintenance backlog. In addition, we very much appreciate the $210 million allocated by this subcommittee to assist refuges damaged by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. The continued support of the Committee for refuges is much appreciated by all of our organizations.

Inadequate Funding—Challenges to the Refuge System

The Refuge System budget, at $486.7 million, is now $93.3 million below the level needed to keep pace with inflation and fixed costs ($580 million), relative to the fiscal year 2010 budget of $503.2 million.

Workforce has declined in that time by 488 positions through attrition. Those employees provided services such as administration, maintenance, fire management, wildlife management, and research support. That is a loss of nearly 1 out of 7 refuge positions. As a result, refuge staff struggle to maintain habitat, while also providing adequate visitor services, environmental education, and access for hunting, fishing, and other recreation.

An additional problem with lack of funding is the System's inability to provide for ongoing maintenance costs, which only compound and become more expensive with time. At Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR in Florida, the invasive species issues are overwhelming the refuge. In the last 12–15 years, Loxahatchee has struggled with invasive Lygodium, with initial costs of $2 million a year to restrict uncontrolled spread. Now, the refuge needs roughly $5 million a year for 5 years in order to control this weed, with costs having doubled or tripled.

Unfortunately, inadequate funding threatens the System's ability to carry out its mission, which is mandated by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. Between fiscal year 2010 and fiscal year 2013, Refuge System funding was reduced by $50 million—a 10 percent cut. Even with increased budgets in fiscal year 2018 to $486.7 million, the Refuge System continues to function at unsustainable levels. CARE estimates that the Refuge System needs at least $900 million in annual operations and maintenance funding to meet conservation targets, including wildlife management, habitat restoration, and opportunities for public recreation.

Completely inadequate numbers of Federal wildlife officers (by some measures, the number of FWOs should be three times higher than current numbers) imperil healthy habitat and the safe and enjoyable visitor experience. The 'lucky' refuges still have one or two employees per refuge or refuge complex doing work such as environmental education, biology, or maintenance work. Yet many other refuges sit for years with unfilled, critical positions. For example, the Ding Darling NWR in Sanibel, Florida—the 8th most visited refuge with 936,000 visitors last year—is losing their environmental ranger this spring. Environmental education is a critical service provided to the community by this refuge, and this kind of loss is inexcusable.

Without drastic increases in funding, there is simply no room left to trim positions and still maintain at least a portion of those services—they will simply disappear, and school programs or ongoing maintenance will end.

National Wildlife Refuge System: Statistics and Visitors

The National Wildlife Refuge System, established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903, protects approximately 850 million land and marine acres on 566 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts in every State and territory in the U.S., and 5 marine monuments in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. These acres are both part of the Refuge System and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

managed (with some marine acres co-managed with NOAA). From the Virgin Islands to Guam to Alaska to Maine, the Refuge System spans 12 time zones and protects America's natural heritage in habitats ranging from arctic tundra to arid desert, boreal forest to sagebrush grassland, and prairie wetlands to coral reefs.

A refuge is within an hour's drive from most metropolitan areas, enabling the Refuge System to attract a growing number of visitors each year (53.6 million in fiscal year 2017, up from 46.5 million in fiscal year 2013) and provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, kayaking, hiking, and outdoor education. Americans are flocking to refuges for the wild beauty and recreational opportunities they provide.

CARE welcomes recreational use of our Nation's refuges. Refuge visitors generate $2.4 billion annually to local and regional economies—on average returning $4.87 in economic activity for every $1 appropriated—and support 35,000 U.S. jobs.[1] In addition, refuges provide major environmental and health benefits, such as filtering storm water before it is carried downstream and fills municipal aquifers; reducing flooding by capturing excess rainwater; and minimizing the damage to coastal communities from storm surges. Refuges generate more than $32.3 billion in these ecosystem services each year, a return of over $65 for every $1 appropriated by Congress.[2]

Public Use of the Refuge System—Increases and Decreases from RAPP

The fiscal year 2015 Refuge Annual Performance Plan (RAPP) reports revealed falling performance rates in several important System categories—as a direct result of funding shortfalls—including habitat condition, habitat restoration, recreation opportunities, volunteerism, and scientific research. Performance declined from fiscal year 2010 to fiscal year 2015 for the following measures: open water acres restored (−63 percent), wetland acres restored (−70 percent), acres of non-native, invasive plants controlled (−58 percent), number of invasive animal populations controlled during the year (−55 percent), riparian miles restored (−30 percent), acres of farming (−30 percent), and total refuge acres receiving needed management (−12 percent).

However, many measures of public use increased for the Refuge System over this same timeframe, despite budget shortfalls. Funding for fiscal year 2019 needs to ensure Americans will be able to safely continue these valuable recreational activities. These include waterfowl hunt visits (+7 percent), photography participants (+52 percent), number of boat trail visits (+18 percent), acres of prescribed grazing (+13 percent), number of auto tour visits (+14 percent), and wildlife observation visits (+12 percent).

CARE Requests $586 Million in Fiscal Year 2019

We acknowledge that this request would mean a dramatic $100 million increase. However, with the effective $93 million decrease in funding since fiscal year 2010, the Refuge System has lost a great deal of conservation work and public use opportunities, all at a time when visitor numbers are increasing. If annual operations and maintenance funding does not rise substantially, CARE anticipates further impacts both within and outside of refuge boundaries, including:

—Reduced treatment of invasive plants, reducing habitat quality for wildlife (both game and non-game) and placing nearby private lands at higher risk of infestations;

—Decreased use of prescribed fire, which is used on refuges both to improve habitat for wildlife and to reduce hazardous fuels that pose a wildfire risk to nearby communities. This risk has been mitigated by the fire fix passed by the Congress this spring, but resources for prescribed fire still need to be in place on individual refuges;

—Reduced number and quality of visitor programs, with visitor centers operating at fewer hours, even as the numbers of visitors increases;

—Reduced quality of habitat for hunting. Secretary Ryan Zinke has continued to add and expand hunt programs at refuges. These hunt expansions will require corresponding funding to keep up with the demand on Federal wildlife officers and on biologists and other staff responsible for keeping wildlife habitat and populations healthy.

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[1] *Banking on Nature,* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, October 2013, http://www.fws.gov/refuges/about/refugereports/pdfs/BankingOnNature2013.pdf.

[2] *The Economics Associated with Outdoor Recreation, Natural Resources Conservation, and Historic Preservation in the United States,* Southwick Associates, October 2011, https://www.fws.gov/refuges/news/pdfs/TheEconomicValueofOutdoorRecreation[1].pdf.

—Elimination of ancillary functions like FWS's operation of Henderson Field at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, which serves as a critical emergency landing site for trans-pacific flights, as well as the public's main window to the marine national monuments.

The common denominator to all these challenges is a lack of funding. Adequate staffing and funding are critical to the maintenance of healthy wildlife populations and access for recreational users to a healthy ecosystem. Increasing funding for the System will empower and enable individual Refuge units to deliver on-the-ground conservation that benefits not only wildlife and recreation, but also local communities across the Nation.

We ask that this Committee use a portion of its additional funding allocation in the budget deal finalized in January, and put it towards a substantial increase in Refuge Operations and Maintenance funding. CARE has a goal of seeing Refuge Operations and Maintenance funding reach $900 million by fiscal year 2021, and a large increase in fiscal year 2019 would help us meet that goal.

We urge Congress to fund the Refuge System at $586 million in fiscal year 2019—to bridge the growing gap between what the System needs and what it receives—enabling refuges to continue moving America forward as the world's leader in wildlife conservation and restoration.

Our hope is that this level of funding will put the Refuge System on a path to full funding of $900 million and help the System advance its mission to maintain refuge lands as intended in their purpose for the benefit of the American people, finalize outstanding Comprehensive Conservation Plans, and implement programs that will benefit both wildlife and people. If the requested funding level is satisfied, the Refuge System can better:

—Conduct management and restoration activities to provide healthy habitats that attract wildlife and, in turn, draw visitors and increase economic return to communities;
—Keep refuges open and staffed so quality recreational opportunities continue to be offered to the public;
—Maintain facilities and equipment used to serve the public and manage habitat;
—Provide Federal wildlife officers needed to keep refuge resources and the people who come to appreciate them safe.

On behalf of our more than 16 million members and supporters, CARE thanks the Subcommittee for the opportunity to submit comments on the fiscal year 2019 House Interior Appropriations bill, and we look forward to meeting with you to discuss our request.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE CORPS NETWORK

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBER UDALL;

On behalf of 130+ Corps of The Corps Network and our 25,000 Corpsmembers, I write to respectfully urge your strong support for increased funding for the youth, maintenance, operation, national forest, wildfire, and conservation accounts of the Department of Interior (DOI) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in fiscal year 2019 as outlined below. We thank you for your extraordinary efforts in developing a deal to eliminate the budget caps, and provide a much-needed increase in maintenance and infrastructure accounts along with continuing youth-focused efforts in fiscal year 2018.

As you craft the fiscal year 2019 Interior Appropriations Bill, we encourage you to continue this focus, and make additional investments in addressing backlog maintenance, necessary infrastructure and conservation projects, and engaging the next generation of youth and veteran outdoor stewards, entrepreneurs, recreationists, and sportsmen and women. In addition, we encourage your attention to ongoing challenges related to Interior's financial assistance agreement review of projects over $50,000 that was implemented in December of 2017 and has had a significant impact on Interior's ability to accomplish projects with appropriated funds.

Corps of The Corps Network support DOI and USFS accounts for youth, repair and rehabilitation, trials, maintenance, and forest conservation which are used to partner with Corps and our youth and veteran Corpsmembers on important projects; funding for Wildland Fire hazardous fuels remediation through both DOI and USFS; and language encouraging new hiring authority for USFS, a continued focus on Corps partnerships, and expressing concern around the implementation of a new, more cumbersome financial assistance review process. By partnering with Corps, agencies achieve more with their budgets and accomplish cost-effective projects to help address the multi-billion-dollar maintenance backlog; remediate

wildfires and invasive species; improve access to public lands; build and maintain multi-use trails and increase recreation opportunities; and ensure productive fish and wildlife habitat for enthusiasts, hunters, and fishers.

Thank you again for your efforts to ensure most of these accounts were strong in fiscal year 2018. With thd additional support included in the fiscal year 2018 bill, Corps will help accomplish millions in critical projects while also further leveraging Federal funds. For example, Corps have utilized around $150 million in project funding from DOI and USFS over the past 3 years and turned that into at least $37 million more in match and service projects, with the added benefit of engaging youth and veterans in meaningful work experiences to develop in-demand skills on the path to careers while building respect for our country, hard work, and the outdoors. Corps bring at least 25 percent match to these projects, making Federal funds go further than they otherwise would.

Corps provide youth and veterans the opportunity to serve their country, advance their education and obtain in-demand skills. Serving in crews and individual placements, Corpsmembers perform important conservation, recreation, infrastructure, wildfire, disaster response, and community development service projects on public lands and in rural and urban communities. Corps enroll over 25,000 youth and veterans annually in all 50 States and DC, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa. Corps engage an additional 100,000 volunteers, and complete thousands of service projects valuing hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

Recently, our Corps around the country accomplished: 1.6 million acres of wildlife habitat improved and made accessible; 1.5 million trees planted; 365,000 acres of invasive species removed; 32,000 acres of fire fuel reduced; 22,000 miles of multi-use trails constructed and improved; 16,000 recreation facilities improved; 8,200 acres of erosion, landslide, and flood prevention; 2,600 miles of fish and waterway habitat restored; 500 wildfires and disasters responded to; and 190 historic structures preserved. Project sponsors consistently express a high degree of satisfaction with the quality of work and productivity of Corps. Virtually all Federal project partners (99.6 percent) say they would work with Corps again and an independent study commissioned by the National Park Service found a 50–80 percent cost savings in using Corps on maintenance projects.

These accounts also support the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) initiative, which has received bipartisan support in Congress from Senators John McCain (R–AZ) and Michael Bennet (D–CO), Reps. Martha McSally (R–AZ) and Seth Moulton (D–MA). Supporters also include Army General (Ret.) Stanley McChrystal and President Bush's Domestic Policy Advisor, John Bridgeland and the past five Secretaries of the Interior (two Republicans and three Democrats). The 21CSC initiative has private sector support from Coca-Cola, the North Face, American Eagle Outfitters, Thule, and KEEN.

Fiscal Year 2019 Interior & Environment Appropriations Priorities: The Corps Network respectfully urges the Committee to support these fiscal year 2019 programs, language requests, and authorities that will allow public land management agencies to engage Corps:

—*Department of the Interior—Guidance for Financial Assistance Actions Report Language.*—"The Committee is aware the Department has implemented a requirement that all cooperative agreements and grants above $50,000 for certain non-profit entities receive additional scrutiny to ensure their alignment with the Secretary of Interior's priorities. The Committee is concerned with the implementation of this review, the Department's failure to develop guidance to field staff in a timely manner, along with a lack of capacity to process these grants and agreements through the new review process efficiently and effectively. We are also concerned the review may lead to a reduction in the obligation of funds for projects as appropriated by Congress and that given the seasonal nature of many projects, they will simply not be accomplished, further leading to an increase in the maintenance backlog. We urge the Department to ensure a timely review of these grants and agreements in order to ensure the mission and goals of the Department are being met, and inform the Committee of how long this review will remain in place, and what the effect has been of this review in comparison to last fiscal year with respect to accomplishing projects through appropriated accounts."

—*U.S. Forest Service—National Forest System.*—$1.9 billion in fiscal year 2019;

—*U.S. Forest Service—Capital Improvement and Maintenance—Trails.*—$79 million in fiscal year 2019;

—*U.S. Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management.*—$1.2 billion in fiscal year 2019;

—*Department of Interior—Wildland Fire Management—Suppression.*—$958 million in fiscal year 2019;

—*National Park Service—Operation—Facilities Operation & Maintenance.*—$842 million in fiscal year 2019;

—*National Park Service—Operation—Visitor Services.*—$276 million in fiscal year 2019;

—*Fish and Wildlife Service—Resource Management.*—$1.3 billion in fiscal year 2019;

—*Bureau of Land Management—Management of Lands and Resources.*—$1 billion in fiscal year 2019;

—*Bureau of Reclamation—Water & Related Resources.*—$1.2 billion in fiscal year 2019;

—*Bureau of Indian Affairs—Natural Resource Management.*—$215 million in fiscal year 2019;

—*U.S. Forest Service—Direct Hire Authority.*—"SEC. 425. (a) For fiscal year 2019, the Secretary of Agriculture may appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of such title, a qualified candidate described in subsection (b) directly to a position with the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service for which the candidate meets Office of Personnel Management qualification standards.

—(a) Subsection (a) applies to a former resource assistant (as defined in section 203 of the Public Land Corps Act (16 U.S.C. 1722)) who completed a rigorous undergraduate or graduate summer internship with a land managing agency, such as the Forest Service Resource Assistant Program successfully fulfilled the requirements of the internship program; and subsequently earned an undergraduate or graduate degree from an accredited institution of higher education.

—(b) The direct hire authority under this section may not be exercised with respect to a specific qualified candidate after the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date on which the candidate completed the undergraduate or graduate degree, as the case may be."

Since the 1950's and through today, Corps have been a major partner of DOI and the USFS in accomplishing needed maintenance, conservation, recreation, and wildfire remediation projects in a cost-effective manner. We are concerned with the impact a new financial assistance agreement review for projects over $50,000 is having on our ability to partner with DOI, and the impact it is having on Interior being able to obligate funding in a timely manner for projects for which Congress appropriated funds in fiscal year 2018.

Given the short window many States, like Alaska and Montana for example, have for the work season, delays and uncertainty are particularly concerning along with the lead time, commitment, tools and supplies needed from Corps and our youth and veteran Corpsmembers to accomplish these projects. For this reason, we hope the Committee will seek clarification from the Department about this review and the impact it may be having on accomplishing its mission, and in partnering with nonprofit and volunteer groups, who dedicate significant amounts of private energy and resources to helping meet public land management needs, and keep taxpayer-supported public lands in good condition.

All these programs listed above help Corps leverage limited Federal dollars to accomplish more projects than land management agencies normally would, while engaging thousands of youth and veterans in improving and restoring our Nation's lands, water, and recreation assets. The maintenance, repair and rehabilitation, visitor services, and forestry accounts are important as they are Corps' main source of partnerships, and help the agencies address their backlog and needed projects to ensure continued access and recreation on our Nation's public lands. Corps also partner with both DOI and USFS to address wildfire remediation needs, and more specifically help with hazardous fuels and invasive species reduction, which is a major need to prevent larger and more deadly fires.

Unfortunately, the President's fiscal year 2019 budget proposes to make cuts to many of these important areas similar to the fiscal year 2018 budget. We appreciate the Committee's bipartisan efforts to ensure these accounts were supported and in many cases increased in the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus. For Department of the Interior, we are particularly concerned with proposed cuts to the repair/rehabilitation, youth, and volunteer programs for NPS and FWS; and cuts to conservation, wilderness, and wildlife management accounts along with maintenance and resource planning accounts at BLM. These accounts are all important for continued functioning of our Nation's public lands and ensuring access to recreation, along with engaging

the next generation of outdoor stewards, while managing our lands for their best use.

For the U.S. Forest Service, thank you for your attention to addressing backlog maintenance by increasing funding for the Capital Improvement & Maintenance—Trails account in fiscal year 2018. The USFS manages the largest trails system in the country, which is important for continued access to recreation and hunting and fishing in many areas. We urge additional funding be provided trails, but also the National Forest System, and in particular the recreation, vegetation, wildlife and hazardous fuels management accounts, all of which were cut in fiscal year 2018 except for hazardous fuels. Unfortunately the President's budget proposes a massive cut to the trails account, along with a cut to the National Forest System, and a cut to Hazardous Fuels Management.

As you can see, our Corps partner with DOI and USFS in a critical capacities while providing high quality work experiences to engage thousands of youths and veterans in stewardship of the Great Outdoors. We understand there are difficult choices that need to be made in the bill, which is why ensuring continued projects and opportunities for our cost-effective public private partnerships is more important than ever. We again respectfully urge your support for these programs, certainty around the agreement process, and increases in funding in these important areas. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Sprenkel

Mary Ellen Sprenkel
President & CEO

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG) is a consortium of 10 Tribal governments located along the Yukon River and its tributaries in northeastern Alaska. Our organization provides a variety of services to the Tribal citizens of our region, including full healthcare services at the Yukon Flats Health Center and village-based clinics in four of our Villages. We have Self-Governance agreements with the Fish and Wildlife Service and with the Bureau of Land Management.

CATG requests the following considerations be implemented in the fiscal year 2019 Appropriations cycle:

—*Telecommunications Subsidies:* Support elimination of the arbitrary cap on Internet subsidies for critical telecommunications connectivity.
—*Section 105(l) Leases:* Support funding for healthcare facility leases under Section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA).
—*Budget Increases:* Support behavioral health increases to the IHS and BIA budgets.
—*Advance Appropriations for IHS:* Support advance funding for the IHS.
—*Contract Support Cost (CSC) Funding:* Support continued full and mandatory CSC funding for the IHS and BIA.
—*Expand Self-Governance:* Expand Self-Governance and fully fund Annual Funding Agreements.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SUBSIDIES

CATG is aware that the subcommittees do not directly control funding subsidies of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC); however, we would like to inform you of our serious concerns with recent development to telecommunications subsidies. Due to a funding cap, the USAC recently implemented a pro-rata reduction in Rural Health Care funding that subsidizes the extremely high costs of Internet connectivity and telecommunications in Alaska. Internet connectivity is critical to providing healthcare services to our remote villages. The funding cap has resulted in $50 million in cuts nationally, and for this year alone, Tribal health programs in Alaska will undergo an unplanned $18.1 million shortfall for connectivity. CATG has been told to expect more than twice that impact next year, which could exceed $35 million for Alaska Tribal health programs. As such, we request the subcommittees' full support and

engagement in eliminating the arbitrary cap and reinstating the full USAC subsidies to Tribal health programs throughout the State of Alaska.

SECTION 105(L) LEASES

Tribes and Tribal organizations increasingly rely on section 105(l) leases to address chronically underfunded facilities operation, maintenance, and replacement costs. Section 105(l) of the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) provides for fully funded leases that are used by Tribes and Tribal organizations to carry out services under ISDEAA agreements. The funding is critical to being able to operate and maintain health clinics, which have historically been so severely underfunded that many clinics without Section 105(l) leases are either dangerous or unfit for the delivery of health services. The Federal court's decision in *Maniilaq Association v. Burwell,* 170 F. Supp. 3d 243 (D.D.C. 2016) identified a key source of funding to help remedy the problem of severely underfunded clinics. The court determined that Section 105(l) of the ISDEAA provides a just entitlement to full compensation for leases of Tribal facilities being used to carry out ISDEAA agreements. Rather than supporting the court's solution, the administration requested to amend the law in order to avoid full compensation for leases. Thankfully, Congress declined to include such a provision in the fiscal year 2018 IHS appropriation bill. The administration has once again proposed bill language intended to overrule the *Maniilaq* decision. The proposed language would exclude section 105(l) of the ISDEAA as a source of entitlement to funding for Section 105(l) leases, leaving it entirely within the discretion of the IHS. We request the subcommittees treat the administration's flawed proposal the same way it did in the fiscal year 2018 IHS appropriations bill and decline to include the language in the fiscal year 2019 bill.

BUDGET INCREASES

CATG's communities in rural Alaska have extreme rates of suicide, alcohol and substance abuse; issues that contribute to a multitude of other adverse problems such as crime, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect. Frequently, Tribes in Alaska have difficulty working through the State of Alaska to provide behavioral and social services, which adds burdensome layers and undue regulation. CATG believes that Tribes and Tribal organizations should receive behavioral funds directly, because programs that implement traditional cultural values have proven to be far more successful than those that do not. We ask for your support in this effort. CATG also asks for support in expanding the *Generations Indigenous (Gen-I)* initiative, which provides increased resources for Tribes to address youth behavioral, mental health and substance abuse issues, as well as expansion of the *Tiwahe Initiative,* designed to address the inter-related problems of poverty, violence and substance abuse faced by Native communities.

ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR IHS

CATG again requests your support in placing the IHS budget on an advance appropriation basis as Congress has done for the Veterans Administration health accounts since fiscal year 2010. IHS healthcare is similar to Veterans healthcare in that both the VA and the IHS provide direct medical care and both are the result of Federal policies. Predictability, continuity, and certainty are essential for providing stable quality healthcare. This issue continues to be important to Alaska Native and American Indian patients, particularly in a budget climate of seemingly endless Continuing Resolutions (CR). When IHS funding is subject to a CR, as it has been repeatedly over many years, Tribal healthcare providers receive only a portion of funding at a time, making it particularly difficult to implement long-range planning and to effectively use and leverage limited resources. Partial funding also requires the same processing and manpower for each incomplete payment as one full apportionment. Having advance notice of funding levels would greatly aid CATG and other Tribal health providers in program planning, recruitment and retention of essential healthcare professionals. Under advance appropriations, we would know a year in advance what the budget would be and it would resolve much of the uncertainty we have experienced because full appropriations were not enacted at the first of the Federal fiscal year. The IHS budget should be afforded the same status consideration as VA health programs.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COST (CSC) FUNDING

CATG would like to thank the House and Senate Subcommittees for their leadership and commitment to fully funding CSC for IHS and BIA ISDEAA agreements. We appreciate the full funding of CSC over the past few fiscal years, that the fund-

ing is indefinite ("such sums as may be necessary", and that the funding is in separate accounts in the IHS and BIA budgets. We request that the subcommittees continue to fully fund CSC. Such action is crucial to strengthening the ability of Tribal governments' to successfully exercise their rights and responsibilities as sovereign nations.

EXPAND SELF-GOVERNANCE

CATG is proud to be one of the first Tribal consortiums in the country to develop non-BIA DOI Self-Governance Annual Funding Agreements (AFA). However, we remain concerned that Contract Support Costs (CSC) for the AFA's to manage programs, functions, services, and activities, remain underfunded. We are also concerned that DOI scopes of work are being limited and the original intent and practice of Self-Governance, which is to build Tribal capacity to take on increasing levels of responsibility, is not being properly carried out. We request your support in fully funding AFA CSC and to expand Self-Governance practice and agreements beyond BIA.

CONCLUSION

CATG greatly appreciates your consideration of our requests outlined in this testimony. On behalf of our organization and all of the people we serve, I would be happy to provide any other additional information as requested by the subcommittees.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DANCE/USA

Madam Chairman and distinguished Members of the subcommittee, I am grateful for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Dance/USA, its Board of Directors and its 500 members. We strongly urge the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies in the Committee on Appropriations to designate a total of $155 million to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for fiscal year 2019. This testimony and the funding examples described below are intended to highlight the importance of Federal investment in the arts, which are critical to sustaining a vibrant cultural community throughout the country.

The NEA is a great investment in in the economic growth of every community. The NEA was established in 1965 with the mission to "strengthen the creative capacity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts participation." It has continued to meet this mission for over 50 years, recommending more than 2,400 grants in every Congressional District in the country in fiscal year 2017. Sixty-five percent of direct grants went to small (budgets under $500,000) and medium sized (budgets between $500,000 and $2 million) organizations. Additionally, 40 percent of NEA-supported activities took place in high-poverty neighborhoods and 36 percent of NEA grants reached underserved populations, such as people with disabilities and veterans. Between 2012 and 2015, NEA-supported programs reached 24.2 million adults and 3.4 children on average each year through 80,603 live events.

Funding from the NEA continues to support arts organizations and their communities by providing a high return on investment. The ratio of private and other public funds matching every NEA grant dollar is approaching 9:1, generating more than $500 million in matching supporting.

Before the establishment of the NEA, funding for the arts was mostly limited to larger cities. The NEA is the only arts funder in America, public or private, that supports the arts in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. Additionally, 40 percent of the NEA's program funds are distributed through State arts agencies, reaching tens of thousands throughout the U.S. NEA funding provides access to the arts in regions with histories of inaccessibility due to economic or geographic limitations.

At the national level, the arts and cultural sector contributed $763.6 billion to the U.S. economy in 2015, 4.2 percent of the GDP, and counted 4.9 million workers who earned $372 billion in total compensation. The tax-exempt performing arts organizations contributed $9 billion to the U.S. economy and employed 90,000 workers, who earned $5.6 billion in total compensation. Consumers spent $31.6 billion on admissions to performing arts events.

Dance companies make communities healthier and more vibrant. Audiences across the U.S. have the opportunity to experience in many aspects of life. Professional not-for-profit dance is highly diverse in its artistic forms, covering genres and styles that include aerial, ballet, burlesque, capoeira, flamenco, hip hop, hula, jazz,

kathak, liturgical, modern, physically integrated, and tap dance, in addition to fusions of these genres and styles and the incorporation into other artistic disciplines. Dance artists work with performing arts centers, businesses, park districts, community centers, schools, religious institutions, and many other groups to ensure this wealth of creative activity is widely accessible to the public.

Established in 1982 as the national service organizations for the professional dance field, Dance/USA's membership currently consists of more than 400 dance companies, dance service and presenting organizations, individuals, and related organizations.

—*Economic Impact:* Not-for-profit dance regularly generates more than $700 million in economic activity across the country. In fiscal year 2014, reported annual expense budgets totaled $755.5 million. Ensembles that reported expenses for wages and benefits on their 990s paid a total of $372.4 million, which approximates to half (50.9 percent) of total aggregated expenses for these ensembles.

According to data compiled by the NEA and the Bureau of Economic Analysis' U.S. Arts and Culture Production Satellite Account, the gross output from not-for-profit dance companies totaled $972 million, while the value added to the GDP by dance companies is $573 million.

Not-for-profit dance ensembles employed over 15,900 individuals in a mix of full-time and part time positions in fiscal year 2014. These ensembles were further supported by more than 22,800 volunteers.

—*Communities Served:* According to the Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA), social dancing is the most common way Americans performed art in 2012. African Americans are the race/ethnic group more likely to dance formally and Hispanics are the group most likely to dance socially. The rates of dance participation are highest for younger adults (18–34). Dance (other than ballet) is the only performing arts activity for which U.S. attendance rates at performances did not fall between 2002 and 2012.

—*Dance Works:* According to research conducted by Dance/USA, the dominant motivation for attending dance performances, representing 50 percent of those surveyed, is to be inspired or uplifted. Not-for-profit dance performances have the opportunity to bring communities together, supporting social and emotional needs of audience members.

NEA GRANTS AT WORK

NEA grants are awarded to dance organizations through its core programs: Art Works; Challenge America Fast Track Grants; and Federal/State Partnerships. In fiscal year 2017, the NEA awarded 166 grants to the dance field through the Art Works category, totaling $4,160,000.

Dance/USA's members continue to explore and research methods for engaging audiences. Dance groups continue to demonstrate the value and impact dance has on communities and audiences. Below are just a few examples of the excellent initiatives that Dance/USA members are engaged in, supporting the audiences and communities they serve. (Each organization referenced also received an NEA grant in fiscal year 2017.)

Alabama Dance Council
Birmingham, Alabama

Through the Community Forum Series, Alabama Dance Council explores cultural perspectives in Birmingham, Montgomery, and Atmore, Alabama. The initiative involves five guest artists and 10 local artists.

Ananya Dance Theatre
Minneapolis, Minnesota

This company is hosting dialogues, workshops, dance trainings, performance installations, and audience improvisation. The company will expand its social just work with communities of color across the Twin Cities.

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance
Denver, Colorado

ArtBursts is an issue-specific program for the African American community in the Five Points neighborhood of Denver. Working with a social forecast team, artists will use issues affecting neighborhoods as springboards for new work, reflecting community stories, and performed in both public and private spaces.

CONTRA-TIEMPO
Culver City, California

This year-long initiative with the Community Coalition in South Los Angeles will include classes and choreographic labs, leading to the production of a new work, joyUS. The labs will be organized around social justice themes that are important to the South LA community.

Fresh Meat Productions
San Francisco, California

Sean Dorsey Dance's Generations Positive will expand to include audience engagement activities with transgender and gender non-conforming dance audiences. The initiative will include community forums and Dance Your Story workshops. Engagement will take place during the tour of The Missing Generation, a dance work about longtime survivors of the AIDS epidemic, in conjunction with partners who serve the trans community.

CONCLUSION

Dance/USA is grateful for the $3 million increase to the NEA in fiscal year 2018. The continued bipartisan support for the agency has continued to support artists and audiences, allowing opera and the arts to address critical issues, making communities healthier and more vibrant.

We urge you to continue toward restoration and increase the NEA funding allocation to $155 million for fiscal year 2019.

On behalf of Dance/USA, thank you for considering this request.

[This statement was submitted by Amy Fitterer, executive director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

Madam Chairman, Ranking Member and Members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for the record. Founded in 1947, Defenders has more than 1.8 million members and supporters and is dedicated to the conservation of wild animals and plants in their natural communities.

The President's fiscal year 2019 budget proposes draconian cuts to Federal wildlife and public lands programs that will likely cause irreparable harm to vulnerable species and habitat. We also note that throughout the budget, cuts are justified by claiming that funding will be focused on other higher priorities without ever identifying those priorities. We urge you to reject these destructive cuts. Defenders is also extremely skeptical about a plan by Secretary Zinke to entirely reorganize the Department of the Interior by consolidating authority for administering diverse Interior agencies under the control of 13 regional czars. The purpose and result of this proposal would be to reduce or eliminate the relative independence of agencies to manage and conserve land, waters, and wildlife in accordance with their individual statutory and policy mandates. It would be detrimental to transparent and balanced decisionmaking and conservation of our natural resources. Relocating central offices to various western locales also would make them more prone to capture by development and resource extraction industries. We urge you to reject this proposal.

Riders that threatened to undermine protections for imperiled species and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and sound management of our national forests, including the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, were inserted into the Chairmen's mark of the fiscal year 2018 Senate Interior appropriations bill. We strongly opposed these riders, and we appreciate that almost all were stricken or mitigated in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018. We also are extremely grateful for funding increases provided for many programs in the final bill and that Congress agreed to a comprehensive wildfire funding solution.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is our Nation's premier wildlife conservation agency, yet the request proposes a 23 percent cut overall to its budget. We urge no less than the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of $1.6 billion to support FWS in recovering threatened and endangered species; protecting migratory birds and fish, species of global conservation concern and other trust species; and stopping or preventing wildlife crimes.

Ecological Services

The request proposes a 14.6 percent cut. Defenders supports no less than the fiscal year 2018 level of $247.8 million for Ecological Services so that high-priority work to protect imperiled species can continue:

—*Listing:* The request cuts the listing budget by an unacceptable 42 percent. Defenders was also concerned that the fiscal year 2018 bill cut the listing budget by $1.7 million below the enacted level. We urge restoration to the fiscal year 2017 level of $20.5 million so that the agency can continue to make progress with its broadly supported seven-year listing workplan that allows the agency to prioritize over 300 species for listing decisions. Species due for decisions in fiscal year 2019 include the tufted puffin, Penasco least chipmunk, and monarch butterfly.

—*Recovery:* The request cuts recovery by 11.2 percent. Defenders supports the creation of new Recovery Challenge matching grants in the fiscal year 2018 bill, and we urge no less than the fiscal year 2018 level of $91 million for fiscal year 2019. Currently, approximately 380 listed U.S. species do not have final recovery plans. FWS receives less than 25 percent of the funding needed each year to implement all recovery actions identified in recovery plans.

—*Planning and Consultation:* The request cuts planning and consultation by 6.4 percent. Defenders urges no less than the fiscal year 2018 level of $105.6 million for fiscal year 2019. This continued level of funding is needed to support crucial Section 7 consultations under the ESA so that projects can move forward while minimizing harm to listed species. This program already operates on an inadequate budget. Resources to monitor permit compliance are almost nonexistent.

—*Conservation and Restoration:* The request cuts conservation and restoration by an enormous 34.6 percent. Defenders urges no less than the fiscal year 2018 level of $32.4 million to support continued conservation for candidate species as they await listing and to support work with stakeholders on a variety of efforts that benefit trust resources.

—*Wolf Livestock Loss Demonstration Program:* The request eliminates all funding for this program that assists livestock owners co-existing with wolves. We urge continued funding at no less than $1 million.

National Wildlife Refuge System

Our National Wildlife Refuge System is the largest network of public lands and water in the Nation dedicated to wildlife conservation. The administration's request cuts the Refuge System Operations and Maintenance (O&M) budget by 2.8 percent. The current $486.8 million for O&M is now $93 million below the level needed to keep pace with inflation and salary increases relative to the fiscal year 2010 level of $503.2 million. The Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement, a coalition of 23 hunting, fishing, conservation and scientific organizations recommends $586 million for O&M for fiscal year 2019. Defenders also was concerned that neither the administration's request to address hurricane and fire damages nor the supplemental appropriations enacted last year included funding for needed habitat restoration on refuges; we urge the subcommittee to include that funding in the regular fiscal year 2019 bill.

Migratory Bird Management

A just-issued report [1] has found that one in eight bird species is threatened with global extinction, yet the request cuts this program by 4.3 percent. Defenders supports continued funding at no less than the fiscal year 2018 level of $48.4 million to support crucial survey and monitoring programs and for building resilience of bird species and their habitats. We also oppose the administration's recent decision not to prosecute negligent killing of birds listed under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Office of Law Enforcement (OLE)

The request cuts OLE by 9.9 percent. We are extremely grateful for the new funding provided in the fiscal year 2018 bill to support inspectors at ports currently without personnel and we hope it can be maintained. Defenders supports no less than the fiscal year 2018 level of $77.1 million to help OLE continue to address the crisis in the illegal global wildlife trade.

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[1] https://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/attachments/BL__ReportENG__V11__spreads.pdf.

International Affairs

The request cuts this program by 8.2 percent. Defenders urges continued funding at no less than the fiscal year 2018 level of $15.8 million which is crucial in continuing to combat illegal wildlife trade and to build capacity in range countries.

Cooperative Landscape Conservation and Science Support

The request again unwisely zeroes out funding for these two crucial scientific programs. Defenders thanks the subcommittee for restoring funding. We urge funding at no less than the fiscal year 2018 levels of $13 million and $17.3 million respectively so that FWS can continue to work to address complex challenges, such as climate change, across large landscapes and otherwise address scientific questions key to conservation of trust species.

Key Grant Programs

The request makes draconian cuts to important grant programs, including zeroing out funding for the Cooperative Endangered Species Fund. Defenders supports no less than the fiscal year 2018 levels for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Fund, the Multinational Species Conservation Fund, the Cooperative Endangered Species Fund, and State and Tribal Wildlife Grants.

FOREST SERVICE AND BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The U.S. Forest Service (FS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are essential to the conservation of wildlife and habitat in the U.S., yet the request makes significant and damaging cuts to key scientific, conservation and management programs. Defenders is particularly disturbed by the apparent shell-game being played in the request with key BLM programs, especially with the Wildlife and Fisheries and Threatened and Endangered Species Activities, through the administration's proposal to consolidate these programs and provide significantly less support and transparency, while greatly increasing funding for the development of fossil fuels. We urge the subcommittee to retain the current budget structure for BLM programs.

BLM Wildlife and Fisheries Management

Defenders opposes the elimination of this program in the request as well as the $22.9 million decrease for the Sagebrush Conservation Implementation Strategy. Defenders supports no less than the fiscal year 2018 level of $115.8 million, which includes $60 million for greater sage-grouse and sage steppe conservation activities. In addition, we oppose the current effort to revise and weaken the National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy.

BLM Threatened and Endangered Species Management

Defenders opposes the elimination of this program in the request. Funding for this program has been far below the level needed for the work the agency is required to do to recover the 430 ESA listed species on BLM lands: more than 5,000 tasks assigned to BLM in approved recovery plans. Defenders supports $22.6 million for the program, an increase of $1 million over fiscal year 2018, which restores the budget to the fiscal year 2010 level.

BLM Renewable Energy

The request cuts this program by 43.5 percent. Defenders supports funding at no less than the fiscal year 2017 level of $29.1 million to allow BLM to continue facilitating renewable energy development on public lands, while avoiding areas with natural resource conflicts, including sensitive wildlife species.

BLM Resource Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring

The request cuts this program by 39.9 percent. We urge continued funding at no less than the fiscal year 2018 level of $60.1 million to support new high-priority planning efforts, data collection and monitoring crucial to the sage-grouse conservation strategy and other key initiatives to better monitor ecological conditions and trends on the landscape.

FS Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management

The request cuts this program by 12.9 percent, and while this and other FS programs benefitted from the removal of Cost-Pool 9, Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management has been essentially flat-funded since fiscal year 2014. We support restoring funding to at least the fiscal year 2010 level of $143 million to carry out critical conservation and recovery activities for the nearly 470 threatened and endangered species and 3,100 sensitive species that depend on FS lands and to help address the loss of biologists that has occurred in recent years.

FS Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring

The request cuts this program by 12.5 percent. Despite the removal of Cost-Pool 9, Defenders supports maintaining funding at no less than the fiscal year 2017 level of $182.9 million. Numerous out-of-date forest plans lack contemporary conservation strategies for at-risk species and funding is crucial in developing updated ecological, social and economic assessments to inform the forest planning process and needed monitoring to validate that forest plans are being effectively implemented.

FS Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

The request zeroes out funding. We support continued funding at the fiscal year 2018 level of $40 million for this cost-effective program, which was established to restore forest and watershed health, improve wildlife habitat, and reduce the costs of fire suppression in overgrown forests and the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires.

FS Forest and Rangeland Research (FS R&D)

The request cuts R&D by 22.2 percent. We urge a return to the fiscal year 2015 level of $226 million which included $27.1 million for Wildlife and Fish R&D. Adequate funding for this program is crucial in providing relevant tools and information to support sustainable management of National Forest System lands as well as non-Federal forest lands. Generally, we are concerned that the FS may lack adequate applied scientific capacity both in R&D and the National Forest System to implement critical conservation and management actions.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The U.S. Geological Survey provides the basic science for conservation of wildlife and habitat.

National and Regional Climate Science Centers

The request again proposes to consolidate the 8 regional Climate Science Centers and cut funding by 48.6 percent. Defenders appreciates that the fiscal year 2018 bill rejected consolidating the centers and maintained funding at $25.3 million. We urge the subcommittee to retain the current structure of the national and 8 regional climate science centers and funding at no less than the fiscal year 2018 level to support scientific needs in planning for climate change adaptation and building resiliency of ecosystems.

Ecosystems

The request cuts this program by 39.1 percent. Defenders urges continued funding at no less than the fiscal year 2017 level of $159.7 million to help support development of crucial scientific information for sound management of our Nation's biological resources.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)

The request slashes funding by 98 percent. Defenders appreciates the $25 million increase for LWCF in the final fiscal year 2018 bill. We support funding at no less than the fiscal year 2018 level of $425 million to help to save some of the 6,000 acres of open space, including wildlife habitat, that are lost each day in the United States.[2]

[This statement was submitted by Mary Beth Beetham, Director of Legislative Affairs.]

[2] http://www.fs.fed.us/openspace/coop__across__boudaries.html.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATORS IN SUPPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S DIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT PROGRAM (DERA)

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
SD-131
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
SH-125
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We write today concerning the pending appropriation in fiscal year 2019 for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Program ("DERA"). We believe that DERA provides us with a win-win in environmental and economic benefits and hope that you will fund the program at equal or above funding from fiscal year 2018.

As you know, our nation relies heavily on diesel power to transport commuters, harvest our crops, and build our infrastructure. Compared with traditional gasoline engines, diesel engines usually are more fuel-efficient and have a longer life span, but without the available technology, older diesel engines also produce more air emissions. New and retrofitted diesel engines are much cleaner than older, non-retrofitted diesel engines – over 90% cleaner. Unfortunately, there remain millions of older diesel engines that lack the latest pollution control technology in use and will remain in use for decades to come. Retrofitting older diesel engines with American-made technology can dramatically reduce diesel emissions, protecting our health and creating jobs here at home.

Enacted through the Energy Policy Act of 2005, DERA uses federal funding to leverage state and other non-federal funding sources to finance the voluntary installation of retrofits on existing heavy-duty diesel vehicles and engines, dramatically reducing harmful emissions. DERA has enjoyed overwhelming bi-partisan support since its enactment almost nine years ago. In 2005, DERA passed the Senate by a vote of 92 to 1. In 2010, the DERA reauthorization bill, which passed unanimously in the Senate and by voice vote in the House, authorized $100 million each year through 2016. Since implementation, DERA has become one of the most cost-effective clean air federal programs. DERA effectively cleans our air, protects human health, and creates jobs using American technology. It is a true win-win-win.

Despite all the success, the funding for DERA has not been able to keep up with the need. According to the EPA, funding requests for DERA rebates were exceeded by as much as 35:1 and requests for the national grant competitions exceeded availability by 7:1. Unfortunately, the

President's budget for fiscal year 2019 goes in the wrong direction – reducing DERA funding levels further from fiscal year 2018 levels of $75 million to $10million.

Although we appreciate dedication to reducing the federal deficit, we do not believe it makes sense to eliminate successful, bipartisan programs, like DERA that help drive our economy and protect our environment. We are also fearful that dropping funding levels too low will prevent many states from taking advantage of the program. This is why we are asking you to provide fiscal year 2018 level or robust funding for DERA in fiscal year 2019. This level of funding would still not meet the great need, but would provide a modicum of funding for the remaining work that needs to be done. At a time when our country continue to look for ways to create good manufacturing jobs and clean the environment, DERA stands out as a prime example of a program that works on many levels.

Thank you very much for considering our request. If you have any questions, we would invite your staff to contact Laura Haynes Gillam in Senator Carper's EPW office, laura_gillam@epw.senate.gov, 224-6159, or Jennie Wright in Senator Inhofe's office: jennie_wright@inhofe.senate.gov, 202-224-2925.

Sincerely,

Tom Carper
U.S. Senator

James Inhofe
U.S. Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senator

Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
U.S. Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
U.S. Senator

Kamala D. Harris
U.S. Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
U.S. Senator

Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator

Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senator

Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator

Tina Smith
U.S. Senator

Robert Menendez
U.S. Senator

Jeffrey Merkley
U.S. Senator

Cory A. Booker
U.S. Senator

Bernard Sanders
U.S. Senator

Tammy Duckworth
U.S. Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. Senator

Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator

Michael Bennet
U.S. Senator

Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator

Chris Van Hollen
U.S. Senator

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE DINE GRANT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

The Dine Grant Schools Association (DGSA) is comprised of the school boards of eight Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)-funded schools which are operated pursuant to the Tribally Controlled Schools Act (Public Law 100–297) or to Public Law 93–638 and located on the Navajo Nation in Arizona and New Mexico. These schools are: Chilchinbeto Community School; Hunters Point Boarding School; Lukachukai Community School; Pinon Community School; Alamo Navajo School; Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle Community Grant School; Pine Hill Schools (Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc.); and Shiprock Associated Schools.

Success Through Language, Culture, Community Involvement, and High Standards

As Tribal school boards, we have both the greater freedom and the tremendous responsibility to ensure that our students receive the kind of world-class, culturally relevant education that will help them reach their fullest potential. We believe that successful students know who they are, that they are valued, and that great things are expected of them. Our schools incorporate Navajo language and culture into our curricula. We set rigorous standards that our students must strive to meet and give them a sense of accomplishment at their achievements.

Why Federal Funding Matters

It is difficult to concentrate on lessons if you are too cold or the roof is leaking or the water pipes don't work. It is difficult to take Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) online practice tests or take distance learning Advanced Placement classes on dial up speed Internet connections. It is difficult to ride the bus, sometimes on unimproved roads, to a crumbling school that has lingered on a replacement list because of lack of funding. These challenges to learning are prevalent throughout Indian Country. What has been different these past several years is a wholesale change in understanding the extent of these challenges and a bipartisan resolve to address them. For this, we are deeply grateful. As we work to provide a world-class education and bright future for our students, we consider Members of Congress to be our partners in this endeavor.

Our highest funding priorities are: ISEP formula funds; Tribal Grant Support Costs; Facilities Operations and Maintenance; and the FACE Program in the BIE

budget as well as Education Construction and Repair and Road Maintenance in the BIA budget. These programs make the greatest difference in our ability to educate our students.

INDIAN SCHOOL EQUALIZATION PROGRAM (ISEP) FORMULA FUNDS

The Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP) Formula is the core budget account for Educational and Residential programs of the BIE elementary and secondary schools and dormitories. These funds are used for instructional programs at BIE-funded schools and include salaries of teachers, educational technicians, and principals. For years, the amount appropriated for ISEP formula funds increased barely enough to cover fixed costs. We appreciate that Congress once again began providing program increases in fiscal years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Impact

For most BIE-funded schools, the chronic shortfall in the other key school accounts has a negative impact on ISEP Formula funding, because ISEP Formula funds are often diverted to make up the shortfalls in other accounts, such as Facilities Operations and Maintenance, when a Tribe or Tribal school board has no other source of funding to satisfy those shortfalls. This means fewer funds are available for instructional activities. We are tremendously grateful that Congress has increased funding for these critical accounts so ISEP Formula funds can be used for their intended purpose.

Request

The $2.6 million program increase for a total of $402.9 million that Congress provided in fiscal year 2018 will be very helpful; however, it still does not acknowledge the shortfalls that have been building for years. We respectfully request a total of $431 million.

TRIBAL GRANT SUPPORT COSTS

Since the 1988 Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization, tribally-operated elementary and secondary schools have received funding for the administrative expenses incurred for the operation of BIE-funded schools through an Administrative Cost Grant, now called Tribal Grant Support Costs (TGSC). Tribal Grant Support Costs are the Contract Support Costs for tribally controlled schools. These funds are used for essential services such as contract/grant administration; program planning and development; human resources; insurance; fiscal, procurement, and property management; required annual audits; recordkeeping; and legal, security and other overhead services.

Impact

In fiscal year 2016, Tribal Grant Support Costs were fully funded for the first time. Thereafter, both the Obama and Trump administrations have requested and Congress has provided full funding for Tribal Grant Support Costs.

Request

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for this bipartisan commitment to fully fund Tribal Grant Support Costs and express support for its continuation.

EARLY CHILDHOOD OR "FACE" PROGRAM

The Early Childhood and Family Development budget category commonly referred to as the "FACE" program is designed to (1) strengthen family-school-community relations, (2) increase parent participation in education, and (3) support parents in their role as a child's first and most important teacher. Many of DGSA's Member schools run successful FACE programs so we were shocked to see that the administration's proposes to zero this out.

Impact

The FACE program teaches essential skills to children that help make them kindergarten-ready, such as how to hold a pencil, color and write their name. There is a marked difference in outcomes for those children who have access to a FACE-funded program and those who do not. Further, these programs strengthen families and communities and help increase parent engagement. Families are another critical factor in whether children succeed academically.

Request

We respectfully ask that the subcommittees reject the administration's proposal to zero out this important program.

FACILITIES OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Facilities Operations funding is for the ongoing operational necessities such as electricity, heating fuels, custodial services, communications, refuse collection and water and sewer service. Facilities Maintenance funds are intended to provide for the preventative, routine, and unscheduled maintenance for all school buildings, equipment, utility systems, and ground structures. We appreciate that these budget categories have seen some increases in fiscal years 2016, 2017 and 2018. Unfortunately, the administration's proposal is to cut $5.5 and $5 million, respectively. While the recent increases for these two budget categories are important improvements; we note that the fiscal year 2017 budget justification states that the $66.2 million requested for Facilities Operations and the $59 million requested for Facilities Maintenance would fund 78 percent of calculated Facilities Operations and Maintenance need across BIE-funded schools. Neither the fiscal year 2018 budget justification nor the fiscal year 2019 budget justification bothered to provide an estimate for what full funding would look like but we suspect that it would not be a $10.5 million cut. We also note that Facilities Operations and Facilities Maintenance are some of the last budget categories for primary and secondary schools that are still funded on a fiscal year schedule, rather than a forward funded (school year) basis. Continuing Resolutions and government shut-downs can wreak havoc when trying to carry out these activities.

Backlog. The fiscal year 2019 budget justification provides a "projection" that by fiscal year 2018, "68 percent of school facilities will be in good or fair condition". This "projection" still leaves 32 percent behind in "poor" condition. We also note that the fiscal year 2019 budget justification states that as of the first quarter of fiscal year 2018, there were "$634 million dollars of deferred maintenance across BIE-school facilities and grounds." Frustratingly, many schools are being written up for health and safety violations but have no money to make the needed changes. Part of the maintenance problem will be solved by replacing aging, deteriorated schools, but Federal resources for maintenance are needed to preserve that investment and to ensure our schools' facilities remain fully functional learning environments throughout the length of their design life.

Proposed Public Lands Infrastructure Fund. We sincerely appreciate that BIE-funded schools are included among the national parks and national wildlife refuges as eligible for repairs and improvement funding from the proposed Public Lands Infrastructure Fund, however, we do have a number of questions and concerns, including the following: (1) It is uncertain whether the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund will garner Congressional support in order to move forward; (2) Assuming that the Fund gains such support, revenue projections are unpredictable and would require significant increases in energy leases and development on public lands to achieve the projected revenue streams; and (3) Royalty rates from energy leases are decreasing, making it unlikely that revenue will increase above the fiscal year 2018 baseline in the near future. Please be assured, we are grateful to be included in this proposal—provided that it is a supplement to Congress appropriating adequate and consistent maintenance and repair funding each fiscal year.

Impact

There are numerous studies which attest to the fact that there is a close correlation between poor or inadequate facility conditions and poor student and staff performance. Since we cannot delay paying our utilities or avoid taking actions that would impact student safety, we often have to resort to using our other education or academic program monies—just like what happened when Tribal Grant Support Costs were not fully funded.

Request

We respectfully ask that the subcommittee provide full, consistent funding for Facilities Operations and Facilities Maintenance and transition these two budget categories to a forward funded (school year) budget cycle, just like the other core education accounts. Should additional funds become available from the proposed Public Lands Infrastructure Fund to address the $634 million maintenance backlog, we do not object.

EDUCATION CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR

This funding category within the BIA Construction budget includes Replacement School Construction; Facilities Component Replacement; Facilities Improvement and Repair; and Employee Housing Repair. According to the Department of the Interior, the current backlog of construction projects is estimated to be as high as $1.3 billion. The BIE has stated that its "next-step" is to "develop a long-term school con-

struction funding plan that will address the needs of all BIE funded schools determined to be in poor condition." We were encouraged by the important increases that the subcommittees provided for Education Construction in fiscal year 2016 and then maintained in fiscal year 2017, and followed by the game changing increase in fiscal year 2018 for which we are very grateful. Two DGSA Member schools are on the National Review Committee's 2016 Replacement List: Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle Community Grant School has just completed the planning phase and is waiting on design phase funds while Lukachukai Community School has submitted it Program of Requirements (the final step of the planning phase) and is awaiting BIA approval. Given the state of school facilities across the BIE system, we were shocked to once again see the administration propose to zero out Replacement School Construction and Facilities Component Replacement.

Impact

Facilities within the BIE system are woefully outdated and, in some cases, dangerous for students and staff. Each year that the Facilities Improvement and Repair budget is underfunded, our facilities deteriorate more quickly. The lack of an appropriate learning environment in many BIE system schools puts Native students at an unfair disadvantage.

Request

We respectfully request that Congress and the administration consult with Tribes and Tribal school boards when developing this long-term school replacement and repair plan. Further, we ask that once developed, Congress implement this plan by providing consistent funding for Education Construction and Repair each fiscal year.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

For several years, the subcommittees have highlighted the poor conditions of unpaved roads and bridges used by school buses transporting students and called on the BIA to implement the GAO's recommendations—to little avail. We would like to thank the subcommittees for attempting to hold the BIA accountable and for providing additional funding directed to these dangerous school bus routes.

Request

We respectfully request that the subcommittees continue funding increases directed to these school bus routes and continue your efforts to hold the BIA accountable.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on these critical matters. Please contact President Lula Jackson with any questions.

[This statement was submitted by President Lula Jackson.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE DZILTH-NA-O-DITH-HLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle Community School (DCS) on the Navajo Reservation in Bloomfield, New Mexico. Our school, which has been in continuous service since 1968, operates a K–8 educational program and a dormitory program for students in grades 1–12, serving around 260 students in both programs. DCS is a tribally controlled grant school and is located approximately 170 miles northwest of Albuquerque. DCS is primarily funded through appropriations received from the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), and pass-through funding from the Department of Education.

The DCS goal is to make a difference in the educational progress of our students. We believe that all of our students are capable of achieving academic success and are capable of contributing their communities. It is with these values in mind that our all-Navajo Board operates the DCS through a Grant issued by the BIE under the Tribally Controlled Schools Act (Public Law 110–297). In years past, we have worked under very difficult conditions to help our students reach their potential. Going into fiscal year 2019, we continue to face many challenges that are the result of years of flat lined and eroded budgets but we would like to thank the subcommittees for providing several game-changing funding increases these past several fiscal years. These increases are helping Indian Country turn the tide of dismal headlines and poor outcomes and are making real and measureable positive impacts for our students.

STATUS OF DCS SCHOOL REPLACEMENT PROCESS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF SUITABLE FACILITIES

DCS was overjoyed to be one of the 10 schools chosen for the 2016 Replacement School list. As you are aware, those on the list receive funding first for planning and then, upon successful completion of the planning phase and upon availability of funds, receive funding for design and construction. I am proud to report that our school accomplished our objectives and completed the planning phase operating within tight budget constraints and timelines. Several weeks ago, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) notified DCS that we are fourth on the queue of schools eligible for design phase funding.

We cannot emphasize enough how critical school replacement construction funds are. We are so grateful for the recent increases the subcommittees have provided for school replacement construction, particularly in fiscal year 2018. These increases can help turn the tide on years of neglect and will absolutely make a difference in the lives and educational outcomes of our students. As we and other schools on the 2016 Replacement list work through the different project phases, we note that there are still many more school waiting behind us.

Given the vital importance of school replacement construction funding, we were shocked to learn that for fiscal year 2019, the administration once again called attention to the poor condition of BIE-funded schools but then proposed to completely zero out finding for school replacement construction. We simply cannot believe this disregard for our students, our teachers and our communities and we ask that these subcommittees again reject the administration's proposal.

As an example of why our school was placed on the 2016 Replacement List, we would like to describe the present state of our facilities. DCS's school facilities have a Facilities Condition Index rating of "Poor." Our building systems are obsolete and the conditions are hazardous to the health of our students and staff. For example:

—our outdated sewage system frequently backs up and emits foul and disease laden odors;
—our water pipes are corroded and filled with sediment;
—there is no ventilation system, which contributes to a comprised air quality, resulting in headaches and other health concerns for our students and staff;
—our heating and cooling systems are obsolete; and
—other features, such as our windows and doors, are out of compliance with fire codes.

All students deserve to attend a school that is safe, sanitary and fully operational. DCS believes that our to-be designed new school facility will help our students not only achieve necessary educational benchmarks, but will also help our students to thrive in their educational pursuits. However, these improved outcomes will only be possible through the subcommittees' continued commitment to school replacement construction funding in fiscal year 2019 and beyond.

SCHOOL FACILITIES HEALTH AND SAFETY INSPECTIONS

On a related matter, DCS would like to unfortunately express our frustration with health and safety inspections conducted by BIE and BIA staff. We deeply appreciate the subcommittees' concern and focus on the health and safety of school facilities, including report language urging the BIE and BIA to address the alarming findings set forth in recent GAO reports. Unfortunately, some of this focus is having unintended consequences, particularly for schools like DCS on the 2016 Replacement List. Recently, a health and safety inspection was conducted at our school, and we were ordered to conduct major structural upgrades despite a lack of funding for the upgrades. As demonstrated above, DCS is keenly aware of the inadequate conditions existing at our school, which is precisely why we were selected for the 2016 Replacement List in the first place and why we feel such urgency to ensure the completion of each project phase in a timely fashion. Further, from a cost perspective, it would be illogical to expend funds, which do not exist, on a school facility that is on the brink of replacement. We ask that the subcommittees craft terms for this year's report language that provides a logical amount of leeway for us and for other schools in our position.

FISCAL YEAR 2019 PROPOSED PUBLIC LANDS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

DCS has closely reviewed the administration's fiscal year 2019 budget proposal, particularly regarding the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund. We extend our appreciation for the administration's identification of the BIE funded schools' $634 million repair and maintenance backlog as an issue to be addressed. We also appreciate the fact that the administration has included BIE-funded schools among the national

parks and national wildlife refuges as eligible for repairs and improvement funding from the proposed Public Lands Infrastructure Fund, however, we do have a number of questions and concerns, including the following:

—It is uncertain whether the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund will garner Congressional support in order to move forward;
—Assuming that the Fund gains such support, revenue projections are unpredictable and would require significant increases in energy leases and development on public lands to achieve the projected revenue streams; and
—Royalty rates from energy leases are decreasing, making it unlikely that revenue will increase above the fiscal year 2018 baseline in the near future.

Please be assured, we are grateful to be included in this proposal—provided that it is a supplement to Congress appropriating adequate and consistent maintenance and repair funding each fiscal year. If a portion of these appropriations are offset by increases in royalties, we do not object to it but we are very nervous about a scenario whereby we would be forced to solely rely on variable royalties to provide these critical yearly maintenance and repair funds. On this note, we would like to extend our gratitude to the subcommittees for the substantial increase in the Facilities Improvement and Repair account for fiscal year 2018. This increase will absolutely make a difference.

CONCLUSION

In closing, Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle Community School thanks the subcommittees for the important increases that have been provided and urges the subcommittees to ensure that direct, consistent Federal funding for school replacement construction and school maintenance and repair continues in fiscal year 2019 at levels consistent with or higher than those appropriated fiscal year 2018. Direct, consistent funding is crucially important to achieve the timely completion of construction of schools on the 2016 Replacement List and to properly maintain these important Federal investments for our children's future.

DCS is thankful for the opportunity to provide this testimony and looks forward to working with the subcommittees on furthering the needs of our school and our students. Please contact Faye BlueEyes at: fayeblueeyes13@gmail.com if you have any questions.

[This statement was submitted by Ervin Chavez, School Board President and Faye BlueEyes, Administrative Services Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The Ecological Society of America (ESA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of fiscal year 2019 appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency. ESA is the Nation's largest society of professional ecologists, representing over 9,000 members across the country. We write to urge you to support robust funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for fiscal year 2019, specifically at least $715 million for Science and Technology within EPA.

The EPA is vital to protecting both the environment and human health, and the agency's Science and Technology programs are critically important to its ability to successfully address environmental problems. Without adequate funding, the EPA cannot fulfill its core mission and responsibilities. Strong investments in the EPA are thus essential to ensuring the health of our Nation's citizens and environment.

EPA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS FACING AMERICANS

Since its formation in 1970, the EPA has reduced environmental risk to Americans, enforced laws safeguarding human health and the environment, and helped the Nation serve as a leader in protecting the environment.

Science and Technology funding supports programs and research that contribute to clean air, clean water, sustainable communities, homeland security, and human health. Through the Office of Research and Development (ORD), the EPA conducts cutting-edge research programs, including important ecological research and monitoring, that provide the scientific foundation for the agency's decisionmaking and other programs. These research and monitoring programs also provide essential data and information on which State and local governments depend, with environmental monitoring data collected and maintained by the EPA helping to ensure healthy communities across the country. EPA research projects focus on issues of national significance and help to solve complex environmental problems—often with

public health implications—with new scientific understanding and technologies. From detecting and addressing harmful algal blooms to helping communities rehabilitate contaminated sites, EPA research funded by Science and Technology appropriations delivers solution-oriented results with broad and lasting impact.

PROPOSED CUTS WOULD HAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

ESA is very concerned with the administration's proposed cuts to the EPA in fiscal year 2019. The proposed reductions, reflective of those suggested in the president's fiscal year 2018 budget, would have far-reaching and damaging effects on public and environmental health and economic growth that depends on healthy communities. The President's budget proposal requests only $6.1 billion for the agency, a reduction of 24 percent from enacted fiscal year 2017 funding of $8.1 billion, which would leave the EPA with its lowest inflation-adjusted budget since the 1970s. This significant cut would be achieved by continuing to eliminate agency jobs, cutting an additional 2,574 agency jobs by fiscal year 2019 and leaving the agency with its smallest workforce since the 1980s. Furthermore, the proposal would completely eliminate 50 agency programs that benefit the American people, including categorical grant programs, regional environmental programs, water programs, climate and climate science research programs, voluntary partnership programs, and special initiatives that focus on everything from lead risk reduction to waste minimization to small minority business assistance. The proposed budget would essentially eliminate, by way of drastic cuts, several other important geographic programs, including the Great Lakes Restoration and Chesapeake Bay programs.

The administration's budget also proposes to reduce funding for EPA Science and Technology considerably to only $449 million, a 36 percent cut from fiscal year 2017 funding. Sound science is the foundation of everything the agency does. EPA research programs support clean air, healthy neighborhoods, safer chemicals, and clean water, and it helps develop solutions to environmental problems. EPA science meets the highest standards for peer review, transparency, ethics, and integrity, and it is essential to maintain strong support for science and research at the EPA. Cuts, particularly cuts of the magnitude proposed in the President's budget, would dangerously hinder the EPA's ability to fulfill its mission and responsibility to the American people and would have serious impacts on the local, State, and national levels.

ESA is extremely troubled by the proposed budget for the EPA and the devastating impacts the funding cuts would have on the agency's ability to fulfill its mission and conduct the scientific research necessary to inform its operations and decisions. We appreciate your past support for the EPA and your preservation of the agency's budget for fiscal year 2018. We urge you to once again reject cuts to EPA programs and research as you proceed with fiscal year 2019 appropriations.

STRONG INVESTMENTS IN THE EPA PROTECT OUR CITIZENS AND OUR ECOSYSTEMS

The EPA is an essential agency that plays a key role in addressing ecological problems and other environmental issues that affect public health. We appreciate your past support for this critical agency, and we urge you, in the interest of ensuring the health of our Nation's citizens and ecosystems, to continue this support and provide robust funding for the EPA in fiscal year 2019, in particular $715 million for EPA Science and Technology.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

[This statement was submitted by Richard Pouyat, President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The Entomological Society of America (ESA) respectfully submits this statement for the official record in support of funding for entomology-related activities at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). For fiscal year 2019, ESA recommends $8.267 billion for EPA, including support for Pesticides Licensing Program Area activities within its Science & Technology and Environmental Program & Management budgets, and continued support for State & Tribal Assistance Grants for Pesticide Program Implementation. ESA strongly supports EPA's commitment to work with other Federal agencies to monitor and improve pollinator health, including involvement by EPA to examine the potential impact of pesticides on pollinator health. In addition, ESA requests the Forest Service be funded at least at the fiscal

year 2018 enacted level of $5.93 billion in discretionary funds. Within the Forest Service, ESA requests the Forest and Rangeland Research budget be supported at $297 million to preserve valuable invasive species research and development. The Society also supports continued investment in Forest Health Management programs across the Forest Service in fiscal year 2019. ESA also recommends that DOI continue to support the important work of the National Invasive Species Council (NISC), which coordinates efforts across agencies to respond to the threats posed by invasive species, to be funded at no less than the fiscal year 2018 level of $1.202 million. Finally, ESA requests funding support for IMLS at no less than the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of $240 million, which supports research, collections, and training capabilities for U.S. libraries and museums.

Advances in forestry and environmental sciences, including the field of entomology, help to protect our ecosystems and communities from threats impacting our Nation's economy, public health, and agricultural productivity and safety. Through improved understanding of invasive insect pests and the development of biological approaches to pest management, entomology plays a critical role in reducing and preventing the spread of infestation and diseases harmful to national forests and grasslands. The study of entomology also contributes to the development of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques, which use science-based, environmentally conscious, comprehensive methods to take preventative action against pests, often resulting in lower costs and a more targeted use of pesticides. In addition, entomology improves our knowledge of pollinator biology and the factors affecting pollinator health and populations, helping to ensure safe, reliable crop production that meets the needs of a growing world population.

EPA carries out its mission of protecting human health and the environment by developing and enforcing regulations, awarding grants for research and other projects, conducting studies on environmental issues, facilitating partnerships, and providing information through public outreach. Through these efforts, EPA strives to ensure that our Nation enjoys clean water, clean air, a safe food supply, and communities free from pollution and harmful chemicals.

EPA's Pesticides Licensing Program Area, supported by EPA's Science & Technology and Environmental Program & Management budgets, serves to evaluate and regulate new pesticides to ensure safe and proper usage by consumers. Through the mandate of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), EPA utilizes scientific expertise and data, including knowledge gained from entomological sciences, to set maximum tolerated residue levels and to register pesticide products as effective and safe. By controlling insects that act as vectors of diseases of humans and domesticated animals, and invasive insect species that endanger our environment, pesticides registered by EPA help protect public health and the Nation's food supply. EPA's activities in this area also include the development of educational information and outreach to encourage the use of IPM and other reduced-risk methods of controlling pests. For example, EPA continues to support work protecting children from pesticide exposure used in and around schools, helping to promote cost-effective strategies that reduce student exposure to pesticides and pests. IPM strategies used in schools reduce student exposure to pesticides as well as allergens from pests themselves. Therefore, ESA supports continuing the activities in the Pesticides Licensing Program Area as well as the modest funding that EPA has invested in school IPM.

Among EPA's State & Tribal Assistance Grants, categorical grants in the area of Pesticides Program Implementation help to facilitate the translation of national pesticide regulatory information into real-world approaches that work for local communities. For example, these grants fund efforts to reduce health and environmental risks associated with pesticide use by promoting, facilitating, and evaluating IPM techniques and other potentially safer alternatives to conventional pest control methods. ESA requests that the subcommittee support a modest increase for Pesticides Program Implementation grants in fiscal year 2019.

ESA is in favor of increased funding for scientifically-based studies of pollinator populations and health. Pollinators play a vital role in our Nation's agriculture industry; for example, bees pollinate more than 90 crops in the United States and are essential for the production of an estimated 70 percent of all the food we eat or export, contributing over $17 billion in annual crop and seed production in the U.S. alone. To ensure a healthy bee population, more research is needed to fully understand the complexities of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) and to examine the diverse factors that endanger bee health. Pesticides represent just one potential risk to bees, but both the risks and benefits must be balanced, and those risks and benefits will vary among different crops and different crop-producing regions of the United States. EPA is well-positioned to help identify methods for protecting bee health; the agency has previously awarded agricultural grants to three universities

to aid in the development of IPM practices that lower pesticide risks to bees while protecting valuable crops from pests. For this reason, ESA supports EPA's participation in multi-agency efforts to investigate pollinator health and implementing plans to prevent pollinator population decline.

The U.S. Forest Service sustains the health, diversity, and productivity of 193 million acres of public lands in national forests and grasslands across 44 States and territories. Serving as the largest supporter of forestry research in the world, the agency employs approximately 30,000 scientists, administrators, and land managers. In addition to activities at the Federal level, the Forest Service provides technical expertise and financial assistance to State and private forestry agency partners.

The Forest Service's Forest and Rangeland Research budget supports the development and delivery of scientific data and innovative technological tools to improve the health, use, and management of the Nation's forests and rangelands. Within Forest and Rangeland Research, the Invasive Species Strategic Program Area provides scientifically based approaches to reduce and prevent the introduction, spread, and impact of non-native invasive species, including destructive insects, plants, and diseases that can have serious economic and environmental consequences for our Nation. For example, Forest Service scientists are working to prevent the devastation of ash trees across North America by the emerald ash borer, an invasive beetle that was accidentally introduced from Asia. Emerald ash borer was first detected in 2002 and, since then, has killed millions of ash trees. This biological invasion threatens to eliminate all ash trees from North America and is the costliest invasion from a forest insect to date. Emerald ash borer is just one of the exponentially growing list of invasive insects and diseases that harm our Nation's forests and our Nation's economy. Forest health is also affected by invasive weeds, and those weeds are often best controlled by beneficial insects used as biological control agents, resulting in permanent and often spectacular control. ESA respectfully requests that Forest and Rangeland Research be fully funded at $297 million for fiscal year 2019.

Also under the purview of the Forest Service is the Forest Health Management program, which conducts mapping and surveys on public and private lands to monitor and assess risks from potentially harmful insects, diseases, and invasive plants. The program also provides assistance to State and local partners to help prevent and control outbreaks that threaten forest health. According to a 2011 study, invasive forest insects cost local governments alone an average of over $2 billion per year; direct costs to homeowners from property loss, tree removal, and treatment averages $1.5 billion per year.[1] Initiatives within the Forest Health Management program can help control these costly pests. The program's "Slow the Spread" activities, for example, have led to a 60 percent reduction in the rate of the spread of an invasive species known as gypsy moth, resulting in an estimated benefit-to-cost ratio of 3:1. Without the program, it is estimated that 50 million additional acres would have been infested by the moth.[2] To support these important functions, ESA requests that the subcommittee oppose any proposed cuts to Forest Health Management program in fiscal year 2019.

Central to these efforts to address the threat posed by invasive species, NISC plays a critical role in coordinating activities across Federal agencies to safeguard national forests and agricultural products through the prevention, eradication, and control of invasive species. NISC provides planning and policy recommendations to the leadership of 13 Federal agencies as well as Federal inter-agency bodies and non-Federal stakeholders working on invasive species issues, playing an integral part in the protection of Federal lands. ESA respectfully requests that NISC, within the Interior Office of the Secretary, be funded at least at the fiscal year 2018 levels of $1.202 million.

The services provided by IMLS are critical not only for the expansion of collections capabilities at American museums, which are key for the identification and classification of entomological species, but for the training and education of students, museum professionals, and the general public. The 21st Century Museum Professionals Program provides opportunities for diverse and underrepresented populations to become museum professionals, expanding participation in an industry with an annual economic contribution of approximately $21 billion. Museums are an integral part of the Nation's academic infrastructure and make significant long-term contributions to economic development in local communities, which is why the Society requests no less than $240 million for IMLS in fiscal year 2019.

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[1] Aukema, J.E.; Leung, B.; Kovacs, K.; [et al.]. 2011. Economic impacts of non-native forest insects in the continental United States. PLoS ONE 6(9): e24587.

[2] Forest Service Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Overview: http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/FY-2017-FS%20-budget-overview.pdf.

ESA, headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland, is the largest organization in the world serving the professional and scientific needs of entomologists and individuals in related disciplines. Founded in 1889, ESA has over 7,000 members affiliated with educational institutions, health agencies, private industry, and government. Members are researchers, teachers, extension service personnel, administrators, marketing representatives, research technicians, consultants, students, pest management professionals, and hobbyists.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer the Entomological Society of America's support for Forest Service and EPA programs. For more information about the Entomological Society of America, please see http://www.entsoc.org/.

[This statement was submitted by Michael Parrella, President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF THE STATES

March 8, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Preserving the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Integrated Risk Information System

DEAR LEADERS MCCONNELL, SCHUMER, RYAN, AND PELOSI:

The Environmental Council of States (ECOS), the nonpartisan, national association of State and territorial environmental agency leaders, writes to urge you to support retaining the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Program's funding and personnel with the Office of Research and Development (ORD). The IRIS Program is currently located in U.S. EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment in ORD. Retaining IRIS within ORD will help to ensure that State public health and environmental protection programs can continue to rely on IRIS' invaluable and impartial health hazard assessments.

The IRIS Program's identification and characterization of chemical health hazards plays a vital role in States' efforts to protect their residents and environments against harmful toxic exposures. Its assessments provide important information that helps strengthen the science underlying a broad range of States' health and environmental protections, including regulating air and water pollution, cleaning up soil and contaminated drinking water aquifers, and ensuring the safe and appropriate use of pesticides.

The most recent National Academies of Sciences' review of the IRIS program recognizes its importance to State agencies and other organizations in "setting regulatory standards, establishing exposure guidelines, and estimating risks to exposed populations." (The Nation Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Review of EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Process, 3 (2014)). The review also found that changes the U.S. EPA proposed or implemented to IRIS constitute "substantial improvements in the IRIS process." (Id. at 3)

U.S. EPA's Science Advisory Board similarly recognized, in its September 2017 assessment, that "IRIS serves the needs of regions, States and Tribes, who often lack the ability to perform their own chemical risk assessments." (U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board letter to U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, Science Advisory Board comments on EPA's response to recommendations on the Integrated Risk Information System, 2 (2017)). The Science Advisory Board also commended the Agency for its significant improvements to IRIS, noting, "We are optimistic that the restructured IRIS program will strengthen the scientific foundations of risk assessment and protect the health and safety of the American public." (Id.)

As the National Academies and the Science Advisory Board observed, States rely on IRIS for health hazard information to which they otherwise may not have access.

The IRIS Program covers a far greater number of chemicals than those evaluated by State agencies, and, consequently, serves as a critical source of toxicity assessments for chemicals evaluated in our State environmental risk assessments. For example, without IRIS, States would have less information to develop protective and scientifically rigorous toxicity assessments used in toxic waste site cleanups. In addition, the loss of access to IRIS's database of more than 140 pesticides assessments containing rare toxicity data for legacy pesticides used in agriculture for decades would compromise States' ability to review older compounds and close critical data gaps on human health effects.

Consolidating IRIS with regulatory programs could undercut the program's foundation in research, which provides the States with immense value. IRIS's chemical health hazard assessments are now separate from the regulatory decisions they inform, which often involve risk management considerations. Maintaining a distinction between the scientific basis for risk assessments and risk management decisions helps preserve the integrity of States' health and environmental protection programs. A transfer of IRIS or its functions to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) program, for example, would diminish that separation. It would also subsume IRIS's roughly 500 program chemicals, which U.S. EPA selects to assist regulatory programs in making decisions, in TSCA's broader regulation of 80,000 commonly used chemicals. Further, such a transfer would end the performance of pesticide assessments, which are excluded from TSCA's jurisdiction.

The IRIS Program provides critical chemical toxicity information that protects the health of States' residents and their environments. We urge Congress to retain the program's funding and keep personnel in its current location within U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development to help States continue to protect human health and environmental quality.

Sincerely,

TODD PARFITT
Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
ECOS President

cc: Senate and House Appropriations Committee Leadership

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF THE STATES

DEAR CHAIRMAN MURKOWSKI, RANKING MEMBER UDALL AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE,

The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) is the national nonprofit, nonpartisan association of State and territorial environmental agency leaders. We, its undersigned Officers, submit this testimony on fiscal year 2019 appropriations for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

State environmental agencies are the engines of environmental progress in our Nation. Under America's system of cooperative Federalism, agencies like ours normally take the lead in implementing Federal environmental laws like the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Today, States exercise over 90 percent of the delegable authorities under these and other Federal laws. You can learn more about the tangible progress the States have delivered on ECOS Results, our newly launched data visualization portal.

State environmental agencies depend on Federal funding to do their work; ECOS has documented that the Federal Government provides, on average, 27 percent of our agencies' budgets. Without that money, State agencies would find it more challenging to properly administer Federal environmental laws, improve public health, and protect the environment. ECOS therefore asks that fiscal year 2019 appropriations provide sustained support to programs that advance the well-being of our communities.

Please consider these principles as you deliberate about the fiscal year 2019 appropriations. Please also consider the following specific requests:

Increase State and Tribal Assistance (STAG) Categorical Grants

STAG Categorical Grants fund a huge range of work by State environmental agencies. Much of that work is core implementation activity such as issuing environmental permits, inspecting facilities and enforcing the law, setting standards, and managing data. But categorical grants also fund creative solutions to local problems.

For example, STAG funds issued under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act recently helped Iowa DNR address nonpoint source pollution that threatened the habitat of brook trout, a cherished native game fish. Brook trout thrived in northeast Iowa's spring-fed streams until years of erosion and polluted runoff harmed their habitat. Iowa's DNR tackled the problem by using STAG funds to convene communities on two historic trout creek systems through the Yellow River Headwaters Watershed Project and the Silver Creek Watershed Project. These groups worked with DNR Fisheries to restock impaired streams with South Pine brook trout, and with landowners in the area to protect and improve water quality. Their efforts, and similar work across northwest Iowa, increased the number of streams with self-sustaining trout populations from 6 to 45.

STAG Categorical Grants also help our agencies take on larger projects that deliver positive economic benefits for communities. For example, Federal support through the STAG Brownfields Response program helped the Oklahoma DEQ oversee the closure and resolution of environmental liability of Bricktown, a former oil field and bulk petroleum storage area. After soil and groundwater remediation, property values in Bricktown have soared to $40 million, and area businesses pay $50 million in annual wages. Projects like these led the Oklahoma Department of Commerce recently to report that Federal dollars invested through such programs deliver a 17-fold return on income tax dollars.

STAG support is critical to the continued creativity and vitality of State-led environmental regulation. States therefore thank Congress for preserving STAG Categorical Grants over the past two fiscal years, and ask that Congress further support the program in the fiscal year 2019 budget.

Continue Funding Environmental Infrastructure via State Revolving Funds

STAG funds also support State-level investments in the infrastructure that provides our citizens safe drinking water and a clean aquatic environment. Much of that infrastructure is aging or inadequate and the States therefore depend on the funding that Congress provides through the STAG State Revolving Fund (SRF) program. Congress recently reemphasized its support for State water infrastructure by delivering $766 million in further funding through Title IV of the Fiscal Year 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

The reality is that our Nation's water infrastructure needs continue to grow along with our populations and the advancing age of our existing facilities. ECOS has documented these needs in reports such as our State Water and Wastewater Project Inventory, which describes the top 20 "shovel-ready" water and wastewater projects in each State. States have also shown the impact of these projects on water quality, and have demonstrated creative infrastructure solutions from an Ohio workshop series designed to help small, aging wastewater treatment plants attain regulatory compliance to Pennsylvania's investment with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary to grow and deploy native freshwater mussels in local waterways to address nutrient and sediment pollution in the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware Estuary on a revenue generating basis. Congress should continue funding projects like these so that States can continue to serve as the laboratories of our democracy.

Preserve the STAG Multipurpose Grant Program

Under cooperative Federalism, States gain the authority to allocate Federal resources in ways that reflect local needs and priorities. State agencies cannot deliver on this promise unless Congress ensures flexibility in Federal funding. Funding flexibility also streamlines joint decisionmaking by EPA and States, and ultimately allows States to more quickly convert Federal dollars into positive environmental and public health results.

The history of the STAG Multipurpose Categorical Grant program demonstrates that States know how to use flexible funding to efficiently address the most pressing challenges within their borders. For example, States used 2016 Multipurpose Grant money to fund activities ranging from implementing the National Ambient Air Quality Standards to improving electronic data management systems, and to control everything from water pollution to pesticide overuse. Congress appropriated money for this program in fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2018, and we urge you to do so in fiscal year 2019 as well; making the Multipurpose Grant program a dependable funding stream would allow States to deploy that money in ways that maximize the long-term benefit to their citizens.

Support State-level Business Process Improvement (BPI) Programs

ECOS members have long recognized that we must become more efficient and cost-effective if we are to meet our obligation to do more work despite flat or declining budgets. One way we have done so is by "leaning" our business processes and targeting our work to maximize our impact. For example, the Vermont Department of Natural Resources conducted a process improvement event designed to address the way in which public water supply systems obtain permits for drawing water from new sources. Vermont DNR's work reduced the time it takes to issue such permits by 32 percent and paved the way for even further efficiency gains through a new electronic permit submission process.

Although States are well aware that business process improvement programs deliver long-term value, it can still be challenging for us to divert staff from core work. We therefore ask Congress to deliver specific appropriations support for process improvement.

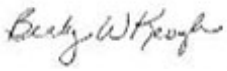
Avoid Rescission and Impoundment of STAG Funds

States work closely with EPA through ECOS' State Grants Subgroup to speed the distribution of Federal funds and allow on-the-ground work to begin sooner. Our experiences lead us to urge Congress not to include rescissions of unobligated STAG funds in future enacted budgets, as this often results in uncertainty and delays in obligating pass-through funding. For the same reason, States ask Congress to discourage impoundment of enacted appropriations.

Conclusion

ECOS appreciates the fact that Congress is considering the views of State environmental agencies as it prepares the fiscal year 2019 budget. We welcome the opportunity to speak with you about any of these issues in more detail, or to further explain how Federal funding can support State-level work to protect human health and the environment.

TODD PARFITT
Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
ECOS President



BECKY KEOGH
Director, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
ECOS Vice President

JIM MACY
Director, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
ECOS Secretary/Treasurer

JOHN LINC STINE
Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
ECOS Past President

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE FAR WEST PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE OF THE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA

Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

I am writing to you representing the Far West Public Lands Committee of the Back Country Horsemen of America. Our committee represents Back Country Horsemen of California, Back Country Horsemen of Nevada, Back Country Horsemen of Oregon and the Back Country Horsemen of Washington. We are writing to you to encourage a couple of changes to the Forest Service budget.

First we would like to see a new line item created in the budget that specifically deals with TRAIL MAINTENANCE. Second we would like to see that line item be for the amount of 100 million dollars. Currently the Forest Service funds the trail maintenance out of their recreation budget. Currently the forest service has that valued at around 70 million dollars. Quite often that money is used other for other things than trails. That is why we would like to see the line item added to the budget presented to you. Americas trails are in very poor shape and are primarily being maintained by volunteer groups. Unfortunately the volunteer groups cannot do it all. Millions of tax paying, voting citizens use Americas trails annually and deserve better. I hope you can see fit to make these changes to the proposed Forest Service budget.

Thank You,

[This statement was submitted by Jerry Bentz, Chairman.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE FEDERATION OF STATE HUMANITIES COUNCILS

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the subcommittee, I thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the State humanities councils, the State affiliates of the National Endowment for the Humanities, requesting $155 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities and $48 million for the Federal/State Partnership for fiscal year 2018.

As partners of the NEH, the State humanities councils receive their core funding through the Federal/State Partnership line of the NEH budget, which they use to leverage additional support from foundations, corporations, private individuals, and State governments. In the past year, councils leveraged, on average, $4.00 in local contributions for every dollar of Federal funding awarded through their grants, and they have further extended their resources in recent years by forming partnerships with nearly 9,000 organizations throughout their States. But demand continues to increase. In the past few years, councils continue to be asked to expand their programs to reach new populations and meet growing needs in their States.

At the heart of every humanities council discussion is a fundamental question: How can we make life better for the citizens of our communities? The varied responses are highlighted through an array of council programs, conducted in nearly every congressional district in the Nation. These programs serve families, students, veterans, educators, rural residents, medical personnel, immigrants and refugees, and adult new readers, among others. The councils in each of the 50 States, five territories, and in DC work from a deep understanding of the unique identity of their States and of the needs of their citizens and communities, creating bridges between academic research and public citizens hungry for substantive conversation about issues that matter.

Councils steward their modest Federal resources through partnerships and leveraging other funding, and by studying the civic, cultural, demographic, and educational profile of their States. Four areas of council activity offer particularly striking and significant illustration of the ways lives are changed through council work: (1) they support and help reintegrate veterans, (2) they provide resources to underserved rural populations, (3) they strengthen K–12 education, support teachers, and increase literacy, and (4) they support local institutions, thereby strengthening the cultural infrastructure of communities throughout the Nation. The following pages demonstrate the important work that councils are currently conducting and highlight the ways additional funds would extend the reach of current programs and open opportunities to serve new populations and communities.

Supporting veterans and their communities.—For the more than 200,000 veterans returning from active duty each year, the challenges go well beyond the need to find a job and resume a way of life that has now become unfamiliar. Returning veterans must also process their experiences and learn to live among community members who have little context for comprehending those experiences. Hundreds of organizations exist to help with the practical and logistical challenges of returning to civilian

life. Others provide assistance with medical and psychological issues. The State humanities councils offer another kind of support, using the humanities to link veterans to each other, to help support each other, through storytelling, conversation, and writing. Nearly every council has engaged in programs that help veterans connect with their veteran and civilian communities.

Located in a State where veterans comprise 10 percent of the population, the Alaska Humanities Forum (AHF) demonstrates the power of the humanities through its "Duty Bound" thematic initiative, which promotes deepened understanding of those affiliated with the armed services, tells the stories of Alaska's military personnel and veterans, and helps infuse the humanities into programs for veterans and their families. Additionally, for the past 3 years, AHF has partnered with the Alaska-based organization, 49 Writers, to conduct "Danger Close: Alaska," a multifaceted program that includes an in-depth veteran/civilian writing workshop, a public panel discussion, and a small-run publication to bridge the veteran/civilian divide.

The Veterans Writing Workshops supported by Missouri Humanities enables veterans to tell their stories while developing writing skills and gaining experience in writing for publication. The council is currently gathering poetry, fiction, essays, interviews, and photography to include in the seventh annual publication of Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors, an anthology of works by and about veterans from WWII to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Maryland Humanities, working in a State that is home to eleven military installations, a distinguished military academy, and an estimated 400,000 veterans, supports an array of programs for veterans, including veterans' book groups, veterans' stories on their "Humanities Connections" radio program, and veteran-related issues on their blog. In addition, their Veterans Oral History Project, conducted since 2015, provides oral history training to a group of Maryland high school students, who then interview Vietnam War veterans and Vietnamese immigrants who experienced the war. In partnership with the NEH, Southern High School, and the Martha Ross Center for Oral History at the University of Maryland, the council has also produced a virtual toolkit that provides oral history instruction resources for teachers.

Many other councils also offer veterans' reading groups, documentaries on the veteran experience, photographic exhibits, and writing workshops, in addition to community programs such as The Telling Project, which encourages veterans to share personal stories on local community stages. These programs affect the lives of hundreds of veterans and thousands of their community members across the country, but there are still thousands of unreached veterans in communities State humanities councils could serve with additional funds, helping to ease the transition for these veterans and increase the understanding of those who welcome them home.

Serving rural communities.—America's rural communities are a national resource too often overlooked, underserved, and misunderstood. A 2013 report from the National Conference of State Legislatures stated that at that time, 46.2 million people lived in non-metropolitan counties (having no urban areas of 50,000 or more) spread across 72 percent of the land area of the United States. These potentially isolated communities, while possessing a rich and proud history of their own, often lack access to educational and cultural opportunities enjoyed by their urban counterparts. The State humanities councils, with their deep connections to the communities in their States, address the needs of these communities in ways no other network of organizations is able to do, providing support and expertise to strengthen local institutions, contribute to economic development, and encourage more cohesive communities.

Among the many programs and initiatives councils offer that acknowledge and add to the assets of rural communities, one standout is Museum on Main Street (MoMS), the product of the 25-year partnership between councils and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). MoMS is distinguished for its reach and sustainability, as well as the model it provides of a public/private partnership, bringing together the high-quality resources of one of the Nation's most respected institutions with the grassroots reach and programming expertise of the State humanities councils. Through such exhibit themes as "The Way We Worked," "Hometown Teams: How Sports Shaped America," and "New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music," the project inspires rural communities to use their 6-week exhibit tour to encourage exploration of its history and the contemporary issues each community faces. The exhibition serves not only as the centerpiece, but also the springboard for communities to design their own accompanying exhibit and programs, with help from the council and a project scholar.

More than 1,400 communities with an average population of just over 14,000 have participated in MoMS, for which the national partners provide marketing tools, training manuals, and lesson plans. When "Hometown Teams" arrived at the Moun-

tain Sports Hall of Fame in Wayland, Kentucky, in March of 2018 to begin its six-community tour, Wayland Mayor Jerry Fulz described the excitement among the residents who gathered early in the morning to set up the exhibit. "Because of the humanities council and the exhibit, we're going to have folks in Wayland that would never otherwise be here . . . It's a springboard for things in the future that can have a positive impact on my little town and the whole region."

Humanities Montana offers another model for rural programming that leaves a legacy of new resources, expertise, and community cooperation. "Hometown Humanities" was conceived as a way to provide a sustained humanities presence in one rural community per year. The council works with a team of local leaders to offer a year of humanities activity, drawing on a menu of council programs. The aim of the program is "to support the particular cultural interests of a Montana community, and to explore the capacity of the humanities to enrich lives, foster inquiry, and stimulate civil and informed conversations about the human experience."

These are just a few examples of the many programs councils are conducting in rural areas; however, a number of communities, particularly in remote areas, still remain underserved. With additional funds, councils would be able to reach these communities and fund far more of the requests they receive through their grant programs.

Providing support for K–12 students, teachers and at-risk families.—From National History Day to speakers in the schools to poetry readings and writing workshops, humanities councils have developed programs to engage K–12 students with the humanities. The New Mexico Humanities Council, Maryland Humanities, Georgia Humanities, and the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities all serve as their State coordinators for National History Day, a program that helps students acquire useful historical knowledge and perspective while developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills that have been shown to improve their academic performance through high school and into college. Many other councils contribute funding to the program in their States. Humanities Tennessee offers annual Young Writers' Workshops, intense one-week residential workshops in which students work one-on-one or in small groups with experienced writers to improve writing and public speaking skills, helping them prepare for college or to simply nurture an interest in writing. Vermont Humanities' summer Humanities Camps provide at-risk middle and high school students an opportunity to engage with literature and the humanities in a safe and nurturing environment.

The teachers who educate and inspire our students are themselves in frequent need of professional development and inspiration, which humanities councils provide in a variety of forms. Many councils across the country offer summer institutes through which humanities teachers can gain deep knowledge of a specific subject, while also connecting with colleagues facing the same challenges they deal with throughout the school year. The Florida Humanities Council has a long history of providing high-quality week-long residential institutes for teachers. In 2018, teachers can apply to participate in workshops providing in-depth learning about the Civil War in the South, challenges presented by Florida's changing climates, and ethical issues related to environmental change. This year the North Dakota Humanities Council is offerings not only a fall workshop on "The Constitution and Judicial Decision-Making," but also a series of interactive professional development webinars for teachers.

One group that often falls outside the usual educational structures are low-income families headed by parents with low reading levels whose children need a boost to prepare them for school. A number of State humanities councils, including those in Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska and elsewhere, participate in PRIME TIME, the long-running and very successful humanities-focused, outcomes-based program originated by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities in 1991. Evaluations of PRIME TIME programs, based on partnerships with libraries, schools, and community service agencies have shown long-term improvements in family engagement and student academic achievement.

These programs demonstrate the support councils have provided for teachers and their students from early childhood through high school graduation, but it is far from sufficient. This support could be at least doubled and still not accommodate the hundreds of teachers who crave in-depth professional development or the at-risk families hungering to give their children a better chance at success. With a proven record of effective programming in these areas, councils are perfectly positioned to put additional funding to work on behalf of our children and generations to come.

Strengthening Local Institutions.—The impact of council work goes well beyond the specific groups above that benefit so much from their support. Councils also strengthen communities all across the Nation through grants awarded to local cultural and educational groups, programs they support in libraries and museums,

book festivals, Chautauqua, and other programs that educate citizens and stimulate economic development. At a time when many Americans are concerned about the growing divisions in our society, a number of councils offer Community Conversation programs that provide opportunities for people of diverse views to come together in varying ways to discuss issues guided by a scholar/facilitator to build bridges of understanding.

We thank you for your past support and for understanding how crucial the humanities are in nurturing our democracy and how great the needs are for these programs across our Nation.

[This statement was submitted by Esther Mackintosh, President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE FOND DU LAC BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA

On behalf of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, I would like to thank you for the important work you have done, especially on fiscal year 2018 appropriations, to make sure that Federal funds are available to assist Tribes in meeting longstanding needs. Thank you also for inviting me to testify on fiscal year 2019 appropriations for Indian programs funded through the Interior Department, Indian Health Service, and Environmental Protection Agency.

As we talk about funding needs in Indian Country, it is essential to keep in mind that the problems that may face communities nationwide are far more severe for Indian communities, with Tribes having far fewer resources to address those problems. An example is the opioid epidemic. As of 2015, Native Americans in Minnesota were five times more likely to die from an overdose than white Minnesotans, and "2016 data show the disparity has continued and worsened. While the white drug overdose mortality rate increased from 10.1 to 11.7 per 100,000 white residents, the American Indian mortality rate increased from 47.3 per 100,000 residents to 64.6 per 100,000 residents."[1] The opioid epidemic creates other adverse impacts for Indian communities. It means that our children are "7.4 times more likely to be born with neonatal abstinence syndrome" which requires specialized treatment and care.[2] It increases demands on our social service programs for addiction treatment and counseling, and assistance to growing numbers of at-risk families, with more children in foster care or the subject of CHIPS (Child in Need of Protection or Services) proceedings—(an increase of 65 percent since 2015). It increases demands on our school to address the unique needs of children living in at-risk homes. And it increases the demands on our law enforcement who respond to ever-growing numbers of incidents that are drug related.

We have worked, and continue to work, to find solutions for problems of this kind. With seed money from Federal funds, we have implemented innovative programs and measures to provide health, education, social services, public safety and other governmental services to our 4,200 members and the more than 7,300 Indian people who live on and near our Reservation. For example, Fond du Lac built the first-of-its-kind supportive housing programs in Indian Country, and the first such supportive housing for Veterans. We have undertaken to implement best practices in healthcare, using a range of programs and services to aid our people. In so doing, we have found that an important element to the success of these programs is building on our traditional cultural practices. To illustrate, hunting, fishing, and gathering natural resources as our ancestors have done provides both a foundation for a healthy diet as well as spiritual support. Because of the importance of these practices, we are active in natural resource management and environmental protection so our water is safe to drink, fish are safe to eat, wild rice re-generates, game is plentiful, and natural resources remain available for cultural and religious practices that are central to our identity.

We are proud of what we have accomplished, but more remains to be done. The investment of Federal funds is key to that effort. It allows us to use Band resources and attract private partners so we can provide jobs, grow the local economy, educate our children, prevent crime, and care for our elders and infirm. We urge Congress to continue to fund these programs.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

We appreciate Congress's decision to increase by 10 percent above fiscal year 2017 levels funding for IHS in fiscal year 2018, which is essential to address the substantial unmet need for healthcare among Indian people and the increasing costs of

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[1] http://www.health.state.mn.us.

[2] MDHS, "Minnesota State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis" (2017) at https://mn.gov.

medical care due to high rates of medical inflation. Indians at Fond du Lac, like Indians throughout the Nation, continue to face severe disparities across a broad range of health issues. In addition to the extraordinarily high mortality rates due to the opioid epidemic, Indians in Minnesota are far more likely to die prematurely than all others in the State, and suffer from the highest mortality rates for causes of death due to cancer, heart disease, diabetes, suicide, and unintentional injury.[3]

We are working to address these issues every day. We serve over 7,300 Indian people at our clinics, but the current funding level meets only 33 percent of our healthcare funding needs. To make progress in reducing the disparities in Indian health, we urge Congress to continue to increase funding for IHS. We urge an increase of $7 billion in order to fully fund IHS programs, with the top priorities given to Hospitals & Health Clinics; Purchased/Referred Care; Mental Health; Alcohol & Substance Abuse; and Dental Health. Expanded resources for treatment and community education capacity are especially needed to combat the epidemic of drug abuse.

We also ask that Congress increase funding for IHS Facilities, including Sanitation Facilities Construction. We rely on wells for drinking water, but the quality of the source water on our Reservation is very poor. It generally cannot be used unless treated, and where the source water is really poor quality, treatment may leave an unacceptable level of by-products that also fail to meet water quality standards. We face this problem now in one of our communities, affecting 54 homes and a community center. As a short-term solution, we are providing point-of-use filters. But to eliminate the problem, we need to drill several new wells to access better quality source water, but which will still need to be treated. We will also need to build a new water treatment facility, along with a water tower and new pipelines to establish redundancy in the system to protect users and to aid in fire protection. The cost is expected to be $2.5 million, But the very limited funds for capital work provided to IHS is not sufficient to meet the need. (In our region, IHS has $1.7 million to serve 37 Tribes.) Federal appropriations for other potential funding sources for drinking water infrastructure, like EPA and USDA Rural Development, should also be increased to aid us and other Tribes to build the infrastructure needed for safe drinking water.

BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

With funding from the BIE and the Department of Education, we operate the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School serving an average of 230 children from pre-K through 12th grade. More than 90 percent of our students come from very low-income households, as 96 percent receive free or reduced-price lunch. We are slowly making progress in improving the outcomes for our students. For example, high school graduation rates for American Indians in Minnesota have improved from 37.9 percent in 2003 to 52.6 percent in 2016, but are still well-below the 2016 State-wide rate of 82.2 percent. We are handicapped by limited resources. BIE funding has never kept pace with need, which prevents us from providing the educational services needed for our students.

We appreciate Congress's decision to increase overall BIE funding for fiscal year 2018 by $23 million above the fiscal year 2017 level. Because education is so critical to success later in life, we urge Congress to continue to increase Federal funding for Indian education. We especially ask that increases be made to each of the following because of the important role these play in Indian education:

—*ISEP* which is the primary source of school funding provided through Interior. It covers salaries for teachers, teacher aides, and administrative personnel and is essential to our ability to recruit and retain qualified teachers.
—*Tribal Grant Support Costs* which helps pay for accounting, insurance, background checks, legal and record-keeping.
—*Student Transportation* which allow us to maintain, repair, and replace buses.
—*Early Childhood Development funds (FACE),* which is critical to providing preschoolers with skills to be school-ready.
—*Johnson O'Malley,* which assists Indian children in public schools.
—*School Facility Operations and Maintenance* which keeps the building safe, pays for preventative maintenance, and covers insurance and utility costs.

[3] See Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Equity, *Populations of Color: Update Birth and Death Statistics* (December 2015). http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/raceethn/POC/POCUpdate2015.pdf.

BIA: PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE

We appreciate Congress's decision to increase funding for BIA's Public Safety and Justice by $19.7 million above fiscal year 2017 levels, including increased funding for criminal investigations and police services and to help people affected by opioid addiction. The largest law enforcement problems we face are due to opioids and other drugs including methamphetamines and prescription drugs. The large drug problem has also increased thefts, burglaries, and assaults. In addition, we find (and the Federal Government has also recognized [4]), that a disproportionately large number of Native American women are the victims of sex trafficking. This is a very serious problem for our community and we are working now to establish a Tribal Task Force to help combat it. Our law enforcement also responds to many other matters, including domestic disputes, disturbances, disorderly conduct, property damage, trespass, suspicious activity, unwanted persons, medical emergencies, fire, neglected children, missing persons, suicide threats, and traffic offenses. The demand on law enforcement increases each year. In 2017, our law enforcement responded to more than 8,376 incidents and calls for service. In past years, the numbers were: 8,200 in 2016; 8,000 in 2015; 6,000 in 2014.

We address law enforcement by a combination of Tribal and available Federal funds and cooperative agreements with local law enforcement agencies. We currently have 20 officers, which, in addition to the Chief Law Enforcement Officer, includes a Lieutenant, one investigator and 17 officers assigned to patrol or similar duties. To meet need, we should have 25 full time officers. Five of those officers would be assigned to investigations, with two investigators dedicated to narcotics enforcement. We currently have 3 administrative staff, but should have one more person to gather Intel and manage an intelligence page linked to other Tribal agencies.

Funding is also needed for training. With an increase in the drug epidemic and related crimes, our officers need, but are not receiving, vital training for undercover work, narcotics detection, investigative procedures, interview and interrogation, use of force, de-escalation, firearms, and community policing. We also have unmet need for equipment. Personal protective gear like ballistic shields, masks, etc., is limited because of current budget restraints. Uniform costs increase due to contamination from drugs and blood-borne pathogens from drug users. That includes duty gear and equipment, and patrol vehicles, which need to be decontaminated more frequently. There is also need for other basic equipment: binoculars, video cameras and digital recorders. Our patrol cars are aging and need costlier service repairs. Federal funding is essential to meet those needs. We urge Congress to increase funding for Tribal law enforcement.

BIA: TRUST-NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Congress's decision to increase by $6.7 million funding for BIA Trust-Natural Resources in fiscal year 2018 was very welcome. We urge Congress to further increase funding for this program in fiscal year 2019, as past funding levels have never met need. Natural resource management is vital in Indian Country where the basic subsistence needs of many Indian people—especially those living in poverty—depend on natural resources. This is certainly true at Fond du Lac. By Treaties in 1837, 1842 and 1854, the United States acquired our aboriginal territory, but to ensure that we could sustain ourselves, expressly promised that we retained rights to hunt, fish and gather natural resources within and outside our Reservation. Our members depend on and exercise these treaty-protected rights to put food on the table and for ceremonial practices that serve as the foundation for our culture. The stewardship of those natural resources—through scientific study, resource management, and enforcement of Band laws that regulate Tribal members who hunt, fish and gather those resources—are an important source of employment for many of our members. Full funding for Trust-Natural Resources Management, including, in particular, increased funding for Rights, Protection and Implementation, is essential in allowing us to protect, enhance, and restore natural resources.

Forest resources are an important asset to the Fond du Lac Band, and the Interior Department has recognized the importance of protecting forests from wildfire. The fiscal year 2018 increase in funding for forestry helps, but fire preparedness funding is still below the most efficient level. Fire preparedness provides jobs in Indian forestry and protects Indian and non-Indian lands.

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[4] U.S. Government Accountability Office, Testimony to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, *Human Trafficking: Investigations in Indian Country or Involving Native Americans and Actions Needed to Better Report on Victims Served* (Sept 2017) https://www.indian.senate.gov/sites/default/files/upload/Gretta%20Goodwin%20Testimony.pdf.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE: HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUNDS—TRIBAL GRANTS

We urge Congress to increase funding, as the work of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers has grown. We have seen this firsthand at Fond du Lac. Failures on the part of Federal and State officials to properly review existing records of known sites of historic and cultural importance to the Band resulted in substantial inadvertent discoveries of human remains in a known Indian cemetery. This has, in turn, placed substantial demands on our THPO to ensure proper delineation of the site to protect the undisturbed portions, and ensure proper reburial of the remains.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

We appreciate that in fiscal year 2018, Congress did not further reduce Federal funds for EPA, but we ask that funding for EPA in fiscal year 2019 be increased. We rely on EPA grants to clean up brownfields and administer clean water and clean air programs. These enable us to protect the health of our community, so that we have safe water to drink and can continue to rely on fish, wild rice, and game to put food on the table.

—*State and Tribal Assistances Grants (STAG).* We thank Congress for increasing STAG funding by $35 million in fiscal year 2018 and urge that support for this program continue.

—*Water Quality.* We have a federally-approved water quality standards program that has seen annual funding declines while the need and Band's responsibilities have increased. Given the current threats to water resources in our region, we urge that Tribal section 106 funding be doubled so that we can do the work needed to protect the water we drink, which is critical to the fish and game that are central to our and the State's economy.

—*Air.* We also have a long-standing air monitoring program that has faced a steady decline in Federal funding. We request that air quality program funding for Tribes be increased.

—*Wetlands.* One-half of our reservation is made up of wetlands. Proper management and restoration of this valuable resource is impossible without adequate and consistent Federal funding. We request sustained wetland monitoring and protection program funding.

—*Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.* The Band fully supports this initiative, and again asks that it be funded at $500 million, which is the original funding level suggested for this initiative. This initiative has broad-reaching benefits to resources of importance for all stakeholders (State, Tribal and private) in the Great Lakes region.

Miigwech. Thank you.

[This statement was submitted by Kevin R. Dupuis, Sr., Chairman.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SUPPORTERS OF THE FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM

DEAR CHAIRMAN MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBER UDALL,

The undersigned organizations are strong supporters of the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program funded by the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service). We rely on the inventory data and analysis of America's forests provided by the program, which make up the backbone of scientific knowledge on the current state of the Nation's forests. This critical information is needed to support sound policy and forest management decisions, both public and private, and is increasingly important for decisions regarding new and expanding markets. We urge the Congress to support the FIA program and request funding for the program in fiscal year 2019 of at least $83 million to move the program toward providing an accurate and timely inventory of America's forests. We also urge the inclusion of language ensuring that this funding would, at minimum, maintain historic remeasurement cycles—every 7 years in the east and every 10 years in the west—as referenced by the administration.

The data and information collected by FIA serves as the basis for: identifying trends in forest ownership; measuring carbon stocks; assessing fish and wildlife habitat; evaluating wildfire, insect, and disease risk; predicting the spread of invasive species; determining capital investment in existing forest products facilities and selecting locations for new forest product facilities; and identifying and responding to priorities identified in State Forest Action Plans.

The FIA program is utilized by a large set of diverse stakeholders interested in the state of America's forests. These include forest resource managers at mills, land

managers, conservation groups, university students and faculty, and State and Federal agencies, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The undersigned organizations would like to work with Congress to further explore program potential. An annual funding level of $83 million would support a 7 year annualized program in the east, and a 10 year program in the west as recommended in the Forest Service's 2007 FIA Strategic Plan. In 2015 the Forest Service released an updated FIA Strategic Plan, which outlines a variety of potential program deliverables at funding levels. While we are supportive of at least $83 million in funding for fiscal year 2019, the 2015 Strategic Plan calls for $103 million to implement the 5 year annualized program called for in the 1998 Farm Bill. This reduction in cycle length would provide more accurate data to support important forest resource decisions. As engaged partners, we are interested in working with Congress and the Forest Service to make program delivery as efficient as possible and to support additional Federal investment to implement many of the useful tools outlined in the new FIA Strategic Plan—including full urban inventory, increased plot density, and improved carbon and biomass estimates.

There is a need to make FIA data more robust and more useful for emerging uses, such as accurate information regarding carbon stocks, forest sustainability monitoring, wildlife habitat assessments, and much more. Given the increasing pressures facing our forests—from wildfire, insects and disease and development—the FIA program is more important now than ever before. Funding the FIA program at $83 million for fiscal year 2019 would move toward providing for our growing data needs.

Sincerely,

Alabama Forestry Association
Aldo Leopold Foundation, Inc.
American Forest & Paper Association
American Forest Foundation
American Forests
American Wood Council
American Woodcock Society
Arkansas Forestry Association
Association of Consulting Foresters of America
Center for Invasive Species Prevention
Connecticut Forest & Park Association
Conservation Northwest
Conservation Resource Partners, LLC
Empire State Forest Products Association
Environmental Defense Fund
Enviva
Florida Forestry Association
Forest Business Network LLC
Forest Industry National Labor Management Committee
Forest Resources Association
Forestry Association of South Carolina
Green Forests Work
Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association
International Paper
Kansas Tree Farm Committee
Kentucky Forest Industries Association
Louisiana Pacific
Michigan Forest Association
Minnesota Forestry Association
Mississippi Forestry Association
National Alliance of Forest Owners
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
National Association of State Foresters
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wooden Pallet and Container Association
Ohio Forestry Association, Inc.
Rayonier
Ruffed Grouse Society
Rural & Agriculture Council of America
Society for Range Management
Society for the Protection of NH Forests
Society of American Foresters
Sonen Capital
Texas Forestry Association
The American Chestnut Foundation
The Hardwood Federation
The Pennsylvania Forestry Association
The Westervelt Company
Treated Wood Council
Trees Forever
Vermont Woodlands Association
Virginia Forestry Association
Washington Farm Forestry Association
Washington Forest Protection Association
Western Wood Preservers Institute
Wisconsin Paper Council

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

SUMMARY

The Geological Society of America (GSA) urges Congress to provide $1.2 billion for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in fiscal year 2019. We thank Congress for the investments made in fiscal year 2018 and encourage a path of sustainable

growth forward. As one of our Nation's key science agencies, the USGS plays a vital role in understanding and documenting mineral and energy resources that underpin economic growth; researching and monitoring potential natural hazards that threaten U.S. and international security; and determining and assessing water quality and availability. Approximately two thirds of the USGS budget is allocated for research and development. In addition to underpinning the science activities and decisions of the Department of the Interior, this research is used by communities across the Nation to make informed decisions in land-use planning, emergency response, natural resource management, engineering, and education. Despite the critical role played by the USGS, funding for the agency has stagnated in real dollars for more than a decade. Given the importance of the many activities of the Survey that protect lives and property, contribute to national security, and enhance the quality of life, GSA believes that growth in funding for the Survey is necessary for the future of our Nation and urges Congress to reject the cuts proposed in the administration's fiscal year 2019 request.

The Geological Society of America (GSA) is a global professional society with a growing membership of more than 26,000 individuals in 115 countries. GSA provides access to elements that are essential to the professional growth of Earth scientists at all levels of expertise and from all sectors: academic, government, business, and industry. The Society unites thousands of earth scientists from every corner of the globe in a common purpose to study the mysteries of our planet (and beyond) and share scientific findings.

The Geological Society of America (GSA) appreciates the increase to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) budget in the fiscal year 2018 omnibus and thanks the Committee for recognizing the importance of the work of the agency to protect lives, property, and national security. GSA urges Congress to provide USGS $1.2 billion in fiscal year 2019.

GSA strongly opposes the administration's fiscal year 2019 budget request that includes cuts to nearly every program at the USGS, including the elimination of valuable programs such as the Geomagnetism Program, Earthquake Early Warning, Environmental Health, and Water Resources Research Act Program.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL SECURITY, HEALTH, AND WELFARE

The USGS is one of the Nation's premier science agencies. Approximately two thirds of the USGS budget is allocated for research and development. In addition to underpinning the science activities and decisions of the Department of the Interior, this research is used by communities and businesses across the Nation to make informed decisions regarding land use planning, emergency response, natural resource management, engineering, and education. Increased funding will be critical to implement the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences' *Earth Science and Applications from Space (ESAS) Decadal Survey* report released earlier this year. The report notes,

> "Earth science and applications are a key part of the Nation's information infrastructure, warranting a U.S. program of Earth observations from space that is robust, resilient, and appropriately balanced."

USGS research addresses many of society's greatest challenges for national security, health, and welfare. Several are highlighted below.

—Natural hazards—including earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, wildfires, and landslides—are a major cause of fatalities and economic losses. Recent natural disasters provide unmistakable evidence that the United States remains vulnerable to staggering losses. Landslides, which occur in every State, cause more than $3 billion in damage each year. An improved scientific understanding of geologic hazards will reduce future losses by informing effective planning and mitigation.

Decision makers in many sectors rely upon USGS data to respond to natural disasters. For example, USGS volcano monitoring provides key data to enable decisions on aviation safety. Data from the USGS network of stream gages is used by the National Weather Service to issue flood and drought warnings. Earth and space observations provide data necessary to predict severe space weather events, which affect the electric power grid, satellite communications and information, and space-based position, navigation, and timing systems. GSA urges Congress to support efforts for USGS to modernize and upgrade its natural hazards monitoring and warning systems to protect communities from the devastating personal and economic effects of natural disasters, including additional 3-D elevation mapping and earthquake early warning systems.

—On December 20, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order entitled "A Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals", that finds,

"The United States is heavily reliant on imports of certain mineral commodities that are vital to the Nation's security and economic prosperity. This dependency of the United States on foreign sources creates a strategic vulnerability for both its economy and military to adverse foreign government action, natural disaster, and other events that can disrupt supply of these key minerals."

GSA supports increases in minerals science, research, information, data collection and analysis that will allow for more economic and environmental management and utilization of minerals. In addition, GSA supports increases in funding supporting research to better understand domestic sources of energy, including conventional and unconventional oil and gas and renewables. The new Three Dimensional mapping and Economic Empowerment Program (3DEEP) program will provide new resources and leverage current data by building on the existing and successful 3DEP and National Cooperative Geological Mapping Program to accelerate geological and geophysical mapping, identify critical mineral sites for further scientific review, and provide a host of additional benefits to local, State, and Federal entities for safety, security, scientific, and industrial uses.

—The quality and quality of surface water and groundwater have a direct impact on the wellbeing of societies and ecosystems, as evidenced by flooding and drought impacts experienced across the U.S. during the past year. Greater scientific understanding of these resources through monitoring and research by the USGS is necessary to ensure adequate and safe water resources for the health and welfare of society.

—USGS research on climate impacts is used by local policymakers and resource managers to make sound decisions based on the best possible science. The Climate Adaptation Science Centers, for example, provide scientific information necessary to anticipate, monitor, and adapt to the effects of climate change at regional and local levels, allowing communities to make smart, cost-effective decisions.

—The Landsat satellites have amassed the largest archive of remotely sensed land data in the world, a tremendously important resource for natural resource exploration, land use planning, and assessing water resources, the impacts of natural disasters, and global agriculture production. GSA supports interagency efforts to plan a path forward for future support of Landsat.

Activities from hazard monitoring to mineral forecasts are supported by the Core System Sciences, Facilities, and Science Support. These programs and services, such as geologic mapping and data preservation, provide critical information, data, and infrastructure that underpin the research of the USGS. Increased funding is particularly needed in Facilities to address many deferred maintenance issues.

Knowledge of the earth sciences is essential to scientific literacy and to meeting the environmental and resource challenges of the twenty-first century. It is also fundamental to training the next generation of Earth science professionals. GSA is very concerned that cuts in Earth science funding will cause students and young professionals to leave the field, potentially leading to a lost generation of professionals in areas that are already facing worker shortages. Investments in these areas could lead to job growth, as demand for these professionals now and in the future is assessed to be high.

Emerging Workforce Trends in the Energy and Mining Industries: A Call to Action, found, "In mining (nonfuel and coal) a personnel crisis for professionals and workers is pending and it already exists for faculty." Another recent study by the American Geosciences Institute, *Status of the Geoscience Workforce Report 2016,* found an expected deficit of approximately 90,000 geoscientists by 2024. Strong investments in geoscience research are needed to prepare citizens for these job opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony about the U.S. Geological Survey. For additional information or to learn more about the Geological Society of America—including GSA Position Statements on water resources, mineral and energy resources, natural hazards, and public investment in Earth science research—please visit www.geosociety.org or contact GSA's Director for Geoscience Policy Kasey White at kwhite@geosociety.org.

[This statement was submitted by Kasey White, Director for Geoscience Policy Regarding the U.S. Geological Survey.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION (GLIFWC)

1. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, OPERATION OF INDIAN PROGRAMS
   a. *Trust-Natural Resources Management, Rights Protection Implementation (RPI).*—At least the $40,161,000 provided in fiscal year 2018 and a proportionate share for Great Lakes Area Resource Management.
   b. *Trust-Natural Resources Management, Tribal Management/Development Program (TM/DP).*—At least the $11,652,000 provided in fiscal year 2018 and the TM/DP requests of GLIFWC's member Tribes.
   c. *Trust-Natural Resources Management, Invasive Species.*—At least $6,724,000, the amount estimated in fiscal year 2018.
   d. *Tribal Government, Contract Support.*—Full funding, estimated to be at least $241,600,000, as provided in fiscal year 2018.

Funding Authorizations: Snyder Act, 25 U.S.C. s. 13; Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, (Public Law 93–638), 25 U.S.C. ss. 450f and 450h; and the treaties between the United States and GLIFWC's member Ojibwe Tribes.[1]

2. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
   a. *Environmental Programs and Management, Geographic Programs, Great Lakes Restoration.*—The historical allocation of $300,000,000 including a Tribal program of no less than $15,000,000.
   b. *State and Tribal Assistance Grants, Categorical Grants, Tribal General Assistance Program.*—At least the fiscal year 2018 amount of $65,476,000.

Funding Authorizations: Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. s. 1268(c); Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, Public Law 114–322 s. 5005; and treaties cited above.

Funding through these programs fulfills Federal treaty, trust and contract obligations to GLIFWC's member Tribes, providing vital resources to sustain their governmental programs. We ask that Congress maintain these programs and provide funding at no less than fiscal year 2018 levels.

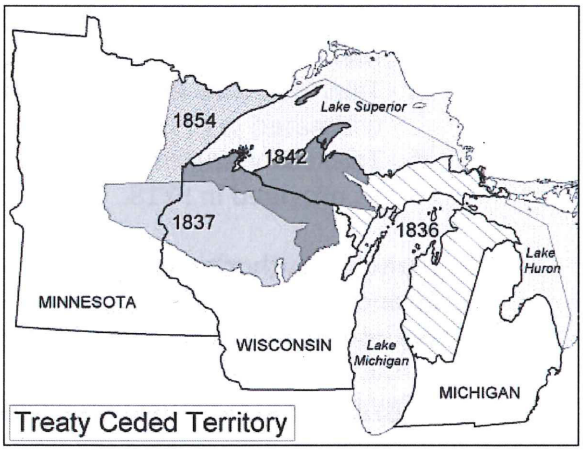
GLIFWC'S FISCAL YEAR 2019 FUNDING REQUEST HIGHLIGHTS

1. GLIFWC would be pleased to accept an allocation of appropriated RPI funding that is in the same proportion as it has currently been receiving.
2. Full restoration of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding to its historical $300,000,000 level, with a total Tribal set-aside of no less than $15,000,000.
3. Full funding for contract support costs, as required by the ISDEA Act.
4. Sufficient funding in the Tribal Management and Development line item for GLIFWC's member Tribes to fulfill their needs for reservation-based natural resource programs and to fund the Circle of Flight wetlands program.

GLIFWC'S GOAL—A SECURE FUNDING BASE TO FULFILL TREATY PURPOSES AND LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

For more than 30 years, Congress has funded GLIFWC to implement comprehensive conservation, natural resource protection, and law enforcement programs that: (1) protect public safety; (2) ensure member Tribes are able to implement their treaty reserved rights to hunt, fish, and gather throughout the ceded territories; (2) ensure a healthy and sustainable natural resource base to support those rights; and (3) promote healthy, safe communities. These programs also provide a wide range of public benefits, and facilitate participation in management partnerships in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota.

[1] Specifically, the Treaty of 1836, 7 Stat. 491, Treaty of 1837, 7 Stat. 536, Treaty of 1842, 7 Stat. 591, and Treaty of 1854, 10 Stat. 1109. The rights guaranteed by these treaties have been affirmed by various court decisions, including a 1999 U.S. Supreme Court case.



GLIFWC'S PROGRAMS—PROMOTING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AND EDUCATING TRIBAL MEMBERS THROUGH TREATY RIGHTS EXERCISE

Established in 1984, GLIFWC is a natural resources management agency of 11 member Ojibwe Tribes with resource management responsibilities over their ceded territory (off-reservation) hunting, fishing and gathering treaty rights. These ceded territories extend over a 60,000 square mile area in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan.[2] GLIFWC employs over 80 full-time staff, including natural resource scientists, technicians, conservation enforcement officers, policy specialists, and public information specialists.

GLIFWC strives to implement its programs in a holistic, integrated manner consistent with the culture and values of its member Tribes, especially in light of Tribal lifeways that the exercise of treaty rights supports. This means not only ensuring that Tribal members can legally exercise their rights, but supporting community efforts to educate them about the benefits (physical, spiritual, and cultural) of harvesting and consuming a more traditional diet, as well as promoting intergenerational learning and the transmission of traditional cultural and management practices. These programs, in turn, promote safe and healthy communities by encouraging healthy lifestyles, intergenerational connections, and cultural education.

GLIFWC and its member Tribes thank Congress, and particularly this subcommittee, for its continuing support of these treaty obligations and its recognition of the ongoing success of these programs. There are two main elements of this fiscal year 2019 funding request:

BIA Great Lakes Area Management (Within the RPI Line Item): A proportionate share of the $40,161,000 provided in 2018 for the RPI line item. The fiscal year 2018 increase of $500,000 is greatly appreciated. GLIFWC continues to support allocating increases to the RPI line item in the historically proportionate amounts.

There is a long history of Federal funding for treaty rights protection and implementation programs. For more than 30 years, Congress and each administration have appropriated funding for these programs. GLIFWC has testified about the fact that the need is consistently greater than RPI funding, and the impacts that underfunding has on treaty rights programs. The Federal Government, as a treaty signatory, is required to uphold treaty rights. It has appropriately chosen to invest in our programs as efficient, cost-effective service delivery mechanisms at the appropriate governmental level to implement Federal court orders and to protect and restore the natural resources on which the treaty rights are based.

Tribes can only protect the resources that support their rights if they undertake relevant scientific and technical analyses that inform the design and implementation of adaptive natural resource management activities. To this end, maximum flexibility should be provided to GLIFWC and its Tribes to define for themselves the

[2] GLIFWC's programs do not duplicate those of the Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority or the 1854 Treaty Authority. GLIFWC also coordinates with its member Tribes with respect to Tribal treaty fishing that extends beyond reservation boundaries by virtue of the Treaty of 1854 and the reservations' locations on Lake Superior.

science and research activities best suited to the needs of their member Tribes and the particular issues within their region. GLIFWC would gladly accept funds in proportion to overall RPI funding, as provided in fiscal year 2018.

EPA Environmental Programs and Management: $300,000,000. GLIFWC supports continued funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) as an important non-regulatory program that enhances and ensures coordinated governance in the Great Lakes, fulfillment of international agreements, and substantive natural resource protection and restoration projects. GLIFWC supports consistent funding for the GLRI at $300 million, the level that has been provided and received unwavering bipartisan support since 2011.

GLIFWC appreciates the directive in the fiscal year 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act's explanatory statement that EPA should work with Tribes and the BIA to develop a proposal for a distinct Tribal program within the GLRI. GLIFWC is working with those agencies to develop such a program, and recommends that the program be funded at no less than $15 million to ensure that it allows Tribes the flexibility to develop the programs that are of the highest priorities to their communities, fulfills the spirit of self-determination, meets treaty obligations, and carries out Federal trust responsibilities.

Sustained funding for the GLRI allows GLIFWC to maintain its participation in interjurisdictional governance structures, including the implementation of the revised Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). With GLRI funding, GLIFWC has been able to provide active support on numerous implementing Annexes, including the Lakewide Action and Management Plan, Aquatic Invasive Species, and Chemicals of Mutual Concern Annexes.

Sustained GLRI funding also allows GLIFWC to augment and leverage its current natural resource protection and enhancement activities. This includes enhancing GLIFWC's participation in interagency efforts to assess the impacts of mining waste (stamp sands) on an important whitefish and lake trout spawning reef in Lake Superior, and to explore remediation options and strategies.

RESULTS AND BENEFITS OF GLIFWC'S PROGRAMS

1. *Maintain the Requisite Capability To Meet Legal Obligations, To Conserve Natural Resources and To Regulate Treaty Harvests*: While more funding would increase program comprehensiveness, sustained funding at the fiscal year 2018 level supports Tribal compliance with various court decrees and intergovernmental agreements that govern the Tribes' treaty-reserved hunting, fishing and gathering rights. Funding for science and research enhances GLIFWC's capability to undertake work and participate in relevant partnerships to address ecosystem threats that harm treaty natural resources, including those related to climate change.
2. *Remain a Trusted Management and Law Enforcement Partner, and Scientific Contributor in the Great Lakes Region*: GLIFWC has become a respected and integral part of management and law enforcement partnerships that conserve natural resources and protect public safety. It brings a Tribal perspective to interjurisdictional Great Lakes management fora and would use its scientific expertise to study issues and geographic areas that are important to its member Tribes but that others may not be examining.
3. *Maintain the Overall Public Benefits That Derive From Its Programs*: Over the years, GLIFWC has become a recognized and valued partner in natural resource management. Because of its institutional experience and staff expertise, GLIFWC has built and maintained numerous partnerships that: (i) provide accurate information and data to counter social misconceptions about Tribal treaty harvests and the status of ceded territory natural resources; (ii) maximize each partner's financial resources and avoid duplication of effort and costs; (iii) engender cooperation rather than competition; and (iv) undertake projects that achieve public benefits that no one partner could accomplish alone.
4. *Encourage and Contribute to Healthy Tribal Communities*: GLIFWC works with its member Tribes' communities to promote the benefits of treaty rights exercise. These include the health benefits associated with a more traditional diet and the intergenerational learning that takes place when elders teach youth. In addition, GLIFWC sponsors a camp each summer where Tribal youth build leadership skills, strengthen connections to the outdoors, and learn about treaty rights and careers in natural resource fields.

[This statement was submitted by Michael J. Isham Jr., Executive Administrator.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SUPPORTERS OF THE GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND SAGE-STEPPE HABITAT IN THE AMERICAN WEST

DEAR CHAIRMAN MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBER UDALL:

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of sportsmen and women, conservationists and outdoor recreation enthusiasts represented by our organizations, we are writing to request your support for robust levels of fiscal year 2019 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations funding for several key programs benefitting the greater sage-grouse and sage-steppe habitat in the American West. We have also included three subcommittee report language requests for your consideration as a companion to our funding requests. We would like to thank this subcommittee for your tremendous leadership on sage grouse priorities through a series of recent budget cycles and encourage your continued commitment to the following important priorities:

BLM Resource Protection and Maintenance.—We support stable levels of fiscal year 2019 funding consistent with the final fiscal year 2018 level and additional funding if available for the BLM Resource Protection and Maintenance account. The Resource Protection and Maintenance account supports BLM land use planning and compliance activities as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and ensures public land conservation and environmentally sensitive resources, such as the greater sage-grouse, are fully considered during the land use planning process.

BLM Resource Management Planning.—The BLM is guided by the Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy which is the largest landscape-level conservation and restoration effort in contemporary U.S. history, and is unprecedented in geographic scale and complexity. As BLM continues implementing the 98 sage grouse plans, new information and challenges have identified further needed investments to keep plan implementation effective and on schedule. We support strong fiscal year 2019 funding consistent with the final fiscal year 2018 funding levels for the BLM's focus on sage-grouse conservation. Greater sage-grouse habitat has experienced a precipitous decline across the West, and ongoing collaboration across public and private lands is needed to ensure this species remains off the Endangered Species list. These efforts also benefit other game species such as mule deer and support recreational hunting and associated rural jobs across much of the West.

We wish to thank the subcommittee for your support for increased fiscal year 2018 levels of funding for the Resource Management Planning subactivity and encourage the subcommittee to again recommend specific funding under this budget for greater sage-grouse, sage-steppe and other high priority conservation efforts. This activity includes funding for BLM's high priority planning efforts including the initiation of new resource management plans, plan evaluations and implementation strategies. Ensuring BLM has the resources necessary to integrate the most recent State and Federal fish and wildlife data; current trends in outdoor recreation and land use activities; and ongoing energy development within the planning process is paramount for ensuring the agency is achieving desired conditions across the more than 247 million acres of BLM-managed public lands. We support the BLM Land Use Planning function and its focus on collaboration with local communities and State and Tribal governments, as well as on science-based analysis.

BLM Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) Program.—The BLM Resource Management Planning sub-activity includes the AIM Program account. The AIM Program is built around a strategy designed to reach across programs, jurisdictions, stakeholders and agencies to provide a framework for consistent data and information valuable to decisionmakers. The AIM Program has been important in ongoing DOI and BLM sage-grouse partnership efforts and we support maintaining this program consistent with final fiscal year 2018 funding.

BLM Wildlife and Fisheries Management.—We support strong funding levels consistent with final fiscal year 2018 levels and increases if available for the BLM Wildlife and Fisheries Management account and the agency's work through this account to support the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of fish, wildlife and their habitats on public lands throughout the BLM system. Important BLM activities such as conducting inventories of fish and wildlife resources and developing cooperative management plans while providing for responsible recreation and commercial uses are critically important for BLM's ongoing work with State fish and wildlife agencies and local communities across the West. A BLM Wildlife Management program increase would primarily support more on-the-ground vegetative treatments to protect, improve, or restore sage steppe habitat and other high priority habitats. Funds also would assist States in implementing greater sage-grouse conservation plans. In addition to strong annual levels of funding for this account,

we support specifically identifying annual funding within this account for sage-grouse conservation efforts.

BLM National Seed Strategy.—The BLM's efforts to implement the Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy are reliant upon successful execution of the National Seed Strategy, which is integral to the Administration's wildland fire rehabilitation efforts and the success of the DOI Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy. Congress approved a $5.0 million program increase in fiscal year 2017 within the Wildlife Management account to more aggressively implement the National Seed Strategy and develop much needed nationwide networks of native seed collectors, researchers developing wildland seed into commercial crops, farmers and growers increasing native seed supplies, and nurseries and storage facilities providing sufficient amounts of appropriate seed. Restoration ecologists will identify the appropriate timing and placement for seed and plant material to optimize treatment results. The seed materials and knowledge gained from BLM's investment in the National Seed Strategy will focus on restoring the sage-steppe landscape in the near term, with all BLM land rehabilitation and restoration efforts benefitting over the long-term. We support a level of funding consistent with fiscal year 2017 and final fiscal year 2018 levels for the National Seed Strategy.

BLM Office of Wildland Fire.—We support no less than $30 million in funding for the Resilient Landscapes program and increases consistent with fiscal year 2018 final funding and spend plans within the Office of Wildland Fire to allow the BLM to continue to support resilience work in the sagebrush ecosystem.

USFWS Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation.—We support several important programs within the USFWS budget to support greater sage-grouse conservation including the Conservation and Restoration; Wildlife and Habitat Management; and Partners for Fish and Wildlife accounts. Consistent with earlier recommendations, we support the subcommittee's focus on sage-grouse within these budgets and encourage the subcommittee to continue to identify funding within the Candidate Conservation account for the sagebrush steppe ecosystem. Similarly, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program coordinates closely with BLM and NRCS to work with private landowners on voluntary, non-regulatory partnerships to advance sage-grouse conservation across the West. We strongly support this program and urge the subcommittee to consider an increase to support the work of program staff and their ongoing efforts to advance on-the-ground sage grouse conservation in close coordination with the Nation's ranching and agricultural communities.

USGS Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation.—We support funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels in fiscal year 2019 to provide the resources necessary for USGS engagement on sage grouse science, data collection and technical assistance.

USFS Greater-Sage Grouse Conservation.—The USFS is a key Federal partner along with DOI and its agencies in on-the-ground collaboration on sage grouse conservation. In addition to USFS sage-grouse forest planning activities, the agency has been engaged in the Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Engagement Strategy and has established a national position to coordinate on sage grouse issues as well as new State liaisons responsible for transferring information to the States. We support this USFS engagement role and the resources necessary to ensure this coordination remains a priority.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES LANGUAGE REQUESTS

1. We thank the subcommittee for your work to oppose new greater sage-grouse language in the final Fiscal Year 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act. In addition to continued support for BLM sage-grouse funding, we continue to encourage this subcommittee to oppose efforts to attach sage-grouse rider language during the fiscal year 2019 appropriations process.
2. We have concerns regarding recent indications the BLM is shifting funding away from the Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) strategy and its focus on the greater sage-grouse and data coordination activities. AIM is funded by both the BLM Wildlife Management and Planning subactivities. We strongly support maintaining this account consistent with fiscal year 2018 funding and ensuring sage-grouse remains a priority activity for this program.

   Recommended language: *As many of the greater sage-grouse plan decisions operate across multiple BLM field offices and jurisdictional boundaries, it is critical that BLM field offices have a shared understanding of the commitments in the greater sage-grouse plans and a common approach to implementing them. BLM's development of the Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) strategy has been critical in this effort and the Committee supports funding for AIM consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.*

3. We have concerns regarding recent indications the BLM is shifting funding from resource programs designed to do proactive work (resource program subactivities: Cultural; Wildlife; Soil/Water/Air) to support oil and gas plan amendments. This has been a long-standing issue between programs at BLM. BLM Planning has long pushed the other BLM resource programs to use their funding to support oil and gas plans, planning amendments, and project assessments to help analyze how these proposed actions impact their resources (e.g., directing the BLM Wildlife Program to spend money studying how oil/gas amendments impact wildlife). Justifiably, we understand and support the resource programs using their funding for beneficial activities for their designated resources, but not for analyzing impacts from planning or project proposals from other programs.

   Recommended language: *The Committee has concerns regarding BLM funding shifts from BLM resource program subactivities such as cultural, wildlife, and soil/air/water for use by BLM to analyze impacts to designated resources of proposed projects or plans. All proposed project assessments or planning should come from funding within the planning program or within the sub-activity that is the primary beneficiary of the project or plan rather than from other non-planning, supporting resource program sub-activities.*

Thank you for your consideration of these appropriations and language requests and we look forward to working with you and your staff as the fiscal year 2019 budget process moves forward this year.

Sincerely,

Archery Trade Association
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
California Waterfowl
Fly Fishers International
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative
National Deer Alliance
National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Pheasants Forever
Pope and Young Club
Quail Forever
Quality Deer Management Association
Snook and Gamefish Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Wildlife Management Institute

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES, HUMANE SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE FUND, AND DORIS DAY ANIMAL LEAGUE

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony on matters of importance to our organizations. We urge the subcommittee to address the following requests in the fiscal year 2019 Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies budget:

—*EPA, CompTox Program*: increase over President's request
—*BLM, Wild Horse and Burro Program*: (1) $135,000,000, contingent on immediate implementation of a management program based on four prongs detailed below; (2) fiscal year 2018 enacted language to protect wild horses and burros from slaughter; (3) fiscal year 2018 enacted language regarding transfer of wild horses and burros.
—*FWS, Multinational Species Conservation Fund*: $11,061,000 (fiscal year 2018 enacted level), with no funds from conservation programs to promote trophy hunting, trade in animal parts, or other consumptive uses of wildlife.
—*FWS, Office of International Affairs*: $15,816,000 (fiscal year 2018 enacted level)
—*FWS, Office of Law Enforcement*: $77,053,000 (fiscal year 2018 enacted level)

We also request that the budget exclude any language that would in any way: impede efforts to combat wildlife trafficking; relax regulations on imports of sport-hunted trophies; or undermine the Endangered Species Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY—COMPTOX PROGRAM

Thousands of chemicals are currently used, and hundreds of new ones are introduced each year, for which EPA needs to conduct toxicity assessments. EPA is also tasked with evaluating and registering pesticides and, more recently, evaluating chemicals for possible endocrine activity. To address these needs, EPA established the National Center for Computational Toxicology (NCCT) to predict hazard and prioritize chemicals for further screening and testing, developing and using high-throughput assays and predictive tools which are less expensive and time consuming and more predictive of relevant biological pathways.

Through EPA's CompTox program, EPA has screened more than 2,000 chemicals (for industrial applications, food additives, pesticides, and consumer products) and evaluated them in more than 700 high-throughput assays. Additionally, EPA is using ToxCast data to prioritize chemicals for evaluation in the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program. Tox21, a collaboration among EPA, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, and the Food and Drug Administration, is currently screening 10,000 chemicals to improve the effectiveness of drug development. NCCT also works with other divisions of EPA's Office of Research and Development to develop predictive tools and systems biology databases. These projects are reducing animal use while improving the speed and accuracy of chemical evaluation relevant to several programs. With the passage in 2016 of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, there is a marked need to ensure these tools are augmented and taken up by the agency.

Congress appropriated increases for the program's budget in fiscal years 2016, 2017 and 2018. However, the President's budget has significantly slashed this progress. We support an increase over and above the President's budget to reinstate the CompTox program in fiscal year 2019. This will increase the likelihood of realizing the goals presented in the CompTox program, and assure a more predictable and relevant chemicals safety assessment.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT—WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM

The HSUS is one of the leading advocates for the protection and welfare of wild horses and burros in the United States, with a long history of working collaboratively with BLM—the agency mandated to protect America's wild horses and burros—on the development of effective and humane management techniques.

For years, The HSUS has strongly cautioned against continuing to gather large numbers of wild horses and burros from our rangelands annually without implementing any program for suppressing population growth. This approach has led BLM into a continuous cycle of roundups and removals, even as long-term, cost-efficient, and humane management strategies, such as fertility control, are readily available.

Because of this strategy, BLM has long removed many more wild horses and burros from the range than it could expect to adopt, while simultaneously being unable to stabilize on range populations. Consequently, the cost of the wild horse and burro program has continued to grow, without any benefit to wild horses, the government, or our public rangelands.

To move the agency away from this failed paradigm, Appropriations language in the past few years has requested that BLM create a long-term, humane, and financially sustainable management path that incorporates fertility control tools. This approach is supported by the NAS report, which called for increased use of on-the-range management tools, including the fertility control vaccine Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP). Further, studies have shown that incorporating fertility control into the management of wild horses and burros would significantly lower the program's carrying costs. A 2008 paper determined that on-the-range contraception could reduce total wild horse and burro management costs by 14 percent, saving $6.1 million per year. In addition, the results of a paper describing an economic model commissioned by The HSUS indicates that treating wild horses on one hypothetical Herd Management Area (HMA) with PZP could save BLM approximately $5 million dollars over 12 years, while achieving and maintaining Appropriate Management Levels of 874 horses. Since BLM estimates that more than 72,000 wild horses roam in the United States, PZP use could save tens of millions of dollars if applied broadly across all HMAs.

However, instead of pursuing Congressional recommendations to increase the use of fertility control tools, BLM has consistently failed to implement any humane management plan. In fact, in 2017 the agency treated with fertility control only 777 horses from the estimated rangeland population of 72,000—only slightly more than 1 percent of the population.

Now, the President's fiscal year 2019 budget calls for the agency to further reduce its use of fertility control and requests the ability for the agency to send wild horses and burros to slaughter. This will not solve rangeland population conflicts; rather, it will simply repeat the past failures of attempting to lower rangeland populations by removing animals. Twenty years of history has shown that this does not maintain stable populations. Moreover, the overwhelming majority of the American public opposes horse slaughter, and will not accept this as a solution for managing our wild horses.

Additionally, BLM submitted a report to Congress entitled, "Management Options for a Sustainable Wild Horse and Burro Program," which includes four management options. We firmly believe that a sustainable management program would include four prongs:

1. Conduct targeted gathers and removals at densely populated HMAs to reduce herd size in the short term.
2. Treat gathered horses with fertility control prior to returning to the range. This program should continue until 90 percent of the mares on the range have been treated and continued consistent fertility control is implemented.
3. Relocate horses in holding facilities, and those taken off the range to large cost-effective pasture facilities funded through public-private partnerships.
4. Promote adoptions in order to reduce captive populations and costs.

While BLM's report did not include an option with these four prongs, it is imperative, for the health of the horses and the rangeland, that immediate action be taken to implement a plan with these four prongs.

For these reasons, we ask that you fund the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program at $135,000,000, contingent on the agency's immediate implementation of a management program that is based on the four prongs listed above.

We also request inclusion of the same language barring wild horses and burros from being sent to slaughter that figured in the fiscal year 2018 omnibus: "Appropriations herein made shall not be available for the destruction of healthy, unadopted, wild horses and burros that results in their destruction for processing into commercial products," (Division G, p. 729, lines 17–22).

We also request inclusion of the same protections for wild horses and burros transferred to other agencies that were included in the fiscal year 2018 omnibus, ensuring that transferred wild horses and burros shall not be: destroyed in a way that results in their destruction into commercial products; sold or otherwise transferred in a way that results in their destruction for processing into commercial products; or euthanized except upon the recommendation of a licensed veterinarian, in cases of severe injury, illness, or advanced age (Division G, p. 782, lines 1–21).

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE—MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

The President's budget for FWS's MSCF is $6 million—a staggering cut of more than 45 percent from the $11,061,000 appropriated in fiscal year 2018. We urge the subcommittee to restore the $5,061,000 in funding and appropriate MSCF at its fiscal year 2018 enacted level.

The MSCF supports critical conservation programs for some of our world's most iconic species: African and Asian elephants, rhinos, tigers, great apes, and sea turtles. One recent project MSCF has helped support is aerial surveillance for anti-poaching and wildlife management in Zakouma National Park in Chad.

The HSUS joins a broad coalition of organizations in support of MSCF, while asking that the sales of semi-postal stamps benefiting this program remain supplementary to annually appropriated levels.

While we wholeheartedly support continued funding for MSCF, we are concerned about past incidents and oppose any future use of funds from these conservation programs to promote trophy hunting, trade in animal parts, and other consumptive uses—including live capture for trade, captive breeding, entertainment, or for the public display industry—under the guise of conservation. The use of MSCF grants must be consistent with the spirit of its authorizing law.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE—OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

In fiscal year 2018, the subcommittee provided $15,816,000 to the FWS OIA. The President's budget provides $14.5 million; we request that you add at least $1,316,000 to that amount in fiscal year 2019 to match or exceed the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. OIA programs provide critical resources to help stakeholders on the ground fight wildlife trafficking and poaching. In particular, funds will be used for comprehensive and holistic solutions in other countries to mitigate the threats of wildlife poaching and trafficking—including community engagement, law enforcement, reducing consumer demand for trafficked wildlife, and international collaboration.

In the past year, the American public has reacted with dismay and disapproval to the administration's actions to allow increased imports of sport-hunted trophies into the United States. We ask that the subcommittee exclude any language from the Appropriations bill that would relax regulations on imports of such trophies. We also request the subcommittee to urge the Fish and Wildlife Service to refrain from relaxing regulations on imports of such trophies.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE—OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

The President's budget provides $69.5 million for FWS OLE, a decrease of almost 10 percent from the $77,053,000 in fiscal year 2018 enacted. We urge the subcommittee to continue funding OLE at the fiscal year 2018 level. The United States is among the world's largest consumers of illegal wildlife, underscoring the importance of OLE's work fighting transnational and domestic wildlife crime.

Accomplishments from the past year illustrate how OLE has capitalized on past investments to make progress toward these goals. The OLE has ongoing operations to combat the illegal trade of elephant ivory, glass eels, and other wildlife products. Operation Crash, aimed at rhino horn trafficking, secured the September 2017 conviction of a California man for selling rhino horn. In January 2018, another investigation yielded the conviction of two Florida men for stealing more than 650 sea turtle eggs from their nests.

In addition, we ask that the bill exclude language to weaken the enforcement or implementation of the June 6, 2016 rule combating ivory trade in the United States (81 Fed. Reg. 36387).

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is fundamental to the protection of our planet's most imperiled animals. This law, which is supported by 90 percent of American voters, has prevented the extinction of 99 percent of the species under its care, including the bald eagle. Under the ESA, the responsibility to list and delist species lies with Federal agencies, which must make these listing decisions based on the best available science. The authority to make these science-based management decisions should remain with Federal agencies.

We ask that the fiscal year 2019 budget exclude any language that prevents Federal agencies from making listing or delisting decisions based on sound science, or that otherwise undermines the ESA.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE INTERSTATE MINING COMPACT COMMISSION

My name is Thomas L. Clarke and I serve as Executive Director of the Interstate Mining Compact Commission. I appreciate the opportunity to present this statement to the subcommittee regarding the views of the Interstate Mining Compact Commission's 26 member States on the fiscal year 2019 budget request for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) within the U.S. Department of the Interior. In its proposed budget, OSMRE is requesting $52.4 million to fund Title V grants to States for the implementation of their regulatory programs, a reduction of $16.1 million below the fiscal year 2018 enacted level.

The Compact is comprised of 26 States that together produce some 95 percent of the Nation's coal, as well as other important minerals. The Compact's purposes are to advance the protection and restoration of land, water and other resources affected by mining through the encouragement of programs in each of the party States that will achieve comparable results in protecting, conserving and improving the usefulness of natural resources and to assist in achieving and maintaining an efficient, productive and economically viable mining industry.

OSMRE has projected an amount of $52.4 million for Title V grants to States in fiscal year 2019, an amount which is matched by the States. These grants support the implementation of State regulatory programs under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) and as such are essential to the full and effective operation of those programs.[1] Pursuant to these primacy programs, the States have the most direct and critical responsibilities for conducting regulatory operations to minimize the impact of coal extraction operations on people and the environment. The States accomplish this through a combination of permitting, inspection and enforcement duties, designating lands as unsuitable for mining operations, and ensuring that timely reclamation occurs after mining.

In fiscal year 2018, Congress approved $68.590 million for State and Tribal Title V grants pursuant to the Omnibus Appropriations Bill. This continued a much-needed trend whereby the amount appropriated for these regulatory grants aligned with the demonstrated needs of the States. The States are greatly encouraged by the

[1] OSMRE recognizes the significant role played by the States in its budget justification document on page 42 where it notes that "primacy States have the most direct and critical responsibilities for conducting regulatory operations to minimize the impact of coal extraction operations on people and the environment. The States have the capabilities and knowledge to regulate the lands within their borders."

amount approved by Congress for Title V grant funding over the past several fiscal years. These grants had been stagnant for many years and the gap between the States' requests and what they received was widening. This debilitating trend was compounding the problems caused by inflation and other costs beyond the control of the States, thus undermining State efforts to realize needed program improvements and enhancements and jeopardizing their efforts to minimize the potential adverse impacts of coal extraction operations on people and the environment. OSMRE acknowledges the importance of this funding on page 41 of its budget justification document where the agency explains that "primacy States will continue to need a diverse and multidisciplinary cadre of personnel skilled in scientific and engineering areas to review mine permits, determine whether performance bond coverage and amounts are sufficient to ensure reclamation, conduct mine inspections and implement enforcement actions when necessary."

In past budget requests, OSMRE displayed a pattern of proposing inadequate funding for State Title V regulatory programs. Congress consistently rejected the proposed reductions and funded the programs at amounts that more closely aligned with the States' projected needs. OSMRE's fiscal year 2019 budget proposal once again moves the grants marker in the wrong direction with a cut in regulatory grants that is double what it had proposed (and that Congress rejected) in fiscal year 2018. OSMRE States that "this request fully funds the projected 2019 activity requirements, based on a downward trend in State grant execution and an historical return of unexecuted appropriated funds at the end of the grant cycle each year."

What OSMRE fails to note in its analysis is that, given fiscal constraints on State budgets, some States have only recently been able to move beyond hiring and salary freezes and restrictions on equipment and vehicle purchases, all of which have inhibited the ability of some States to spend the full amount of their Federal grant money in some years. With many States now recovering enough to utilize their full grant amount, it is imperative that funding be maintained at a level that meets the States' estimates of program needs. Those estimates reflect the ongoing work associated with State program implementation including permit reviews, inspections and enforcement at all inspectable units. Even with the downturn in coal production, the States' workload has not decreased—and in some cases has increased given the tenuous condition of some coal companies. In the latter situation, higher levels of vigilance are necessary to insure contemporaneous reclamation and abatement of violations.

OSMRE goes on to note that it will "continue to support State regulatory grant requests by re-distributing the available prior year funds as needed." We believe this plan to be shortsighted in that it fails to consider the improving fiscal conditions in many States and the damaging precedent set by appropriating suboptimal grant amounts. Our analysis of State program funding needs for fiscal year 2019 based on recent estimates indicate that a full Federal appropriation of $68.6 million will be required. In some States, additional matching Federal funds may be necessary to meet program needs.

Furthermore, there is no guarantee that these carryover funds will be available into the future or that they would not be reprogrammed for other purposes. Congress should specifically mandate through report language that all carryover funds from past fiscal years can only be used to fund State regulatory program needs. It would also be beneficial to State program implementation if OSMRE was authorized to utilize these carryover funds for State program enhancement activities (without matching requirements) for such critical program topics as electronic permitting, mine mapping, and benchmarking workshops.

We acknowledge that the amount of carryover funding specifically targeted for State regulatory grants has increased over the years, to approximately $20 million according to OSMRE's estimates. This is the result of two factors: (1) the fact that appropriations for State regulatory grants are treated as 2-year money, thereby providing flexibility for the use of these moneys and (2) a few tough years where States faced particular challenges in obtaining State share match moneys and/or expending grant funding before the end of the Federal fiscal year. With an improving economy and the ability to better manage State program expenditures (especially in years like fiscal year 2018 where grant funds are received so late in the fiscal year), States are expending almost all of what they receive. Furthermore, having a cushion of available carryover funding from year to year provides the certainty and confidence that both OSMRE and the States require in managing funding for these critical programs.

Clear indications from Congress that reliable, consistent funding will continue into the future has done much to stimulate support for these programs by State legislatures and budget officers who, in the face of difficult fiscal climates and constraints, have had to deal with the challenge of matching Federal grant dollars with

State funds. This is particularly true for those States whose match is partially based on permit fees from the mining industry, where significant reductions in permitting activity translate to fewer permit fees (but not in the amount of regulatory work for State regulatory agencies). Recall that any cut in Federal funding generally translates to an additional cut of an equal amount for overall program funding for many States, especially those without Federal lands, since these States can generally only match what they receive in Federal money.

We are encouraged with language in OSMRE's budget justification document that "in furtherance of cooperative Federalism, OSMRE will create an oversight steering committee with State Regulatory Authorities to discuss impediments to meaningful and effective oversight including revising current OSMRE oversight directions [sic]." IMCC approached OSMRE in September of 2017 to pursue these and other programmatic concerns, including the processing of State program amendments, NEPA requirements and funding protocols. Since that time, the States have engaged in a series of meetings with OSMRE to advance our common goals under SMCRA. However, the proof is in actual implementation of these laudable goals. Based on our experience with program operations, some of the very areas OSMRE identifies as reasons for its oversight activity are either dependent on State involvement (training) or have seen little in the way of progress over the years (State program amendment review and approval). We are hopeful that our recent engagement with OSMRE on these critical program elements will come to fruition, unlike past efforts which either stalled or lacked leadership support.

The overall performance of the States as detailed in OSMRE's annual State program evaluation reports, together with the fact that nationwide, 90 percent of the sites inspected did not have off-site impacts, demonstrates that the States are implementing their programs effectively and in accordance with the purposes and objectives of SMCRA. In our view, this suggests that OSMRE is adequately accomplishing its statutory oversight obligations with current Federal program funding and that any increased workloads are likely to fall upon the States, which have primary responsibility for implementing appropriate adjustments to their programs identified during Federal oversight.

To the extent that OSMRE is looking for ways to improve and enhance the overall implementation of SMCRA at both the State and Federal level, we urge the agency to move forward with the findings and recommendations that IMCC has presented to OSMRE to address the continuing fiscal impacts on program implementation, particularly with respect to duplicative inspection and enforcement requirements.

For all the above reasons, we urge Congress to approve not less than $68.6 million for State and Tribal Title V regulatory grants in fiscal year 2019, the same amount enacted by Congress over the past few fiscal years. In doing so, Congress will continue its commitment to ensuring the States have the resources they need to continue their work on the forefront of environmental protection and preservation of public health and safety.

OSMRE's proposed budget reduces expenditures for the National Technical Training Program (NTTP) and the Technical Information and Professional Service (TIPS) by 8 percent. While there may be room for some adjustments to these two programs, we caution against cuts that would impact the effectiveness of these worthwhile programs. The States rely heavily on the NTTP and TIPS training classes for their new employees and for refresher courses for more seasoned employees. These training programs are especially important as States find themselves at a point where many of their employees are finishing careers and must be replaced with less experienced people. Any adjustments to these two programs should involve the States working through the NTTP/TIPS Steering Committee.

With regard to funding for State Title IV Abandoned Mine Land (AML) program grants, the States and Tribes should receive the mandatory appropriation of $327.6 million in fiscal year 2019. In its proposed fiscal year 2019 budget, OSMRE seeks to eliminate $104 million for the AML economic development pilot projects due to the fact that this funding "overlaps with existing mandatory AML grants". We believe that funding for pilot projects is separate and distinct from other AML funding sources. As the subcommittee noted with regard to the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus Appropriations bill, this funding is targeted for economic and community development and reuse goals. We strongly support continued funding (from the General Fund) for these pilot projects. We also recommend concerted action to reauthorize fee collection under Title IV of SMCRA

IMCC also supports a continuation of funding for the watershed cooperative agreements at $1.5 million. Much valuable work has been accomplished through this program, especially given the matching funds that come from other sources besides OSMRE's share for these worthwhile projects.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this statement on the Office of Surface Mining's proposed budget for fiscal year 2019. We also endorse the statement of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAMLP), which goes into greater detail regarding the implications of OSMRE's funding for the States and Tribes related to the AML program. We would be happy to answer any questions.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SUPPORTERS FOR INVESTMENT IN USDA FOREST SERVICE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

DEAR CHAIRMAN MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBER UDALL:

Improving the future health and sustainability of the Nation's forests and grasslands requires a strong investment in USDA Forest Service Research and Development (R&D), with benefits to forests, wildlife, and fish. The undersigned organizations and professional societies urge Congress to *increase funding for* all *Forest Service R&D to a minimum of $307 million in fiscal year 2019 including all necessary increases for the Forest Inventory and Analysis program and at least $224 million for the remaining Forest and Rangeland Research program areas.*

Building on over 100 years of critically important research, Forest Service R&D programs inform policy and land-management decisions that improve health and use of the Nation's forests and rangelands, including aquatic systems. Funding for these important activities is critical to sustaining the Nation's natural resources. Showing value in this investment requires R&D leaders and scientists be attuned and responsive in providing relevant and timely information and support with an ability to effectively deliver assistance to all users.

The work conducted at experimental forests and ranges, regional research stations, and the Forest Products Lab, incubates progress on new products and services; tracks disturbance responses; fosters greater forest resilience; quantifies contributions to air and water quality; and drives innovation in renewable energy and product development. Notable recent Forest Service R&D contributions include:

Using Science to Guide Drought Management Response

Forest Service R&D has been a leader in reviewing impacts of drought on U.S. forests and rangelands to help better manage for drought resiliency and adaptation going forward. In 2016 Forest Service R&D released an assessment report that included management options to help Federal, State, and private organizations implement strategies to sustain healthy, resilient ecosystems that continue to produce vital goods and services, such as forest products and recreational fishing opportunities. This scientific synthesis of all recent research with additional research into identifying drought indicators on the landscape are important to natural resources managers as they consider how to integrate drought contingencies in planning efforts.

Helping to Identify Pragmatic Solutions for Species at Risk

Through long-term monitoring and collaborative research efforts with state agencies and other partners, Forest Service R&D generates an understanding of wildlife-habitat relationships for multiple species and communities that enables informed land management decisions that benefit wildlife and people. This includes informing conservation efforts that have helped to avoid Endangered Species Act listings for several forest and rangeland wildlife species. The USFS works on the greater sage-grouse in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management culminated in two USFS Records of Decision and associated land management plan amendments to conserve greater sage-grouse and its habitat on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management-administered lands.

Improving Smoke and Fire Management Capabilities

The Prescribed Fire Combustion and Atmospheric Dynamics Research Experiment is a landmark study improving predictions of fire spread and smoke behavior. This behavior prediction tool with the Blue Sky Smoke Management Model allows fire managers to better understand where flames and smoke from wildland fires will go to alert affected communities sooner and reduce human health effects. These tools also support decisionmaking for prescribed fires, allowing managers to model a variety of different scenarios to evaluate potential impacts on air quality and soil under a variety of conditions. Research scientists continue to expand on this landmark study by mapping risk assessments for entire national forests to better determine risk, predict cross boundary transmission probabilities that aid safe and effective use of fire as a tool. The desired outcome is increasing forest resiliency to disturbances, improving forest health, and protecting communities.

Developing Innovative Solutions to Managing Invasive Species

Forest Service R&D also develops innovative solutions to manage invasive pathogens and species that can decimate native plant and animal populations. This includes but is not limited to developing a cost-effective way to quickly identify the presence or absence of invasive species in an aquatic environment through eDNA technology; developing trees with a natural resistance to emerald ash borers; and successfully developing the first nonlethal treatment for white-nose syndrome (WNS)—a lethal fungal disease that has reduced bat populations by upwards of 80 percent in certain parts of the country. As voracious consumers of insect pests, bats reduce the pesticide bill of the U.S. agricultural industry by over $23 billion annually. Using a native soil bacterium to inhibit growth of the fungus that causes WNS, USFS researchers have been able to return previously sick bats to the wild.

Expanding and Protecting U.S. Market Opportunities for Forest Resources

The Forest Products Laboratory drives innovation and expansion of commercial applications for forest products. The work at the Lab on woody biofuels, advanced composites and wood structures, and value- added wood products promotes healthy forest ecosystems and economies by creating, enhancing, and protecting markets for forest products. In partnership with universities, scientists from Research Stations across the country, and partners in the private sector, the Lab is exploring potential of mass timber structures by conducting work on building codes and wood utilization models to increase use of wood in building construction and potentially invigorate markets for materials that were previously considered low value or undesirable. The Lab also houses the leading producer of nanocellulose material in the U.S. and explores breaking the woody fiber down to the nanoscale and what commercial uses make sense for this high strength, low weight material that can be collected from nearly any source. Building on unparalleled understanding of wood properties, R&D scientists are also able to combat deforestation and timber and wildlife trafficking by identifying origin of wood products, thereby protecting U.S. supply chains.

Calculating the Value of Urban Forests and Trees

The publication of Community Tree Guides helps managers calculate the value of new tree plantings in terms of property value increases, future energy savings, air pollutant uptake, and storm water runoff reduction. Credible information quantifying benefits of managed urban forests helps cities protect and restore environmental quality and enhance economic opportunity.

Guiding Conservation and Management of Aquatic Species

Using stream temperature and fish data, Forest Service R&D is developing important tools to inform and enhance management and conservation of aquatic resources. Climate Shield produces spatially-precise and user-friendly digital maps to guide conservation efforts in key watersheds. This tool forecasts specific locations that are most likely to continue supporting native cutthroat trout and ESA-listed bull trout allowing managers to make precise predictions about which streams are most likely to continue supporting native trout species based on future temperature scenarios.

Quantifying the Role of Forests in Providing Clean Air and Water

This research directly linking trees to clean air and water underscores the economic value and benefits trees and forests provide to all residents and communities. Recent R&D work shows that forests, which make up 26 percent of U.S. land area, are the source of 46 percent of the U.S. water supply—generating far better returns than other land uses. Forest Service R&D's understanding of how to manage forested landscapes to enhance production of sustained, low cost clean water supplies is critically important. Studies are also linking contributions of plants and trees to improved air quality and human health benefits. The community benefits that plants provide while removing pollutants and improving human health is valued at nearly $7 billion every year and is significantly more cost effective than alternatives.

Advancing forest science is integral to improving the health and welfare of U.S. forests and citizens, increasing the competitiveness of U.S. products in the global marketplace, and adapting to unforeseen future challenges. Continuing the trend of reductions in the R&D budget will result in significant gaps in the knowledge base and data sets necessary to address the many threats facing our Nation's forests and associated wildlife could result in competitive losses in the global economy. *Therefore, our organizations request a funding level of $307 million for USFS R&D with emphasis on research projects uniquely suited to R&D expertise and the furthering of agency and partner objectives.*

Sincerely,

American Fisheries Society
Ecological Society of America
Society for Range Management
Society of American Foresters
The Wildlife Society

PREPARED STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT INVESTMENTS IN KEY FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBER UDALL,

As Congress begins the process of crafting a budget for fiscal year 2019, we recognize the tough choices that must be made, especially in light of the ever-increasing costs of wildfires and the budgetary conflicts that challenge creates. In these tight budgetary conditions, maximizing the effectiveness of Federal dollars through partnerships with State and local actors can play a large role in addressing our national forest challenges. For this reason, the undersigned organizations support investments in key Federal programs that support State and private forestry. A critically important component of the Forest Service's budget, these programs help tackle some of the most pressing issues we face in forestry like wildfires, insects, and diseases while conserving and improving America's forests; enhancing and protecting our drinking water; contributing to healthy, livable communities; and encouraging forest product innovation and utilization. In turn, this helps the nation to foster strong economic growth, especially in rural communities.

The USDA Forest Service's (USFS) State and Private Forestry Area (S&PF) serves as a linchpin for the conservation of America's forests. Providing critical technical and financial assistance to private landowners and the resource managers responsible for managing more than 60 percent of America's forests helps to increase the pace of work and on-the-ground results, improve the resilience of the Nation's forests, avoid conversion of forests to other land uses, and protect communities and the environment from forest pests, invasive species, and wildland fires.

In fiscal year 2019, funding for the following State and Private Forestry and related programs will help improve the health of the Nation's forests and encourage economic growth in a sector that sustains more than one million jobs in the United States. Our funding level requests include:

—$29 million for the Forest Stewardship Program [1]

Administered in cooperation with State forestry agencies, this program plays a fundamental role in keeping forests as forests. Forest insects, diseases, and wildfire know no bounds between Federal and non-Federal forests. Assisting some of the 22 million private forest owners in managing non-Federal forests can help minimize the impacts to Federal lands saving the Federal taxpayer millions of dollars. A forest landowner with a forest stewardship plan is almost three times more likely to actively manage his or her land than one without a plan, leading to jobs and rural economic stimulus. Those who have stewardship plans are actively managing their lands for wildlife, clean water, and forest products. Ninety percent of the Nation's wood supply comes from private forest lands.

—$107 million for the Forest Health Management Programs—$59 million Federal Lands and $48 million Cooperative Lands

Pests and disease are national problems affecting private and public lands. Nationally, their impact is in the tens of billions of dollars. The USFS Forest Health Management Program supports efforts to prevent, contain, and eradicate these costly and dangerous pests and pathogens affecting trees and forests. Support for Forest Health programs is critical on both public land and private land, as insects and disease know no boundaries and forest health outcomes on any landscape depend upon a cross-ownership approach.

—$87 million for State Fire Assistance and $16 million for Volunteer Fire Assistance Programs [2]

Ninety percent of the Nation's wildfires are human-caused and most of these fires start on State and private lands, often spreading to Federal lands. Initial

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[1] President's budget proposes changing name of the Forest Stewardship Program to Working Forest Lands.

[2] President's budget proposes changing the name of these programs to National Fire Capacity and Rural Fire Capacity.

attack is the key to reducing large fire costs and these programs are critical to these suppression efforts. State and volunteer fire crews provide much of that initial attack response and are deployed to assist on Federal fires and other emergency or disaster situations, in compliance with national safety and training standards.

—$23 million for Landscape Scale Restoration

The USFS works collaboratively with States and other partners using State Forest Action Plans to target limited resources to the highest priority forest needs across ownerships to achieve results with meaningful local, regional, and national impacts. In an era when our forests are facing an increasing number of challenges, this program allows for a small Federal investment to be matched and leveraged by States and put towards the most pressing threats to the forests that sustain American communities.

—$83 million for Forest Inventory and Analysis

This program is our country's forest census, which has been ongoing since 1930 across all-ownerships, including the two-thirds of America's forests which are State or privately owned. FIA enables forest managers to understand the scope and scale of trends and changes in forest conditions, sustaining public benefits such as clean air and water, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, jobs and wood products. The collection and reporting of growth, removal, health, and other critical forest data in a timely manner is vital for forest industry and others in planning their future economic investments based on availability of forest raw materials.

While not specifying suggested budget levels, we want to also call your attention to the need for funding for programs which support community forestry programs as well as forestry research, which provides opportunities to expand forest markets and improve the health and quality of urban and rural communities. A combination of responsible forest management combined with healthy forest products markets will benefit the forest landscape and the communities that live in and around them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alabama Forestry Association
Aldo Leopold Foundation, Inc.
American Forest Foundation
American Forests
American Wood Council
American Woodcock Society
Center for Invasive Species Prevention
Connecticut Forest & Park Association
Conservation Resource Partners, LLC
Empire State Forest Products Association
Environmental Defense Fund
Enviva
Florida Forestry Association
Forest Business Network LLC
Forest Industry National Labor Management Committee
Forest Resources Association
Green Forests Work
Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association
International Paper
Kansas Tree Farm Committee
Kentucky Forest Industries Association
Louisiana Pacific
Michigan Forest Association
Minnesota Forestry Association
Mississippi Forestry Association
National Alliance of Forest Owners
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
National Association of State Foresters
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association
Ohio Forestry Association, Inc.
Rayonier
Ruffed Grouse Society
Rural & Agriculture Council of America
Society for Range Management
Society for the Protection of NH Forests
Society of American Foresters
Sonen Capital
Texas Forestry Association
The American Chestnut Foundation
The Hardwood Federation
The Pennsylvania Forestry Association
The Westervelt Company
Treated Wood Council
Trees Forever
Vermont Woodlands Association
Virginia Forestry Association
Washington Farm Forestry Association
Washington Forest Protection Association
Western Wood Preservers Institute
Wisconsin Paper Council

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SUPPORTERS OF THE JOINT FIRE SCIENCE PROGRAM

DEAR CHAIR MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBER UDALL:

As researchers, extension unit leaders, and practitioners who work with the Federal land management agencies on wildland fire, we urge you to maintain and fully fund the Joint Fire Science Program at historical levels of $6.914 million annually through the USDA Forest Service's Wildland Fire Management and $5.9 million annually through the U.S. Department of Interior Wildland Fire Management. Wildland fire is occurring over more acres at greater severity than in the past. Fire seasons are lengthening, exposing communities to greater risk from fire, post-fire floods, and smoke. The need for science is greater than ever to support strategic allocation of resources to meet the goals of the National Cohesive Strategy—restoring and maintaining fire-adapted landscapes, promoting fire-adapted communities, and fostering safe and effective response to fire.

The Joint Fire Science Program model for funding critical research, based on management priorities and with requirements for active science delivery, makes the program uniquely valuable and the only one of its kind. No other program offers researchers the opportunity to address fire management challenges in direct response to manager priorities. Based on direction from Congress, the program is a partnership of six Federal land management agencies that work together to identify and address problems associated with managing wildland fuels, fires, and fire-impacted ecosystems. Fire and land managers from the USDA Forest Service and U.S. Department of Interior together identify issues of critical interest, competitively allocate funding to researchers to tackle those issues via applied research, and require active delivery of science to managers and policymakers, linking science to management.

With a relatively limited budget, the Joint Fire Science Program has improved efficacy and accountability of agency activities by funding research to address important topics. Past research has focused on such salient issues as understanding smoke impacts to communities, overcoming barriers to prescribed fire, identifying how drivers of fire costs affect decisionmaking, analyzing fire behavior, and understanding fire effects on resources and communities. The program supports regional Fire Science Consortia that support science delivery to the management and practitioner communities. Research and science delivery under this program have proven valuable for both Federal land managers and partner organizations working to restore fire-adapted landscapes and promote fire-adapted communities.

We ask Congress to reject the administration's proposal to cancel the Joint Fire Science Program and request you maintain the Joint Fire Science Program at its past funding levels. Further, it is important that the program remain funded from within the Forest Service's Wildland Fire budget, rather than from Forest Service Research. Embedding the program in an already constrained research budget undercuts this successful model of a management-driven research program that responds directly to the challenges of wildland fire. We thank Congress for its past support of the Joint Fire Science Program and ask you to continue to make a priority of this important science-management partnership.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Cassandra Moseley (cmoseley@uoregon.edu) or Courtney Schultz (Courtney.Schultz@colostate.edu).

MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION AND COALITION SIGNATORIES

Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils
Forest Stewards Guild
National Association of State Foresters
Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition
Society of American Foresters

UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP SIGNATORIES

John P. Hayes, Dean, Warner College of Natural Resources, Colorado State University
Mark Paschke, Research Associate Dean, Warner College of Natural Resources, Colorado State University
Anthony S. Davis, Acting Dean, College of Forestry, Oregon State University
Ken Smith, Assistant Dean of the Environment, Integrated Program in the Environment, The University of the South
J. Keith Gilless, Dean, College of Natural Resources, University of California, Berkeley

Janet E. Nelson, Vice President for Research and Economic Development, University of Idaho
Martin Main, Associate Dean for Extension, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida
Thomas H. DeLuca, Dean, W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation, University of Montana
Cassandra Moseley, Senior Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation, University of Oregon
Lisa Graumlich, Dean, College of the Environment, University of Washington
Daniel J. Robison, Dean, Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design, West Virginia University

SIGNATORIES BY STATE

Alaska

Dawson Foster, Student and Wildland Firefighter, State of Alaska Division of Forestry, Anchorage
Alison D. York, Researcher, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks
Casey Brown, Post-doctoral Researcher, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks
Bob Christensen, Chief Executive, SEAWEAD, Gustavus
Aaron Ferguson, Sustainability Catalyst, Spruce Root Community Development, Juneau
Brian Buma, Assistant Professor, University of Alaska, Juneau

Alabama

Nathan Hatch, Consultant Forester, Alabama Prescribed Fire Council, Auburn
David Curry, Retired, Huntsville
Ted DeVos, Forester/Wildlife Biologist, Bach and DeVos Forestry/Alabama Prescribed Fire Council-chair 2018, Montgomery
J. Kevin England, Science Instructor/Botanist, Ardmore High School, Moulton
J. Ryan Mitchell, Outreach and Technical Assistance Coordinator, The Longleaf Alliance, Stockton
Raien Emery, Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
Justin Hart, Associate Professor, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
Kevin Willson, Graduate Student, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

Arkansas

Kyle Lapham, Fire Manager, The Nature Conservancy, Little Rock
Kenneth Wallen, Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas System, Monticello
Tiffany Hackler, Human Resources Manager, Rogers

Arizona

Melanie Colavito, Human Dimensions Specialist, Ecological Restoration Institute, Flagstaff
Andrea Thode, Professor, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff
Clare Aslan, Assistant Professor, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff
Scott Goetz, Professor, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff
Stephanie Mueller, Graduate Student, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff
Thomas D. Sisk, Olajos-Goslow Chair of Environmental Science and Policy, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff
Thomas Kolb, Professor, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff
James Allen, Professor and Executive Director, Northern Arizona University School of Forestry, Flagstaff
Barbara Satink Wolfson, Program Coordinator, Southwest Fire Science Consortium, Flagstaff
Shere A. Fischer, Phoenix
Julia Rowe, Invasive Species Research Specialist, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson
Kathy Voth, Publisher, On Pasture, Tucson
Jeffrey Gicklhorn, Program Coordinator, Pima County, Office of Sustainability and Conservation, Tucson
Christopher Guiterman, Research Associate, University of Arizona, Tucson
Erica A. Newman, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Arizona, Tucson
Erica Bigio, Research Associate, University of Arizona, Tucson
Thomas W. Swetnam, Regents Professor Emeritus, University of Arizona, Tucson
Jeffrey Rapp, Tucson

California

Gary Lauben, Project Manager, Western Shasta Resource Conservation District, Anderson
Connie Stewart, Executive Director, California Center for Rural Policy, Arcata
Leonard H. Rios, Fire Ecology Graduate Student, Humboldt State Univeristy, Arcata
David Greene, Chair, Forestry Department, Humboldt State University, Arcata
Harold Zald, Assistant Professor, Humboldt State University, Arcata
Jeffrey Kane, Associate Professor, Humboldt State University, Arcata
Yvonne Everett, Professor, Humboldt State University, Arcata
Sasha Berleman, Fire Ecologist, FirePoppy Consulting, Berkeley
Allison Shiozaki, Land Steward and Director, Hooves, Hands, & Hearts Camp, Berkeley
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PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE LAC DU FLAMBEAU BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA INDIANS

My name is Joseph Wildcat, I am the President of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, located in Vilas, Oneida and Iron Counties Wisconsin. Our Tribe of 3,400 members is the largest employer in Vilas County. Together with Tribal enterprises, the Tribe employs 800 individuals, with nearly 25 percent or 190 employees paid in full or in part with appropriations made under this subcommittee's jurisdiction. Our reservation has one of the densest concentrations of fresh water in the country and our lands and waters are sacred to the Band and its members. Within our 86,600-acre reservation, there are 260 lakes, 71 miles of streams and rivers, approximately 42,000 acres of forested land and roughly 42,000 acres of water and wetlands. We are working hard to build and maintain a stable, healthy Tribal community, amid many challenges. Like many rural areas, we are dealing with opioid abuse and the challenges of creating and maintaining jobs for our citizens and residents.

My testimony today addresses IHS, BIA and EPA programs that are vital to the Lac du Flambeau Band. The Tribe thanks the subcommittee for its leadership and commitment to Indian Tribes which honors the Nation's trust responsibility to the Indian people. The Tribe appreciates that Congress provided increased funds in fiscal year 2018 for BIA, IHS and EPA programs and the other programs across the Federal Government.

Please recognize the interconnectedness of IHS, BIA and EPA programs which help promote healthy Tribal members and healthy communities; essential building blocks for stable communities where Tribal parents can raise Native youth in safety and security so that they may realize their fullest potential and contribute to their community's and the Nation's future.

I. INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE PROGRAMS

The Tribe recognizes the increase Congress provided for fiscal year 2018 for the IHS. With that being said, the I.H.S. funding only cover 32 percent of our financial need! The Tribe operates the Peter Christensen Health Center, Dental Program, a Family Resource Center, and an In-patient Treatment Center with a total annual operating budget in excess of $24 million. The Tribe's annual funding for fiscal year 2018 is $7.7 million. These programs are vital to ensuring the support and preservation of family life and wellbeing by providing such services as outpatient mental health, inpatient & outpatient alcohol and other drug abuse, and psychological consults. The Health Center provides quality healthcare and offers a full range of family medical services by Board Certified family physicians, advanced practice nurse practitioner and physician-assistants serving 5,500 patients and providing 48,000 patient appointments annually. Together, our Tribal Health Program employs a staff of 150 individuals. The Tribe asks that Congress increase IHS funding in 2019.

Our rationale for this funding increase is borne of necessity. We are seeing how important proactive and preventive health services are for our community. In particular, like the rest of the Nation, our community is in the throws of the opioid epidemic. It has tragically claimed the lives of numerous Lac Du Flambeau members, with approximately 100 members overdosing on opioids. Approximately 60 percent of the Tribe's annual births result in opioid-addicted babies. In 2017 alone, 48 of the Tribe's 80 births resulted in opioid-addicted babies. Early treatment is critical. We urge the subcommittee to increase funds for preventive health programs such as Drug Endangered Children (D.E.C.) and Drug Endangered Elders (D.E.E.). These programs can save lives and empower our Tribe to help our citizens address addictions and mental health issues, especially targeting our Tribal youth. Please continue to prioritize increases in fiscal year 2019 IHS funding for Hospitals and Clinics, mental health, substance abuse treatment and P/RC funds so that we can take a proactive stance by investing wisely in preventive health services.

II. NATURAL RESOURCES (EPA AND BIA)

The Tribe has one of the leading Tribal Natural Resources programs in the Country. Our program includes a Fish Hatchery for several species of fish, Fisheries Management, Waterfowl habitat protection, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Conservation Law Enforcement, Wildlife protection, Historic Preservation, and numerous environmental programs, including water resources. Our Natural Resources Department employs fish biologists, wildlife biologists, fish hatchery operators, hydrologists, technicians and administrators, many of whom are paid in full or in part with EPA and BIA funds and critical to our work protecting the resources that were promised to us in our Treaties. We urge the subcommittee not to jeopardize our Natural Resources programs that are critical to protecting our culture, our health and our economy, that is part of Wisconsin's $19 billion hunting, fishing, recreation and tourism industry.

The proposed reduction in EPA funding and cuts to BIA Natural Resources programs would be devastating to our Program. Even with existing funding, we struggle to meet the demands we face to maintain clean air, water and lands from the many contaminants that threaten our community. The highest concentrations of mercury tainted lakes are in the State's northern most counties, including Vilas and Oneida. Minnesota and Wisconsin lead the Nation with mercury-contaminated lakes. At present, there are more than 146 lakes with fish health mercury advisories in place in Wisconsin. This presents a direct threat to our culture because we cannot eat contaminated fish that are otherwise a staple of our diet. A continuing threat to our treaty protected resources is Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), it has been detected in deer in our ceded territories and is moving closer to the deer population on our Reservation. There is no silver-bullet to this challenge, but we need resources to ensure proper monitoring and management.

A. TRUST-NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

In fiscal year 2018, Congress appropriated $204 million for the BIA's Trust-Natural Resources Management programs, a $3.2 million increase from fiscal year 2017. We greatly appreciate this, but given the importance of our natural resources to our culture and economy more is needed. Our Tribe alone needs nearly a $500,000 increase for our Tribal Fish Hatchery Operations and Tribal Management/Development Program for fiscal year 2019.

B. CIRCLE OF FLIGHT: WETLANDS WATERFOWL PROGRAM

We urge the subcommittee to continue to provide support for the BIA Circle of Flight Program (about $707,000). This modest BIA program supports Tribal efforts

throughout the Great Lakes Region to restore and preserve wetlands and waterfowl habitat and enhances wild rice gathering within Tribal territories throughout the three States along the Mississippi flyway.

C. GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE

Thank you for funding the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative at $300 million in fiscal year 2018. Do not terminate this vital program. For the indigenous people of Wisconsin, the Great Lakes represent the lifeblood of our culture and the foundation of our economies. The protection and preservation of the Great Lakes is a necessity.

D. EPA TRIBAL GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Congress approved $3.5 billion for State and Tribal Assistance Grants, including $2.461 billion for Infrastructure assistance grants and $1.066 billion for categorical grants (maintaining Tribal air quality management grants and Tribal general assistance program (Tribal GAP) grants at $12.8 million and $65.4 million, respectively). The Tribal GAP program provides base environmental funding to assist Tribes in building their environmental capacity to assess environmental conditions, utilize available data and build their environmental programs to meet their local needs. While we strongly support the Tribal GAP funding, that funding is limited to capacity building and it is critical that we expand Tribal EPA funding to include program implementation.

E. UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK FUND (LUST)

We remain concerned that annual reductions to the Underground Storage Tank fund (LUST) permits ongoing contamination of ground waters that threaten Tribal and other communities. We encourage the Subcommittee to instruct EPA to give greater consideration to Tribal cleanup standards and help Indian Tribes remediate unsafe conditions on reservations. We would ask Congress to direct EPA to work with Tribes to address these sites that present a continuing threat to our Reservation.

III. BIA AND BIE APPROPRIATIONS

A. LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Tribe is working collaboratively with our State and local partners to address drug trafficking and gang activity on and off the reservation. In December, we lost a young Tribal member, related to these activities. We want to ensure that this does not happen again. There is a greater need for cooperation among the Tribe, the State and Federal law enforcement agencies to address the significant impact of drug trafficking on the public safety of our community.

As a Tribe in Public Law 280 States we have long suffered from the lack of sufficient support by the Federal Government for our law enforcement and Tribal court needs We have one full time judge who handle a range of cases ranging from domestic abuse orders to child support enforcement. In addition, we a three court clerks and a prosecutor. We greatly appreciate the Appropriations Committee support of Tribal justice systems for Tribes in Public Law 280 States, we provide an important service to the people of our Reservation that if we did not do it, the State courts would have to do it. We would urge Congress to continue this funding.

Related to this is the need to provide specific funding for conservation law enforcement officers. Our conservation officers, provide a critical role in the management of our natural resources and sometimes are the first line in identifying drug and other illegal activities on the Reservation.

B. INDIAN EDUCATION

Congress provided $34.9 million for Adult Scholarships and restore the $2.9 million for special higher education scholarships for fiscal year 2018. We recommend this subcommittee continue to support these programs that provided needed support to Tribal members seeking higher education.

The Lac du Flambeau Public School and Lakeland Union High School educate our Tribal youth. The High School is approximately 23 percent Native American and 86 percent of high school graduates went on to attend 4- and 2-year colleges/technical schools, 9 percent entered the workforce or pursued other activities and 5 percent entered the military. For this reason, we oppose any effort to eliminate the Johnson O'Malley Program, the goal of which is to address the unique cultural needs of Indian students attending public schools through a supplemental program of services planned, developed and approved by the Local Indian Education Committee, comprised of parents of eligible Indian students. The $14.9 million JOM Program must be protected, so that Indian children are provided the supplemental programs that honor and celebrate their Native heritage and help them grow into confident, well-

adjusted adults who contribute to their families. Given our experience in calculating our Native student count in our schools, we are troubled by the BIA's inability to provide Congress with an accurate student count.

C. ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The Tribe appreciates Congress including $4.3 million increase in funding for the Road Maintenance Program for fiscal year 2018. We believe a $10 million increase is justified for fiscal year 2019. The Tribe receives less than $90,000 to maintain nearly 180 miles of BIA-owned roads. Our budget requirements for road maintenance are closer to $2 million annually. A year's entire road maintenance budget can be consumed in the winter months removing snow and salting/sanding roads to ensure freedom of movement. Transportation barriers undermine Federal and Tribal efforts to improve Native health, educate our youth and attract businesses and jobs to remote, rural communities like ours. The "historical" formula for the BIA Road Maintenance Program makes little sense to us. We ask the subcommittee to include report language for fiscal year 2019 that directs the BIA to explain the allocation methodology, verify each Tribe's road inventory that generate Road Maintenance dollars, and make publicly available to Tribes their relative share of funds.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATORS IN SUPPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S LEAD ABATEMENT, INSPECTION, AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

As you draft the Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2019, we write to urge you to include robust funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) lead abatement, inspection, and enforcement programs.

Blood lead levels have declined by more than 90% since the mid-1970's – easily one of the great public health achievements in recent history. EPA, along with federal and state partners had worked together to drastically reduce or eliminate the use of lead in paint, gasoline, plumbing pipes, food cans, and a variety of other products to put us on a path towards minimizing human exposure. However, despite a decline in overall exposure, lead poisoning continues to be a problem in places with older homes and aging water supplies. The proposed cuts to EPA's budget will affect their ability to keep lead contamination out of these communities.

In both adults and children, lead poisoning decreases performance of the nervous system. At high levels of exposure, lead can severely damage the brain and kidneys and ultimately cause death. For pregnant women, lead may cause miscarriage. Lead is also especially dangerous for children under six years old, as exposure can reduce IQ, cause learning disabilities, and create behavioral problems.

Fortunately, lead poisoning is preventable. Federal law requires that certification is required for all firms (or sole proprietorships) that provide renovation, repair, and painting services in facilities built prior to 1978 and where children are routinely present. EPA works in cooperation with states, tribes, and territories to ensure firms are certified and use lead-safe work practices. In October 2017, EPA's lead enforcement program announced more than 100 federal enforcement actions completed over the last year that held renovation contractors, landlords, and property managers accountable for protecting communities from exposure to lead. Additionally, EPA uses its program funding to clean up lead contaminated waste sites to minimize exposure in surrounding areas.

We thank you in advance for your careful consideration and hope you will ensure that keeping our communities safe from lead continues to be a priority of the federal government by funding these critical EPA programs.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
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United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
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Tina Smith
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
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Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN ORCHESTRAS

The League of American Orchestras urges the Senate Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee to support increased fiscal year 2019 funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Bipartisan support in Congress for the ongoing work of the NEA has been especially appreciated in the past 2 years, and we are grateful for the subcommittee's leadership. Further support in fiscal year 2019 will enable the agency to provide more Americans with meaningful opportunities for arts participation.

The League of American Orchestras leads, supports, and champions America's orchestras and the vitality of the music they perform. Its diverse membership of more than 2,000 organizations and individuals runs the gamut from world-renowned orchestras to community groups, from summer festivals to student and youth ensembles, from businesses serving orchestras to individuals who love symphonic music. As orchestras navigate the rapid and profound changes coursing through American society, they are redoubling their efforts to serve their communities through the orchestral experience. NEA support via *Art Works* and *Challenge America* grants helps to expand the capacity of orchestras to present concerts and programs to communities of all sizes, and each NEA direct grant dollar leverages up to $9 of additional non-Federal or private investment. The following 12 orchestral projects from fiscal year 2018 total $197,500 in direct Federal support and show a glimpse of some remarkable partnerships that are serving the public in increasingly responsive ways.

NEA FUNDING INCREASES PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE ARTS

The NEA is committed to helping small and mid-sized organizations extend the reach of the arts to populations whose arts opportunities are limited by geography, economics, or disability. The Mobile Symphony reaches 35,000 people every year through its concerts and educational programs, with just 9 professional staff members and 72 part-time musicians. A *Challenge America* grant helped Mobile Symphony bring Grammy-award-winning cellist Zuill Bailey and acclaimed conductor Andre Raphel to southwest Alabama, with both artists participating in educational activities for students in urban and rural Title I schools, including working with band and music students. All students were offered free tickets to the concerts with the orchestra. Raphel also spoke to students at Bishop State Community College, which serves a large number of low-income, minority students in Mobile's inner city.

Another *Challenge America* grantee, the Timpanogos Symphony Orchestra—an all-volunteer orchestra with just one part-time paid staff person—brought live symphonic music and educational activities to Price, Richfield, and Delta: three cities in Utah that do not have an orchestra of their own. Programming featured pianist Scott Holden, an accomplished pianist and head of piano studies at Brigham Young University, as well as Utah-raised singer Summerisa Bell Stevens. In addition to offering three community concerts, Timpanogos Symphony Orchestra also presented four school assemblies on the tour, introducing students to music from the baroque, classical, romantic, and modern eras. Following the assembly concert at Carbon High School, one of the school staff thanked the orchestra, remarking that "many of our students do not have the opportunity to attend a performance like this, especially free of charge."

The Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra, with two full-time and 9 part-time employees, and 75 musicians, used its *Challenge America* grant to support activities associated with a February concert featuring Grammy-nominated composer and trombonist Chris Brubeck. Brubeck and orchestra musicians shared music with veterans and students in rural areas of Wisconsin and conducted an interactive workshop with band students in Weyauwega at the Gerold Opera House and a lecture and performance by Brubeck at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, which inspired some memories of Brubeck's father, jazz musician and composer Dave Brubeck. Chris recalled stories of his father going into hospitals to play music for veterans, connecting with them in a special way. Sharing that spirit, Brubeck said, "If the vets can't come to a concert, I am happy to go to see them and reach out through music."

NEA FUNDING SUPPORTS YOUTH ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ARTS

With 11 full-time and 3 part-time staff members and nearly 90 contracted musicians, the Des Moines Symphony offered nearly 6,000 Central Iowa fourth and fifth grade students the chance to learn in-depth about orchestral music. With the help of an *Art Works* grant, each school received an enhanced, multi-media curriculum, then students attended a live Des Moines Symphony performance which included

visuals displayed on a screen above the orchestra, and a side-by-side performance with the Des Moines Symphony Youth Symphony featuring the winner of the Des Moines Symphony Academy student concerto competition. Through these concerts, the Des Moines Symphony is introducing a broad range of Central Iowa students to creative expression through orchestral music and building a shared cultural experience across many Central Iowa communities, urban and rural alike.

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (ISO) serves over 380,000 patrons every year through concerts and education programs, and employs an administrative staff of 62 full-time and 9 part-time employees, 74 full-time musicians, and 3 conductors. An *Art Works* grant helps support the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra (MYO), the ISO's flagship education program that engages youth with music instruction and mentoring to discourage at-risk behaviors and set students on the path to lifelong success. Over 220 children from kindergarten through 12th grade participate in MYO, and over 130 of their parents and guardians either learn to play an instrument alongside them or volunteer in other capacities. Even though many MYO students come from areas of Indianapolis with the highest poverty rates and lowest levels of education, 100 percent of MYO seniors have graduated and enrolled a 4-year university since 2008.

Through its Intensive Community Program (ICP), the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO) currently serves 90 students of color and low-income students. ICP was created nearly 20 years ago to address accessibility barriers that prevent students from underrepresented communities in classical music from auditioning into BYSO and experiencing the benefits of a high-quality music education. ICP accepts students ages 4–11 who show exceptional interest in studying string, wind, or brass instruments and provides tuition subsidies, weekly music lessons, music theory classes, use of a good quality instrument, and ongoing mentoring from professional musicians until they graduate high school. ICP students participate an average of 10 years and to date, all graduates of the program have gone on to attend college, many being the first in their families to do so. NEA support helps BYSO run this program with its 13 full-time and approximately 60–70 part-time or contracted artistic staff.

NEA FUNDING FOSTERS INNOVATIVE PRESENTATION OF AND ENGAGEMENT WITH MUSIC

The NEA encourages collaborations, innovative presentation strategies, and initiatives that help organizations engage audiences in new and meaningful ways. Employing more than 290 artists and an administrative staff of 35 full-time and 12 part-time employees, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) presented the No Fiction Festival, celebrating life stories through two weeks of concerts, education, and community engagement events. The festival explored the theme of sisterhood through works by women composers such as Amy Beach, whose accomplishments were a beacon in the suffrage movement, and the 21st-century composer of Maori heritage, Dame Gillian Whitehead. Concert programs also included works by sisters Nadia and Lili Boulanger, and Jessie Montgomery. On the theme of place, the composer, sound artist, and writer Brian Harnetty presented "Shawnee, Ohio," a musical work with sampled sound archives, video, and field recordings about the history and ecology of Appalachian Ohio.

The Arkansas Symphony Orchestra (ASO), with 14 full-time administrative staff, 12 full-time musicians, and over 80 part-time musicians, is advancing streaming innovation, collaboration, and fun for Arkansans in its CANVAS Festival, which combined visual arts and the performance of live symphonic music with repertoire including Adam Schoenberg's "Finding Rothko," and Respighi's "Trittico Botticelliano (Three Botticelli Pictures)." Orchestra musicians collaborated with the Arkansas Arts Center to curate a chamber music performance based on pieces from the center's collection and educational activities included lecture-demonstrations, pre-concert discussions, and open rehearsals. The festival culminated with a performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral" with visual artist Barry Thomas painting onstage in real time in reaction to the music being played.

The Oregon Symphony is also pushing artistic boundaries with its *The Sounds of Home* series, directed by Music Director Carlos Kalmar. By pairing classical works with visual art forms, the symphony guides the community through an exploration of the meaning of home through a unique series of programs onstage and throughout the community in venues such as homeless shelters, healthcare facilities, and community centers. The series combines three multimedia productions, four new commissioned works in three art forms, the first commission of a play by an American orchestra, and a diverse collection of collaborating artists from within and beyond the orchestral field. The orchestra, comprising 38 full-time and 12 part-time staff, and 76 full-time musicians, is actively building collaborations with social serv-

ice organizations and community leaders, as well as arts groups, to reflect on these issues.

NEA FUNDING HELPS HONOR AND CELEBRATE OUR COUNTRY'S DIVERSE CULTURAL HERITAGE

A citizenry steeped in creativity, excellence, and the ability to navigate differences strengthens democracy. Orchestras are very effective at providing an artistic way of connecting people with one another and with our pasts. The Nashville Symphony, for example, with its 72 full-time and 357 part-time staff, and 81 full-time musicians, is using its *Art Works* grant to support the commissioning, performance, and recording of a new work by American composer Jonathan Leshnoff. The Violins of Hope exhibition showcased restored instruments that were played by musicians who were interned in concentration camps during the Holocaust. For 3 months, programming was curated and presented by the orchestra, under the direction of Music Director Giancarlo Guerrero, in partnership with more than 25 community organizations. Partners crossed disciplines and sectors, and included the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, the Nashville Public Library, and others. The Violins of Hope collection is on display, free to the public, at the Nashville Public Library.

The Toledo Symphony Orchestra (TSO), with its 18 full-time and 19 part-time staff and approximately 60 full-time musicians, helped more than 6,000 patrons celebrate the contributions of African-American musicians in the 3-month long North Star Festival. Concert repertoire included spirituals, chamber music, jazz-inspired works, and a modern opera. Composers included Duke Ellington, Steven Gerber, Rhiannon Giddons, Alice Gomez, Adolphus Hailstork, James Weldon Johnson, Coleridge Taylor Perkinson, Florence Price, Daniel Bernard Roumain, Paul Schoenfield, Alvin Singleton, and William Grant Still. The signature event in the series was a special performance by renowned African-American soprano Kathleen Battle, who presented a concert program titled Underground Railroad: A Spiritual Journey. The TSO also brought music into a wide variety of community venues through a creative collaboration with the Toledo Lucas County Public Library system and the Lathrop House, a former stop on the Underground Railroad and local museum.

The Oakland Symphony, which employs over 60 musicians and 16 staff, is presenting To Belong Here: Notes from the African Diaspora, a concert honoring the people of West and Central African descent. The program will feature works by 18th-century composer Chevalier de St. Georges; African-British composer and conductor Samuel Coleridge-Taylor; and Florence Price, the first African-American woman to have a major work performed by a symphony orchestra. In addition to these works, the performance will be narrated by Oakland native Prentice Powell, a spoken word artist who has performed internationally. In the lobby, Afro-Puerto Rican bomba drummers and dancers will present the once outlawed artform that was used by enslaved people to signify and organize rebellion.

Thank you for this opportunity to convey the tremendous value of NEA support for the communities that orchestras are serving in every corner of our country. We applaud the NEA's national leadership in promoting excellence and engagement with high-quality artistry by all citizens and we urge you to increase our Nation's creative potential and access to the arts by approving increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts in fiscal year 2019.

[This statement was submitted by Jesse Rosen, President and CEO.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATORS IN SUPPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S LONG ISLAND SOUND GEOGRAPHIC PROGRAM

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall,

We are writing to urge you to fund the Environmental Protection Agency's Long Island Sound Geographic Program at $14 million in the Fiscal Year 2019 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill.

Federal funding to continue the Environmental Protection Agency's program for Long Island Sound is critical to our regional economies and the quality of our environment. The Long Island Sound is one of 28 estuaries included in the National Estuary Program, and with more than 23 million people living within 50 miles of the Sound, it is a major contributor of economic development and a source of recreation for residents and visitors alike. According to the Long Island Sound Study, the annual economic value of the sound is between $17 billion and $37 billion each year. The Sound is home to more than 120 species of fish, which contribute to our states' vibrant commercial and recreational fishing industries.

In 2000 and 2006, respectively, Congress enacted the Long Island Sound Restoration Act and the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act, which together authorized critical funding for projects that improve water quality, restore and protect habitats, and increase public awareness to the issues affecting the Long Island Sound and its watershed. This funding has allowed the federal government, working with state and local partners, as well as with the private sector, to make significant progress in improving the Sound.

Funding provided by Congress has been critical in reducing the amount of nitrogen entering the Sound by 44 million pounds annually since 2000, reducing occurrences of hypoxia and harmful algal blooms that impair the Sound's water quality and fisheries. Continuing to fund the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Acts will allow the EPA to continue to work collaboratively with local stakeholders to address water quality and invest in new strategies to reduce pollution and improve the environmental quality of the region.

Important Environmental Protection Agency funding for the Long Island Sound Study area has been very effective in leveraging additional resources from state, local and private partners. According to the Long Island Sound Study Office, since 2006, for every $1 in EPA funding, $87 was leveraged from other sources.

Thank you for your attention to this request, and we urge you to work with us to ensure that this critical funding is retained for Fiscal Year 2019.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE

Chairman Calvert, Members of the subcommittee and the distinguished Gentleman from the 6th District in Washington State representing my Tribe, Congressman Derek Kilmer. I am Frances Charles, Chairwoman of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, an elected position that I have been honored to hold for the past 12 years. Thank you for providing me this opportunity to submit testimony for the record on the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Indian Health Service (IHS), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) budgets for fiscal year 2019. My testimony identifies our most urgent Tribal-specific funding needs at the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. We are also supporting some Regional and National budget requests which will benefit the Lower Elwha citizens and community.

TRIBAL-SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE

Bureau of Indian Affairs.—$5.43 Million

1. $4.972 Million Dam Removal and Fisheries Restoration—Public Law 102–495, Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act
   a. $702,000—Salmon Hatchery O&M
   b. $270,000—Flood Control Levee O&M
   c. $4 million—Land Acquisition
2. $267,000—Tribal Court Enhancement and Implementation of Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
3. $191,000—Tiwahe Initiative—Tribe seeks to assert jurisdiction in its own court system over all cases arising under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and to become a licensing agency for foster homes

Indian Health Service $500,000—Mental Health and Chemical Dependency programs

Environmental Protection Agency $536,000—Environmental Programs

1. $125,000—General Assistance Grant (GAP)
2. $ 81,000—Clean Water Act § 106 Grant
3. $180,000—Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Implementation Grant
4. $150,000—PSP Tribal Capacity Grant

Contract Support Costs—Past, Present and Future

As a Self-Governance Tribe, Lower Elwha has been impacted by the Federal Government's refusal to pay full contract support costs (CSC) for contracted and compacted programs for the past two decades. In 2014 and 2015, the Supreme Court determined that Tribes were entitled to CSC. The game-changer going forward was the ground-breaking decision by Congress in Public Law 114–113, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, to create a new account in the appropriations bill specifically for CSC in 2016 and 2017 as well as language establishing an indefinite appropriation for CSC in both agencies. Under the new budget structure, the full CSC that Tribes are entitled to will be paid and other programs will not be reduced if pay-

ments are underestimated in the President's budget. Tribes agree that this structure achieves the Nation's legal obligation to fully pay CSC without imposing any corresponding reduction in direct services to any Tribe. We also continue to request to fully fund CSC on a mandatory basis in fiscal year 2019–2021 and make it a permanent, indefinite appropriation.

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Background

The Lower Elwha Indian Reservation is located at the mouth of the Elwha River along the Strait of Juan de Fuca on the northern Olympic Peninsula, about 8 miles west of the City of Port Angeles, Washington. The Lower Elwha Tribe has roughly 1,000 members and a total land base—Reservation and adjacent trust lands—of about 1,000 acres. We are a salmon people with fishing rights in a large expanse of marine and fresh waters, reserved in the 1855 Treaty of Point No Point. To date, our economic development opportunities have been limited and we believe our long-term prospects are tied to natural resources restoration and preservation in an ecologically rich region where an extraction-based economy is well past its prime.

LOWER ELWHA TRIBAL-SPECIFIC FUNDING REQUESTS

$5.43 Million—Bureau of Indian Affairs

1. *$4.972 Million—Dam Removal and Fisheries Restoration.*—We were the leading advocate for the removal of the two hydro-electric dams on the Elwha River. In accordance with Congress's direction in the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act of 1992 (Elwha Act), Public Law 102–495, we are working closely with the National Park Service and other agencies to remove the last remnants of the dams and restore the once famously abundant runs of native Elwha River salmon and steelhead. Unfortunately, removal of the dams caused a short-term threat to the salmon runs (due to sediment released from behind the former dams) and has adversely impacted our small Tribal land base and our Tribal budgets. We are strongly committed to the restoration of fisheries, fish habitat, streams and rivers, and the Port Angeles Harbor. We urgently need increased Self-Governance funds to support the operation of dam removal mitigation and restoration features and to revive our other Self-Governance activities from which we have been forced to transfer funds to support dam removal mitigation.
   a. *$702,000—Salmon Hatchery O&M Costs.*—Fish Hatchery Operations Budget for the ongoing operation and maintenance (O&M) of our state-of-the-art hatchery, which went online in 2011. This is a significant increase of $601,929 annually, but one that is amply justified by the crucial role that our hatchery serves in dam removal and fishery restoration. Our hatchery is a genetic preserve for native Elwha salmonids, which have been on the verge of extirpation from the impacts of the dams and which have been further threatened by the enormous sediment load unleashed by the removal of the dams. The National Marine Fisheries Service would not have approved dam removal under the Endangered Species Act without the hatchery's native salmonid programs. The Tribe should not have to bear the O&M cost of this important restoration facility that in fact benefits the entire region.
   b. *$270,000—Flood Control Levee O&M Costs.*—The levee on our lands had to be expanded prior to dam removal in order to protect Tribal lands from the newly unleashed Elwha River and to conform to new Federal standards—clearly it is a mitigation feature of the dam removal project. In the 1992 Elwha Act, Congress intended that courts not be asked to address problems where legislative solutions would be far more effective in covering all the bases. Twenty-five years of inflation since 1992 more than justifies this increase in the current annual operations allocation of $10,400.
   c. *$4 million for Land Acquisition.*—Section 7(b) of the Elwha Act authorized $4 million so that the Secretary could acquire trust lands for the Tribe in Reservation status in Clallam County, Washington, for economic development and housing. But those funds have never been appropriated. In 1934, an Interior Department report concluded that the Reservation should be 4,000 acres, but currently we have only 1,000 acres, several hundred of which (on the river's side of the levee) have to be maintained in undeveloped status as floodplain habitat. In addition, we need legislative direction to ensure that former hydro-project lands are transferred to the Tribe as contemplated in Section 3(c)(3) of the Elwha Act. The Elwha people have struggled for a century from the harm to their culture and economies caused by the Elwha River dams. We had to endure the destruction of not

only the fisheries but the treaty fishers themselves and the attendant loss of our traditional and cultural livelihood; we have lost an opportunity—which will only return after another generation—to teach our children the ways of their ancestors and the Elwha life as designed by the Creator.

2. *$267,000—Funding for Tribal Court Enhancement and to Implement TLOA and VAWA.*—Consistent with the Interior Department's and Tribe's high priority on Tribal Court enhancement, Lower Elwha has made progress in adopting the enhanced sentencing provisions authorized by the 2010 Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) and in particular the expanded Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction under the 2013 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). In the past year we have finally retained the first in-house Chief Judge in the Tribe's history and are making progress on upgrading our Court's organization and caseload. But our efforts will be limited due to the lack of adequate base funding for Court development. Requested funding will enable our Tribe to further our progress by providing for: (a) mandatory criminal defense counsel (including basic legal assistance for domestic violence victims); (b) legal counsel for parents in abuse/neglect cases; (c) detention services; (d) probation services that focus on solutions and restorative justice by sharing coordinated case management and re-entry referrals; and (e) basic court security. Full funding for TLOA-mandated provisions and increased base funding for our Tribal Court will enable Elwha to benefit from: BIA regional assessments using Trial Court Program Standards; specific technical assistance and training identified through these assessments; targeted training for specific Tribal court personnel (judges, prosecutors, public defenders, clerks); development of Tribal Court bench books; identification of funding sources for pilot programs; and captured data covering criminal pre-trial to post-conviction matters, including any collateral civil legal issues.
3. *$191,000—Funding for ICW-related services from BIA's Tiwahe (Family) Initiative.*—Lower Elwha faces a community crisis with the increasing number of child abuse/neglect cases, which stem from inordinately high rates of drug/substance abuse by parents or caregivers. This crisis severely impacts services in all facets of Tribal government. A coordinated community response must be based on multi-disciplinary, culturally informed case planning and service delivery, coupled with a strong commitment to restorative justice ideals and (in criminal cases) solutions-based sentencing. A major obstacle to implementing this approach is our lack of infrastructure to assume jurisdiction over all local cases clearly arising under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA); 65 percent of our current ICWA cases remain in the State court system (a deceptively low percentage due to reduced State court filings resulting from staff turnover). In addition, because we are dependent on an inadequate State system for licensing foster care providers, we are often unable to make proper placements to assist our families. For the past three fiscal years, the Tribe's base Federal funding (BIA Self-Governance ICWA) has remained flat-lined at a mere $45,000. We seek $191,000 additional annual funding from the BIA's Tiwahe (Family) Initiative, which would enable the Tribe to assert jurisdiction in its own court system over all cases arising under the ICWA and to become a licensing agency for foster homes.

Indian Health Service Elwha Tribal-Specific Funding Requests—$500,000 for Elwha Health Department Programs

The drug abuse and mental health crisis threatens to destroy the potential and the cultural connections of many Tribal members and families. In fiscal year 2016, the Tribe's Mental Health and Chemical Dependency programs served 275 American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) patients, with the potential to reach approximately 1,500 within Clallam and Jefferson County. The Tribe currently subsidizes its chemical dependency program with third-party revenue and gaming revenue to fund prevention health initiatives and chemical dependency programs, yet these critical health epidemics remain severely underfunded. To remedy this, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services formula must be expanded to inpatient chemical dependency treatment programs at the current encounter rate of $391/per day, with annual increases.

Environmental Protection Agency Elwha Tribal-Specific Funding Requests—$536,000 for Elwha Tribal Environmental Programs: General Assistance Grant, $125,000; Clean Water Act § 106 Grant, $81,000; Puget Sound Partnership ("PSP") Implementation Grant, $180,000; and PSP Tribal Capacity Grant: $150,000.

Lower Elwha's environmental programs have, over the past two decades, developed a strong pragmatic capability to protect human and basic environmental health for not only the Tribal community but also the greater Port Angeles and northern Olympic Peninsula communities. By focusing on collaboration with local governments and other stakeholders, we have maximized the efficiency of our small but skilled staff. This would not be possible without the basic EPA funding that we seek to continue. This funding supports: basic staff salaries, including for our highly experienced program director (General Assistance Grant); water quality monitoring in significant local rivers and lakes (Clean Water Act § 106 Grant); implementation of crucial in-the-field projects consistent with the PSP's Action Agenda (PSP Implementation Grant); Tribal participation and influence in local, State, and Federal environmental planning and review activities (General Assistance and PSP Tribal Capacity Grants). PSP Implementation funding has enabled the Tribe to complete numerous stream restoration projects that support the PSP Action Agenda. EPA funding is critical to our participation in the cleanup of toxic contamination of Port Angeles Harbor, which was nominated for Superfund listing but deferred to State cleanup authority; under this deferral arrangement, the Tribe has a unique and important role as the sole local representative working directly with the responsible State agency to ensure that the cleanup will protect the health of all residents of the greater Port Angeles area.

Regional and National Budget Requests

The Tribe supports the fiscal year 2019 Regional Budget Priorities of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, and also the fiscal year 2019 National Budget Priorities of the National Congress of American Indians and National Indian Health Board.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SUPPORTERS FOR MAINTAINING EFFECTIVE FUNDING LEVELS FOR ESSENTIAL WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION AND PROTECTION PROGRAMS AT THE USDA FOREST SERVICE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBER UDALL:

The undersigned organizations are writing to express our strong support for maintaining effective funding levels in the fiscal year 2019 appropriations process for essential wildfire risk reduction and protection programs at the USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the Department of the Interior (DOI). The important work accomplished through the State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance programs help decrease total Federal emergency wildfire suppression costs and reduce the threat of fire to people, communities, and both public and private lands.

America's forests and forest-dependent communities are at risk from outbreaks of pests and pathogens, persistent drought, and the buildup of hazardous fuels. Urbanization and development patterns are placing more homes and communities near fire-prone landscapes, leading to more destructive and costly wildfires, like those that burned more than 10 million acres in 2017 alone.

We thank you for your leadership in developing and securing a long-term wildland fire funding solution which will ensure that the USFS has the funding needed for both routine activities to local and State wildland fire preparedness and mitigation efforts as well as engage in emergency wildland fire suppression activities. This long-held goal of our organizations would not have been realized without your leadership and the work of this Committee. Additionally, our organizations thank you for providing additional funding to support the USFS until this fire funding fix takes effect in fiscal year 2020. We encourage you to continue providing this strong funding level to the USFS at least until the recently enacted fire funding fix takes effect in fiscal year 2020.

The fiscal year 2019 appropriations bill can provide for both necessary wildland fire suppression and fire risk reduction activities that reduce firefighting costs in the long run. We appreciate this Committee's continued support for the State Fire Assistance program and the Volunteer Fire Assistance program and encourage you to continue providing strong funding for these important programs.

State Fire Assistance (SFA) is the fundamental Federal mechanism for assisting States and local fire departments in responding to wildland fires and in conducting

management activities that mitigate fire risk on non-Federal lands. The program helps train State and local first responders who are often first to arrive at a wildland fire incident, as well as equip them with the tools they need to put wildfires out in efficiently and safely.

For example, in fiscal year 2017, SFA directly funded hazardous fuel treatments on 83,845 acres (with another 92,276 acres treated with leveraged funding from partners) and provided assistance to communities around the country, supporting 4,581 risk assessment and fire management planning projects in more than 3,100 communities. Additionally, between 2008 and 2012, the program helped deliver more than $150 million annually in equipment for use by State and local first responders.

The localized support provided by SFA is crucial because most wildfires (80 percent during 2017) burn within State and local fire department jurisdictions. Even when it comes to wildfires on Federal lands, SFA-supported crews and engines are often the first to respond.

Our organizations are grateful for the Committee's decision to increase SFA funding to $80 million in fiscal year 2018. However, additional modest increases in SFA funding can help expand wildland fire preparedness and mitigation efforts and support State forestry agencies in repurposing equipment through the Federal Excess Personal Property and the Firefighter Property programs. *In fiscal year 2019, we urge you to provide $87 million for the State Fire Assistance program.*

The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program provides support to rural communities and is critical to ensuring adequate capacity to respond to wildfires, reducing the risk to communities, people, homes and property, and firefighters. This capacity is critical because these State and local resources are the first responders to more than 80 percent of wildland fires—whether on State, Federal or private lands. According to the Forest Service, during fiscal year 2017, the VFA program helped provide assistance to 8,821 communities, train 17,140 firefighters, expanded or organize 61 fire departments, and purchase, rehabilitate, or maintain nearly $9 million in equipment.

Our organizations greatly appreciate the Committee's work to increase VFA funding to $16 million in fiscal year 2018. *In fiscal year 2019, we urge you to provide no less than $16 million for the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program.*

We appreciate the difficult task the Committee faces in the current budget climate. It is important to remember, however, that these vital programs safeguard human life, habitat, and property, and reduce the overall cost of wildland fire management. Accordingly, we urge you to support funding for these critical programs.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

National Association of State Foresters
National Volunteer Fire Council
International Association of Fire Chiefs

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION

Summary. The Maniilaq Association is an Alaska Native Tribal organization representing 12 Tribes in Northwest Alaska. We provide health, social, and Tribal government services through self-governance agreements with the Indian Health Service (IHS) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act ("ISDEAA"; Public Law 92–638). We make the following recommendations regarding fiscal year 2019 IHS and BIA funding:

—Reject the IHS proposal to amend the law in order to avoid full compensation for leases under section 105(l) of the ISDEAA.
—Ensure that Contract Support Costs are permanent, mandatory funding with no provisos on indefinite CSC funding that conflict with the carryover funding authority provided by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.
—Provide advance appropriations for IHS, just like the Veterans Administration.
—Keep the Special Diabetes Program for Indians as mandatory funding.
—Support transfers of funds from HHS to IHS address the opioid epidemic.
—Support ending the cap on Federal Communications Commission Universal Service Administrative Company Rural Health Care Program telecommunications connectivity subsidies.
—Reject any fiscal year 2018 proposed rescissions to Indian Programs.

105(L) CLINIC LEASES

We are concerned by the administration's proposed request to amend the law in order to avoid full compensation for leases under section 105(l) of the ISDEAA. The proposed bill language in the IHS Administrative provisions is designed to overrule the decision in *Maniilaq Association v. Burwell,* 170 F. sup. 3d 243 (D.D.C. 2016) which held that section 105(l) of the ISDEAA provides an entitlement to full compensation for leases of Tribal facilities used to carry out ISDEAA agreements. The proposed language would exclude section 105(l) of the ISDEAA as a source of entitlement to funding for section 105(l) leases, leaving it entirely within the discretion of the IHS. Tribes and Tribal organizations increasingly rely on section 105(l) leases to address chronically underfunded facilities operation, maintenance, and replacement costs. Congress declined to include such a provision in the fiscal year 2018 IHS appropriation bill and we ask that you treat this year's repeat proposal the same way.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS

We greatly appreciate the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees' work over the past several years in making a reality the full payment of Contract Support Costs CSC by both the IHS and the BIA. We are also very pleased that the administration—both the current and the previous one—has followed suit and requested that CSC be maintained as a separate appropriations account in IHS and in BIA and with an indefinite funding of "such sums as may be necessary". This action has, for example, helped to ensure that CSC would be fully funded without having to reprogram funding for critical healthcare services and other programmatic funding to cover the CSC need and has been crucial to the strengthening of Tribal governments' ability to successfully exercise their rights and responsibilities as governments. Thus, Maniilaq continues to believe that the indefinite appropriation of CSC funding must be made mandatory and permanent.

In both the fiscal year 2017 and 2018 Appropriations Acts, however, the administrations proposed to reinstate provisions from the fiscal year 2016 Appropriations Act for IHS which are contrary to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act with regard to CSC. The first is the "carryover" clause that could be read to deny the CSC carryover authority granted by the ISDEAA; the other is the "notwithstanding" clause used by IHS to deny CSC for their grant programs—Domestic Violence Prevention; Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention; Zero Suicide Initiative; after-care pilot projects at Youth Regional Treatment Centers; funding for the improvement of third party collections; and accreditation emergencies. We are grateful that the subcommittees have rejected these two proposals in the past and ask that you continue to do so.

IHS ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS

We ask for your support in placing the budget for the IHS on an advance appropriations basis. Under advance appropriations we would know a year in advance what the budget would be and importantly, would not continue to be constrained by the start and stop level funding of Continuing Resolutions (CRs), each of which requires the same processing and manpower for each partial payment as one full apportionment. For example, over the past several fiscal periods, appropriations have been enacted well after the beginning of the Federal fiscal year: nearly 6 months in fiscal year 2018, 7 months in fiscal year 2017, 2.5 months in both fiscal years 2016 and 2015, 3.5 months in fiscal year 2014, and 6 months in fiscal year 2013. Following enactment, it then takes a few months before funds are cleared through the Office of Management and Budget, allocated to the IHS Area Offices, and then finally provided to the Tribes and Tribal organizations.

Both the Tribal and IHS programs suffer under this situation. We need to be able to do the best job possible in planning, decisionmaking and administering programs, but we are impeded in our ability to do so because we do not know how much funding will be made available or when we will receive it. This uncertainty requires us to constantly re-work our budget and delay recruiting and hiring decisions, when we should be devoted to providing the best health services possible. These delays also ultimately cost us more money, since we are not able to take full advantage of buying items in bulk for lower cost, such as our heating fuel. Additionally, this fiscal uncertainty makes it incredibly difficult to plan capital improvement projects that are required to continue to provide quality services to our patients.

Even if CRs had not become the norm, having advance notice of funding levels would aid greatly in our health programs planning, recruitment, retention, and leveraging of funds. Finally, we note again that the Veterans Health Administration

accounts have been receiving advance appropriations since fiscal year 2010. Both the VA and the IHS provide direct medical care and both are the result of Federal policies. We ask that the IHS budget be afforded the same budget status consideration as the VA medical programs.

SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS (SDPI)

SDPI is a vital resource that has directly helped reduce the diabetes epidemic in Indian Country. That is why we were perplexed when the administration proposed, with no real explanation of why, that a number of health programs' funding, including SDPI, be changed from a mandatory to a discretionary status. We are concerned that if such a change were to be made, it could lead to a reduction in funding for this critical program. While the fiscal year 2019 administration's proposal is for level funding of $150 million for SDPI in discretionary funding in the IHS budget, that would not shield it from reductions in future years or the uncertainty of Continuing Resolutions. We understand if the administration's proposal were to be approved, these discretionary funds would have to come out of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittees' 302(b) allocations. We note that SDPI is currently funded through fiscal year 2019. We hope that SDPI can be made permanent at an increased funding level of $200 million or higher.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

We are pleased that the administration has proposed $150 million pass-through of funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to the IHS for the purpose of addressing the opioid epidemic. Indian Country has been hit especially hard by this disaster. As has been widely reported, Tribes have experienced the largest percentage increase of deaths from opioid abuse from 1999–2015 of any other population in the Nation—519 percent. We understand that in anticipation that Congress will approve this important proposal, the IHS is considering the use of a funding distribution system that is similar to the one employed by the Special Diabetes Program for Indians whereby Tribes and Tribal organizations receive multi-year funding based on need and submission of eligible applications. We understand that IHS also intends to consult with Tribes regarding the distribution of these proposed funds and has been in discussion with other Federal agencies who are also funding initiatives to address the opioid epidemic.

SUBSIDIES FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONNECTIVITY

Maniilaq understands that the subcommittees do not directly control funding subsidies under the Federal Communications Commission and Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). However, the USAC recently implemented a prorata reduction in Rural Health Care funding that subsidizes the extremely high costs of telecommunications and Internet connectivity in Alaska, which is critical to our being able to provide healthcare services. The funding cap has resulted in a reported $50 million in cuts nationally, and an $18.1 million unplanned shortfall for connectivity in Alaska—just for this year for Tribal health programs in Alaska. We are being told to expect more than twice that impact next year, which could exceed $35 million for Alaska Tribal health programs. We need Internet connectivity in order to provide health services, including telecommunications services and care coordination. We thus request the subcommittees' support for eliminating the cap and reinstating the full USAC subsidies to Tribal health programs throughout the State of Alaska.

REJECT ANY FISCAL YEAR 2018 PROPOSED RESCISSIONS

We have heard the talk of possible fiscal year 2018 rescissions and must object to that. After this year's enactment of the Bipartisan Budget Act and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, it would be outrageous to break these congressional budget agreements and to interrupt the planning that is taking place among Tribes and Tribal organizations (and others) with regard to facilities, staffing, and services. We are grateful for the increases in the IHS and BIA fiscal year 2018 budgets made possible by those Acts, increases that should be maintained in the fiscal year 2019 appropriations bills.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for the opportunity to provide appropriations testimony on these critical programs. We deeply appreciate the work of the subcommittees and the bipartisan commitment to listening to Tribal priorities.

[This statement was submitted by Tim Gilbert, President and CEO.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE METLAKATLA INDIAN COMMUNITY

The requests of the Metlakatla Indian Community (MIC) for the fiscal year 2019 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies budget are as follows:

—Create a new category within the BIA Construction budget for Electrical Transmission and Telecommunications project construction, of which $11.5 million is needed to complete the intertie between Annette Island Reserve, Alaska and neighboring Ketchikan, Alaska.
—Continue strong funding for the BIA Safety of Dams (SOD) program within the BIA Resources Management Construction budget, of which $1 million is needed to address the hazard mitigation needs and initial planning phases for improvements at Chester Lake Dam on Annette Island Reserve.
—Continue strong funding for Tribal hatcheries under the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks sub-activity within the BIA Trust-Natural Resources Management budget.
—Increase appropriations to support the ongoing implementation of the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty under both the BIA Trust-Natural Resources Rights Protection Implementation sub-activity and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission.
—Continue strong funding for Tribal courts in Public Law 83–280 States under the BIA Public Safety and Justice Law Enforcement-Tribal Justice Support program element.
—Ensure that there is full and mandatory funding for Contract Support Costs (CSC).
—Appropriate additional funding for Village Built Clinics and reject the IHS proposals to limit 105(l) Clinic Leases.
—Support IHS Advance Appropriations—just like what the VA has.
—Shield IHS funding from sequestration—just like how VA funding is shielded.
—Reject any proposed fiscal year 2018 Rescissions for Indian programs.

The Metlakatla Indian Community (MIC) is located on the Annette Island Reserve in southeast Alaska, a land base of 87,000 acres which includes significant fish and forestry resources. Through our Annette Island Service Unit we provide primary health services at our outpatient facility through funding from the IHS as a co-signer to the Alaska Tribal Health Compact under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. We are currently experiencing an ongoing, community-wide emergency: the lakes on which our island community depends on for drinking water and hydropower have reached dangerously low levels resulting in intermittent blackouts and our increased reliance on back up diesel power. The extent of this emergency and our proposal for relief are described below.

CREATE AN ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS CATEGORY UNDER BIA CONSTRUCTION

We are currently experiencing an ongoing, community-wide emergency: because of changing weather patterns and decreased snowfall, the lakes on which our island community depends on for community drinking water and hydropower (Chester Lake and Purple Lake) have reached dangerously low levels resulting in intermittent blackouts, our increased reliance on dirty and unaffordable back up diesel power and uncertainty for our community's main employer who provides jobs that we absolutely cannot afford to lose. Over the past decades, we in partnership with several different Federal agencies have successfully invested millions of dollars in energy generation and transmission infrastructure through a combination of loans to the community and a few small grants. Right now, we need $11.5 million to run an undersea cable to finally complete the last portion of this intertie which will link our community with neighboring Ketchikan. The completion of this intertie will allow us to buy and sell affordable hydropower back and forth with Ketchikan as lake levels change and it will allow our community will finally access business-grade Internet speeds beyond the antiquated microwave technology on which we currently rely. All of our studies are done, all of our permits are complete. This project would absolutely transform our community but with 80 percent seasonal unemployment in our community, our ratepayers simply cannot afford for Metlakatla Power and Light (our utility company) to take on an $11.5 million loan—even at the very low Federal interest rates available today.

To be clear, we do not need technical assistance or planning funds at this stage. We need on the ground construction funds to finally complete the very last portion

of this critical project. We have been to every single Federal and State agency and office and every non-profit that we can think of. Unfortunately, while everyone very much wants to help us, no one actually has the construction money to do so. We do not believe that we are the only Tribe in this position. Year after year, studies and planning documents pile up across Indian Country raising hopes, only for Tribes to find that construction priority lists are years long, require a substantial non-Federal match or come in the form of "financing" for communities who already have very little money to begin with. As you may remember, when Recovery Act funding was appropriated, Indian Country was immediately ready with a list of shovel-ready projects a mile long. We would particularly like to thank these subcommittees for recognizing this and substantially increasing appropriations for BIA Construction in fiscal years 2017 and 2018. This is why in fiscal year 2019, we are proposing the creation of a new Electrical Transmission and Telecommunications category within the BIA Construction budget. We are here, we are ready and there is a tremendous pent up need for these vital projects in all of our communities.

BIA SAFETY OF DAMS FUNDING FOR CHESTER LAKE DAM

Once again, we would like to thank the subcommittees for increasing funding in fiscal years 2017 and 2018 for construction, particularly for Resources Management Construction. Chester Lake is our sole municipal water supply, so maintaining this reservoir is essential to the survival of the Tribe. Measures to secure and improve this water supply are a high priority to Tribal leaders. It is this consideration that led the Emergency Preparedness Task Force to enforce the cessation of hydropower operations from Chester Lake during the extremely low water period from July to September in 2016.

This had the effect of making the Tribe rely more heavily on diesel power generation and the Purple Lake Dam. The BIA Safety of Dams Downstream Hazard Classification Study 2016 was performed in summer 2016 to determine if the dam's hazard classification needed to be re-evaluated and to begin potential work to make improvements to this reservoir.

This process is part of the oversight provided by BIA SOD to ensure the safety of dams in Indian Country. In March 2017, SOD informed MIC that the Chester Lake Dam qualified to have its hazard classification upgraded from low to high hazard, thereby requiring additional comprehensive evaluation of the Dam, its status and steps to take to prevent any kind of an emergency or hazard to the community health and wellness.

The MIC has determined, through this process, that $1 million in infrastructure funding is necessary to make safety improvements at Chester Lake Dam, as well as carry out necessary planning and studies for expansion of the dam's storage and hydropower production capacity. The total cost of this project will be approximately $12 million, but the initial funding will allow for immediate safety measures to be implemented to protect the drinking water supply while planning for the Phase 2 improvements that will increase not only water storage capacity but also expanded hydropower production from Chester Lake Dam.

TRIBAL HATCHERIES

We deeply appreciate the increase for the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks sub-activity within the BIA Trust-Natural Resources Management budget and are asking the subcommittees to continue this increased funding level for fiscal year 2019. MIC now receives hatchery funds from this sub-activity. Our new hatchery is now online and is expected to produce roughly 40 million more chum fry for the Northwest Region this year. Over the next 5 years, it is expected to produce 100 million more per year.

U.S./CANADA PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

Pacific salmon migrate through a broad geographic range that includes rivers, streams and the coastal waters of both the United States and Canada. Recognizing this reality, the Pacific Salmon Treaty was negotiated between the U.S. and Canada in 1985 to prevent overfishing and provide optimum production and fair sharing of the salmon harvest. In the U.S., salmon fisheries governed by the Treaty provide nearly 27,000 full time jobs and add nearly $2 billion annually to the gross domestic product. Funding to carry out different elements of the Treaty is appropriated through the Departments of Interior, State and Commerce. In the Department of Interior's budget, this funding is appropriated through the BIA Trust-Natural Resources Rights Protection Implementation sub-activity and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission. We would like to thank the subcommittees for rejecting the administration's request to substantially cut funding for

the Rights Protection Implementation sub-activity in fiscal years 2017 and 2018 and ask that you once again protect this sub-activity in fiscal year 2019 and if possible, increase funding for it.

TRIBAL COURT ASSISTANCE FOR TRIBES SUBJECT TO PUBLIC LAW 83–280

We deeply appreciate the much-needed support for Tribes who are affected by Public Law 83–280 and who are striving to serve their communities with competent and appropriate judiciary systems. We are grateful for both the increased appropriations directed to the BIA Public Safety and Justice Law Enforcement-Tribal Justice Support program element and the helpful report language provided in fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

We ask that the subcommittees continue to include Public Law 280-specific funding under this program element and continue to direct the BIA to "continue to work with Tribes and Tribal organizations in these States to consider options that promote, design, or pilot Tribal court systems for Tribal communities subject to full or partial State jurisdiction under Public Law 83–280."

SUPPORT FOR OVERARCHING PRIORITIES FOR INDIAN COUNTRY

We would like to associate ourselves with Tribal testimony calling for:

—Full and mandatory funding for Contract Support Costs (CSC).
—Additional funding for Village Built Clinics and a rejection of the IHS proposals to limit 105(l) Clinic Leases.
—Support for IHS Advance Appropriations—just like what the VA has.
—Shielding IHS funding from sequestration—just like how VA funding is shielded.
—Rejecting any proposed fiscal year 2018 Rescissions for Indian programs.

CONCLUSION

We are glad to provide any additional information you may request. Thank you for your consideration of the concerns and requests of the Metlakatla Indian Community.

[This statement was submitted by William Wilson, Tribal Councilmember.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE MINERALS SCIENCE AND INFORMATION COALITION

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Minerals Science and Information Coalition, thank you for the opportunity to submit a written statement to the record on fiscal year 2019 appropriations related to the Mineral Resources Program within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The Minerals Science and Information Coalition ("MSIC" or "the Coalition") is a broad-based alliance of minerals and materials interests united in advocating for reinvigorated minerals science and information functions in the Federal Government. The Coalition is comprised of trade associations, scientific and professional societies, groups representing the extractive industries, processors, manufacturers, other mineral and material supply-chain users, and other consumers of Federal minerals science and information.

MSIC supports the President's request for $58 million for the U.S. Geological Survey's Mineral Resources Program for fiscal year 2019 and commends the maintenance of funding levels for minerals science in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018.

Every sector of industry relies on a variety of minerals to generate their end products, making a stable and reliable supply of minerals vital for the continued growth and success of our economy. Minerals are critical ingredients in specialized applications for national defense and energy technologies, as well as essential building blocks for buildings, roads and civic infrastructure projects. They are used in the manufacture of paper, glass, ceramics, plastics, refined metals, and a host of intermediary materials. These minerals and materials are vital for manufacturing products that define our daily lives including automobiles, mobile phones, and computers. Whether acting as the raw materials for manufacturing processes or as the end products themselves, minerals are part of daily life in virtually every product we use.

A stable and reliable mineral supply chain is critical for the continued growth and success of our economy. Supply chains can be long, complex, and vulnerable to disruption for many reasons. The restrictions in the supply of rare Earth elements, for example, threaten the production of components essential for U.S. defense systems,

in addition to a vast array of communications, clean energy, electronics, automotive, and medical products. Understanding both our domestic mineral resources and the greater supply chain is imperative as our reliance on foreign imports continues to grow. MSIC is pleased to note the commitment by the administration and Secretary Zinke to invest in the Mineral Resources Program (MRP) at USGS, as seen through the Executive and Secretarial orders on Critical Minerals and the fiscal year 2018–2019 funding requests. The Coalition is supportive of the funding requests and increased awareness of the importance of minerals science and information.

USGS MINERAL RESOURCES PROGRAM

The Minerals Science and Information Coalition supports the prioritization of USGS's Mineral Resources Program as it is vitally important to our national defense and economic well-being. The Nation's manufacturing, pharmaceutical, and agricultural sectors rely on impartial information from the Federal Government to build stable supply chains. The MRP assists decision-makers in making informed choices by providing reliable, accurate information about the location, quantity, and quality of mineral resources. This information is the foundation for identifying and anticipating existing and emerging vulnerabilities: it is paramount for sound decision-making by business leaders and policymakers.

This includes USGS's development of the Three Dimensional mapping and Economic Empowerment Program (3DEEP), to improve the topographic, geological, and geophysical mapping of the United States. Programs such as 3DEEP create a strong scientific foundation for understanding our resources and allow for the development of longterm, proactive public policies.

Equally important to current supply chain studies, the minerals science conducted by MRP covers the full life cycle of minerals, from the discovery of mineral deposits to the disposal of mineral products, including understanding how mineral deposits are formed, the nature and location of mineral deposits, and the environmental issues associated with responsible mineral extraction and land restoration. The MRP has a long and distinguished history of research and assessment of our Nation's mineral resources, from production through life cycle. The holistic understanding of minerals science allows us to balance our use and maximize the value of our natural resources.

The National Minerals Information Center (NMIC), within MRP, is the premier source of information on the worldwide supply of, demand for, and flow of minerals and materials. The NMIC's consistency and reliability of data over decades are its greatest strengths. NMIC's data and products are used throughout the Federal Government to support economic, national security, and land use decisionmaking. NMIC's data is also critical to private sector investment and financial institutions. Due to our expanding use of a range of critical and strategic mineral commodities that are essential to our defense, economy, and wellbeing, the Mineral Science and Information Coalition applauds the administration's commitment to funding minerals science. The fiscal year 2019 funding request will help guarantee NMIC receives the resources needed to develop and maintain a robust forecasting function for the minerals sector.

The Mineral Science and Information Coalition encourages you to fund these programs at the requested levels and thanks you for understanding and valuing the role USGS and minerals science, specifically the Minerals Resource Program and National Minerals Information Center, play in our economic and national security.

American Chemical Society
American Geosciences Institute
American Exploration & Mining Association
American Physical Society
Association of American State Geologists
Industrial Minerals Association—North America
National Industrial Sand Association
National Mining Association
National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association
Society of Economic Geologists, Inc

If you would like any additional information for the record, please contact Ariel Hill-Davis, Vice President, Industry and Regulatory Affairs, Industrial Minerals Association—North America, 1200 18th St NW, Suite 1150, Washington, D.C. 20036. arielhilldavis@ima-na.org. 202–457–0200.

[This statement was submitted by Mark Ellis, Chair.]

The Mountain Pact

The Mountain Pact Brings Mountain Community Voices to Washington, D.C.

Last week, The Mountain Pact went to Washington D.C. to meet with Western Senators and Representatives, the USDA/Forest Service and Department of Interior leadership to discuss the importance of balanced public lands management to the economic and cultural well-being of our mountain communities. Executive Director Anna Peterson was joined by local elected officials from Bend, OR, Telluride, CO, Aspen, CO, Avon, CO, and Frisco, CO.

The Messages We Brought to Washington:

- Balance Oil & Gas Leasing on Public Lands with Conservation and Recreation- The Trump Administration must ensure that oil and gas leases on public lands include necessary environmental safeguards and opportunities for public input. Public lands need to be managed with the multiple use mandate in mind to support other uses of public lands such as outdoor recreation which supports mountain town economies.

- Ensure Oil & Gas Royalties Rates on Public Lands Quit Shortchanging Taxpayers-The Trump Administration should manage public lands in a way that supports multiple uses

and ensures taxpayers are getting their fair share of revenue from energy development.

- Implement the 2016 Methane Waste and Prevention Rule- The 2016 BLM Methane Waste and Prevention Rule should be implemented as is. This rule has common sense environmental and economic safeguards that will put an end to shortchanging taxpayers and reduce emissions that have proven harmful to human and environmental health.

- Put an End to the SECURE/ONSHORE Acts- These pieces of legislation would largely cut the public out of the oil and gas leasing review process by giving authority to the states where development occurs. Congress should keep the management of oil and gas on public lands at the federal level to ensure key environmental safeguards and public comment are not ignored by the states who have no obligation to follow federal review processes.

- Reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)- Congress should fund and reauthorize the LWCF at its full amount to ensure beneficial investment in management of America's public lands.

A big thank you to council members Nathan Boddie (Bend, OR), Todd Brown (Telluride, CO also representing Ridgway, CO and Ophir, CO), Ann Mullins (Aspen, CO), Sarah Smith Hymes (Avon, CO), and Hunter Mortensen (Frisco, CO) for joining The Mountain Pact in DC last week.

National public lands and their balanced management is critical to the economic and cultural well-being of western mountain communities. The recreation opportunities provided by these lands draw visitors from all over the world and contribute to a special quality of life for our residents. A strict 'energy dominance' approach to public lands management is detrimental to the recreational opportunities that could be provided by these lands as well as the climate resiliency of our communities. We were so glad to be able to bring these messages to Congressional and Agency leadership in Washington last week. Stay tuned for an update on the next way that you can get involved with federal policies impacting mountain communities.

The Mountain Pact

COMMENT DEADLINE APPROACHING: Reduced Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments Management Plans

On December 4, 2017, President Trump traveled to Utah to proclaim that he would cut Bears Ears National Monument by 85 percent and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by nearly half - the largest reductions to federal public land protections in history. The President's proclamation followed months of uncertainty regarding what executive action would be taken on the recommendations from Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke's national monument review.

Many legal scholars believe that President Trump does not have the authority to reduce national monuments - that power rests exclusively with Congress. Now, even though the legality of these massive cuts to land protections has yet to be determined by the courts, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is moving forward with new monument management plans for the three smaller units left by President Trump's cuts in place of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and the two smaller units left in place of Bears Ears National Monument. Because the courts have yet to rule on whether President Trump has the authority to slash national monuments, the BLM would be better suited to postpone plan making until after the courts have decided.

Public lands are vital aspects of western culture. The tourism they draw for recreation and enjoyment stimulate the economies of mountain communities. By making resource

management plans before a decision is finalized regarding the legality of the monument reductions, the BLM is once again ignoring public opinion regarding the importance of public lands in the West.

If you are interested in submitting comment that advocates for public lands protections and Western mountain communities with recreation-based economies, please click here.

The comment period for Bears Ears closes on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11 and on FRIDAY, APRIL 13 for Grand Staircase-Escalante.

For assistance on what to write you can click here. Please personalize your comments and do two separate comments for each monument.

You can also submit your comments via email or mail.

For Bears Ears:

- Send an email to: blm_ut_monticello_monuments@blm.gov
- Mail comments to: Bureau of Land Management, 365 North Main, PO Box 7, Monticello, UT 84355

For Grand Staircase-Escalante:

- Send an email to BLM_UT_CCD_monuments@blm.gov
- Mail comments to: Bureau of Land Management, 669 S. Hwy 89A, Kanab, UT 84741

The Mountain Pact

BLM Methane Waste Rule

In 2016 the Obama Administration's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) finalized the Methane Waste Prevention Rule that would regulate methane leaking and flaring from natural gas wells on BLM managed public lands. Now, the Trump Administration has been working to eliminate this rule since President Trump took office. Most recently, the BLM issued a new proposed rule that would effectively eliminate any protections against leaking, venting, and flaring of methane. However, courts have also ruled on the immediate implementation of the 2016 rule while a Trump Administration version of their new rule is formulated. Join us in urging Secretary Zinke and the BLM to implement the 2016 Rule as is.

BLM Methane Waste Rule

The 2016 BLM Methane Waste Rule aims to reduce the amount of methane that is leaked, flared, or vented from natural gas wells on BLM managed public lands. It has been found that oil and gas companies waste $330 million worth of natural gas each year due to unregulated leaking, venting, and flaring from wells. Additionally, taxpayers are losing millions of dollars every year from this wasted natural gas. Not only is this costing taxpayers and nearby western communities significant loss in revenue, but it is allowing the consistent leaking of dangerous emissions into the air. These methane leaks are dangerous for both our atmosphere and human health.

Yet, in December 2017, Secretary Zinke announced that the BLM would postpone implementation of the Methane Waste Rule by one year so that oil and gas companies would not be concerned with costs associated with implementation of a rule that the BLM was intending to rewrite--an announcement welcomed by industry groups.

What's Happening Now?

In February 2018, the BLM released a new proposed rule that would eliminate the conservation and public health requirements that had been updated with the 2016 rule. This new rule eliminates the 2016 upgrades and reverts back to weak requirements that lead to extreme loss of taxpayer revenue and dangerous emissions of wasted methane. Along with this new proposed rule, the BLM has opened a 60-day public comment period.

What You Can Do

Any new rule addressing methane waste needs to focus on the economic and health impacts methane leaks have on all Americans rather than just preventing a possible financial burden to the oil and gas industry. The Mountain Pact is committed to sustaining mountain communities through support of common sense regulations on public lands such as the 2016 Methane Waste Prevention Rule. If you would like to submit comment that supports the implementation of the 2016 Rule, please click here and follow the link and instructions at the bottom of the page.

Please reach out to us with any questions!

www.themountainpact.org | info@themountainpact.org

Prepared Statement of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs

My name is Bob Scott and I serve as Director of the Division of Abandoned Mine Lands within the Kentucky Department of Natural Resources. I am providing this statement on behalf of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAMLP), for which I currently serve as President. NAAMLP represents 31 States and Tribes, of which 28 implement federally approved abandoned mine land reclamation (AML) programs authorized under Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA).

As you know, the 2006 amendments to Title IV of SMCRA significantly changed how State and Tribal AML grants are funded. These grants are still based on receipts from a fee on coal production, but beginning in fiscal year 2008, the grants are funded primarily by mandatory appropriations. As a result and based on current OSMRE projections, the States and Tribes should receive $327.6 million (before sequestration) in fiscal year 2019.

OSMRE's budget includes a discretionary funding request that would provide $20.4 million, a decrease of $6.6 million from the previous year. From this amount, OSMRE must meet the supplemental grant needs of States operating at "minimum program" status ("minimum program make-up funds"), as well as fund other activities and obligations including the agency's own AML work, administration of the AML Fund, and other activities in support of the AML program. While the amount provided should be sufficient to cover minimum program funding needs,[1] it should be noted that the decrease might strain the agency's ability to meet its other programmatic obligations.

SMCRA has been successful largely as a result of the cooperative Federalism model that it employs. While the States and Tribes understand and appreciate OSMRE's role in the AML program under SMCRA, we caution against using limited OSMRE funding for unproductive ends, for example OSMRE oversight that second-guesses State/Tribal assessments or requires unnecessary levels of supplemental information that does not advance program purposes. Rather than having OSMRE simply engaging in more oversight, the States and Tribes would benefit from a more collaborative relationship with OSMRE in completing the hard work associated with these program requirements. Minimum program States are particularly reliant on this type of support.

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[1] In fiscal year 2018 for example, 12 minimum program States received minimum program make-up funds totaling approximately $18 million. It should be noted that other AML programs may become minimum programs in the future requiring additional funds for this category.

For example, we believe that funding for technical assistance and applied science projects related to AML work is particularly important. We also urge the subcommittee to maintain necessary funding for OSMRE's training program and TIPS, including moneys for State/Tribal travel. These programs are central to the effective implementation of State and Tribal AML programs as they provide necessary training and continuing education for State/Tribal agency personnel, as well as critical technical assistance.

We also strongly support maintaining funding for the Watershed Cooperative Agreements in the amount of $1.5 million, which is proposed to be eliminated in OSMRE's 2019 budget request. This funding serves an important role in facilitating State and local partnerships, thereby helping to leverage outside sources of funding and preserve precious reclamation grant funding.[2]

IMCC and NAAMLP strongly recommend an increase in annual funding available to minimum program States. These States often have very significant AML inventories but funding under the current grant distribution formula is not enough to make efficient progress with their AML inventories.[3] In the interest of enabling these AML programs to fulfill their potential, NAAMLP believes an increase in minimum program funding to an annual grant amount of at least $5 million would be very beneficial.

Further to the goal of efficiency in the use of limited AML grant funding, sequestration of AML grants under the Budget Control Act of 2013 is an increasing concern to the State and Tribal AML programs. In fiscal year 2018, a sequestration reduction of 6.8 percent translated to $21.2 million withheld for a total of approximately $118.6 million withheld since 2013.[4]

NAAMLP recommends that Congress consider the exemption of the AML fund from sequestration a priority as it pursues legislative initiatives related to AML, as the benefits are patent, and every dollar of AML funding is needed. Because the AML fee is paid by the coal mining industry for the exclusive purpose of AML remediation, withholding that funding does not actually reduce the Federal budget deficit. NAAMLP also recommends that the subcommittee explore mechanisms to release the growing balance of withheld AML moneys related to sequestration as part of the appropriations process.[5]

NAAMLP also recommends attention be given to the way AML emergencies are funded under Title IV. Responding to sudden emergencies such as mine subsidence, blow-outs, sinkholes and landslides is one of the AML programs' most important functions. Starting in 2010, OSMRE instituted a policy whereby State and Tribal AML programs must fund AML emergencies from their regular AML grants. This change has proven problematic in that it diverts grant funding away from progress with AML inventories.[6] For minimum program States, a single emergency can preempt a year of progress. NAAMLP recommends a return to the pre-2010 system wherein AML programs received reimbursement from the OSMRE discretionary share for emergency projects. This will encourage efficient progress with reclamation as well as ensure that the State and Tribal AML programs are well equipped to fulfill their important public safety role.

The Committee's recognition of the important role played by the AML program is evidenced by the ongoing provision of AML Economic Development Grant Pilot funds. The projects underway due to this pilot program exhibit potential economic as well as safety and environmental benefit, though the types of projects undertaken and benefits they hope to achieve have varied significantly between the States. The pilot as also served to inform potential future economic development-focused reclamation efforts. NAAMLP therefore opposes the reduction of funding for the pilot program in OSMRE's fiscal year 2019 proposed budget, and notes that these grants are not redundant to regular AML grant funding; pilot funding has a distinctly eco-

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[2] Funding for these agreements will also potentially be a key support for Good Samaritan programs and projects should Congress adopt legislative language supporting Good Samaritan clean up activities.

[3] At the current rate, some minimum program States have AML inventories that would literally take hundreds of years to reclaim completely.

[4] For minimum program States only receiving $3 million per year the loss is especially problematic.

[5] According to OSMRE, the specific amounts that have been withheld from each State or Tribe are being held in the AML Fund and are being tracked so that, once OSMRE has authority to distribute those funds, they can be returned to the State and Tribal AML programs for which they were originally intended. According to OSMRE, there is no authority to distribute withheld funds unless provided by Congress.

[6] This is a particular problem for minimum program States, who can have entire years worth of progress with their limited annual grant be preempted by a single emergency project.

nomically-focused purpose, whereas regular AML grant funding is focused on human and environmental health.

While the pilot program has been generally successful so far, and OSMRE's guidance documentation has been helpful, the States involved with the pilot program recommend that OSMRE's project vetting process could be more efficient. Several States are experiencing back ups as they await project approvals from OSMRE for their pilot project proposals, which could cause significant delays if construction seasons are allowed to pass before projects can get underway. A degree of shift in the direction of efficiency may aid the overall success of the program at this juncture.

Beyond the coal sector, NAAMLP represents many States with significant hardrock AML problems within their borders.[7] In the absence of a hardrock AML funding source comparable to Title IV funding for coal AML, State and Tribal hardrock AML programs struggle to maintain adequate funding and make consistent progress. There is no comprehensive account of the scale of the hardrock AML problem, but it is often cited as being in the tens of billions of dollars. In light of the disparity between available funding and the scale of the problem, NAAMLP is concerned with significant reduction to hardrock AML funding contained in the BLM fiscal year 2019 proposed budget. The proposal for BLM's hardrock AML program would combine the AML program with the hazardous materials program, with the amount appropriated for the combined program (approximately $13 million) being less than what was previously provided just for AML (approximately $19 million). BLM hardrock AML funding is one of very few resources available for hardrock AML reclamation and water treatment. The majority of hardrock AML problems occur on Federal lands, meaning that the BLM AML program is the primary means of addressing public safety and environmental impacts. What's more, BLM cooperates closely with the State and Tribal AML programs to conduct this work, meaning that the cut to BLM funding will have a cascading negative effect on the State- and Tribal-level programs. NAAMLP therefore recommends that funding for BLM's hardrock AML program be maintained at $15 million and the reduction to that funding recommended in BLM's proposed fiscal year 2019 budget be rejected.

Returning to discussion of coal AML—with the AML fee on which the Title IV program relies set to expire in 2021, NAAMLP has been in engaged in serious discussions regarding the program's future. It is clear that the continuing need for these programs is strong. The AML pilot highlights the fact that AML work is especially important to the struggling communities in Appalachia who have been hit hardest by downturns in coal related employment—the mitigation of which has been a congressional and administration priority in recent years. AML sites endanger public health and safety, degrade the environment, and dampen economic prospects, which severely constrains well-being and growth in AML-impacted communities nationwide. AML programs have been contending with these issues for 40 years or more and have learned much about the true depth and scale of AML impacts over that time, as well as the health and economic benefits these projects bring to nearby communities.

Despite the progress that has been made, the time allotted to the AML programs to restore impacts from more than two hundred years of unregulated coal mining has simply not been adequate to complete that mission by the time the AML fee expires in 2021. Current OSMRE estimates project that over $10 billion in reclamation costs will remain, and NAAMLP believes the true costs are significantly higher. There can be little question that if the AML program is to complete its mission, and if its fundamental contributions to living conditions and economic circumstances in coalfield communities are to continue, additional AML funding will be required beyond 2021. If the AML fee is not reauthorized, consideration must be given to how the more than $10 billion in public liability represented by remaining coal AML costs will be addressed.

Discussion around reauthorization of the AML program will soon come to the forefront. At that time, important questions will be asked about how much and what type of AML work is being accomplished and what types of AML problems remain. It should be noted that the AML accomplishments data furnished by OSMRE through its budget justifications document and the e-AMLIS database represent only a selective portion of the work that is being accomplished through AML grant funding. This is mainly due to the fact that e-AMLIS only records construction costs and does not include data on costs such as program administration, project manage-

[7] For example, Arizona alone estimates that they have in excess of 50,000 hazardous historic-mining hazards. More information about remaining AML reclamation costs and reclamation accomplishments can be found in NAAMLP's 2018 Update of the "Safeguarding, Reclaiming, Restoring" booklet.

ment, and most importantly, project design. NAAMLP has been working with OSMRE to examine data related to the AML program and is in the late stages of developing information to more accurately tell the story of the AML program. As an example of what has so far been produced by that effort, the NAAMLP 2017 Accomplishments report can be found in the footnote below.[8] The State and Tribal AML programs have been in the lead role in conducting reclamation and tracking progress for the last 40 years. We hope to work closely with the Committee as it considers the future of the AML program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement regarding OSMRE's proposed budget for fiscal year 2019. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have or provide additional information.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN AIR AGENCIES

On behalf of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA), thank you for this opportunity to testify on the fiscal year 2019 proposed budget for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), particularly grants to State and local air pollution control agencies under Sections 103 and 105 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), which are part of the State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) program. NACAA recommends that Congress increase State and local air grants by $75 million above fiscal year 2018 levels (i.e., approximately $151 million above the administration's request), for a total of $303 million. This level of Federal support is calibrated to the scope and complexity of the Federal requirements State and local agencies must meet to assume or continue implementation responsibilities. NACAA opposes the administration's proposal to cut State and local air quality grants by 33 percent (from $228 million in fiscal year 2018 to $152 million in fiscal year 2019), which would be detrimental to the public's health and welfare. Additionally, NACAA recommends that these agencies be provided with flexibility to use the increased funds on the highest priority programs in their areas. Finally, NACAA requests that grants for fine particulate matter monitoring remain under CAA Section 103 authority, where matching funds are not required, rather than being shifted to Section 105 authority.

NACAA is the national, non-partisan, non-profit association of 156 local and State air pollution control agencies in 41 States, the District of Columbia and four territories. The members of NACAA have the primary responsibility under the Clean Air Act for implementing our Nation's clean air program. The air quality professionals in our member agencies have vast experience dedicated to improving air quality in the United States. These observations and recommendations are based upon that experience. The views expressed in this testimony do not necessarily represent the positions of every State and local air pollution control agency in the country.

INCREASES IN FEDERAL GRANTS TO STATE AND LOCAL AIR AGENCIES ARE ESSENTIAL

State and local air pollution control agencies have struggled with insufficient resources for many years. NACAA members have faced the hard choices and made the difficult decisions to address their budget shortfalls. They have cut expenses, reduced staff, deployed Lean efforts and explored organizational realignments to maximize efficiencies in their programs. Addressing these funding shortfalls while effectively meeting Federal requirements and implementing their missions has been very challenging for these agencies.

State and local air agencies' responsibilities have continued to grow while funding has lagged behind. Federal grants to State and local air quality agencies were $228 million in fiscal year 2018, which is the same amount these agencies received 14 years ago, in fiscal year 2004. If the fiscal year 2004 figure is adjusted for inflation, level funding would translate to approximately $303 million in today's dollars—a $75-million difference. NACAA's recommendation of $75 million above the fiscal year 2018 amount is merely suggesting level funding from 14 years ago, adjusted for inflation.

Additional funds to adjust for inflation would support the administration's approach of increased responsibilities for State and local agencies as part of its emphasis on "Cooperative Federalism." State and local air agencies are already underfunded and even now bear a disproportionate share of the cost of the national air program. In order to take on new clean-air efforts under Cooperative Federalism, they would need additional Federal resources to support those activities.

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[8] NAAMLP 2017 Accomplishments Report: http://www.naamlp.net/memberinfo/NAAMLP AccomplishmentReport2017.pdf.

Increased funding would allow agencies to make investments that will modernize and streamline their operations. It is critical that funds are allocated to ensure State and local agencies can meet the customer demands of automation through information technology (IT) systems, digitization (reducing labor-intensive paper processes) and mobility (ensuring digital collection of data in the field, e.g., compliance information). They could then improve services to the regulated community and the public, such as timely and efficient permit processing and streamlined regulatory operations and compliance assistance, all of which are in demand by customers and contribute to economic development. Such efforts can also enhance transparency and create added pathways for public access to information.

State and local agencies also would use increased grants to modernize their systems to keep pace with trends in the digital economy, as well as for a variety of mission applications, especially if they are provided with the flexibility to target grant increases for the highest priority activities in their areas, as NACAA recommends. These funds would be used to support their operations, equipment and facilities. State and local air quality agencies are required to carry out many essential activities to obtain and maintain healthful air quality. These include not only new efforts, but also ongoing day-to-day responsibilities that constitute the foundation or "core" of our programs. Some of these core responsibilities for fiscal year 2019 include implementing the health-based national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for multiple pollutants, including developing and/or revising State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for each of the NAAQS—especially for ozone, fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) and sulfur dioxide; implementing new and updated air toxics Risk and Technology Review standards; addressing visibility and regional haze problems; arming citizens with information to protect themselves during catastrophic events (e.g., wildfires); and implementing motor vehicle and related fuels programs.

Completing all of these actions is resource- and labor-intensive and requires additional Federal grant funds. These tasks include developing plans to bring areas from nonattainment into attainment; air resource planning; compiling comprehensive emission inventories; conducting complex modeling; analyzing extensive and complex data; adopting regulations; providing compliance assistance; inspecting facilities and enforcing regulations, as necessary; addressing complicated air pollution transport matters; issuing small business permits; and informing and involving the public in air quality decisions and issues.

One other major responsibility that is a critical element of State and local programs, and for which additional funds are needed, is the operation of ambient air monitoring equipment and networks. Monitoring is essential for determining the extent and location of air pollution and assessing the effectiveness of planning, permitting and enforcement programs. Additional funds will ensure that agencies can continue to collect high-quality monitoring data, which regulators and the regulated community agree is crucial, as well as enable regular equipment replacement, as EPA requires in equipment-replacement plans. While the smaller individual samplers and sensors appearing on the market can provide helpful data, they are not a substitute for a robust national ambient monitoring program that provides necessary and quality-assured information for judicious decisionmaking by Federal, State and local regulators and the regulated community.

GRANT CUTS WILL SEVERELY IMPAIR STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS

In light of the critical need for increased grant funding, State and local air agencies would find it difficult to accommodate any cuts to Federal air quality grants. The cuts to State and local air quality grants contemplated in the fiscal year 2019 budget proposal—approximately 33 percent—would mean many State and local agencies would not be able to fully implement the Federal requirements of the CAA's health-based standards and deliver the healthful air the public expects. Indeed, if Congress enacts the cuts being proposed for fiscal year 2019, we fear more people will die prematurely and get sick unnecessarily.

When grant reductions were proposed last year, NACAA surveyed State and local air quality agencies to learn what a reduction of approximately 30 percent in Federal air quality grants would mean to their programs.[1] In responding to the NACAA survey last year, agency after agency painted a similar picture of severe curtailments to their activities in the face of the proposed steep cuts: cancellation of programs, loss of staff and a diminished capacity to obtain and maintain clean air. Nearly every respondent reported that cuts of this magnitude would severely reduce

[1] NACAA Report, *Impacts of Proposed fiscal year 2018 Budget Cuts on State and Local Air Quality Agencies* (May 22, 2017), http://www.4cleanair.org/sites/default/files/Documents/NACAAFundingReport-fiscal year 2018.pdf.

the essential services agencies provide. These services are required not only by the general public, with respect to decreasing air pollution, maintaining clean air and generally protecting public health, but also by the regulated community, who require quick, consistent and defensible permitting, compliance assistance and other services.

Additionally, State and local air quality agencies reported that a 30-percent cut in grants could force them to turn some of their important Clean Air Act implementation work back to the Federal Government. This would be counter to the philosophy of Cooperative Federalism, which is intended to place even greater reliance on State and local air agencies.

Finally, without sufficient resources to carry out required mandates, regions of the country could be sanctioned under the CAA, including the withholding of significant Federal highway funds, severe emissions "off-set" limits that could interfere with economic development and the possibility of EPA imposing Federal Implementation Plans on States.

AIR POLLUTION IS STILL A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO HUMAN HEALTH IN SPITE OF IMPROVEMENTS

Great strides have been made in lessening air pollution in this country. Yet, it remains a significant threat to human health and there is still so much work to be done. Tens of thousands of people in this country die prematurely each year and many others suffer serious health problems as a result of exposure to air pollution. These health complications include premature mortality, cancer, heart attack, stroke and neurological and reproductive damage.[2]

According to EPA figures, about 120 million people in this country (about 40 percent of the population) lived in counties that exceeded at least one of the Federal health-based air pollution standards in 2015.[3] With respect to hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), EPA's most recent National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) indicates that in 2011 "all 285 million people in the U.S. ha[d] an increased cancer risk of greater than 10 in one million," while one-half million people had an increased risk of cancer of over 100 in a million, due to exposure to HAPs.[4]

While Congress as a whole and this subcommittee specifically must find funding for many serious problems, it is unlikely that any are a greater threat to the health of Americans than air pollution. This subcommittee has an opportunity and obligation to protect and improve the health of millions of people in this country by providing adequate Federal funding for State and local air pollution control programs.

NACAA RECOMMENDS THAT MONITORING GRANTS REMAIN UNDER CAA SECTION 103 AUTHORITY

The administration's recommended budget calls for EPA to shift funds for $PM_{2.5}$ monitoring from Section 103 authority, under which State or local matching funds are not required, to Section 105, which would require a match. NACAA recommends that these $PM_{2.5}$ monitoring grants remain under Section 103 authority. If a State or local agency is unable to meet the matching requirements, retaining the funds under Section 103 will ensure that they do not have to refuse essential monitoring funds because they do not have the resources for the match. In previous years, Congress has been responsive to our requests on this issue, for which we are extremely grateful, and NACAA recommends again that these grants remain under Section 103 authority.

CONCLUSION

NACAA recommends that Congress increase State and local air grants by $75 million above fiscal year 2018 levels (i.e., approximately $151 million above the administration's request), for a total of $303 million. NACAA opposes the administration's proposal to cut State and local air quality grants by 33 percent (from $228 million in fiscal year 2018 to $152 million in fiscal year 2019). Additionally, NACAA recommends that State and local agencies be provided with flexibility to use the increased funds on the highest priority programs in their areas. Finally, NACAA requests that grant funds for $PM_{2.5}$ monitoring remain under Section 103 authority, rather than being shifted to Section 105 authority.

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[2] EPA Report *Our Nation's Air: Status and Trends through 2016,* https://gispub.epa.gov/air/trendsreport/2017/#sources.

[3] *Fiscal Year 2019 EPA Budget in Brief* (February 2018), page 16, https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-02/documents/fy-2019-epa-bib.pdf.

[4] http://www.epa.gov/national-air-toxics-assessment/2011-nata-assessment-results.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on these important programs and for considering the funding needs of State and local air quality agencies.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN WATER AGENCIES

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) represents a growing network of more than 300 public wastewater and stormwater agencies nationwide who collectively serve more than 125 million Americans. NACWA thanks the subcommittee for its work in fiscal year 2018 to provide strong funding for clean water, including dedicating increased infrastructure investment to our Nation's critical water needs. Looking to build on that strengthened Federal funding partnership, below are our fiscal year 2019 EPA Appropriations priorities.

Program: Clean Water State Revolving Fund
Funding Request: $2.8 B (2x fiscal year 2017 enacted, an increase of $1.106B over fiscal year 2018 enacted).

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) is a critical tool which municipal clean water agencies leverage to help meet their Federal obligations under the Clean Water Act. In the United States, more than 90 percent of water infrastructure investment comes through local ratepayer and State investment. Importantly, the low-interest loans—and in limited cases, grants and loan forgiveness—that the CWSRF facilitates helps clean water agencies finance infrastructure investments at favorable rates and better manage impacts to ratepayers.

The CWSRF is increasingly crucial at a time when sewer and water rates are increasing well above the rate of inflation. NACWA analysis found that in 2017, the national average cost of wastewater services rose faster than the rate of inflation for the 16th year in a row, rising 3.6 percent in 2017 alone. The national average amount that a single-family residence pays for wastewater collection and treatment [not including drinking water service] is now $501 per year. Key drivers of rising rates include Federal consent decrees requirements, associated capital construction and debt service, CSO and SSO controls, and sewer rehabilitation and replacement.

The CWSRF has been instrumental in many communities' successes in complying with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, implementing secondary (biologic) treatment of wastewater, and reducing the frequency and size of sewer overflows during wet weather events. The CWSRF is also essential for many communities working to implement new regulatory requirements ranging from updated water quality standards to tightening nutrient limitations. And, the CWSRF is increasingly used to help implement innovative stormwater and nutrient management projects and green infrastructure.

Increasing national attention on the State of our Nation's water infrastructure is welcomed by NACWA, and we are excited to work with Congress on innovative proposals to boost water infrastructure investment and better address the infrastructure investment gap. That said, the CWSRF, with its demonstrated success in facilitating investment in communities large and small, must continue to be a key part of the infrastructure solution. NACWA strongly appreciates the increase from $1.394B in fiscal year 2017 to $1.694B in fiscal year 2018, and urges continued strong support toward a water sector goal of reaching $2.8 Billion in annual Federal appropriation for the Fund.

Program: Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program
Funding Request: $63 Million

The newer WIFIA program is a promising compliment to the CWSRF and DWSRF, providing a new tool to address water infrastructure investment by leveraging limited Federal resources. This new mechanism, first authorized in 2014, was designed primarily to fund large water infrastructure projects over $20 million. NACWA has been engaged and pleased with the Agency's efforts to establish the program. In April 2018 EPA made its first loan under the new program, for which applications greatly exceeded available funding. NACWA is strongly supportive of the significant increase in funding for WIFIA provided in fiscal year 2018 and encourages at least level funding with the $63 million provided in the fiscal year 2018 omnibus.

Program: Integrated Planning
Funding Request: Provide at least $6.5 M for Integrated Planning

NACWA utility members were encouraged by the Integrated Planning Framework for Municipal Stormwater & Wastewater which EPA put forth in 2012. The Integrated Planning approach can help municipalities in addressing their Clean Water Act obligations by providing an approach to prioritizing clean water investments within a compliance schedule that focuses on the highest-impact investments first. The approach can help address rising rates and affordability issues impacting local utilities and ratepayers by generating greater "bang for the buck," and allowing communities to address environmental and public health issues holistically and cost-effectively. NACWA has been pleased to see bipartisan congressional support for Integrated Planning, including legislation to codify this approach that has passed the 115th Senate (S. 692). We urge funding targeted to helping the Agency provide technical assistance to pilot communities as this approach becomes better accepted and understood.

Program: Geographic Programs
Funding Request: At least $473 Million, to provide full funding across Geographic Programs

USEPA's Geographic Programs, including the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), Chesapeake Bay Program, and Long Island Sound among others support watershed-based investments aimed at improving water quality. The goals and impacts of these programs cross multiple States, impact waters of national significance, and leverage significant State, local, and private dollars. In many cases, the geographic programs have helped forge partnerships between clean water agencies, upstream landowners, conservation groups, and other stakeholders to strategically address root problems and advance water quality, reduce historic contamination, restore habitat, and many other goals that advance the Clean Water Act goals of fishable and swimmable waters.

NACWA is strongly encouraged by the strong bipartisan congressional support these programs enjoy, particularly in light of recommendations in the Presidents' budget to drastically reduce their funding. We urge Appropriators to maintain full funding for these important and successful programs in fiscal year 2019.

Program: Categorical Grants: Nonpoint Source § 319
Funding Request: $170.92 M (Maintain fiscal year 2018 enacted level)

The CWA has been remarkably successful in reducing point source discharges. In many watersheds nonpoint sources remain the largest outstanding driver of water quality impairments. Thus, continued progress on improving water quality under the CWA relies in large part on the ability to improve nonpoint source management. Nonpoint sources also contribute to acute public health risks such as harmful algal blooms and threats to drinking water.

Nonpoint Source grants are provided to State, Tribes, and territories to aid implementation of EPA-approved Nonpoint Source Management Programs under Sec. 319 of the CWA. Activities provided under these programs include technical and financial assistance to municipalities, outreach and education, and technology transfer and training. These programs also help monitor and assess the impacts of nonpoint management projects, an area where continued research and documentation is in demand by public entities and the private sector.

Program: Categorical Grants: Pollution Control § 106
Funding Request: $230.81 M (Maintain fiscal year 2018 enacted level)

Under Sec. 106 of the CWA, EPA provides Federal assistance to States and Tribes to aid in their role of enforcing the CWA. Strong State programs are essential to the cooperative Federalism approach of the Act. The clean water agencies represented by NACWA continually engage with their State programs offices on all aspects of CWA permitting, compliance and enforcement. NACWA is interested in efforts to help streamline programs but strongly urges maintained funding, as reductions may impact the functioning of State programs to the detriment of the regulated community.

Program: National Priorities Water Research Program
Funding Request: $20 M

Since 2012, Congress supported the National Priorities Water Research grant program by providing approximately $4 million in EPA's Science and Technology Ac-

count. This funding has advanced the science of priority research topics through applied, extramural research projects. This successful program provides direct benefit to water sector utilities through increased knowledge, tools, and models that can improve public health outcomes and lower costs for municipalities. However, more funding is needed. We urge increased funding for the National Priorities Water Research grant program to $20 million for fiscal year 2019. The increased funding for this competitive grant program will support transformative research approaches that will enable the water sector to respond to current and future challenges.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact NACWA for additional information.

[Contact: Kristina Surfus, Director of Legislative Affairs, ksurfus@nacwa.org.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

DEAR CHAIRMAN AND RANKING MEMBER:

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) represents America's 3,000 conservation districts and the 17,000 men and women who serve on their governing boards. Conservation districts are local units of government established under State law to carry out natural resource management programs at the local level. Districts work with millions of cooperating landowners and operators to help them manage and protect land and water resources on all private lands and many public lands in the United States.

Recent events across the country have shown the importance and continued benefit of proper management of our water and forest resources. For fiscal year 2019, NACD respectfully requests an appropriation of $171 million for Environmental Protection Agency's 319 Nonpoint Source Grants. We also request maintaining level funding for the Forest Service's State and Private Forestry program at $237 million in the fiscal year 2018 Interior appropriations bill.

The 319 Nonpoint Source Grants are critically important to stream bank stabilization, stormwater management, low-impact development, and other projects led by conservation districts to address water quality at the local level. Working lands are under increased pressure to produce food, feed, fuel, and fiber for the world's growing population. Because of this reality, it is more important than ever that we dedicate the resources necessary to ensuring local communities continue to have access to and realize the benefits of clean water.

State and Private Forestry is one of the few U.S. Forest Service (USFS) programs that provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners. For this reason, State and Private Forestry programs should be staffed and funded at levels that allow for strong public-private partnerships and ensure greater forest management and economic opportunity on private, non-industrial forest lands.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. We look forward to working with you as we continue to serve the Nation through natural resource conservation.

Sincerely,

BRENT VAN DYKE
NACD President

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE ENERGY OFFICIALS

Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee, I am David Terry, Executive Director of the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), which represents the 56 State and Territory Energy Offices. NASEO is submitting this testimony in support of funding for the ENERGY STAR program (within the Climate Protection Partnership Division of the Office of Air and Radiation) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). NASEO supports funding of at least $46 million, including specific report language directing that the funds be utilized only for the ENERGY STAR program. The ENERGY STAR program is successful, voluntary, and cost-effective. The program has a proven track record—it makes sense, it saves energy and money and Americans embrace it. With a slowly recovering economy, ENERGY STAR helps consumers and businesses control expenditures over the long term. The program is strongly supported by product manufacturers, utilities and homebuilders, and ENERGY STAR

leverages the States' voluntary efficiency actions. Voluntary ENERGY STAR activities are occurring in public buildings, such as schools, in conjunction with State Energy Offices, in Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The proposed elimination of this program is a grave mistake. We also strongly oppose the creation of a "fee-based" funding model, which could erode the program's integrity.

The ENERGY STAR program is focused on voluntary efforts that reduce the use of energy, promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy, and works with States, local governments, communities and business to achieve these goals in a cooperative, public-private manner. NASEO has worked very closely with EPA and approximately 40 States are ENERGY STAR Partners. With very limited funding, EPA's ENERGY STAR program works closely with the State Energy Offices to give consumers and businesses the opportunity to make better energy decisions and catalyzes product efficiency improvements by manufacturers without regulation or mandates. This program is voluntary.

ENERGY STAR focuses on energy efficient products as well as buildings (e.g., residential, commercial, and industrial). Over 1 billion ENERGY STAR certified products were shipped in 2015 across more than 85 product categories for a cumulative total of well over 5.2 billion products since 1992. The ENERGY STAR label is recognized across the United States. Approximately, 90 percent of households recognized the ENERGY STAR label when it was shown to them. It makes the work of the State Energy Offices much easier, by working with the public on easily recognized products, services, and targets. In order to obtain the ENERGY STAR label a product has to meet established guidelines. ENERGY STAR's voluntary partnership programs include ENERGY STAR Buildings, ENERGY STAR Homes, ENERGY STAR Small Business, and ENERGY STAR Labeled Products. The program operates by encouraging consumers and working closely with State and local governments to purchase these products and services. Marketplace barriers are also eradicated through education. State Energy Offices are working with EPA to promote ENERGY STAR products, ENERGY STAR for new construction, ENERGY STAR for public housing, etc. A successful example of how State Energy Offices are leveraging this key national program is the Nebraska Energy Office, which since 2005, has utilized ENERGY STAR as the standard for certifying home and office electronics that are eligible under the State's successful and long-running Dollar and Energy Savings Loan program.

In 2016, millions of consumers and 16,000 voluntary partners, that included manufactures, builders, businesses, communities and utilities, tapped the value of ENERGY STAR and achieved impressive financial and environmental results. Their investments in energy-efficient technologies and practices reduced utility bills by well over $34 billion.

An estimated 500,000 homes were improved through the whole house retrofit program, Home Performance with ENERGY STAR (HPwES) through 2015. This work was performed by 48 locally sponsored programs and more than 2,100 participating contractors across the Nation. Over 30 States, including California, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nevada, and Pennsylvania, operate or support the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR programs. 3,100 home builder partners have constructed 1.8 million certified homes since 1995.

The State Energy Offices are very encouraged with progress made at EPA and in our States to promote programs to make schools more energy efficient, in addition to an expanding ENERGY STAR Business Partners program. In Kentucky, the State has partnered with school districts and engineering firms to advance ENERGY STAR rated schools, resulting in more than 325 ENERGY STAR rated schools in the State, a 67 percent increase since 2012. Over the past few years, Kentucky has moved aggressively to promote and build zero-net energy schools. Other States that have over 150 ENERGY STAR rated schools include Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. Over 27 percent of Utah's K–12 schools are certified as ENERGY STAR.

EPA provides technical assistance to the State Energy Offices in such areas as ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (how to rate the performance of buildings), setting an energy target, and financing options for building improvements and building upgrade strategies. ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager is used extensively by State Energy Offices to benchmark performance of State and municipal buildings, saving

taxpayer dollars. Portfolio Manager is the industry-leading benchmarking tool which has been used voluntarily in 45 percent of the commercial buildings in the U.S. Portfolio Manager is used to measure, track, assess, and report energy and water consumption.

Additionally, the industrial sector embraces ENERGY STAR and companies such as GM, Eastman Chemical, Nissan, Raytheon, Boeing and Toyota are recognized for sustained energy excellence by the program. At the close of 2014, the number of industrial sites committed to the ENERGY STAR Challenge for Industry grew, while 306 sites met or exceeded their targets by achieving an average 20 percent reduction in industrial energy intensity.

The State Energy Offices are working cooperatively with our peers in the State environmental agencies and State public utilities commissions to ensure that programs, regulations, projects and policies are developed recognizing both energy and environmental concerns. We have worked closely with this program at EPA to address these issues. We encourage these continued efforts.

CONCLUSION

The ENERGY STAR program saves consumers billions of dollars every year. The payback is enormous. NASEO supports robust program funding of at least $46 million in fiscal year 2019. Funding for the ENERGY STAR program is justified. It's a solid public-private relationship that leverages resources, time and talent to produce tangible results by saving energy and money. NASEO endorses these activities and the State Energy Offices are working very closely with EPA to cooperatively implement a variety of critical national programs without mandates.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBER UDALL:

The administration's fiscal year 2019 budget proposal would have significant adverse consequences for the Nation's forests, over 60 percent of which are State or privately owned. We believe that investments in key Federal programs to conserve and improve America's forests—rural and urban, private and public—are critically important. These investments create jobs, mitigate pollution and carbon emissions, enhance and protect our drinking water, contribute to healthy and livable communities, and encourage forest product innovation and utilization—helping the Nation to foster strong economic growth in rural areas.

State foresters deliver technical and financial assistance to protect forest health (and the many benefits healthy forests provide) with help from USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry programs. The comprehensive processes for delivering their services are articulated in each State's Forest Action Plan, which were authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill and reauthorized in the 2014 Farm Bill.

We thank you for your continued support of State and Private Forestry programs in the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus bill. In fiscal year 2019, sustained funding for these programs will help improve the health of the Nation's forests and encourage economic growth in a sector that sustains more than one million jobs in the United States. Our fiscal year 2019 funding level requests include:

STATE FIRE ASSISTANCE (SFA) AND VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE (VFA) PROGRAMS

Fire-prone landscapes, adversely affected by drought and high fuel loads, have been identified as priority areas for treatment by many State foresters in their State Forest Action Plans. This is because wildland fires have become increasingly expensive and more complicated to suppress, and often threaten human life and property. For instance, in 2017, over 71,000 wildfires consumed more than 10 million acres and 8,000 homes. Eighty-one percent of those fires were on State and private lands. Additionally, across the Nation, local responders and State forestry agencies are the primary initial attack for wildland fire response.

SFA and VFA are the Federal mechanisms for assisting States and local fire departments in responding to wildfires and in conducting management activities that mitigate fire risk on non-Federal lands. SFA helps train and equip local first responders who are often first to arrive at a Federal wildland fire incident and play a crucial role in keeping fires and their costs as small as possible.

In fiscal year 2015, these two programs delivered more than $169 million in equipment to State and local first responders. A small investment of SFA funds supports State forestry agencies in accessing and repurposing equipment from the Federal Excess Personal Property and the Firefighter Property programs.

NASF supports funding the State Fire Assistance program at $87 million and Volunteer Fire Assistance at $16 million in fiscal year 2019. The need for increased funding for fire suppression has broad support and the administration's budget recommends a significant funding increase to meet the anticipated fire threat on Federal lands. Increased fire suppression funding for State and private lands, many of which are interspersed with Federal lands, is just as urgent.

FOREST HEALTH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ON COOPERATIVE LANDS

State Forest Action Plans have also identified pests and diseases as being significant forest threats. The USDA Forest Service estimates hundreds of native and nonnative insects and diseases cause damage to the Nation's public and private forests each year. A growing number of damaging pests and diseases are introduced and spread by way of wooden shipping materials, movement of firewood, and through various types of recreation.

In 2010, approximately 6.4 million forested acres suffered mortality from insects and diseases [1] and an estimated 81.3 million acres are at risk of attack over the next 15 years.[2] These losses threaten clean and abundant water availability, wildlife habitat, clean air, and other environmental services provided by forests. Furthermore, extensive tree mortality sets the stage for large-scale, catastrophic wildfire.

The Cooperative Forest Health Management program supports State activities related to prevention, monitoring, suppression, and eradication of insects, diseases, and plants through technical and financial assistance. Because forest pests and disease know no bounds, controlling pests on private lands can stop millions of dollars in damage to public lands and vice versa.

NASF supports funding the Forest Health Management on Cooperative Lands Program at $48 million and on National Forests at $59 million for fiscal year 2019.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Private forests make up two-thirds of all the forestland in the United States and support an average of eight jobs per 1,000 acres.[3] However, the Forest Service estimates that 57 million acres of private forests in the U.S. are at risk of conversion to urban development over the next two decades.

The Forest Stewardship Program is routinely identified in State Forest Action Plans as keeping working forests intact and providing public benefits, including protecting watershed health, wildlife habitat, and neighboring public lands. On the ground, almost 90 percent of landowners who have forest stewardship plans implement them, and those landowners with a plan are nearly three times more likely to actively manage their forest compared those who don't have a plan. Additionally, almost 50 percent of the Nation's wood supply comes from small landowners, who are the target of this program, and in 2017, this program assisted over 323,000 landowners.

NASF supports funding the Forest Stewardship Program at $29 million in fiscal year 2019. The need to increase funding on State and private lands to support active management is urgent.

FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

The Forest Legacy Program provides critical Federal assistance to States and private landowners to keep working forests working through permanent conservation easements, and in some cases, fee acquisitions. Each easement acquisition is required to have a long-term forest stewardship plan.

Working forests play an important role in sustaining the economic, ecological, and social well-being of America's rural and urban areas through the jobs they support and the benefits they provide, such as wildfire threat reduction, clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation space.

NASF supports funding the Forest Legacy Program at $62 million (net funding level) in fiscal year 2019. NASF also supports the program being fully funded from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and asks that it not be included in the discretionary budget cap. NASF recommends report language requiring coordination

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[1] Man, Gary. 2011. Major Forest Insect and Disease Conditions in the United States: 2010 Update. Last accessed on March, 5, 2015 at: http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/publications/ConditionsReport__2011.pdf.

[2] Tkacz, Bory, et al. 2014. NIDRM 2012 Report Files: Executive Summary. Last accessed on March, 5, 2015 at: http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/pdfs/2012__RiskMap__Exec__summary.pdf.

[3] Forest2Market. *The Economic Impact of Privately-Owned Forests.* 2009.

with State foresters prior to recommendation and selection of easements and acquisitions due to land management considerations and tax implications.

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

Community forests are important to achieving energy savings, improved air quality, reduced noise, stability in home values, and improved health and quality of life in municipalities and communities around the country. In fact, studies show community trees and forests reduce cases of childhood asthma, mitigate the impacts of auto exhaust, reduce home heating and air-conditioning costs, provide economically viable solutions for storm water management, and even reduce crime rates.

Community forests have been shown to provide environmental, social, and economic benefits to the more than 249 million Americans annually.[4] Yet, urban and community forests face serious threats, such as development and urbanization, invasive pests and diseases, and fire in the wildland-urban interface.

Since its expansion under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1990, the Urban and Community Forestry Program has provided technical and financial assistance to an average of 8,200 communities annually. The program is delivered in close partnership with State foresters and leverages Federal dollars 2:1 with existing local efforts to help communities manage, maintain, and improve their tree cover and green spaces.

NASF supports funding the Urban and Community Forestry Program at $31 million in fiscal year 2019.

FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM

America's "Forest Census," made possible through the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, is the foundation for addressing the Nation's forest health. The program enables forest managers to understand the scope and scale of forest condition trends and to make projections of future conditions through extensive data collection on everything from forest species composition to forest growth rates.

When sufficiently funded, FIA measures plots every 5 years in the East and every 10 years in the West. The forest industry, a sector which provides at least 2.8 million U.S. jobs (more than the automobile manufacturing industry), uses this data routinely to make management and investment decisions.

The program also provides unbiased information for monitoring trends in wildlife habitat, wildfire risk, insect and disease threats, predicting spread of invasive species and for solving many other resource questions. It is a particularly important tool used in the development of Forest Action Plans.

NASF supports funding the Forest Inventory and Analysis program at $83 million in fiscal year 2019.

LANDSCAPE SCALE RESTORATION PROGRAM

Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) projects allow States to collaborate with the USDA Forest Service and other partners to address critical forest priorities on a national scale. LSR projects focus only on the most critical national priorities identified in each State's Forest Action Plan, and as a result, drives meaningful and cost-effective results.

The LSR program was codified in the 2008 Farm bill and a LSR budget line item was subsequently included in fiscal year 2014 appropriations. Regional review teams comprised of State and Federal officials carry out rigorous reviews of proposed LSR projects, and as a result, projects selected for funding are ground-truthed, landscape-scale, cross-boundary, and outcome-driven.

NASF supports funding the Landscape Scale Restoration program at $23 million in fiscal year 2019. NASF does not support increases in this program coming at the expense of other programs described above. NASF also supports current legislative efforts to codify this program.

State foresters assist in strengthening the economic backbone of communities across the Nation and the health of the forests surrounding them. We appreciate your consideration of our requests and would welcome an opportunity to discuss how your committee can support our work.

Sincerely,

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[4] United States Census Bureau, *Growth in Urban Population Outpaces Rest of Nation, Census Bureau Reports.* Available at https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/2010_census/cb12-50.html. Last Accessed March 5, 2015. April 1, 2010 population estimate 308,745,538 https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US#viewtop Accessed April 17, 2018.

GEORGE GEISSLER
NASF President
Oklahoma State Forester

Attachment

NASF FISCAL YEAR 2019 APPROPRIATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS
[In Millions]

NASF Priority Programs	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Enacted	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Enacted	FY 2018 NASF Recom.	FY 2018 Admin Proposed	FY 2018 Omnibus Approps	FY 2019 Admin Proposed	FY 2019 NASF Recom.
Landscape Scale Restoration	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$14.00	$14.00	$14.00	$14.00	$23.00	$0.00	$14.00	$0.00	[1] $23.00
Forest Health—Cooperative Lands	$60.23	$48.35	$44.83	$45.65	$45.65	$40.68	$39.00	$48.00	$36.18	$41.00	$34.40	$48.00
Forest Stewardship	$32.55	$28.81	$30.44	$22.40	$23.00	$23.04	$20.05	$29.00	$20.50	$20.50	$19.50	$29.00
Forest Legacy Program	$53.00	$53.30	$50.95	$50.97	$53.00	$62.35	$62.35	$62.00	$0.00	[2] $67.00	$0.00	$62.00
Urban & Community Forestry	$32.04	$31.33	$30.70	$28.04	$28.04	$28.04	$28.04	$31.00	$0.00	$28.50	$0.00	$31.00
Forest Inventory & Analysis	$71.84	$69.21	$65.78	$66.81	$70.00	$75.00	$77.00	$83.00	$77.00	$77.00	$75.00	$83.00
State Fire Assistance	$97.23	$85.97	$78.43	$78.00	$78.00	$78.00	$78.00	$87.00	$69.40	$80.00	$65.90	[3] $87.00
Volunteer Fire Assistance	$15.66	$13.03	$12.42	$13.03	$13.00	$13.00	$15.00	$16.00	$11.60	$16.00	$11.00	[3] $16.00

[1] The Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Program funds national priorities in the federally mandated State Forest Action Plans.

[2] While the enacted level was $67 million, approximately $6 million was rescinded, so that the ''net'' appropriated was approximately $61 million.

[3] Much of the Nation's initial and extended attack resources are funded by SFA/VFA programs. In a typical year 80 percent of the Nation's wildfires and almost 50 percent of the acreage burned are State and private forests. In addition when responding out of jurisdiction the majority of the time that SFA and VFA resources are responding to wildfires, they are responding on Federal forest lands. Investments upfront in SFA/VFA prevention and initial attack capabilities, should help reduce Federal wild fire suppression costs and hence proposed increases should be mirror increases in wildfire suppression funding for Federal resources. In Admin Proposed FY19 Budget: Forest Stewardship Program has been renamed Working Forest Lands. State and Volunteer Fire Assistance programs have been renamed National and Rural Fire Capacity Programs.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATORS IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACT (NEEA)

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We greatly appreciate your past support for funding the National Environmental Education Act (NEEA), and respectfully request that the Subcommittee on Interior and Environment continue its support for environmental education projects by funding this successful program pursuant to the formula prescribed in the act at $8.7 million in the Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bill.

- Since 1990 NEEA has been a highly effective, non-regulatory tool for improving student performance in science and math and protecting public health.
- Congress has consistently funded this program at approximately $9 million, which has been strongly supported by local communities and industry.
- NEEA helps build 21st century skills and promote job training, innovation, and leadership skills.
- The Act utilizes public-private partnerships to highly leverage scarce federal resources.
- NEEA programs achieve the statutory goal of educating millions of Americans with science-based information that spurs action to create healthy, livable communities that attract jobs.

Programs funded through this act have far-reaching and well-documented positive impacts. They enable citizens from all walks to make informed, scientifically sound decisions regarding energy consumption, water quality and conservation, and energy efficiency at homes, schools, and the work place. They provide practical applications for math, science, technology and engineering. Research indicates that this type of education increases critical thinking and the problem solving skills necessary to foster innovation and keep America competitive in a fiercely global economy.

With support from the NEEA, the National Environmental Education Foundation has partnered with 20 national companies, including Toyota, International Paper, Baxter International, Price Waterhouse and others to demonstrate that environmental education improves the bottom line in energy efficiency and employee recruitment and retention, producing millions of dollars of

savings. The North American Association for Environmental Education helps ensure that by the time students graduate high school they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to address pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges. Project Learning Tree, a program of the American Forest Foundation, demonstrably improves student achievement.

NEEA Grants have been awarded in all 50 states totaling more than 4,000 grants that support high quality, high impact educational programs that address local priorities and needs. They are effective because they allow students to apply science in a real world context and perform better on standardized tests in reading, math, writing, social studies, and science. This helps America close the education gap with other countries.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to fund NEEA programs at $8.7 million for Fiscal Year 2019.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

CHAIRMAN MURKOWSKI AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding fiscal year 2019 funding on behalf of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and thank you for your years of steadfast support for the natural resource conservation work of NFWF. NFWF's fiscal year 2019 appropriations request will be matched at least dollar for dollar with non-Federal match to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitats through local partnerships. By law, NFWF will accomplish this by applying 100 percent of the appropriated funding to on-the-ground conservation projects at ZERO cost to the Federal Government.

We believe that NFWF is a sound investment in a time of constrained budgets because of our proven track record and statutory requirement to leverage Federal funding with private contributions to maximize conservation benefit. We appreciate the subcommittee's past support and respectfully request your approval of funding at the following levels:

—$ 3.0 million with bill language through the Bureau of Land Management's Management of Lands and Resources appropriation;
—$ 7.022 million with bill language through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Resource Management appropriation; and
—$ 3.0 million through the Forest Service's National Forest System appropriation.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

NFWF has received directly appropriated funding for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) since fiscal year 1995. In the past 5 years (fiscal year 2013–fiscal year 2017), NFWF has turned $14.8 million (approximately $3 million annually) in BLM funds into $71.4 million to support on-the-ground conservation projects.

In fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019, NFWF is working on re-aligning our conservation partnership with BLM to align with new BLM and Department conservation priorities. Examples of these focus areas include: (1) wildlife and migration corridors in the northern Rocky Mountain States; (2) NFWF's Alaska Fish and Wildlife Fund; (3) restoring native sage steppe habitat restoration; and (4) native fish population enhancements in watersheds in the Western United States.

In fiscal year 2018, NFWF began a new and exciting partnership in the Pecos watershed with six oil and gas companies (Anadarko, Chevron, Noble Energy, Occidental Petroleum, Shell Oil, and XTO Energy), the U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the States of New Mexico and Texas to proactively bolster populations of at-risk species. NFWF would add BLM funding to this new and creative partnership if appropriated.

Requested BLM Bill Language:

"; of which $3,000,000 shall be available in fiscal year 2019 subject to a match by at least an equal amount by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for cost shared projects supporting conservation of Bureau lands; and such funds shall be advanced to the Foundation as a lump-sum grant without regard to when expenses are incurred."

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE:

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has been a trusted partner since NFWF was created by Congress in 1984 and signed into law by President Reagan. In the past 5 years (fiscal year 2013–fiscal year 2017), the FWS appropriated funds received by NFWF have generated more than $210 million in conservation impact through 487 projects. The funds appropriated to NFWF serve as a magnet to attract funds from the private sector to create public-private partnerships critical to restoring fish, wildlife and their habitats.

In the past, the FWS appropriation for NFWF has existed in the Committee Report. However, we respectfully request that it be included in bill language, to First, it will make NFWF's direct appropriations in the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Bill consistent across all three agencies.

Requested FWS Bill Language:

"; of which $7,022,000 shall be available in fiscal year 2019 subject to a match by at least an equal amount by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for cost-shared projects supporting conservation of wildlife and other natural resources; and such funds shall be advanced to the Foundation as a lump-sum grant without regard to when expenses are incurred."

Because NFWF works with FWS on discretionary cooperative agreements for conservation programs, we also respectfully support the highest possible funding levels for the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act, Klamath Basin Restoration, and efforts to combat white-nosed syndrome in bats within the FWS, Resource Management appropriation.

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

Congress has appropriated approximately $3 million in annual funding to NFWF for partnerships with the United States Forest Service (USFS) since fiscal year 1998. From fiscal year 2013 to fiscal year 2017, NFWF turned $14.8 million in USFS funds into $118.1 million in on-the-ground conservation investments.

The fiscal year 2019 administration's budget request included level funding for the NFWF appropriation within the USFS at a level of $3 million, identical to the previous fiscal year, and as in past years, includes the language in the Bill text to appropriate the funds to NFWF.

NFWF respectfully requests that the Committee agree to the administration's budget request.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NFWF has partnered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since fiscal year 1997 and since fiscal year 2000 has worked with EPA to make grants to States and other grantees within the Geographic Programs appropriation. Therefore, we respectfully support the highest possible funding levels for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Chesapeake Bay, and Long Island Sound within the Environmental Protection Agency Geographic Programs. We also respectfully ask that the long-standing report language that delineates the amount of funding for nutrient and sediment removal grants and small watershed grants within the Chesapeake Bay program be continued.

"within the amounts provided, $X,000,000 is for nutrient and sediment removal grants and $X,000,000 is for small watershed grants to control polluted runoff from urban, suburban and agriculture lands."

NFWF BACKGROUND

NFWF was established by Congress in 1984 to catalyze private investments to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitats. In addition, every dollar directly appropriated to NFWF by Congress goes to on-the-ground conservation projects. NFWF raises private funds not only to leverage appropriated dollars, but also to support the associated management costs of implementing the Federal funds.

NFWF is required by law to match each directly federally-appropriated dollar with a minimum of one non-Federal dollar. We consistently exceed this requirement by leveraging Federal funds at a 3:1 average ratio while building consensus and emphasizing accountability, measurable results, and sustainable conservation outcomes.

Since its creation by Congress in 1984, NFWF has invested $4.8 billion representing more than 16,500 projects partnering with more than 4,500 organizations. In 2017, NFWF awarded 730 grants, using $111.2 million on Federal funds to generate a total conservation of more than $283.2 million. NFWF remains fully transparent and is required by law to notify Congress 30 days in advance of every grant that exceeds $10,000 in Federal funds.

The goal of NFWF is to ensure abundant wildlife species thrive in order to allow the economic health of our Nation to continue. We achieve this through voluntary conservation efforts to keep private working lands working, and pursuing proactive conservation to avoid regulatory actions. The key elements of our approach include: (1) leverage, (2) efficiency, (3) partnerships, (4) transparency, (5) accountability, and (5) meaningful measurable outcomes.

In fiscal year 2017, NFWF partnered with 15 Federal agencies or departments and more than 30 corporations to support implementation of Federal conservation priorities. These efforts focused on working landscapes, private landowner outreach, natural resource conservation and supporting community-based restoration.

In fiscal year 2018, NFWF was audited by an independent accounting firm and they issued an unqualified report with no material weaknesses identified and no deficiencies identified. This is the eighth consecutive year of unqualified audits. In addition, NFWF has continually qualified as a low risk auditee under OMB Circular A–133.

NFWF has a compliance department that works with grantees and partners to ensure adherence with all laws and regulations and ensure they have the capacity to financially manage funds we grant to them.

CONCLUSION

For more than three decades, NFWF has been at the forefront of national conservation activity. With our partners, NFWF has contributed to some of the Nation's most important conservation programs, invested millions in worthy and successful projects, and spearheaded programs to conserve our Nation's most treasured natural resources. We have a successful model of coordinating and leveraging Federal funds to attract support from the private sector to address the most significant threats to fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.

To reiterate, in the past 5 years (fiscal year 2013–fiscal year 2017):

Agency	Appropriations	Match	Total
BLM	$14.8	$56.6	$71.4
FWS	$35.0	$175.4	$210.4
USFS	$14.8	$103.3	$118.1

The total impact of the appropriated funding to NFWF from fiscal year 2013–fiscal year 2017 for the three agencies above is that $64.6 million in appropriated funding realized an impact of $399 million in on-the-ground conservation.

Meaningful and measurable outcomes, evaluation, transparency and accountability are NFWF's building blocks to ensure maximum conservation impact. We work directly with Federal agencies and other partners to maximize results and produce long-lasting conservation outcomes. We would not be able to impact natural resource conservation and the related benefits to citizens and the economy without the support of this subcommittee. We look forward to building on our partnerships with our Federal agency partners in fiscal year 2019 and appreciate the subcommittee's continued support of these collaborative efforts.

Chairman Murkowski and Members of the subcommittee, we greatly appreciate your continued support and hope the subcommittee will approve funding for the Foundation in fiscal year 2019.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION

The National Ground Water Association (NGWA) requests that $5 million be allocated in the fiscal year 2019 Interior, Environment & Related Agencies appropriations bill to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) with the Water Resources mission area's Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program to continue implementation and maintenance of a national groundwater monitoring network (NGWMN).

In addition to funding, NGWA is also requesting eligibility of the cooperative grant funding be expanded to Tribes, as well as State and local governments. Tribes are currently able to provide data to the network, but are not eligible to receive funding to create and/or maintain a groundwater monitoring network.

NGWA is the world's largest association of groundwater professionals, representing public and private sector engineers, scientists, water well contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers of groundwater related products and services. NGWA maintains that management of groundwater resources should be a coordinated effort between Federal, State and local governments based on the strengths of each government level, the best science available, and the nature of the resource. The NGWMN is a great example of cooperation between levels of government, in order to manage and protect a vital natural resource.

Water is one of the most critical natural resources to human, ecosystem and economic survival. Nationally, over 40 percent of the drinking water supply comes from groundwater and, in some locations, it is relied on by 80 percent of Americans for drinking water. Groundwater also serves as a key source of agricultural irrigation water.

While the health of the American people and our Nation's economic prosperity depends on groundwater, no systematic nationwide monitoring network is in place to measure what is currently available and how groundwater levels and quality may be changing over time.

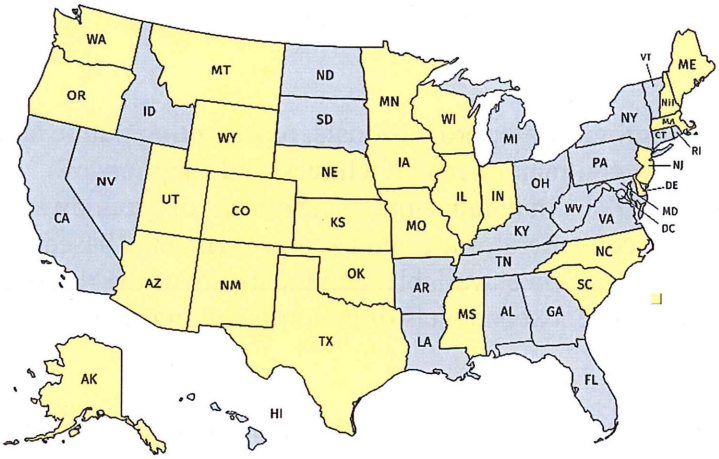
As with any valuable natural resource, our groundwater reserves must be monitored to assist in planning and minimizing potential impacts from shortages or supply disruptions. Just as one cannot effectively oversee the Nation's economy without key data; one cannot adequately address the Nation's food, energy, economic, and drinking water security without understanding the extent, availability and sustainability of a critical input—groundwater.

Congress acknowledged the need for enhanced groundwater monitoring by authorizing a national groundwater monitoring network with passage of Public Law 111–11 (Omnibus Public Land Management Act) in 2009, the SECURE Water Act, and viability of the network was proven through the completion of pilot projects in six States—Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, and Texas. These States voluntarily pilot tested concepts for a national groundwater monitoring network as developed by the Federal Advisory Committee on Water Information's (ACWI) Subcommittee on Ground Water (SOGW).

Following completion of the pilots and reports on the viability of the NGWMN, congressional support for the network has enabled national implementation of the program:

Fiscal Year 2015: $2.6 million	Fiscal Year 2017: $3.6 million
Fiscal Year 2016: $3.6 million	Fiscal Year 2018: $3.6 million

However, national implementation has not yet been achieved. To date, only 26 States have received grants. The fiscal year 2018 awards are pending.



While continuing support for the NGWMN is requested at this time, it is important to note that the requests will be finite once all States are connected to the network. From there, the costs of ongoing maintenance of the network are expected to be minimal.

Once implemented nationwide, the NGWMN would provide consistent, comparable nationwide data that would be accessible through a public web portal for Federal, State, local government and private sector users. In these tight fiscal times, the proposed network would build on existing State and Federal investments, maximizing their usefulness and leveraging current dollars to build toward systematic nationwide monitoring of the groundwater resource.

Funding from the NGWMN will be used for two purposes:

1. Provide grants to regional, State, and Tribal governments to cost share increased expenses to upgrade monitoring networks for the 50 States to meet the standards necessary to understand the Nation's groundwater resources. Activities funded include: site selection, web services development, well drilling, well maintenance, among others.
2. Support the additional work necessary for USGS to manage a national groundwater monitoring network and provide national data access through an Internet web portal.

A selection of State projects funded is listed below to demonstrate to type of work being funded by Congress in the first rounds of cooperative agreements.

—Alaska Department of Natural Resources received funding to become a data provider, serving water level data to the portal. In addition, funding is received to do well maintenance and well drilling.

—Minnesota Pollution Control Agency received funds to re-establish web services to provide data to the network and expand coverage across all of the States principal aquifers.

—South Carolina Department of Natural Resources received funding to set-up web services to provide water level data to the NGWMN.

—Texas Water Development Board received funding to select and classify water quality wells and incorporate them into the NGWMN.

A complete list of all cooperative agreements funded is available on the cooperative agreements page of the NGWMN portal's website. Each recipient of funding must also provide USGS a report, following the conclusion of the funding period.

Though the amount of funding requested is small in the context of the Department of Interior's annual budget request, funding is vital considering that, for a small investment, States and the USGS can finally secure adequate monitoring of the hidden resource that provides over 40 percent of the Nation's drinking water supply and serves as a key driver for our agricultural economy.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. With questions or in request of additional information, please contact Lauren Schapker, NGWA Government Affairs Director, at lschapker@ngwa.org.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL HUMANITIES ALLIANCE

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE:

On behalf of the National Humanities Alliance, with our nearly 200 member organizations, I write to express strong support for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

OVERVIEW

For fiscal year 2019, we respectfully urge the subcommittee to fund the National Endowment for the Humanities at $155 million.

We would like to thank the subcommittee for appropriating $152.8 million to the NEH for fiscal year 2018, thereby increasing the Endowment's funding by nearly $3 million. This increase is a critical step in rebuilding the capacity of the NEH, which has been severely eroded in recent years. Even with the increase, the Endowment's current funding is 20 percent below its fiscal year 2010 level, when adjusted for inflation. Modestly increasing the NEH's budget to $155 million would allow the Endowment to regain its capacity to support the humanities at a time when the humanities are increasingly called upon to meet national needs.

While we recognize the difficult choices that are before this subcommittee, we believe that expanding the capacity of the NEH should continue to be a priority. In the remainder of this testimony, I will highlight some of the many ways that the NEH serves national needs and helps accomplish critical national goals.

NEH SERVES NATIONAL NEEDS

The National Endowment for the Humanities' funding is distributed to the Federal/State Partnership, which supports humanities councils in every State and territory; Competitive Grants divisions, which award peer-reviewed grants in research, education, preservation, digital humanities, challenge grants, and public programs; and Chairman's Grants, which are used to pilot new programs and respond to natural disasters and other emergency situations. I will highlight just five examples of how NEH grants serve clear national needs.

The NEH's Standing Together program aids veterans' reintegration into civilian life and deepens public awareness of the experience of war.

For the past 4 years, the NEH has supported innovative programs that harness the power of the humanities to serve veterans. Increased appropriations over the past 3 years have been critical to expanding these programs, although much unmet demand continues to exist. Dialogues on the Experience of War, an NEH initiative now in its third year, supports community discussion programs for veterans and their families. Dialogues programs have reached veterans in 18 States and the District of Columbia and will reach an additional 4 States in the coming year. In fiscal year 2017, a program held in College Park, Maryland, honored one-hundred years of women's service in the military while supporting female veterans of recent conflicts; at the University of West Florida, a Dialogues program helped first-year students who are also veterans bridge their military and civilian experiences through history, literature, philosophy, and art.

Other efforts funded through the Standing Together initiative include programs that help document and preserve veterans' life experiences. A grant to North Dakota State University funded an oral history program that helps veterans explore their memories through creative outlets, while a grant to Lewiston Auburn College supported a program for preserving veterans' pictures and memorabilia in Maine. Veterans from across the Nation benefit from intensive college-preparation programs and training for Veteran Affairs staff that helps them understand veterans' experiences.

The NEH plays a key role in the preservation of native languages and cultures.

The NEH supports the documentation and teaching of native languages, history, and culture. A 2011 grant helped Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, Montana estab-

lish a degree program in Tribal Historic Preservation that prepares students to interpret and preserve indigenous heritage. To date, all graduates of the program have continued their studies in graduate training or found work in preservation offices, cultural departments, museums, private resource management firms, and government agencies.

Meanwhile, a 2015 grant to Ilisagvik College in Alaska helped preserve Iñupiaq, a UNESCO-classified endangered language with only about 2,000 fluent speakers. In addition to creating an online database that documents the language, faculty and students created language-acquisition materials—online apps and storybooks—that are used by the local summer reading program and the college's innovative "language nest" program for pre-K children. And in New Mexico, a 2017 grant is helping the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center document the oral histories of women from the New Mexico Pueblo, preserving their life stories for generations to come. These are just three examples of NEH's long-term commitment to sustaining, revitalizing, and preserving Native American languages and cultures: since 2006, the NEH has provided $11.4 million in support of its Documenting Endangered Languages program.

The NEH is the only entity, Federal or private, with a national mandate to ensure that the humanities serve all Americans.

Through a partnership with Missouri's Mid-America Arts Alliance, the NEH on the Road program ensures that high-quality museum exhibitions—originally curated with NEH support—reach all parts of the country. Fifty-three percent of the communities served have a population under 50,000. For example, in Red Cloud, Nebraska, a community of only 1,020, more than 3,000 people saw Our Lives, Our Stories: America's Greatest Generation. The exhibition traveled to 23 other locations including Excelsior Springs and Fulton, Missouri and Fairmont, West Virginia. Additionally, between 2010 and 2015, Bison: An American Icon, traveled to 19 sites, including Bend, Oregon, Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Brigham City, Utah.

To ensure a wide reach, the NEH has dedicated funding lines for innovation in humanities curricula in community colleges, HBCUs, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges. At one 2-year school, South Florida State College, an NEH grant is helping faculty develop new curricular units based on Florida's history and purchase much-needed books and materials for the rural college's library.

Additionally, the NEH provides critical support to rural institutions, establishing the cultural infrastructure necessary for thriving communities. For instance, in Seward, Alaska, the Seward Community Library & Museum, which was built with NEH challenge grant funding, is the city's only public space designed for people of all ages. In Whitesburg, Kentucky, the NEH has supported Appalshop since awarding it a foundational grant in 1972. Appalshop is now an economic driver that amplifies Appalachian voices and concerns on a national level while contributing to community life.

The NEH safeguards our historical and cultural legacies.

With grants to historical societies, historic sites, archives, and town and county record offices around the country, the NEH ensures that historical documents and artifacts are preserved under the proper conditions and accessible in the long-term. For example, grants to Andrew Jackson's Hermitage in Tennessee have supported archaeological investigations as well as the full restoration of the home's historic interior. In West Virginia, grants to Davis & Elkins College have helped preserve the papers of Senators Henry Davis and Stephen Elkins as well as 10,000 items representing American history from Native American civilizations to the present day. And several small grants to the International Tennis Hall of Fame Museum in Newport, Rhode Island, helped the museum become accredited by the American Alliance of Museums as well as preserve items related to the history of tennis and Newport.

In a massive undertaking, the NEH is also enabling the digitization of historical newspapers from around the country through the National Digital Newspaper Program. For example, in 2013, the NEH awarded a grant to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to digitize 100,000 pages of historic Mississippi newspapers published between 1836 and 1922. To date, the NEH has provided support for the digitization of approximately 11 million pages of newspapers published between 1690 and 1963—making these resources accessible for scholars, students, and anyone interested in researching local history or genealogy.

The NEH also supports the publication of the documents associated with important historical figures and events and ensures that these documents are widely accessible. Grants to the University of California, Berkeley have supported the print and digital publication of Mark Twain's letters and other writings, including his best-selling autobiography. NEH funding has supported many similar projects cen-

tered on the lives of such notable figures as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John and Abigail Adams, Albert Einstein, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

With a modest investment, the NEH stimulates private, local investment in the humanities and cultivates tourism.

NEH matching grants over the last 50 years have generated more than $4 billion in nonFederal donations to humanities projects and institutions. The NEH's investments in museums, historic sites, research, and the preservation of historic artifacts have played a key role in developing local cultural heritage tourism economies, which attract 78 percent of all leisure travelers. Over several decades, for example, the NEH has supported the development of new exhibitions at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. These grants have had an outsized impact on the local economy as Monticello welcomes nearly 400,000 annual visitors, 93 percent of whom are from outside Virginia and 50 percent of whom stay in a hotel for at least one night adding at least $13.1 million to the local economy. In Dubuque, Iowa, NEH investment in the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium has helped turn a small local historical society into a nationally-significant tourist site that generates $10 million per year to the city's economy.

From funding professional development programs for teachers that celebrate the history of the Mississippi Delta to supporting collaborative, interdisciplinary archaeological research that has led to new understanding of heart disease, each year the NEH awards hundreds of competitive, peer-reviewed grants to individual scholars and a broad range of nonprofit educational organizations around the country. Grantees include universities, 2- and 4-year colleges, humanities centers, research institutes, museums, historical societies, libraries, archives, scholarly associations, K-12 schools, local education agencies, public television/film/radio producers, and more.

The NEH supports the preservation of collections that would be otherwise lost, path-breaking research that brings critical knowledge to light, programs for teachers that enrich instruction in schools, and public programs that reach individuals and communities in every district in the country.

Overall, the NEH's support is crucial for building and sustaining humanities' infrastructure in all 50 States, serving American citizens at all stages of life.

CONCLUSION

We recognize that Congress faces difficult choices in allocating funds in this and coming years. We ask the subcommittee to consider modestly increased funding for the humanities through the NEH as an investment in opportunity for all Americans, innovation and economic growth, and strengthening our communities. Thank you for your consideration of our request and for your past and continued support for the humanities.

Founded in 1981, the National Humanities Alliance advances national humanities policy in the areas of research, preservation, public programming, and teaching. Nearly 200 organizations are members of NHA, including scholarly associations, humanities research centers, colleges, universities, and organizations of museums, libraries, historical societies, humanities councils, and higher education institutions.

[This statement was submitted by Stephen Kidd, Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION

The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) is a national American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) nonprofit organization. NICWA has provided leadership in the development of public policy that supports Tribal self-determination in child welfare and children's mental health systems for over 30 years. This testimony will provide funding recommendations for the following programs administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in the Department of the Interior: Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention grant programs ($43 million), Social Services ($50 million), Welfare Assistance ($80 million), Indian Child Welfare Act On or Near Reservation Program grant program (Tribal Priority Allocation—$20 million), and Indian Child Welfare Act Off-Reservation Program grant program ($5 million).

In order for AI/AN children to have the full protections and supports they need, Congress must appropriate adequate funds to the basic child welfare programs and services that Tribal communities, like all communities, need. States also rely on Tribes to help them provide appropriate child welfare services to AI/AN children

and families that fall under their jurisdiction.[1] This includes partnering on investigations of child abuse and neglect reports, building case plans for families, providing culturally based family services, and securing appropriate out-of-home placements. Investments in these programs will reduce preventable trauma to children and families, reduce future expenditures for more expensive and intrusive services, and decrease long-term involvement with the child welfare system.

The recommendations below suggest funding increases that will provide Tribal communities with sufficient child welfare funding, avoid unnecessary restraint on local Tribal decisionmaking, and support established State and Tribal partnerships dedicated to the protection of AI/AN children.

PRIORITY PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION

BIA Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act Recommendation

Appropriate for the first time $43 million for the three discretionary grant programs under this law—$10 million for the Indian Child Abuse Treatment Grant Program, $30 million for the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Grant Program, and $3 million for the Indian Child Resource and Family Service Centers Program to protect AI/AN children from child abuse and neglect. Despite overwhelming need these grant programs have never been appropriated funds since their inception in 1990.

The Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (ICPFVPA), Public Law No. 101–630 (1990), was enacted to fill gaps in Tribal child welfare services—specifically child protection and child abuse treatment—and to ensure better coordination between child welfare and domestic violence programs. The act authorizes funding for two Tribal programs: (1) the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Program, which funds prevention programming as well as investigation and emergency shelter services for victims of family violence; and (2) the Treatment of Victims of Child Abuse and Neglect program, which funds treatment programs for victims of child abuse. It also authorizes funding to create Indian Child Resource and Family Service Centers in each of the BIA regional areas. These centers would provide training, technical assistance, and consultation to Tribal child protection programs.

There is an incredible need for family violence prevention and treatment resources in AI/AN communities. As recently recognized by Congress in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, AI/AN women are more likely than any other population to experience intimate partner violence. In fact, more than one in three AI/AN women experience intimate partner violence at some point in their lives.[2] Further, AI/AN children experience child abuse and neglect at an elevated rate. They are victims of child maltreatment at a rate of 13.8 per 1,000, compared to the national rate of 9.2 children per 1,000.[3] These problems are intricately intertwined. Studies show that in 49–70 percent of cases, men who abuse their partners also abuse their children,[4] while child abuse investigations reveal violence against the mother in 28–59 percent of all cases.[5]

Child abuse prevention funding is vital to the well-being and financial stability of AI/AN communities. Beyond the emotional trauma that maltreatment inflicts, victims of child maltreatment are more likely to require special education services, more likely to be involved in the juvenile and criminal justice systems, more likely to have long-term mental health needs, and have lower earning potential than their peers.[6] Financially, child maltreatment costs Tribal communities and the United

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[1] U.S. Government Accountability Office. (2005). *Indian Child Welfare Act: Existing information on implementation issues could be used to target guidance and assistance to States.* Retrieved from http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05290.pdf.

[2] Black, M. C., & Breiding, M. J. (2008). Adverse health conditions and health risk behaviors associated with intimate partner violence—United States, 2005. (Table. 1) *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 57*(5), 113–117.

[3] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). *Child maltreatment 2015.* Rockville, MD: Author.

[4] White Eagle, M., Clairmon, B., & Hunter, L. (2011). *Response to the co-occurrence of child maltreatment and domestic violence in Indian Country: Repairing the harm and protecting children and mothers [Draft]* (pp. 19–20). West Hollywood, CA: Tribal Law and Policy Institute.

[5] Carter, J. (2012). *Domestic violence, child abuse, and youth violence: Strategies for prevention and early intervention.* San Francisco, CA: Family Violence Prevention Fund.

[6] Fang, X., Brown, D. S., Florence, C. S., & Mercy, J. A. (2012). The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 36,* 156–65. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2011.10.006.

States $210,012 per victim.[7] Child abuse prevention funding is an investment Tribal communities believe in, but need support to fulfill.

OTHER PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

BIA Indian Child Welfare Act Program

Increase appropriations to the Indian Child Welfare Act On or Near Reservation Program grant program to $20 million and the Off Reservation grant program to $5 million.

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) was a response to national findings that public and private child welfare agencies were systematically removing AI/AN children from their homes and communities at horrendous rates, often without due process and under questionable circumstances. To prevent these troubling practices, which unfortunately still occur today, Congress provided protections to AI/AN families in State child welfare and judicial systems under ICWA. It also recognizes the authority of Tribal nations to provide child welfare services and adjudicate child welfare matters. To effectuate these provisions, ICWA authorized grant programs to fund child welfare services on or near reservations and for ICWA support in off-reservation, urban Indian programs.

At the time that ICWA was passed in 1978, Congress estimated that between $26 million—$62 million would be required to fully fund Tribal child welfare programs on or near reservations.[8] Even after an important fiscal year 2018 increase, current funding levels falls far short of this estimate—especially after adjusting for inflation.

Appropriate $5 million for the authorized, but unfunded, Off-Reservation ICWA Program to ensure all AI/AN children receive effective services as required by ICWA.

According to the 2010 Census, 67 percent of AI/AN people lived off-reservation. These children and families are best served when State child welfare systems are not only working with the child's Tribe, but also with urban Indian child welfare programs. These programs provide assistance to States and the child's Tribe, and provide culturally appropriate child welfare services that can reduce disproportionality of AI/AN children in State foster care systems and other poor outcomes. For this reason, ICWA authorizes child welfare funding for urban Indian programs. From 1979–1996, funding was allocated to urban organizations serving Native children and families. When funded, off-reservation programs provided important services such as recruitment of Native foster care homes, child abuse prevention efforts, and culturally appropriate case management and wraparound services. When funding stopped, the majority of these programs disintegrated even as the population of AI/AN children off-reservation increased. This funding must be reinstated.

BIA Welfare Assistance Program

Increase appropriation levels to $80 million to support tribal services that assist families in crisis, prevent child neglect, sustain kinship placements for children placed outside their homes, support adults in need of care, and provide final expenses.

The Welfare Assistance line item provides five important forms of funding to AI/AN families: (1) general assistance, (2) child assistance, (3) non-medical institution or custodial care of adults, (4) burial assistance, and (5) emergency assistance.

AI/AN child welfare programs and social service agencies need to have the resources necessary to support families in times of crisis and uncertainty. AI/AN adults—including parents and kinship caregivers—are unemployed on reservations at a rate more than two times the unemployment rate for the total population.[9] Thirty-four percent of AI/AN children live in households with incomes below the

[7] Fang, X., Brown, D. S., Florence, C. S., & Mercy, J. A. (2012). The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 36,* 156–65.

[8] S. Rep. No. 95–597 (p. 19) (1977).

[9] Stegman, E., & Ebarb, A. (2010). *Sequestering opportunity for American Indians/Alaska Natives* (Para. 1). Retrieved from Center for American Progress website: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/poverty/news/2013/11/26/80056/sequestering-opportunity-for-american-indians-and-alaska-natives.

poverty line as compared to 20.7 percent of children nationwide.[10] The crippling of Native economies before the self-determination era left Tribal communities overwhelmingly impoverished, with few economic opportunities and high unemployment. The barriers to employment vary region to region in Indian Country, but include geographic remoteness, a weak private sector, poor basic infrastructure, and even a lack of basic law enforcement infrastructure. These conditions make the programs funded under welfare assistance an important safety net for AI/AN families.

The General Assistance Program provides short-term monetary assistance for basic needs like food, clothing, shelter, and utilities to individuals who are actively working towards financial stability and ineligible for all other financial assistance programs. The Emergency Assistance Program provides a one-time emergency payment of less than $1,000 to individuals experiencing property damage beyond their control. These programs are essential to families experiencing unexpected job loss or financial crisis. They often provide the assistance necessary to help a family make ends meet and keep their children safely in their home.

The Child Assistance Program provides payments for AI/AN children on Tribal lands who must be cared for outside their homes in foster care, adoptive, or guardianship placements and who are not eligible for other Federal or State child placement funds or services.

The current funding for the Welfare Assistance Program falls short of meeting the needs in Tribal communities. This leaves families in poverty and caregivers willing to take children who have been abused or neglected into their homes without sufficient financial support.

BIA Social Services Program

Provide $55 million to fortify child protective services and ensure meaningful technical assistance to Tribal social service programs across Indian Country.

The Social Services Program provides a wide array of family support services, filling many funding gaps for tribal programs and ensuring Federal staff and support for these programs. Importantly, the Social Services Program provides the only BIA and Tribal-specific funding available for ongoing operation of child protective services in Indian Country. It also funds BIA social workers at regional and agency offices, and funds training and technical assistance to Tribal social service programs and workers.

The Social Services Program is drastically underfunded and as a result, AI/AN children and families suffer. Recent increases as part of the Tiwahe Initiative are to be commended and their momentum must be continued. This recommended increase will ensure that basic child protective services are provided in Tribal communities across the country, that tribes have access to meaningful training and technical assistance, and that the BIA has the resources necessary to fill service gaps. The Tribal Interior Budget Council estimated an unmet need of $32 million based upon fiscal year 2015 levels and recent appropriations for fiscal year 2018 are still $25 million below the estimate of need.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

DEAR CHAIRMAN MURKOWSKI:

On behalf of the National Indian Education Association (NIEA), I respectfully submit the following testimony regarding fiscal year 2019 Appropriations for programs that impact Native students.

NIEA is the most inclusive national organization advocating for improved educational opportunities for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students. Our mission is to ensure that Native students have access to a high-quality academic and cultural education, a goal that is only possible if Congress upholds the Federal trust responsibility to Tribes.

THE FEDERAL TRUST RELATIONSHIP

Congress has a Federal trust responsibility for the education of Native students. Established through treaties, Federal law, and U.S. Supreme Court decisions, the Federal Government's trust responsibility to Tribes includes the obligation to provide parity in access and equal resources to all American Indian and Alaska Native students, regardless of where they attend school. The Federal trust responsibility

[10] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. (2013). *Child health USA 2012* (p. 9). Rockville, MD: Author.

is an obligation shared between the Congress and the administration for federally-recognized Tribes.

PRIORITIES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND THE BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION (BIE)

NIEA highlights the following appropriations requests for fiscal year 2019 in the Department of Interior and the BIE.

Education Construction

Provide $430 million for Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) school construction and repair. *An increase of $191.7 million above fiscal year 2018 enacted.*

—This funding category includes school construction, facilities improvement and repair, and replacement school construction.
—Schools operating within the BIE system are woefully outdated, and in some cases, dangerous for student and staff.
—The Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General published in September of 2016, an evaluation titled "Condition of Indian School Facilities," estimated the cost of fixing the dilapidated BIE schools, concluding that more than $430 million would be needed to fix the problems already identified.

Broadband Internet Access

Provide $40 million to extend broadband Internet access. *An increase of $21.15 million above fiscal year 2018 enacted.*

—Technology is no longer a luxury in 2018, and serves as a necessity to keep up with today's advanced society.
—Less than 10 percent of Indian Country has access to broadband Internet technology.
—60 percent of BIE schools do not have adequate digital broadband access, or computer access, to be aligned with college and career readiness standards.
—Expand e-rate for BIE schools, Native majority schools and Tribal Colleges and Universities.

Johnson O'Malley

Provide $42 million for full funding. *An increase of $27.1 million above fiscal year 2018 enacted.*

—The Johnson O'Malley program has provided grants to supplement basic student needs since 1934.
—It is currently being used across the country in innovative ways to assist with the unique cultural and scholastic needs of Native students.
—The Federal Government allocated $125 per student in JOM funding in 1995.
—Current funds (fiscal year 2017) provide less than $63.80 per student, which are often the only source through which Native students—including those in public schools—can engage in basic education activities.
—Tribal nations request additional funds to increase the current per student allocation to previous levels and prepare for student count increases in future years.

Juvenile Detention Education

Provide $620,000 for juvenile detention education in BIA-funded facilities. *An increase of $120,000 above fiscal year 2018 enacted.*

—This essential funding is used to provide educational services to detained and incarcerated youth at 24 BIA-funded juvenile detention facilities.

Student Transportation

Provide $73 million for student transportation in the BIE system. *An increase of $16 million above fiscal year 2018 enacted.*

—BIE schools incur significant costs in transporting Native students to and from school.
—These costs are considerably higher than most school systems due to the often-rural location of BIE facilities.
—These high costs often lead to funding shortfalls, which then must either go unpaid or funded by diverting funds from other education programs.

Tribal Grant Support Costs

Provide $90 million for Tribal grant support costs for tribally-operated schools. *An Increase of $9 million above fiscal year 2018 enacted levels.*

—Tribal Grant Support Costs fund the administrative costs of existing tribally-operated schools.
—Full funding is critical as these funds help Tribes expand self-governance and Tribal control over education programs by allocating monies for administrative costs such as accounting, payroll, and other legal requirements.
—Schools must divert critical teaching and learning funding to cover any shortfalls in operational costs.

Facilities Operations

Provide $109 million for BIE facilities operations. *An increase of $42.4 million above fiscal year 2018 enacted.*

—BIE schools use this funding for costs such as electricity, heating fuels, communications, GSA vehicle rentals, custodial services, and other vital operating expenses.
—For years, schools have only received roughly 50 percent of funding needed for these expenses. This shortfall is unacceptable as costs continue to rise for vital services.

Facilities Maintenance

Provide $76 million for BIE facilities maintenance. *An increase of $16.5 million above fiscal year 2018 enacted.*

—BIE schools use this funding for the preventative and routine upkeep, as well as for unscheduled maintenance of school buildings, grounds, and utility systems.
—Underfunding of maintenance continues to be an issue as buildings are in poor conditions and cannot maintain proper standards.

Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP)

Provide $431 million for the Indian School Equalization Program. *An increase of $24 million above fiscal year 2018 enacted.*

—These funds provide the core budget account for BIE elementary and secondary schools by covering teacher salaries, aides, principals, and other personnel.
—ISEP funds are often reallocated to cover the program cuts in other areas of education.
—ISEP must have adequate funding to ensure program needs are fulfilled and must not be reduced to provide funds for initiatives that have not been vetted by Tribes.

Bureau of Indian Education Immersion Demonstration Grants

Provide $5 million for BIE immersion programs. *An increase of $3 million above fiscal year 2018 enacted.*

—According to UNESCO, 74 Native languages stand to disappear in the next decade, with only 20 Native languages being spoken by 2050.
—Funding under the BIE reform efforts should strengthen Tribal sovereignty to increase capacity to support Native language immersion schools and provide Native students equal access to learning their cultures and languages.
—Providing Immersion Demonstration Grant funds would protect the cultural and linguistic heritage of Native students in education systems by providing Native students immersion learning in order to strengthen their language, improve academic outcomes, and become future leaders of their Tribes.

Tribal Education Agencies/Departments

Provide $10 million to fund Tribal Education Agencies/Departments. *An increase of $7.5 million above fiscal year 2018 enacted.*

—This funding assists Tribal Education Agencies (TEAs), who are uniquely situated at the local level to implement innovative education programs that improve Native education.
—Because they are administered by Tribes, TEAs are best equipped to deliver education programs tailored to improve education parity for Natives.
—TEAs would use this much-needed funding to develop academic standards, assess student progress, and create math and science programs that require high academic standards for students in Tribal, public, and BIE schools.
—Tribes utilizing self-governance over education have been very successful because they better understand the circumstances of their populations and can develop initiatives that meet local needs.

CONCLUSION

With these concerns and through these recommendations on the fiscal year 2019 budget request for Indian programs, NIEA looks forward to working with the Chairman to pass a budget that serves the unique needs of the only students that the Federal Government has a direct responsibility to educate—Native students. If you have any questions, please contact Matt de Ferranti, NIEA's Legislative Director, at mdeferranti@niea.org.

Sincerely,

AHNIWAKE ROSE
Executive Director, NIEA

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES (NIEHS) SUPERFUND RESEARCH PROGRAM (SRP)

Request Type: Program

Bill: Interior and Environment Appropriations

Agency/Account: Title III, Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Program Title: Superfund Research Program

Program Description: The NIH–NIEHS Superfund Research Program is a competitively-administered, university-based, multidisciplinary research program that brings together diverse groups of scientists and engineers at 23 centers across the United States with the goal of better understanding the human health problems associated with Superfund contaminants, developing new cleanup technologies, improving risk assessment methods and understanding how hazardous substances move in the environment. Its overarching goal is to solve problems associated with Superfund sites and protect public health. This program is authorized by Section 311(a) of CERCLA.

Program Funding Level Requested: A total funding level of $80,349,000.

Fiscal Year 2019 Amount Requested:	$80,349,000
Amount included in Fiscal Year 2019 President's Budget:	$54,000,000
Amount Increase/Decrease Over Fiscal Year 2019 President's Budget:	$26,349,000 Decrease
Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriated:	$77,349,000
Amount Increase/Decrease Over Fiscal Year 2018:	$3,000,000 Increase

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PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES FOR WATER RESOURCES

CHAIRWOMAN MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBER UDALL:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony on behalf of the National Institutes for Water Resources in support of the Water Resources Research Act program, a program funded as part of the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) budget. I am Sam Fernald, Director of the New Mexico Water Resources Research Center at New Mexico State University. We are deeply appreciative of the subcommittee's long-standing support for the Water Resources Research Act, and request that the subcommittee fund the WRRA program in fiscal year 2019 at $9 million.

The Water Resources Research Act, enacted in 1964, is designed to expand and provide more effective coordination of the Nation's water research. The Act establishes water resources research institutes (Institutes) at lead institutions in each State, as well as for Washington D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

Congress created the Institutes to fulfill three main objectives:

—Develop, through research, new technology and more efficient methods for resolving local, State, and national water resources challenges;

—Train water scientists and engineers through on-the-job participation in research; and
—Facilitate water research coordination and the application of research results through dissemination of information and technology transfers.

Since 1964, the Water Resources Research Institutes have fulfilled these three objectives in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey. The Institutes, managed by a director in each State, promote water-related research, education, and technology transfer at the national, State, and local level through grants and sponsored projects. The program is the only federally-mandated research network that focuses on applied water resource research, education, training, and outreach.

The Water Resources Research Institutes program is a State-based network dedicated to solving problems of water quantity (supply) and quality in partnership with universities, local governments, the water industry, non-governmental organizations, and the general public. Each State contributes a minimum of a 2:1 match of non-Federal funds to Federal funds, thus ensuring that local and regional priorities are addressed and the impact of Federal dollars is maximized. The Institutes are a direct, vital link between Federal water interests and needs and the expertise located within the States' research universities.

The Water Resources Research Institutes program also provides a mechanism for ensuring State, regional, and national coordination of water resources research, education of future water professionals, and proper transfer and utilization of results and outcomes. In fact, the Institutes collaborate with over 150 State agencies and more than 165 local and municipal offices. They also help train over 250 students across the Nation and are engaged in over 220 research projects aimed at solving regional water needs.

For more than five decades, the Institutes, in partnership with USGS, have provided significant research results and services to our Nation and proven successful at bringing new water professionals into the work force. Although these projects primarily focus on State needs, they also address water issues relevant to our Nation. The following are several examples of research conducted by Institutes across the country.

My Institute, the New Mexico Water Resources Research Center, developed an innovative desalination technology to remove organic substances and salts from water produced from oil and gas exploration. The technology improves ion-exchange membranes using nanoparticles, nanoflakes, and charged polymers. These new antifouling membranes will have broad applications to treat wastewater at lower cost and energy demand as compared to existing desalination technologies. Water in this system can be potentially recycled in the industrial process making it more cost-effective. The technology also uses bacteria to convert biodegradable pollutants into electricity, which offsets operation energy use or supplies additional energy for other systems for operators.

In 2015, Alaska's Sagavanirktok (Sag) River flooded the Dalton Highway, cutting off the only overland passage to the Prudhoe Bay Oilfields for a period of approximately 3 weeks. Following that event, the University of Alaska Fairbanks Water and Environmental Research Center has been continuously working with the Department of Transportation and Alyeska Pipeline Services Company to understand Sag River flood dynamics and reduce the risk of highway and/or pipeline damage from future flooding events. This and similar studies better explain North Slope hydrologic processes, a necessary step in identifying source water for O&G-related ice roads in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Researchers at the Ohio Water Resources Institute, are developing new technologies to detect and quickly respond to harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie. With the rise and frequency and severity of harmful algal blooms in lakes and reservoirs, it has become critical to develop early warnings and solutions to alleviate this problem. Researchers have deployed early warning detection buoys to collect and transmit information to water treatment plants, lake managers, and communities that may use the water as a drinking water source to alert them to a bloom before it grows and becomes potentially dangerous.

In Colorado, researchers at the Colorado Water Resources Research Institute are studying ways to respond to droughts in the South Platte River Basin. Although droughts are common in the West, projections indicate that they may become more frequent and severe, making water management more challenging. Results from the research are revealing strategies that maximize management adaptability and resultant resiliency of water provision during droughts in the State.

There are two grant components of the USGS Water Resources Research Institutes program.

The State Water Research Grants provide competitive seed grant funding opportunities for State water institutes for research priorities that focus on State, local,

and community water resources problems. The study areas span the spectrum of water supply, water quality, and public policy issues of water management. These seed grants are used to develop future research proposals and secure additional external funding.

The National Competitive Grants program promotes collaboration between the USGS and university scientists in research on significant regional and national water resources issues and promotes dissemination of results of the research funded under this program.

With our funding and educational services, water-related professionals and researchers provide solutions to the many complex water management challenges we face, including toxicity in urban stormwater runoff, managing aquifer recharge in drought—stricken communities, and monitoring and alleviating human and ecological health impacts associated with water reuse.

Our Nation faces growing challenges in providing water for agriculture, human consumption, industrial use, and natural resource applications. Institutes also use their base grants to help train new scientists, disseminate research results to water managers and the public, and promote intrastate and regional collaboration. The Water Resources Research Institutes serve to build the STEM workforce as we enter a period in which there will be a disproportionate number of retirements in all sectors.

For fiscal year 2019, the National Institutes for Water Resources recommends the subcommittee provide $9,000,000 to the USGS for the Water Resources Research Institute program. We respectfully submit that, even in times of fiscal challenges, investing in programs at USGS focused on data collection and the reliability and quality of water supplies is critically important to the health, safety, quality of life, and economic vitality of communities across the Nation.

Thank you, on behalf of all the Institute directors, for the opportunity to testify and for the subcommittee's strong support of the Water Resources Research Institutes program.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall and Members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). Founded in 1919, NPCA is the leading national, independent voice for protecting and enhancing America's National Park System for present and future generations. I appreciate the opportunity to provide our views regarding the National Park Service (NPS) fiscal year 2019 budget and funding issues facing our national parks this year.

National parks protect America's heritage and deliver robust economic returns of $10 in economic benefits nationally for every dollar invested in the NPS. Last year, national parks supported nearly $36 billion in economic activity and 306,000 jobs. NPCA and other polling indicates the vast popularity of national parks and strong bipartisan support for adequately funding them. And of course, they are deeply loved by the American people in part because they protect our cultural and natural heritage.

We acknowledge the tremendous challenge the subcommittee faces in setting thoughtful spending priorities, so we are grateful for your consistent support for the National Park Service. NPCA and our partners in the National Parks Second Century Action Coalition commend your subcommittee for providing needed increases for the National Park Service the last five fiscal years, with particularly commendable increases in fiscal year 2016 and in the recent fiscal year 2018 omnibus appropriations bill. This will be helpful for parks to address their funding challenges. As they are still behind where they need to be to meet their mission, we urge you to do your best to build on this support in fiscal year 2019.

Top Three Fiscal Year 2019 Priorities: NPCA requests appropriated funding for NPS with a focus on these accounts:

1. $2.629 billion for 'Operation of the National Park System'
2. $407 million for 'National Parks Construction'
3. $23 million for 'National Park Partnerships'/Centennial Challenge

The Centennial Challenge request is for flat funding, and the operations and construction requests are based upon the proportional increases in fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2018.

There are numerous other NPS accounts and programs important to us, and we outline several of them later in this testimony.

The President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget: Not helpful to your work in fiscal year 2019 is the extraordinarily damaging president's budget, which is comparable in its draconian nature to the administration's fiscal year 2018 request. The initial request sought to cut 1,835 NPS staff in FTEs, an astonishing number that is a nearly 50 percent increase over an already damaging fiscal year 2018 request for staff cuts. Proposed cuts to EPA and other agencies important to protecting parks' environments are further damaging. That the administration's addendum second-guessed the deep cut to park operations was of little consolation. We commend the appropriations committees for wholeheartedly rejecting the administration's proposed cuts in fiscal year 2018 and urge that you continue to support our parks despite this damaging vision for their future.

The Interior Allocation and Wildfire Funding Relief: NPCA recognizes the allocation provided to the subcommittee in recent years has been insufficient and emblematic of the austere constraints on domestic discretionary investments. Therefore, we were relieved that compromise was reached on a budget deal that will extend to fiscal year 2019, and urge Congress to find future sequester relief through the expiration of the Budget Control Act after fiscal year 2021. We applaud the work of Chairman Mike Simpson and other Members of Congress who fought so hard for a wildfire funding fix, which we hope will both make the subcommittee's work easier and ensure a far more functional system for funding catastrophic wildfires. We expect this will be helpful to our national parks and other public lands.

Appropriated Funding for the Deferred Maintenance Backlog: The backlog continues to threaten the protection of nationally significant resources and, eventually the experience of visitors. Investments are needed for visitor centers, trails, water systems, and more. The subcommittee's recent increases for maintenance accounts will be very helpful for national parks. The $160 million in added maintenance funding in fiscal year 2018 will be particularly helpful in addressing parks' many repair needs, and commend that our national parks were beneficiaries of Congress' maintenance investments. Unfortunately, more is needed to build on that good work.

Support for the aforementioned request would help address the $11.6 billion deferred maintenance backlog with investments in the repair/rehab and cyclic maintenance Operations subaccounts, and line-item construction subaccount.. For your information, we are also urging the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development subcommittee to fund at the fully authorized $100 million annualy the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects Program, which funds transportation infrastructure for parks and other Federal lands, and Tribal lands. We were grateful for the $300 million appropriated to this fund in fiscal year 2018.

Centennial Challenge: This program provides Federal funds to match private funds for projects throughout the park system that improve the visitor experience, including but not limited to deferred maintenance projects. We commend this subcommittee for the increases for the program the last three fiscal years. This support has leveraged more than two dollars for every dollar invested for signature projects across the National Park System that enhance the visiting experience. Many more philanthropic opportunities await, so we hope the subcommittee can support the request for flat funding from fiscal year 2018 for this successful program that enjoys strong bipartisan support.

We commend Congress for passage of the Centennial Act in 2016 to dedicate funding to that program and to a newly established endowment. Given the extraordinary philanthropic interest in the program, sustained or increased appropriations in addition to those funds would help leverage additional philanthropic dollars—a wise investment. We understand the intent of the committee in directing Centennial Challenge dollars to focus on deferred maintenance. While deferred maintenance projects funded by this program are critical, NPCA respectfully reminds the committee of the importance of other philanthropically-driven projects that improve the visiting experience in other ways beyond maintenance.

Dedicated Backlog Funding: We respect that it can be very difficult to identify budgetary offsets for mandatory programs, yet have been urging Congress to recognize that a more realistic long-term solution is needed to address the maintenance backlog. Under current allocations established by the Budget Control Act, and even beyond given the constraints of the appropriations process, it is difficult to see how this subcommittee will be able to address even the highest priority non-transportation facilities' needs. We also recognize the constraints of the Highway Trust Fund in meeting the bulk of park transportation infrastructure needs. These funding sources are simply limited in their ability to address the scope of the large backlog.

NPCA is a strong advocate for the National Park Service Legacy Act, S. 751 and H.R. 2584. We're grateful of the support of several Interior appropriators for those bills. We urge the members of the committee to cosponsor the bill and work with other members of Congress and the administration to ensure passage of a bill that dedicates robust and dependable funding to the maintenance challenge.

While we commend Senator Alexander and others for their support for dedicated funding through introduction of the Restoration Act, we urge improvement of that funding source through working with the Legacy Act cosponsors and the administration to arrive at a final solution that can realistically address the problem. We fear the Restoration Act revenue source does not guarantee the robust funding that is needed, and that the park service under that revenue stream would not be able to plan for multi-year projects without a sufficient and known amount to plan for these projects. We urge Congress to pass a bill that provides robust, dedicated, dependable and dedicated funding to this problem.

We Respectfully Request Operations Investments for Non-Maintenance Needs: While the maintenance backlog is one of our highest funding priorities, we do not want a focus on the backlog to cause other needed work to fall further behind; therefore, we respectfully request broad investments in park operations to address the many operating needs beyond maintenance.

In recent years, NPS has experienced a gradual erosion of staff in most years. As you know, these losses can be damaging, with impacts such as less day-to-day maintenance, less scientific inventory and monitoring, reduced hours or even closed public facilities, fewer visitor programs, and other challenges to parks fulfilling their mission. The challenge is compounded by significant increases in visitation that require staff time. Since 2011, NPS has experienced an 11 percent reduction in staff while at the same time the National Park System experienced a 19 percent increase in visitation. We appreciate the committee's attention to these ongoing needs, and that while the maintenance backlog is a profound problem that NPCA and others are prioritizing, these other needs must be addressed.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): The acquisition of inholdings is directly related to better managing the places in which our Nation already has made a significant investment. Thus we urge support for the NPS Federal land acquisition and management portion of LWCF, a critical tool for protecting our national parks. We were pleased the fiscal year 2016 omnibus included a 3-year reauthorization of the program, but are concerned this authorization will run out at the end of this fiscal year. We are urging Congress to reauthorize this program and request consideration of appropriations bill language to provide temporary reauthorization in an fiscal year 2019 funding vehicle. To address LWCF's needs in the long-term, we urge support for legislation to permanently reauthorize the program, S. 896 and H.R. 502, and to provide both permanent reauthorization and dedicated funding, S. 596.

We commend the approach of the LAND Act and the Senate energy bill in seeking to address both deferred maintenance and LWCF. NPCA urges Congress to support both these important needs.

National Heritage Areas (NHAs): NPCA is a strong supporter of the National Heritage Area program. The 49 existing NHAs have generated $12 billion in economic activity and $1.2 billion in tax revenues, and generated over 900,000 volunteer service hours. This mighty program with a modest budget deserves support from both Congress and the president. Furthermore, support for H.R. 1002 would establish a program structure and provide uniform standards for designating, funding and assessing all NHAs.

Historic Preservation Fund (HPF): The HPF provides the primary source of funding for State Historic and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices in all 50 States. The HPF also supports the Historic Tax Credit program, responsible for the rehabilitation of over 40,000 buildings, the creation of 2.5 million jobs and the leveraging of $117 billion in private investments in historic preservation projects. We request continued support for this important program.

Policy Riders: Efforts to attach environmentally damaging policy riders only further threatens the appropriations process, so we were grateful that the final fiscal year 2018 bill was largely free of the many proposed riders that would have threatened parks, their ecosystems, and the health of visitors and wildlife within them. We urge continued rejection of efforts to attach damaging riders.

National Park Fees: NPCA recognizes that fees play an important role in supplementing Federal funds, but they can never realistically be a major funding source for parks. We forcefully opposed the administration's excessive effort to increase fees at 17 parks during peak season and commend their withdrawing that

effort. While the new fees will be more modest, on top of recent fee increases, we fear the higher amounts could price Americans out of the parks they own. We are urging the administration to research the price point at which fees do not discourage visitation, particularly for lower income families. We ask Congress to consider setting those fee levels to be adjusted every two or 3 years by inflation automatically, thus reducing the complications that arise with fee decisions and keeping fees at a fair and even rate in constant dollars.

We urge the committee in general to continue exercising oversight of fees to keep parks affordable.

The Administration's Department of the Interior Reorganization Effort: We are deeply concerned about the administration's proposal to reorganize the Department. Our chief concerns are: a lack of transparency and public involvement; a lack of clarity on the problems to be solved, the purposes and goals of the proposal and its components, and the suggested timeline for implementation; the potential for the proposal to erode the unique NPS mission; shifting the number and role of regional offices and staff; the potential for the effort to reduce the capacity, presence or coordinating capacity of the Washington Support Office (WASO), Denver Service Center and regional support offices; the potential cost of the proposal to an under-resourced park service; and the potential this proposal could be connected with a workforce reduction effort.

We commend the committee's extensive fiscal year 2018 report language exercising oversight over this proposal and appreciate your continued oversight to ensure the integrity of NPS and the Department more broadly.

In Conclusion: We recognize the subcommittee's constrained allocation, and thus commend the recent funding increases to NPS and commitment to our parks well-being. We urge you to provide the best funding level possible for NPS in fiscal year 2019 to help the agency recover from underfunding. Further, we appreciate your oversight over the administration's proposals regarding fees and reorganization.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

[This statement was submitted by John Garder, Director of Budget and Appropriations.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL TRIBAL CONTRACT SUPPORT COST COALITION

My name is Melanie Fourkiller. On behalf of the National Tribal Contract Support Cost Coalition (NTCSCC), I am pleased to submit written testimony concerning the fiscal year 2019 budget for the Indian Health Service (IHS) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The Coalition is comprised of 21 Tribes and Tribal organizations situated in 11 States, including my own Tribe the Cherokee Nation, and the Tribe I work for, the Choctaw Nation. Collectively, these 21 Tribal organizations operate contracts to administer roughly $500 million in IHS and BIA programs on behalf of over 250 Native American Tribes.[1]

The NTCSCC Coalition was created to assure that the Federal Government honors the United States' contractual obligation to add full contract support cost funding to every contract and compact awarded under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

Over the past year, the IHS and BIA have been implementing their new CSC policies for calculating and reconciling CSC payments. These policies were developed in the wake of two Supreme Court cases which declared that full contract support cost funding is a statutory right, and this Committee's excellent work to cement those hard-fought victories by putting in place an annual indefinite appropriation. The days of unpredictable payments and uncertain program funding levels are behind us, and we thank Congress for working in partnership with Tribes to achieve this result. Clearly Congress supports Tribal self-governance, Tribal self-determination, and the importance of working with Tribes on a government to government basis.

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[1] The NTCSCC is comprised of the: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (AK), Arctic Slope Native Association (AK), Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes (AK), Cherokee Nation (OK), Chickasaw Nation, Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation (MT), Choctaw Nation (OK), Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (MT), Copper River Native Association (AK), Forest County Potawatomi Community (WI), Kodiak Area Native Association (AK), Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (MI), Pueblo of Zuni (NM), Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health (CA), Shoshone Bannock Tribes (ID), Shoshone-Paiute Tribes (ID, NV), Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (AK), Spirit Lake Tribe (ND), Tanana Chiefs Conference (AK), Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (AK), and Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (43 Tribes in ID, WA, OR).

But over the past year, we have been concerned that IHS at times has not shared Congress' goals. A few examples illustrate this point well.

Up until 2012, IHS routinely transferred certain funding to Tribes through our self-governance compacts and self-determination contracts. I am talking principally about Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative Funds (MSPI)—now called Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention Funding (or SASP)—and Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative Funding (DVPI). During this period, IHS also calculated contract support cost requirements on these funds, even if IHS didn't always find the money to pay those costs.

But ironically, just months after the Supreme Court ruled in *Salazar v Ramah* that Tribes were entitled to these costs in full as a matter of law, IHS under former Director Roubideaux reversed course. Director Roubideaux announced that these funds were suddenly only be paid though grants, and no contract support costs would be added to carry out these critical programs. This change caused Tribes to cut into vital program operations to fund the administrative costs of running these programs, including for grant administrators, while adding extraordinary complexity through the parallel grant funding and reporting process. Nationwide, *IHS's change in position annually reduces behavioral health program funding by 25 percent from what it would be if full CSC funding were paid.*

In the fiscal year 2017 appropriation, Congress removed the so-called "notwithstanding" clause which IHS had relied upon as justification for sweeping aside the Indian Self-Determination Act, and ignoring that Act's mandate to add CSC funding to all IHS funds. To be sure, Congress expected the agency to use its best judgment in how to allocate this funding among the Tribes, but Congress did not expect the agency to continue refusing to pay these funds through existing compacts and contracts, and to continue refusing to add contract support costs to these funds.

Yet, in this last funding cycle, that is exactly what IHS did again. Nothing changed. In fact, things got worse as the use of grants proliferated. In a February 16, 2018 letter IHS was unmoved by Congress's action, saying "*IHS reaffirms its position that grants, including the IHS SASP and the DVPP, are not eligible for CSC.* Grants are not programs, functions, services, or activities (PFSAs) funded through the Secretarial amount, as defined by the ISDEAA." We are therefore particularly grateful for Congress's action in the Omnibus Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2018. In the Manager's Report accompanying the Act, Congress was clear as a bell:

> *ISDEAA Contracts.*—The Committees encourage the transfer of amounts provided to Tribal organizations for the Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention Program, for the Domestic Violence Prevention Program, for the Zero Suicide Initiative, for aftercare pilots at Youth Regional Treatment Centers, and to improve collections from public and private insurance at tribally-operated facilities to such organizations through Indian Self-Determination Act compacts and contracts, and not *through separate grant instruments. This will ensure that associated administrative costs will be covered through the contract support cost process.*

As of this date, we have still not heard whether IHS will abide by Congress's instruction. It would be most unfortunate if yet another round of contract support litigation became necessary to bring IHS to heel.

IHS has also disrespected the government-to-government relationship when it comes to setting contract support cost policy. In December 2017, IHS defied its own Manual mandating that advance Tribal consultation must occur before any change could be made about CSC policy. With no notice whatsoever, IHS announced it was immediately suspending a key provision for calculating CSC deductions for so-called duplicate Service Unit funding (Service Unit funding that IHS asserts goes toward administrative overhead). In February 2018, IHS refused to budge, and in March IHS explained at a CSC Work Group meeting that the actions had been taken because of illegal overpayments to various Tribes. But when we examined IHS's "data," we learned—and IHS admitted—that no overpayments had occurred, and that only one Tribe—not a multitude of Tribes—had even raised an issue of concern to IHS. Eventually the Tribal work group members worked through a Policy amendment to address IHS's obscure concern. But it was a bitter lesson about how far IHS will go in derogation of the government to government relationship—claiming an emergency requiring action when, in fact, there was no emergency at all.

And to make matters worse, when IHS did eventually announce Tribal consultation, it included multiple other language "options" IHS had developed unilaterally without any Tribal input that IHS is considering adding to the Policy instead of that jointly developed by the Workgroup. These IHS options attempt to limit the rights of Tribes that had been preserved in the original policy.

A last example of IHS's continuing disregard for the law is its attitude about "duplication." Again, it is bitterly ironic that, just when we've entered the era of full CSC funding, IHS chooses to adopt an aggressive position that Tribal CSC payments are actually too high. IHS today asserts in various negotiations that CSC payments cannot cover all manner of costs if the Secretarial program amount could lawfully have been spent on that those costs were the program being run by IHS. This position is extreme and would wipe out most CSC funding. When IHS asserted this position to refuse to pay some facility costs, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation sued in Federal court and in short order IHS folded. Yet IHS continues to raise this issue in other settings, and less assertive Tribes are losing out in the process.

This agency attitude is all wrong. IHS should be defending and advancing self-governance and self-determination; not trying to find new and creative ways to undermine it.

Going forward, we hope the Committee will instruct IHS—once again:

—to pay all IHS funds (other than the Special Diabetes grants controlled by other law) through ISDA compacts and contracts. The practice of using grants much stop;

—to return to its core mission of supporting Tribes in achieving greater self-determination and self-governance;

—to conduct itself honorably and with due regard for the government to government relationship.

More generally, IHS must abandon the invention of ever new theories for reducing contract support cost requirements, and refocus its efforts on supporting Tribes to provide better and expanded healthcare for their citizens.

More broadly, we bemoan the complexity of the IHS process, which has created a considerable and unsustainable bureaucracy backed by high-priced non-government accountants and auditors. Somehow the BIA system, which annually pays out some $300 million dollars in contract support costs, works just fine at a fraction of the cost and with far many more contracts and Tribal contractors.

The BIA genuinely embraced the Committee's instructions 3 years ago to adopt policies that are simple and straightforward, and to streamline the process for determining and reconciling contract support cost requirements. Tribes and agency personnel, alike, easily understand the BIA's new policy, and the BIA's simple approach leads to accurate CSC estimates. It also doesn't require extensive training, and therefore has already led to improved agency business practices.

The IHS approach, by contrast, seems to strive for maximum complexity. Consider that today, halfway through fiscal year 2018, IHS has yet to make all CSC payment adjustments for fiscal year 2017. In fact, IHS hasn't made all its CSC payment adjustments for 2016, 2015 and even 2014.

The IHS Policy is terribly over-complicated. It contains several complex calculations, requires Tribes to submit additional documentation to the agency each year, and necessitates two separate CSC negotiation processes each year. Indeed, the policy is so complicated that the agency apparently still has only one staff person across the entire country who can answer policy questions and guide the agency's policy interpretation. The agency's approach to training on the new policy is also telling—instead of partnering with Tribes that asked to be involved, IHS developed a series of YouTube videos that completely ignore the Tribal position on "duplication" and "allocation" issues. The result is even more conflict in individual negotiations.

As the Committee is well aware, the policy is so complicated that IHS personnel were unable to get a firm grasp on CSC calculations last year, overstating the national CSC requirement by $90 million. Clearly, the agency's failure to simplify the CSC calculation process is impacting IHS, too.

In sum, while both agencies have made real progress in improving their management of their CSC accounts, we respectfully urge the subcommittee to repeat its instructions to IHS to further simplify its calculation and reconciliation processes, and to instruct the agencies not to seek to reduce Tribal contract support cost entitlements.

To further simplify and streamline contracting activities, we also respectfully suggest that the subcommittee urge the agencies to explore using multi-year arrangements for fixed rates or fixed lump-sum amounts subject to inflationary adjustments.

I thank the subcommittee for the opportunity to provide this testimony on behalf of the National Tribal Contract Support Cost Coalition.

[This statement was submitted by Melanie Fourkiller, Representative.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee, I appreciate this opportunity to present the National Trust for Historic Preservation's recommendations for fiscal year 2019 appropriations. My name is Tom Cassidy and I am the Vice President of Government Relations and Policy. The National Trust is a privately-funded nonprofit organization chartered by Congress in 1949. We work to save America's historic places to enrich our future.

The Nation faces a challenging fiscal environment. The National Trust recognizes there is a need for fiscal restraint and cost-effective Federal investments. However, funding levels proposed in the administration's budget request threaten to sharply curtail the ability of Federal agencies to fulfill their responsibilities to manage preservation, conservation, and recreation programs on Federal lands. We look forward to working with this subcommittee as you address the ongoing needs for investments to sustain our Nation's rich heritage of cultural and historic resources that generate lasting economic and civic vitality for communities throughout the Nation.

National Park Service: Historic Preservation Fund. The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is the principal source of funding to implement the Nation's historic preservation programs. The National Trust is enormously appreciative of the strong funding levels the Committee has provided in recent years, including last year's $96.9 million, the highest level of HPF funding in history. We urge you to again reject the administration's proposed funding level of just $32.6 million, which would result in the lowest funding level for State Historic Preservation Officers since fiscal year 1990, the lowest funding level for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers since fiscal year 2007, and eliminate five separate competitive grant programs funded in fiscal year 2018. Inadequate HPF funding limits support for preservation activities such as survey, nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places, public education, as well as project review required by the National Historic Preservation Act and for the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit (HTC), which Congress retained in the recent tax bill.

We request that Congress provide a total fiscal year 2019 HPF appropriation of $110.5 million. Within that funding, we recommend:

—$55 million for State Historic Preservation Officers for heritage preservation and protection programs, including $2 million for a new competitive grant program to digitize, map, and survey historic and cultural resources.
—$15 million for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers to carry out requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act, including $2 million for a new competitive grant program to digitize, map, and survey Tribal historic and cultural resources.
—$15 million for competitive grants to document, interpret, and preserve historical sites associated with the Civil Rights Movement.
—$15 million for Save America's Treasures grants for the preservation of nationally significant sites, structures, and artifacts.
—$5 million for grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities to preserve and repair historic buildings.
—$5 million for preservation grants to revitalize historic properties of national, State, and local significance.
—$500,000 for competitive grants for the survey and nomination of properties associated with communities currently underrepresented on the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks.

National Park Service: Operation of the National Park System. The National Park Service (NPS) is responsible for 417 units of the National Park System ranging from the battlefields where our ancestors fought and died to recent additions like the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument and the Reconstruction Era National Monument. Over the past 20 years, more than 40 new parks have been added to the park system, many of which preserve historic places and themes that have been underrepresented within the system. We strongly oppose the President's proposed budget cuts for National Park Service Operations. The administration's request of $2.154 billion—a cut of more than $323 million from fiscal year 2018—would result in decreased stewardship of historic and cultural resources and reductions in visitor services at a time when our national parks are more popular than ever. We encourage the Committee to provide at least level funding from fiscal year 2018 of $2.47 billion. Within this funding, we recommend robust funding for Resource Stewardship, including $1 million to provide the initial funding for the newly established African American Civil Rights Network.

National Park Service: Deferred Maintenance. The National Park Service is responsible for maintaining a system comprised of more than 84 million acres that

tells the stories of remarkable people and events in our country's history. Unfortunately, after 100 years of operation and inconsistent public funding, the National Park System faces a deferred maintenance backlog estimated at $11.6 billion, of which 47 percent is attributed to historic assets. Deferred maintenance in our national parks puts historic and cultural sites at risk of permanent damage or loss, and in the absence of funding, the condition of these assets will continue to deteriorate and become more expensive to repair and preserve in the future.

—*Construction.* We support the administration's budget request of $149 million for Line Item Construction projects, which addresses the deferred maintenance for the NPS' highest priority non-transportation assets with projects greater than $1 million. This amount is a $20 million increase above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of $129 million.

—*Repair and Rehabilitation; Cyclic Maintenance.* We are enormously appreciative of the Committee's commitment to enhancing these accounts with significant investments since fiscal year 2016; it is making a real impact on addressing the long-term maintenance needs of the parks. We recommend $150 million for Repair and Rehabilitation, an increase of $16 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of $134 million. We also recommend $160 million for Cyclic Maintenance, an increase of $19 million above fiscal year 2018. These investments support a service-wide deferred maintenance strategy that directs funds to high priority mission critical and mission dependent assets required to maintain historic structures and that are essential to abate growth of the deferred maintenance backlog. Additional investments will contribute to the successful preservation of historic sites and other resources in the National Park System.

—*Dedicated Funding for Deferred Maintenance.* We strongly support the creation of a reliable, dedicated Federal funding source distinct from annual appropriations to address the deferred maintenance backlog, as provided in the bipartisan National Park Service Legacy Act (S. 751/H.R. 2584) introduced in both the Senate and House.

—*Leasing Historic Structures in National Parks.* We appreciate the Committees' strong support of expanded use of historic leasing authorities by the NPS. Leasing is a well-established tool that can bring non-Federal resources to the rehabilitation and use of under-utilized or abandoned buildings within the parks.

—*Volunteerism.* The National Trust recognizes that direct Federal funding is insufficient to provide all the resources necessary to maintain the parks. As part of our commitment to assist the NPS with reducing the maintenance backlog of historic properties, the National Trust launched the HOPE Crew (which stands for the Hands-On Preservation Experience) initiative in 2014 to train young adults in preservation skills while helping protect and restore historic sites. Youth and veterans are trained in the skills necessary to perform preservation work in the parks and other Federal lands through a cooperative agreement between the NPS, other Federal land management agencies, and several NGOs including the Student Conservation Association and The Corps Network. Funds for these projects come from different sources, including Repair and Rehabilitation, Cyclic Maintenance, the Recreational Fee program, concessionaires, historic leasing funds, and Section 106 mitigation. Since 2014, HOPE Crew has trained over 700 young people and veterans and engaged 3,000 volunteers at over 150 projects nationwide, completing 120,000 hours and helping to support $18 million in preservation work. This work includes rehabilitating structures at Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and Shenandoah National Park. Projects like these help reduce the maintenance backlog while providing job skills and education for the next generation of stewards of America's most important historic sites.

National Park Service: Centennial Challenge Matching Grants. The National Trust supports the Centennial Challenge, which provides Federal funding to match donations for signature National Park Service projects and programs, and urges the Committee to consider funding this initiative at least at the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of $23 million. This funding will allow the NPS to leverage private contributions to enhance visitor services and improve cultural and natural resources across the parks in the Service.

National Park Service: National Heritage Areas. We recommend funding for the Heritage Partnership Program and our National Heritage Areas (NHAs) at the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of $20.321 million. The administration's proposal to eliminate NHA funding would severely impair the sustainability of the program and render many NHAs unable to function.

Bureau of Land Management: Cultural Resources Management. The BLM oversees the largest, most diverse and scientifically important collection of historic and cultural resources on our Nation's public lands, as well as the museum collections and data associated with them. We recommend $19.131 million, a modest increase of $2 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. Increased funding is necessary to fulfill BLM's statutory requirements for Section 106 reviews of land use proposals and National Historic Preservation Act's (NHPA) Section 110 requirements for inventory and protection cultural resources. The increase would support surveys of sensitive areas, site protection and stabilization projects for sites vulnerable to unauthorized activities and damage due to fire, erosion and changing water levels. Funding would also support updated predictive modeling and data analysis to enhance the BLM's ability to address large-scale, cross-jurisdictional land-use projects. We recommend that the Committee encourage the BLM to promote inventory information sharing with State Historic Preservation Officers and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. The cultural resources program also funds NHPA Section 106 review of 13,000 land-use proposals each year, compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and Government-to-Government consultation with Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Governments.

Bureau of Land Management: National Landscape Conservation System. The BLM's National Landscape Conservation System (National Conservation Lands) includes 36 million acres of congressionally and presidentially designated lands, including National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, National Scenic and Historic Trails, and Wild and Scenic Rivers. This includes new additions such as Bears Ears National Monument. We encourage the Committee to provide $40.5 million to the base program for the National Landscape Conservation System, an increase of $3.6 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. An increase in base funding will prevent critical damage to the resources found in these areas, ensure proper management and provide for a quality visitor experience. We also support providing at least level funding for wilderness management and national monument management on Oregon and California Grant Lands. We urge you to reject the administration's proposed cuts to these programs, which would result in reduced visitor services, decreased maintenance and care of trails, and fewer educational and interpretive resources.

Department-Wide: Land and Water Conservation Fund. The National Trust supports robust funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and we urge the Committee to reject the drastic cut proposed for the program in the administration's budget request. We encourage the Committee to instead continue increasing LWCF toward the full $900 million from offshore mineral leasing revenues that is dedicated to LWCF annually. Many of the Nation's most significant historic and cultural landscapes have been permanently protected through LWCF investments, including Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, and Hopewell Culture National Historic Park. In total, more than $550 million has been invested to acquire historic sites and 137,000 acres in 162 NPS units. Within LWCF funding, we encourage the Committee to provide at least level funding of $10 million for the American Battlefield Protection Program.

Independent Agencies: National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities. We urge the Committee to reject the administration's proposed elimination of funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and instead maintain the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of $152.849 million for each program. NEA and NEH funding is critical to communities around the country. It supports efforts by the National Trust's Historic Sites and others to tell a fuller American story and engage visitors with history in compelling ways. For example, support from the NEA has created programs like Art and Shadows at the Shadows-on-the-Teche in Louisiana that put regionally-based artists in residence at the site, resulting in programming that attracted new audiences and served as a prototype for broader arts-focused programming that now draws people from around the country to the town's downtown commercial district. NEH support has brought teachers from around the country to learn about history in the places that it was made and to carry those experiences back to their classrooms, such as exploring the intellectual underpinnings of the Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier or discovering the rich, but largely unknown, African American history in the President's neighborhood at Decatur House.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the National Trust's recommendations for the fiscal year 2019 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill. I can be reached by email at tcassidy@savingplaces.org. The mailing address for the National Trust is 2600 Virginia Avenue NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20037.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ASSOCIATION

CHAIR MURKOWSKI, RANKING MEMBER UDALL, AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE:

On behalf of the National Wildlife Refuge Association and its membership of representatives from Refuge Friends organizations and concerned citizens, thank you for your support for the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), particularly for the funding increase for fiscal year 2018. We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on the fiscal year 2019 Interior Appropriations bill and respectfully request:

—$586 million for the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) accounts of the NWRS;
—$900 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), with $150 million allocated for the FWS, including these high priority requests:
  —$10 million for Everglades Headwaters NWR and Conservation Area (Florida);
  —$6 million for Silvio O. Conte NFWR (Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts);
  —$3 million for Cache River NWR (Arizona);
  —$2 million for Bear River Watershed Conservation Area (Wyoming, Idaho, Utah);
  —$2 million for Blackwater NWR (Maryland);
  —$2 million for Clarks River NWR (Kentucky);
  —$8 million for Hakalau Forest NWR (Hawaii); and
  —$8 million for the Dakota Grasslands Conservation Area (North Dakota, South Dakota);
—$50 million for the Refuge Fund;
—$75 million for the FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program;
—$15 million for the FWS Coastal Program;
—$60 million for FWS for Preparedness and Hazardous Fuels Reduction (under DOI);
—$70 million for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program;
—$47.6 million for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund;
—$6 million for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Fund.

We understand our Nation's challenging fiscal constraints, but cutting funding to programs that are economic drivers and job creators in local communities only exacerbates an already difficult situation. For example, the NWRS averages almost $5 in economic return for every $1 appropriated. Budgets have not kept pace with rising costs, and the gap between the funding needed to maintain these programs and the funding appropriated has widened dramatically.

The Refuge System is currently responsible for 850 million acres of land and water. Of that total, 750 million acres are included in the 5 Marine National Monuments created by Presidents Bush and Obama, yet very little additional funding has been provided to these water resources since their initial creation in 2006.

The Service is also expanding their outreach by working to make conservation more accessible to the American public via urban refuges and urban partnerships. To begin bridging these gaps, the Refuge Association urges Congress to fund these critical programs that leverage Federal dollars and serve as economic drivers.

National Wildlife Refuge System—Operations & Maintenance

The Refuge Association chairs the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE), a diverse coalition of 23 sporting, conservation, and scientific organizations representing more than 16 million Americans that supports increased funding for the Refuge System. CARE estimates the NWRS needs *at least* $900 million annually to manage its 100 million land acres and 750 million acres of marine national monuments. Yet the Refuge System is currently funded at roughly half that amount—$486.7 million or 57¢ per acre. The Refuge System cannot fulfill its obligation to the American public, our wildlife, and 53.6 million annual visitors without increases in maintenance and operation funds.

Funding for the Refuge System has declined substantially from a funding level of $503 million in fiscal year 2010 to its current $486.7 million—$93 million below what it needs to keep pace with inflation and salary increases. This has forced the Service to cut back on programs and create efficiencies whenever possible. Because of these new efficiencies, the Service *has cut its deferred maintenance backlog in half* from $2.7 billion to $1.16 billion as of the beginning of fiscal year 2018. But budget cuts also led to the loss of 488 positions since fiscal year 2011. Because most refuge lands and waters are highly managed, this deterioration in staffing has had

a dramatic impact resulting in significant declines in habitat protection and management, hunting, fishing, volunteerism and scientific research.

Visitation to all refuges jumped by 7 million between fiscal year 2013 and fiscal year 2017. However, visitor services staff has declined by 15 percent, forcing a reduction in public programs and hours of operation, yet there is more demand than ever for recreational opportunities on refuges. Waterfowl hunting visits are up 7 percent since fiscal year 2011 and wildlife observation visits are up 12 percent. Photography participation is up 52 percent and auto tour visits are up 14 percent. *Overall, more people are looking to recreate on wildlife refuges, yet understaffed refuges struggle to provide those opportunities.*

Reductions in visitor services can be extremely troubling to constituencies who want to visit. At Tualatin River NWR in Oregon, elimination of the visitor services position cut all teacher training workshops and community outreach. Prior to this loss, over 100 teachers were trained each year at the refuge. Patuxent Research Refuge in Maryland—the refuge closest to the Nation's capital —has closed its visitor's center every Thursday due to budget shortfalls, reduced programs for schools, and lost half its visitor services staff.

Equally troubling is a 15 percent drop in the number of volunteers since fiscal year 2011. At a time when record numbers of Americans are retiring and have the capability to give back, the Service's ability to oversee their efforts has been curtailed. Volunteers provide an additional 20 percent of work on our national wildlife refuges, yet they are being turned away when the System needs them the most.

During these years of challenging budgets, the Refuge System's potential to drive local economies and create jobs is of paramount importance. *Banking On Nature,* a report issued by the FWS in 2013, shows that even during the worst recession since the Great Depression, the Refuge System saw economic output in local communities increase 20 percent to $2.4 billion, visitation increase 30 percent to 46.5 million, an average return on investment increase of 22 percent to $4.87 for every $1 appropriated, and supported jobs increase 23 percent to 35,000. As stated above, since this report was issued, visitation has further increased another 7 million.

The Refuge Association appreciates the subcommittee's consideration of our request of $586 million for fiscal year 2017 for National Wildlife Refuge System Operations and Maintenance.

Strategic Growth—Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is an essential tool for protecting the integrity of the Refuge System and is the primary funding source for land and conservation easement acquisition by Federal land agencies. Some in Congress have argued that public lands like the Refuge System can't manage what they have and thus, all land acquisition should end. However, land and conservation easements add very little to operations and management costs, compared to other kinds of protected lands. Meanwhile, in the past 20 years, refuge visitation has grown by nearly 10 million people. The public is hungry for more opportunities to recreate, but refuges are unable to fully fund the necessary operations and management costs.

Increasingly, LWCF is being used to conserve working lands and local culture through the acquisition of easements that secure conservation protection while leaving the land in private ownership and on the tax rolls. Easements are powerful tools that foster public-private partnerships with ranchers, farmers and foresters to conserve wildlife, habitat and a uniquely American way of life. Innovative landscape-scale initiatives using easements have broad community and State support in New England's Connecticut River Watershed, the Everglades Headwaters, the Bear River Watershed, and the Dakota Grasslands. These iconic landscapes remain privately managed, generating tax income for local communities, securing our Nation's food, and balancing resource use and resource protection for wildlife.

In many cases, however, land acquisition is required to conserve intact and functional natural habitat. The Refuge System is responsible for safeguarding population levels of a range of species, including many that require specific habitat conditions, such as beaches for sea turtles and isolated springs for endemic desert fish. Others require multiple habitat types during their life cycle. By acquiring critical habitat areas and linking conserved lands, the Refuge System enhances the integrity of the System and strengthens our network of habitat to give wildlife space and time to respond to changes, whether from climate or changing land use patterns.

The Refuge Association calls on Congress to fund LWCF at $900 million per year, with $150 million provided in fiscal year 2019 to the USFWS, including the projects enumerated at the beginning of this statement and those advocated by Refuge Friends.

Commitment to Refuge Communities—Refuge Fund

The Refuge System uses net income derived from permits and timber harvests to make payments to local communities to offset property tax revenue lost when the federally-acquired lands are removed from local tax rolls. The System relies on Congressional appropriations to the Refuge Fund to compensate for the shortfall between revenues and tax replacement obligations. However, declining revenues and lack of appropriations have resulted in the Service paying less than 50 percent of its tax-offset obligations since 2001. The negative impact on local communities is felt even more starkly in difficult economic times and reduced funding threatens the partnerships that are so important for successful conservation.

The Refuge Association requests $50 million for the Refuge Fund.—We also call for a review of the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act of 1935 as amended, and consideration of conversion to a Payment-in-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program to be consistent with other Federal land management agencies and to provide Refuge communities with more equitable payments.

Partnerships—Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (Partners Program)

With 75 percent of all fish and wildlife species dependent upon private lands for their survival, the Partners Program is one of the most powerful tools for protecting wildlife where it lives. By building effective partnerships between public agencies and private landowners to conserve America's expansive working landscapes, the Partners Program has implemented nearly 29,000 restoration projects in the past 25 years, restoring over 1 million acres of wetlands, 3 million acres of uplands, and 11,000 miles of streams. The Partners Program leverages Federal dollars, generating nearly $16 in economic return for every $1 appropriated for projects.

The Partners Program is playing a key role in conserving greater sage-grouse habitat in the intermountain west. To this end, we request an additional $78 million for the Interior agencies to implement sagebrush steppe habitat conservation and monitoring efforts that will leverage $300 million in Department of Agriculture investments.

The Refuge Association and the landowner-led Partners for Conservation request $75 million for fiscal year 2017.—Such a funding level would result in an additional $400 million worth of conservation across the Nation.

Fish and Wildlife Service Grant Programs

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (Neotrop), and the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (SWG) have been incredibly beneficial for national wildlife refuges. The NAWCA program delivers an average 3:1 match for all Federal standard and small grants, and has restored wetlands on wildlife refuges across the Nation. NWRA fully supports a return to this program high water mark of $47.6 million.

The SWG program provides funding to State wildlife agencies to for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife habitat, including hunted and non-hunted species. This funding is critical for research, wildlife surveys, species restoration, and habitat management on State lands, all of which contribute to a system of healthy Federal and State lands. The States are essential partners to the Refuge System, and we support funding for this program of $75 million.

And in a similar vein, the Neotrop program protects neotropical bird species across the Americas, with $62.2 million in Federal grants being matched by $236 million in partner funds. As wonderful as refuge lands are, wildlife conservation must also take place on State and private lands, as well as in other countries, particularly for migratory species.

We believe that with sound conservation policy, adequate funding, and the power of more than 40,000 dedicated volunteers, the Refuge System can fulfill its mission to provide wildlife dependent recreation for Americans and protect the habitat for more than 700 species of birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 reptile and amphibian species and more than 1,000 species of fish.

We look forward to working with Congress in 2018 and 2019 to accomplish this goal and appreciate your consideration of our requests. Please let our staff know if you have any questions.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK

The Native Village of Eyak makes the following requests and comments on the fiscal year 2019 Indian programs appropriations:

—*Joint Venture Funding:* Increase funding and reopen the Joint Venture application program in 2019.

—*Section 105(l) Leases:* Identify sufficient funding for healthcare facility leases under Section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA).
—*Contract Support Cost Funding:* Continue to fund Contract Support Costs at 100 percent.
—*Advance Appropriations for IHS:* Place IHS funding on an advance appropriations basis.
—*Subsidies for Telecommunications Connectivity:* Support Tribal efforts to end the cap on telecommunications subsidies.
—*Fully fund BIA 638 compacts and increase tribal shares in negotiated line items.*

The Native Village of Eyak is a federally recognized Tribal government located in Cordova, Alaska, on the southeast shores of Prince William Sound in the North Gulf Coast. The Tribe is a co-signer to the Alaska Tribal Health Compact with the Indian Health Service (IHS) and operates a wide range of healthcare programs, including primary care services and behavioral health. The Tribe also has a self-governance compact under the ISDEAA with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Native Village of Eyak focuses on self-determination and self-governance as a means of improving the lives and health of our Tribal citizens. We are not only responsible for providing quality, available healthcare services, but also for promoting opportunities and partnerships for our citizens, protecting our traditional land and natural resources, and for strengthening our culture.

JOINT VENTURE FUNDING

The IHS Joint Venture Program, authorized under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, helps Tribal programs leverage Tribal and IHS funding for construction and staffing of needed healthcare facilities. The unique partnership allows Tribes to cover the costs of design and construction of such facilities, while the IHS provides funding for staffing and equipment. The Native Village of Eyak would very much like to participate in this program, as it needs a new health facility in the very near future. We have a small grant to facilitate communications with the City owned facility, we are working with ANTHC on needs assessment tools and are looking at both Federal and non-Federal funding. We thus request that Congress increase funding for the IHS Joint Venture Program and that the application period be reopened in 2019 so that the Tribe can submit an application in the competitive process to hopefully join the program.

SECTION 105(L) LEASES

The Tribe is concerned that the administration has again proposed that the law be amended to avoid paying full compensation for leases under section 105(1) of the ISDEAA. We understand from reviewing the proposed bill language, in the IHS Administrative provisions, that the Administration is seeking to overrule the Federal court's decision in *Maniilaq Association v. Burwell,* 170 F. Supp. 3d 243 (D.D.C. 2016), in which the court determined that Section 105(1) mandates full compensation for leases of Tribal facilities that are being used to carry out scopes of work under the ISDEAA. The administration's proposed language would exclude Section 105(1) of the ISDEAA as a source of entitlement to funding for leases, giving IHS full discretion as to whether or not to fund such leases. The Native Village of Eyak and other Tribes and Tribal organizations are looking to Section 105(1) leases to address persistently underfunded facilities costs, including for operation, maintenance, and replacement. We ask that the Subcommittees reject the administration's proposed amendment to the ISDEAA—as Congress did last year relative to the fiscal year 2018 IHS appropriation bill—and that you handle this year's proposal in the same manner.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COST FUNDING

Eyak would like to thank the Subcommittees for their leadership and commitment to fully funding Contract Support Costs (CSC) for IHS and BIA ISDEAA agreements. We appreciate the full funding of CSC over the past few fiscal years, that the funding is indefinite, and that the funding is in separate accounts in the IHS and BIA budgets. We have also been pleased that the current administration has continued to request that CSC be maintained as a separate appropriation account in the IHS and BIA with an indefinite funding amount. We request that the subcommittees continue to fully fund CSC accordingly.

However, we do have one concern to share related to CSC for IHS programs. We understand that the administration has again proposed to reinstate two provisions from the fiscal year 2016 Appropriations Act for IHS: (1) that the "carryover" clause

be read to deny the CSC carryover authority granted by the ISDEAA; and (2) that the notwithstanding" clause be used by IHS to deny CSC for IHS's grant programs (such as Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention; Zero Suicide Initiative; Domestic Violence Prevention; funding for the improvement of third party collections; aftercare pilot projects at Youth Regional Treatment Centers; and accreditation emergencies). We think these proposals are inconsistent with and contrary to the ISDEAA' s provisions on CSC. Congress has refused these two proposals in the past, and we request that it do so again for fiscal year 2019.

ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR IHS

The Native Village of Eyak requests that Congress place IHS funding on an advance appropriations basis. Congress has done so for the Veterans Administration health accounts, which are similar to the IHS healthcare funding in that predictability, continuity, and certainty are highly necessary for providing quality healthcare from year to year. When IHS funding is subject to continuing resolution, as it has been repeatedly over the last many years, the Native Village of Eyak receives only portions of its funding at a time, making it difficult to implement longer-range planning and to hire and maintain healthcare professionals. Having advance appropriations would solve much of the uncertainty that we have been experiencing over the last several fiscal years where no full appropriations are enacted at the first of the Federal fiscal year.

SUBSIDIES FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONNECTIVITY

Eyak understands that the subcommittees do not directly control funding subsidies under the Federal Communications Commission and Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). However, the USAC recently implemented a pro-rata reduction in Rural Health Care funding that subsidizes the extremely high costs of telecommunications and Internet connectivity in Alaska, which is critical to our being able to provide healthcare services. The funding cap has resulted in a reported $50 million in cuts nationally, and an $18.1 million unplanned shortfall for connectivity in Alaska—just for this year for Tribal health programs in Alaska. The Tribe is being told to expect more than twice that impact next year, which could exceed $35 million for Alaska Tribal health programs. The Native Village of Eyak has used USAC funding in the past, we were denied 1 year and sent in an ultimately successful appeal. Due to the nature of the denials, which come in late in the year, after significant amounts of money are already obligated. The next year we put out for both broadband and Internet and received a very high broadband bid. Due to the liability of being responsible for these large amounts of money, we opted to only ask for the subsidy for the Internet. We are affected by the funding gap, in two ways, we are experiencing a small loss of funding and also, although our connections are secure and HIPAA compliant, we don't have the dedicated tunnel that T–1 lines offer. We thus request the subcommittees' support for eliminating the cap and reinstating the full USAC subsidies to Tribal health programs throughout the State of Alaska.

As Tribes become partners within the corrections and court system in the State of Alaska, we have a need for more funding to adequately staff Tribal Courts and run optimal programs. Eyak is experiencing weather and climate change. Rivers and lakes that used to freeze all winter freeze minimally or even stay open. Eyak is used to receiving 180 inches of rain on average per year and about 6 feet of snow annually. This has decreased dramatically, which poses dangers to local hydropower, commercial fishing and the ability to have adequate drinking water. Increases in Natural Resources funding would allow our Tribe to monitor baselines and implement research projects to study these changes and how they impact our natural lifestyle.

Respectfully,

DARREL OLSEN,
Tribal Council Chairman,
Native Village of Eyak.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

USDA FOREST SERVICE AND DOI WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

Thank you, Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee for the opportunity to submit recommendations for fiscal year 2019 appropriations. The Nature Conservancy is an international, non-profit conservation

organization whose mission is to conserve the lands and waters upon which all life depends. We have over one million members in the United States and are focused on science-based management of Federal lands and waters to help downstream and forest dependent communities.

America's forests have tremendous national importance, but their health puts them at severe risk unless we invest in proper stewardship and forestry. America's forests store and filter more than half of our Nation's water supply, provide jobs to nearly one million forest product workers, generate $13.6 billion in recreation based economic activity from USDA Forest Service lands alone, are habitat to thousands of forest-dependent wildlife and plant species, offer a million square miles to sportsmen and families for outdoor recreation, and are a major carbon sink that sequester 15 percent of all fossil fuel emissions in the United States.

The Conservancy is extraordinarily grateful for all of the Committee's efforts to get the Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act enacted as part of the fiscal year 2018 omnibus appropriations bill. Freezing the 10-year average fire suppression funding cost calculation, coupled with accessing disaster funding, will significantly decrease the extent to which the Federal fire agencies will need to transfer funds, while additionally stabilizing Department of the Interior and Forest Service budgets.

However, megafires, pests, drought, and sprawl will continue to place forests at risk. And currently, an area larger than the State of Oregon is in immediate need of restoration to return forest health—and that is on national forests alone. Unfortunately, forest restoration had been significantly obstructed by ballooning fire suppression costs. To fully gain the benefits of this new fire funding fix the Committee on Appropriations needs to continue to make wise and substantial investments in public and State and private forests and fire risk reduction. Additionally, Federal investments in science-based forest management and assistance to dependent communities enhances jobs, rural economic sustainability, and guarantees long term forest productivity that benefits all Americans. Returns on forest restoration investments are at least four-fold, and have many non-economic benefits as well.

Investing in the following Forest Service programs are critical to meeting forest restoration goals:

Increase funding for Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) to $60 million.—The CFLR program is demonstrating that collaboratively-developed forest restoration plans can be implemented at a large scale with benefits for people and the forest. This is a model approach that brings citizens, local government and Federal staff together to determine effective management that is locally appropriate and provides jobs, sustains rural economies, reduces the risk of damaging fires, addresses invasive species, improves wildlife habitat, and decommissions unused, eroding roads. The funding increase will guarantee the existing signature projects covering over 17 million acres can continue, and additional critical projects across America's forests can begin.

Fund the Forest Service Hazardous Fuels program at no less than $479 million.—Strategic, proactive hazardous fuels treatments have proven safer and more cost-effective in reducing risks to communities and forests by removing overgrown brush and trees, leaving forests in a more natural condition resilient to wildfires. Drought conditions increase the need for investment in this program to restore and maintain fire adapted landscapes and habitats. The Conservancy recognizes the Committee's continued support for this program through its increased funding levels, particularly over the last few years.

Fund the DOI Hazardous Fuels program at no less than $178 million and continue other vital DOI fire efforts.—It is also vital to increase the efforts at the Bureau of Land Management, National Park service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs, which benefit from the DOI fire accounts. These vast public lands provide endless benefits to Americans, but the investment of Federal funding on their protection has lagged the past couple of years. The Conservancy additionally recommends considering reinstating the resilient landscapes program funded at $30 million to restore and maintain fire adapted landscapes and habitats.

The Conservancy additionally recommends funding for programs that support critical restoration programs on national forests. Effective and durable restoration requires integrated approaches that address threats and improve forest health and habitat values while supporting forest-dependent communities.

—Wildlife & Fisheries Habitat Management maintained at a $140 million funding level to restore, recover, and maintain wildlife and fish and their habitats on all national forests and grasslands.

—Vegetation & Watershed Management funded at $185 million to promote restoration through watershed treatment activities, invasive plant species control, and reforestation of areas impacted by wildfire and other natural events.
—Legacy Road and Trail Remediation (LRT) maintained at $50 million to restore river and stream water quality by fixing or removing eroding roads, while providing construction jobs, supporting vital sportsmen opportunities, and reducing flooding risks from future extreme water flow events.
—Land Management Planning, Inventory and Monitoring funded at $201 million, including consolidating the two previously separate budget items. Consolidation will be more efficient for land managers, while supporting the collaborative, community and science based planning featured by the Forest Service 2012 Forest Planning regulation.

Fund Forest Health programs at a total of $111 million ($63 million for Federal and $48 million for Cooperative).—Forest health protection programs work to protect forests by minimizing the impacts caused by invasive species. Across the Nation large-scale, non-native insect, disease, and invasive plant outbreaks are damaging forest health. These programs help reduce invasions of non-native pests that destroy iconic American trees such as ash, hemlock, and California oaks.

Fund State Fire Assistance (SFA) at $86 million.—SFA provides aid to communities for fuels treatments, firefighter capacity building, fire prevention education, and pre-fire planning. The SFA program is an important complement to the Hazardous Fuels program for Federal lands.

Fund Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) at $24 million.—Through LSR, non-Federal lands have access for competitively selected projects that leverage State funding, restore forests of national importance, and, whenever possible, complement CFLR and other landscape scale restoration efforts.

Fund Forest & Rangeland Research at $293 million.—Forest and Rangeland Research offers vital scientific basis for policies that improve the health and quality of urban and rural communities. This program is vital for the long-term health and utility of our American forests and rivers, particularly as we face an uncertain climatic future.

Maintain funding for the Joint Fire Science Program at $7 million and maintain funding under Wildland Fire Management.—This key, yet small, program has proven a great success in supporting practical science that reduces fire risk and enhances economic, ecological, and social outcomes nationwide.

Fund Forest Legacy at a minimum of $67 million.—The Forest Legacy program, in partnership with States, supports efforts to acquire conservation easements and fee simple interests on privately owned forest lands from willing sellers. These acquisitions leverage non-Federal dollars and support long-term sustainable forestry while protecting other ecological, watershed and recreational values for local communities at risk of development or conversation to other uses.

[This statement was submitted by Cecilia Clavet, Senior Policy Advisor.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall and Members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to submit recommendations for fiscal year 2019 appropriations. The Nature Conservancy is an international, non-profit conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. Our mission is to conserve the lands and waters upon which all life depends.

As we enter the fiscal year 2019 budget cycle and another year of a challenging fiscal environment, the Conservancy wishes to thank this subcommittee for the final fiscal year 2018 funding levels for conservation programs. Our budget recommendations this year reflect a balanced approach with funding levels consistent with fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018 funding levels. Of particular note, we wish to work with this subcommittee and the authorizing committees on identifying a permanent funding solution for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We also strongly support the emphasis on funding for sage grouse conservation and urge Congress to continue support for ongoing sage grouse conservation efforts.

The Conservancy would like to take the opportunity to thank the Committee for their long-standing support of the fire funding fix in the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus appropriations bill passed last month. The passage of this much-needed funding solution means that dollars appropriated by this committee to U.S. Forest Service and Department of Interior Fire Management accounts can be used for their intended purposes and not be drained to fight catastrophic wildfires in upcoming fire seasons.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)

The fiscal year 2018 Omnibus dedicated $425 million in discretionary appropriations for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. LWCF has strong bipartisan support and the Conservancy appreciates Congress's commitment to funding important on-the-ground conservation and recreation projects. The Nature Conservancy supports full funding and reauthorization of LWCF through a blend of current and permanent funding and looks forward to working with Congress to find a permanent funding solution for LWCF.

FOREST LEGACY

We support no less than the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus funding level of $67 million for the Forest Legacy Program.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Conservancy supports continuing funding of at least $31 million, consistent with fiscal year 2017 levels, for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF), and requests the subcommittee consider additional funding level request for permanent funding. We also request your continuing support for Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) funding, specifically HCP Land Acquisition Grants where the need has greatly outpaced available resources in recent years.

STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS

The Conservancy supports the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus funding level of $63.5 million for this program. Strong Federal investments are essential to ensure strategic actions are undertaken by State, Tribal and Federal agencies and the conservation community to conserve wildlife populations and their habitats and to prevent species from being listed as threatened or endangered.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

The variety of wildlife conservation programs conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) continue a long and successful tradition of supporting collaborative conservation in the U.S. and internationally. We urge the Committee to continue funding such established and successful programs as the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (NMBCA), the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, FWS Migratory Bird Management Program and the FWS Coastal Program at no less than fiscal year 2018 Omnibus funding levels. We support, at a minimum, sustained funding for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and the Cooperative Landscape Conservation and Adaptive Science programs. The latter will help support DOI in addressing large-scale conservation challenges across all ownerships, supporting collaborative problem solving for some of our Nation's most challenging conservation issues. We also request strong funding for the National Fish Habitat Initiative.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

The international conservation programs appropriated annually within the Department of Interior are relatively small but are effective and widely respected. They encompass the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's (FWS) Multinational Species Conservation Funds, the FWS Wildlife Without Borders regional and global programs, and the U.S. National Park Service International Program. We urge that fiscal year 2019 levels for these programs remain equivalent to fiscal year 2018 Omnibus levels at a minimum.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

The Conservancy supports stronger funding for the Refuge System's Operations and Maintenance accounts. Found in every U.S. State and territory, national wildlife refuges conserve a diversity of America's environmentally sensitive and economically vital ecosystems, including oceans, coasts, wetlands, deserts, tundra, prairie, and forests. The Conservancy requests $586 million in for fiscal year 2019. This represents the funding necessary to maintain management capabilities for the Refuge System.

HAZARDOUS FUELS AND RESTORATION

Strategic, proactive hazardous fuels and restoration treatments have proven safer and more cost-effective in reducing risks to communities and forests by removing

overgrown brush and trees, leaving forests in a more natural condition resilient to wildfires. The Conservancy recommends investing in the USDA Forest Service's Hazardous Fuels program at a $479 million level and DOI's Fuels Management program at a level of $178 million, in addition to investing $30 million into a new Resilient Landscapes program designed to restore and maintain fire adapted landscapes and habitats and repeating the Committee's fiscal year 2012 instructions for allocating funds to priority landscapes in both WUI and wildland settings. Additionally, the CFLR program must continue to be funded and expanded to $60 million and the Legacy Roads and Trails program funded at $50 million.

SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION

The Conservancy requests continued investment to provide ongoing efforts to restore and conserve sagebrush habitat and the Greater Sage-grouse across Federal, State, Tribal and private lands. We support the continued appropriation for sage grouse conservation provided through the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus. These resources are needed to implement on-the-ground projects and monitor habitat treatments, address rangeland fire and broader wildland fire prevention, suppression and restoration efforts, and facilitate the partnership and science necessary for effective conservation. The BLM is facing perhaps the single most challenging effort in its history in conserving key sagebrush habitat, addressing identified threats to sage-grouse and promoting sustainable economic development across some 165 million acres in coordination with State and local managers and private land owners. Additional resources for the Fish and Wildlife Service will be used, inter alia, for developing voluntary prelisting conservation agreements with private landowners who are ready and willing to undertake critical conservation work for the sagebrush steppe ecosystem on large blocks of private lands.

BLM LAND MANAGEMENT AND RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

The Conservancy supports continued funding at fiscal year 2018 levels for BLM's initiatives to implement smart land management approaches, which include Rapid Ecoregional Assessments, Resource Management Planning, Regional Mitigation Planning, coordination with LCCs, and the Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring Strategy. Many BLM programs contribute to these cross-cutting initiatives including: National Landscape Conservation System—($50.65 million); Resource Management Planning program ($60.125 million); Wildlife and Fisheries management ($115.811 million request); and Threatened & Endangered species management ($21.56 million request). Additionally, the Conservancy supports continued funding for BLM's renewable energy development program at the fiscal year 2017 Omnibus level of $29 million which includes implementation of the Western Solar Energy Program. Collectively, these efforts will help BLM manage its lands efficiently and effectively for energy development, species and habitat conservation, recreation, and other uses to maximize the public benefit from these lands.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S GEOGRAPHIC PROGRAMS

EPA's geographic programs, including the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound, Long Island Sound, and Gulf of Mexico programs, make a significant contribution to protecting habitat and water quality in the large landscapes where they work. These programs have a proven record of supporting the States' voluntary restoration efforts, and the Conservancy urges the Committee to continue strong funding for these programs at the fiscal year 2018 appropriated levels.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN RECOVERY PROGRAMS

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program take a balanced approach to recovering four endangered fish species in the Colorado River basin. The Upper Colorado and San Juan recovery programs are highly successful collaborative conservation partnerships involving the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, as well as Indian Tribes, Federal agencies, and water, power and environmental interests. These programs provide critically important Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance for over 2,450 Federal, Tribal, State, and private water projects across the Upper Colorado River Basin. Through these efforts, water use and development has continued in growing Western communities in full compliance with the ESA, State water and wildlife law, and interstate compacts. Implementation of the ESA has been greatly streamlined for Federal agencies, Tribes and water users. The Conservancy supports $1.53 million for the Fish and Wildlife Service for the Colorado

River Basin recovery programs, including recovery funds for both the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program, as well as fish hatchery needs associated with the recovery plans.

NATIONAL STREAMFLOW NETWORK

The National Streamflow Network provides continuous streamflow information at over 8,200 locations across the country and is managed within the U.S. Geological Survey's Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program. Water managers, scientists, and other decisions makers, including within the Conservancy, rely on data from the National Streamflow Network to plan for floods, droughts, and other extreme events; design infrastructure, including the operation of Federal reservoirs; facilitate energy generation; protect aquatic species and restore habitat; and manage Federal lands. The Conservancy supports funding in fiscal year 2019 to fully implement the National Streamflow Network.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION PROGRAM

Subtitle C of Title V of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 provides authority for low-cost credit that can leverage private investment for water infrastructure. The criteria include whether a project protects against extreme weather events or helps maintain the environment. The Nature Conservancy supports funding at EPA at the full authorized amount of $50,000,000 to carry out this program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit The Nature Conservancy's recommendations for the fiscal year 2019 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NEZ PERCE TRIBE

Honorable Chairman and Members of the Committee, as Chairman of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Nez Perce Tribe (Tribe) as the Committee evaluates and prioritizes fiscal year 2019 appropriations for the Indian Health Service (IHS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Forest Service (FS), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in relation to the needs of Tribal nations. On behalf of the Tribe, I want to acknowledge and thank this subcommittee for your efforts, on a longstanding, bipartisan basis, to understand the needs of Indian Country and advocate for increased appropriations to the many programs in your jurisdiction that benefit our citizens, our Tribal governments, and all members of our communities.

As with any government, the Tribe performs a wide array of work and provides a multitude of services to its Tribal membership as well as the community at large. The Tribe has a health clinic; a Tribal police force; a social services department; and a comprehensive natural resources program that does work related to forestry, wildlife management, land services and land management, habitat restoration, air quality and smoke management, water quality and sewer service, and also operates one of the largest fisheries departments of any Tribe in the Nation working on the recovery of listed species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Tribe has a comprehensive administrative framework that provides extensive services on the Nez Perce Reservation. These programs are necessary and vital for a sovereign nation that preserves and protects the Treaty rights of the Nez Perce People and provides day-to-day governmental services to its members and surrounding communities.

The Tribe has long been a proponent of self-determination for Tribes and believes our primary obligation is to protect the Treaty-reserved rights of the Tribe and our members. All of the work of the Tribe is guided by this principle. As a result, the Tribe works extensively with many Federal agencies and proper funding for those agencies and their work with, for, and through Tribes is of vital importance. This work cannot be accomplished unless the U.S. continues to affirm and follow through on its trust responsibility to Indian Tribes by properly funding programs. The Tribe supports the National Congress of American Indians' publication titled "Investing in Indian Country for a Stronger America," a comprehensive guide on recommendations for fiscal year 2019 funding of Tribal programs.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The Tribe works closely with EPA on a large number of programs that are essential to the health and safety of the 18,000 Tribal and non-Tribal citizens residing within the Nez Perce Reservation and that also protect the Treaty-reserved resources of the Tribe that the U.S. has a trust obligation to preserve. These programs include: the Clean Water Act 106 Program; the Clean Water Act 319 Program; Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution Prevention Program; the Indian General Assistance Program; the Brownfield Program; the Underground Storage Tank Program; the Delegation of Nez Perce Federal Implementation Plan; the Clean Air Act 103 Grant-Nez Perce Tribe Air Quality Project; and the EPA Region 10 Pesticide Circuit Rider Program. In total, for fiscal year 2018 the Tribe currently implements over $1.5 million in programmatic funding under these programs. The Tribe recommends the Indian General Assistance Program be funded at $75 million, the Tribal allocation under the Clean Water Act 106 program be increased to 20 percent, $13 million for Tribal Air Quality Management, $80 million for the Brownfields program, and $13 million be provided in lieu of the percent cap on Tribal funding for NPS pollutant control.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

The Tribe currently operates Nimiipuu Health, a healthcare clinic on the Nez Perce Reservation. The main clinic is located in Lapwai, Idaho, with a satellite facility located 65 miles away in Kamiah, Idaho. Nimiipuu Health provides services to approximately 4,000 patients each year. Annually, this computes to 40,000 medical provider visits which do not include pharmacy or laboratory visits. This workload is very costly. Our expenditure total for fiscal year 2017 was $15,309,300 and Purchased/Referred Care (P/RC) costs for outpatient services for fiscal year 2017 totaled $3,757,215.

For fiscal year 2019, the Tribe supports continuing the $5.5 billion in funding enacted for fiscal year 2018, at a minimum. This funding amount will allow Tribes to pay costs, maintain current services, and allow IHS, Tribal, and urban programs and facilities to keep up with medical and non-medical inflation and population growth. The Tribe appreciates the $33.8 million increase in funding for P/RC provided in fiscal year 2018 and recommends that amount be preserved or increased by $20 million to continue to meet the P/RC spending needs of Tribal health facilities.

The Tribe supports $717 million for fiscal year 2019 contract support costs and the inclusion of bill language to classify this appropriation as indefinite so that additional funds may be provided if needed, as it was in fiscal year 2018. In addition, because full funding of these obligations is so important to Indian Country, the Tribe supports reclassifying contract support costs for the BIA and IHS as mandatory and not discretionary. However, this change in funding should not be accomplished or be off-set by reducing other funding for these agencies that would adversely affect services or programs. Finally, this funding should not be unnecessarily reduced by excessive set-asides for administration. The Tribe also recommends permanent, mandatory funding of the Special Diabetes Program at $150 million per fiscal year.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Tribe appreciates the 7 percent increase in overall funding for BIA in fiscal year 2018 and requests that amount be maintained for fiscal year 2019. The Tribe also supports the indefinite appropriation for contract support costs and that at least the $241.6 million appropriated in fiscal year 2018 be provided in fiscal year 2019. These costs should be reclassified from discretionary to mandatory. The Tribe also requests the fiscal year 2019 Interior appropriations bill include a "*Carcieri* fix" to address legal issues that have arisen related to the transfer of land into trust which has created uncertainty over the status of lands. This uncertainty only stifles and impedes economic development in Indian Country.

In relation to the BIA Public Safety and Justice account, the Tribe advocates for maintaining the $405.5 million in funding for law enforcement, of which $31 million was for Tribal courts, that was enacted within that account in fiscal year 2018. The Nez Perce Reservation spans 1,200 square miles covering five counties and has a mixture of Tribal and non-Tribal residents. The Tribe provides a full service law and justice program. The Tribe has a fully trained and staffed police force, a fully staffed Tribal court, a prosecutor, a public defender, and other personnel to perform related administrative functions. Currently, the Tribe contributes $1,882,576 annually to cover the shortfall in BIA funding for the Tribe's law enforcement, $527,984 for judi-

cial services/probation, $390,832 for prosecutorial services, $256,636 for public defender services, and $300,000 for prisoner boarding. This supplemental funding is derived from Tribal taxes on goods and fuel and Tribal gaming revenues that would otherwise be used for other Tribal governmental services. The funding for these programs needs to be maintained and ultimately increased to account for shortfalls in funding the Tribe has to absorb in order to continue the operation of these vital services on the Reservation.

The Tribe requests total funding of $35 million be provided for Scholarships and Adult Education and Special Higher Education Scholarships and that funding for the Johnson O'Malley program be substantially increased from the $14.9 million provided in fiscal year 2018. Per student funding has decreased as the funding has remained static for many years. These increases will help address the rising costs of attending college. The Tribe also supports $2.5 million, if not an increase, for Tribal Education Departments and increases for Tribal Colleges and Universities that support institutions like Northwest Indian College that operates a satellite campus on the Nez Perce Reservation.

The Tribe also relies on the BIA for funding for our work related to endangered species and protection of the Tribe's Treaty resources, including Chinook and steelhead salmon. The funding is used to supplement research efforts of the Tribe relative to other sensitive species. The Tribe recommends a $1 million increase for the BIA Endangered Species Program. This account provides Tribes with technical and financial assistance to protect endangered species on trust lands. Also, the Tribe recommends an increase of $2.8 million for BIA Natural Resource Tribal Priority Allocations which will help increase Tribal land and management capabilities.

In addition, the funding provided under the BIA Rights Protection Implementation monies are critical to support the exercise of treaty reserved, off-reservation hunting and fishing for Tribes. The Tribe supports total funding in the amount of $40.2 million, the fiscal year 2018 enacted level, at a minimum. BIA single-line dollars provide the foundation for core program administration and treaty rights protection activities, such as harvest monitoring. These efforts are central to the Tribe's fisheries management responsibilities as established by the Treaties and further delineated in court decisions regarding implementation of hunting and fishing Treaty rights. It is important to understand that this funding is not for equipment but is used for job creation.

The Tribe also supports $15.3 million in funding for the BIA Fish, Wildlife and Parks. As stated earlier, the Tribe has invested a significant amount of personnel and resources in the restoration of salmon through our fisheries programs. The States of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, as well as sports fisheries, directly benefit from this work. These programs have been successful with funding under the Tribal Management and Development Program which is critical for the Tribe's management of fish and wildlife. We recommend funding in the amount of $14 million for the Tribal Management and Development Program.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND U.S. FOREST SERVICE

The Tribe relies heavily on funding sources within the FWS and the FS. First, the operations of Kooskia National Fish Hatchery are funded by FWS. The Tribe manages this facility pursuant to the terms of the Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004 (Act). FWS requires full funding for the operations of this important facility to ensure the U.S. meets its obligations under this Act. Second, the FWS-administered State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program is an important and cost-effective expenditure for the Government and is one of the few sources of funds Tribes can tap into for wildlife research. Since 2005, we have received five such grants that have allowed us to work on diverse issues such as gray wolf monitoring, bighorn sheep research, rare plant conservation, and Condor habitat research. Continued funding for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grant program will allow recipient Tribes to build capacity and maintain involvement in key conservation issues. The Tribe strongly urges this subcommittee to increase funding for these competitive grants to $66 million and increase the Tribal share by $2 million, as they provide a large return for a small investment.

We thank the subcommittee for its efforts to include language in the fiscal year 2018 Interior appropriations bill for wildfire disaster funding that treats wildfires like other natural disasters and emergencies to help prevent funds from having to be diverted from forest management.

The Nez Perce Reservation and its usual and accustomed areas are rich in natural resources and encompass eleven national forests. The Tribe works closely with each forest's administration to properly manage its resources on behalf of the Tribe. These range from protecting and properly managing the products of the forest to

providing habitat for the vast wildlife in each one such as elk, deer, bighorn sheep and wolves. Increased funding is necessary so that the FS can meet these trust obligations and continue to work with Tribes on a government-to-government basis without being hampered by lack of funding to fill positions.

With regard to management of bighorn sheep, the Tribe would like to note that the subcommittee has included report language over the last several years that encourages research related to disease transmission between domestic sheep and bighorn sheep. The Tribe encourages this type of research mandate to be restricted to laboratory settings and not be allowed to occur in the field where impact and harm would be more difficult to control. The bighorn sheep populations within the Tribe's aboriginal territories are too fragile and too important to be put at risk.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. As you can see, the Tribe does a tremendous amount of work in a variety of areas. It is important that the U.S. continue to fund this work and uphold and honor its trust obligations to Tribes.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NORTHWEST INDIAN FISHERIES COMMISSION

Chair Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Honorable Members of the subcommittee, my name is Lorraine Loomis and I am chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC). The NWIFC is comprised of the 20 Tribes that are party to *United States v. Washington*[1] *(U.S. v. WA),* which upheld the Tribes' treaty-reserved right to harvest and manage various natural resources on and off-reservation, including salmon and shellfish. On behalf of the NWIFC, we are providing testimony for the record on the natural resources management and environmental program funding requests for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) fiscal year 2019 appropriations. These programs support the natural resource management responsibilities required of Tribes, including the management of salmon fisheries, which contributes to a robust natural resource-based economy and the continued exercise of Tribal treaty rights to fish.

SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2019 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

Bureau of Indian Affairs

—Provide $56.5 million for Rights Protection Implementation (collective request)
  —Provide $17.146 million for Western Washington Fisheries Management
  —Provide $3.207 million for Washington State Timber-Fish-Wildlife
  —Provide $5.2 million for U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty
  —Provide $2.4 million for Salmon Marking
  —Provide $4.5 million for Evaluation and Research Activities—Climate
—Provide $10.378 million for Fish, Wildlife & Parks Projects for Hatchery Operations and Maintenance
—Provide $830,000 for the Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program within the Tribal Management/Development Program Subactivity
—Provide $273.0 million for Contract Support Costs
—Provide $30.355 million for Cooperative Landscape Conservation/Climate Resilience

Fish & Wildlife Service

—Provide $8.0 million for Tribal Wildlife Grants

Environmental Protection Agency

—Provide $96.4 million for General Assistance Program
—Provide $5.0 million for "Beyond GAP"
—Provide $28.0 million for Puget Sound Geographic Program

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUESTS

Bureau of Indian Affairs

—*Provide $56.5 million for BIA Rights Protection Implementation Subactivity.*—The 41 Tribes in the Great Lakes and Pacific Northwest with similar treaty-reserved rights have collectively identified that no less than $52.0 million for Rights Protection Implementation (RPI) is necessary to support essential Tribal treaty-reserved resource management. The NWIFC has also identified an addi-

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[1] *United States v. Washington,* Boldt Decision (1974) reaffirmed western Washington Tribes' treaty fishing rights.

tional need of $4.5 million for RPI Climate Change, bringing our total request for RPI to $56.5 million; $16.339 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of $40.161 million. A summary of the accounts of interest to us within RPI is further identified below. However, please note that a breakdown of these accounts for fiscal year 2018 is not provided in the Indian Affairs fiscal year 2019 Budget Justification.

—*Provide $17.146 million for BIA Western Washington Fisheries Management.*—We respectfully request $17.146 million; an increase of $7.142 million over the fiscal year 2017 enacted level of $10.004 million. Funding for this program supports the Tribes to co-manage their treaty-reserved resources with the State of Washington, and to continue to meet court mandates and legal responsibilities. For example, funding supports harvest planning, population assessments, data gathering for finfish, shellfish, groundfish, wildlife and other natural resource management needs.

—*Provide $3.207 million for BIA Washington State Timber-Fish-Wildlife (TFW).*—We respectfully request $3.207 million, which would maintain the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. Funding for this program is provided to improve forest practices on State and private lands, while providing protection for fish, wildlife and water quality. This funding supports the Tribes' participation in the Timber, Fish and Wildlife Agreement—a collaborative intergovernmental and stakeholder process between the State, industry and Tribes.

—*Provide $5.2 million for BIA U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty.*—We respectfully request $5.2 million; an increase of $183,000 over the fiscal year 2017 enacted level of $5.017 million. The Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) Act of 1985 charges the U.S. Section of the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) with the responsibility for implementation of the PST—a bilateral treaty with Canada. Tribes assist the Federal Government in meeting its obligations to implement the treaty by participating in various fisheries management exercises including cooperative research and data gathering activities. This funding request will provide sufficient resources to support Tribes to continue effective participation in the bilateral PST process.

—*Provide $2.4 million for BIA Salmon Marking.*—We respectfully request $2.4 million; an increase of $1.148 million over the fiscal year 2017 enacted level of $1.252 million. Since 2003, Congress has required that all salmon released from federally funded hatcheries are marked for conservation management purposes and has provided funding to implement this mandate. This funding allows Tribes to mark salmon at Tribal hatcheries and to use these marked fish to scientifically monitor salmon populations in western Washington.

—*Provide $4.5 million for BIA Evaluation and Research Activities—Climate.*—We respectfully request $4.5 million for Evaluation and Research Activities—Climate for our member Tribes. The fiscal year 2017 total enacted level for both Great Lakes and Northwest Tribes was only $2.0 million dollars. fiscal year 2016 provided a much larger total for Great Lakes and Northwest Tribes at $5.442 million, of which our member Tribes received $2.382 million. However, even at fiscal year 2016 funding levels our allocation was $2.118 million below identified needs. Funding for this program will provide Tribes the capacity to identify, respond and adapt to the impacts of our changing climate.

—*Provide $10.378 million for BIA Fish, Wildlife & Parks Projects Account for Hatchery Operations and Maintenance (within the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Subactivity).*—We respectfully request $10.378 million specifically for Hatchery Operations and Maintenance within the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Projects account; an increase of $453,000 over the $9.925 million provided for these programs in fiscal year 2017. Funding is provided to Tribal hatcheries to support the rearing and releasing of salmon and steelhead for harvest by Indian and non-Indian fisheries in the U.S. and Canada. Hatcheries are a necessary component of fisheries management because habitat degradation has greatly diminished natural spawning populations. As such, hatcheries are now essential for maintaining the treaty right to harvest fish. Without hatcheries, Tribes would lose their most basic ceremonial and subsistence fisheries that are central to our Tribal culture. Hatcheries also play a large role in rebuilding Pacific salmon stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act. Funding for Fish Hatchery Maintenance is provided to Tribes nationwide based on the ranking of annual project proposals.

—*Provide $830,000 for BIA Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program (SSHIAP) (within the Tribal Management and Development Subactivity).*—We respectfully request $830,000; $475,000 above the amount specified in the fiscal year 2018 omnibus to be transferred from the Forestry Pro-

gram to the Tribal Management/Development Program to support SSHIAP. SSHIAP is a vital program to the western Washington Tribes because it provides essential environmental data management, analysis, sharing and reporting to support Tribal natural and treaty-reserved resource management. It also supports our Tribes' ability to adequately participate in watershed resource assessments and salmon recovery work.

—*Provide $273.0 million for BIA Contract Support Costs.*—We respectfully request $273.0 million; an increase of $37.0 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. We also support the reclassification of Contract Support Costs (CSC) as mandatory funding. Funding for this function is provided to Tribes and Tribal organizations to ensure they have the capacity to manage Federal programs under self-determination contracts and self-governance compacts. These funds are critical as they directly support our governmental functions, which allow us to fully exercise our right to self-govern.

—*Provide $30.355 million for BIA Cooperative Landscape Conservation/Climate Resilience.*—We respectfully request $30.355 million; an increase of $20.399 million over the fiscal year 2018 enacted levels of $9.956 million. Funding for this program will support Tribal capacity to participate in and provide input on climate change issues that impact fisheries and other treaty-reserved resources. It will also allow Tribes to provide their perspective on climate change adaptation and resiliency necessary to protect their treaty-reserved rights, which is informed by both traditional ecological knowledge and scientific research.

Fish & Wildlife Service

—*Provide $8.0 million for FWS Tribal Wildlife Grants.*—We respectfully request $8.0 million for the nationwide Tribal Wildlife Grants program; an increase of $3.791 million over the fiscal year 2018 enacted of $4.209 million. Funding from this competitive grant program is used to develop and implement programs for the conservation of wildlife and their habitat, including species of Native American cultural or traditional importance. These grants are often critical to conservation programs that work to avoid ESA listing.

Environmental Protection Agency

—*Provide $96.4 million for EPA General Assistance Program (GAP).*—We respectfully request $96.4 million; an increase of $30.924 million over the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of $65.476 million. We also respectfully request accompanying bill or report language that would improve flexibility in the GAP to ensure individual Tribal priorities and implementation activities would be eligible. The GAP builds Tribal program capacity to begin to address environmental issues such as water pollution, which impacts Tribal health, safety, and treaty-reserved resources. However, GAP does not support Tribes to implement those programs.

—*Provide $5.0 million for EPA "Beyond GAP".*—We respectfully request $5.0 million for a regional pilot project known as "Beyond GAP" for the 29 Tribes in Washington. GAP and media-specific EPA grant programs do not fully support Tribes to develop, operate and implement essential environmental programs necessary to protect their rights, resources, lands and health. This request advances a longstanding EPA/Tribal partnership by moving beyond mere Tribal capacity building to promoting Tribal programs capable of implementing a broad range of management activities. At the national scale, increases in Tribal allocations for EPA Clean Water Act § 104, § 106 and § 319, and Clean Air Act § 103 and § 105 programs to allow for media-specific implementation priorities is also necessary.

—*Provide $28.0 million for EPA Puget Sound Geographic Program.*—We respectfully request $28.0 million, which would maintain the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. This Geographic Program provides essential funding that will help protect and restore Puget Sound—an estuary of national significance. Funding for this program is essential for Tribes because it supports our participation in a broad range of Puget Sound recovery work, including, scientific research, resource recovery planning, implementation and policy discussions on issues that affect our treaty rights.

CONCLUSION

We respectfully urge the subcommittee to continue to support our efforts to protect and restore our treaty-reserved rights that in turn will provide for thriving communities and economies. Thank you.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NORTON SOUND HEALTH CORPORATION

The requests of the Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC) for the fiscal year 2019 Indian Health Service (I.H.S) budget are as follows:

—Recommend the I.H.S enter into a $9.6 M demonstration project with Norton Sound Health Corporation to address the opioid and alcohol abuse that will include construction and staffing for a wellness and training center.
—Reform the I.H.S Joint Venture Construction Program to support construction-ready projects and make eligible substance abuse treatment centers for the program.
—Increase funding for opioid response grants specifically for Tribes and Tribal Organizations.
—Increase funding for the small ambulatory clinic fund to assist Tribes and Tribal Health Organizations with a source of funding for replacement health clinics.
—Expand and streamline funding for sewer and water projects.
—Advanced Appropriations for I.H.S to facilitate efficient budget planning, purchasing, hiring, and innovation for Tribal Health Organizations.

Headquartered in Nome, Alaska, Norton Sound Health Corporation is owned and managed by the 20 federally recognized Tribes of the Bering Strait region. Our Tribal system includes a regional hospital and 15 village-based clinics, which we operate under an Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) agreement.[1] Our rural and remote Arctic region remains unconnected by roads, and we are 500 air miles from Alaska's economic hub of Anchorage. Our service area encompasses 44,000 square miles.

Our communities are culturally diverse, representing Yupik, Siberian Yupik, and Inupiaq people. We are fortunate to continue to live our way of life and practice our traditional customs that have sustained our communities for millennia. Integral to community health is our ability to hunt and gather both on our lands and the ocean that surrounds us. We harvest and share across families and communities bowhead whale, walrus, and various species of seals that migrate from the Pacific Ocean to the Arctic Ocean each spring and fall. Our lands, wetlands and rivers provide migratory birds, moose, caribou, reindeer, and salmon species. The well-being, health and spirituality of our people is intricately defined by where and how we live.

Recommend the I.H.S enter into a $9.6 M demonstration project with Norton Sound Health Corporation to address the opioid and alcohol abuse that will include construction and staffing for a wellness and training center.

Alcohol and opiates continue to impact our families of the Bering Strait region in pervasive and debilitating ways. The economic costs to our society are real with increased high school and vocational drop outs, the high rate of suicide (six times the national average) and lost productivity. Substance abuse is present in 92 percent of cases involving child protective services, meaning children are taken out of their families and extended families, while the appropriate level of care for local treatment services is unavailable for the majority of parents to become healthy.

In Nome, 95 percent of referrals to the only women's shelter in our region involve substance abuse. Without access to appropriate health services, keeping our women safe from harm will continue to be a challenge. Anvil Mountain Correctional Center (AMCC), located in Nome has an operating budget of $5.7 million per year, supported by the State of Alaska. With 95 percent of people brought to AMCC for substance-related offenses, at $149.62 per inmate per day, the cost of incarceration for these offenses is $5,403,556 per year (based on a 108 bed census).

Not unlike many other Native communities in the United States, our families and communities continue to feel the impacts and gravity of historical trauma which manifests itself in alcohol and substance abuse. While many Federal decisions played a role in our past, it will take the commitment and partnership of elected leaders today to change the course of history. Our tribally elected leaders have recognized the impacts of historical trauma in our region, and are transforming the delivery of care by providing culturally sensitive, patient centered care. Addressing substance abuse remains our top priority and we hope to partner with I.H.S.

NHSC is developing a new Wellness and Training Center to provide a full continuum of treatment locally, addressing substance use and treatment options in a culturally sensitive manner.[2] While general outpatient services are a critical tool for

[1] We serve the communities of: Brevig Mission, Council, Diomede, Elim, Gambell, Golovin, King Island, Koyuk, Mary's Igloo, Nome, St. Michael, Savoonga, Shaktoolik, Shishmaref, Solomon, Stebbins, Teller, Unalakleet, Wales, and White Mountain.

[2] Norton Sound Health Corporation Community Needs Assessment, 2016.

addressing these concerns, many times people need a higher level of care to receive the deep clinical counseling required to combat a lifetime of substance abuse. The services at the Center will include detoxification, outpatient and intensive outpatient services, day treatment and sober housing. Our families and communities continue to experience the death of loved ones from addiction. This project is essential in the promotion of healing and to mitigate substance abuse within our region.

This multipurpose building will also house our Health Aide Training Program, one of only four Health Aide Training sites in Alaska. Over 70 Health Aides are employed by Norton Sound Health Corporation and deliver nearly 70 percent of the healthcare in the region. Their training needs are comprehensive and must be maintained. This new training space will allow for increased classroom sizes to sustain the quality program, and provide a vocational training ground for some of those who enter the treatment facility to address their substance concerns.

NSHC has installed pilings for the new Wellness and Training Center and has raised $2.2 M toward construction. The Center will be located near the Norton Sound Regional Hospital in Nome. We have funded the design work and initial phases of the project through grant funding and donations, as well as through $1.9 M of NSHC's own funding. NSHC has pledged another $2.5 M toward construction, but the outstanding cost of the center remains at $9.6 M.

NSHC has been advocating for a Wellness and Training Center for the past 5 years and applied for the Joint Venture Construction Program in 2016, but was deemed ineligible. We highly encourage this Committee examine the eligibility of projects under the program to ensure the I.H.S implements a program that incentivizes private and Tribal investment in health facilities, as well as create an acute focus on the need to address substance abuse across Indian Country.

NSHC requests that this comprehensive treatment facility be identified as an emergent need for the Bering Strait Region and be funded as a demonstration project, under Section 307 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 USC 1637). Additionally, NSHC requests a reasonable staffing package to help sustain program operations in addition to billing for third-party reimbursement. We also ask the subcommittees to sustain increased funding through opioid grants to fight the opioid epidemic crippling Tribes.

NSHC expresses gratitude for the availability of small ambulatory clinic funding as a source of funding to support replacement clinics in villages and would like to see continued increases to support this fund.

Funding for Water & Sewer Projects. On behalf of our federally recognized Tribes of our region, I would like to thank the Chairman for supporting sanitation funds in both the EPA and Indian Health Service budgets. Your continued commitment will make a difference for those most impacted by a lack of running water and sewer: our children. The CDC had documented that in Tribal communities without access to clean water and flush toilets, rates of hospitalization for pneumonia, influenza, skin infections, and lower respiratory tract infects are significantly higher. Infants are 11 times more likely to be hospitalized for respiratory infections and five times more likely for skin infections.

Five communities in our region, Diomede, Wales, Shishmaref, Stebbins, and Teller remain completely unconnected to any running water and sewer. In three other of NSHC's communities, 30–50 percent of the homes still lack service, and ongoing sewer and water upgrades and maintenance backlogs remain concerns in seven communities. An estimated 465 homes in the Bering Strait region have no running water, nor flush toilets. While there remains a $2 billion sanitation need in Alaska, with 30 communities or 3300 homes unconnected, we face a $215 million sanitation need in the Bering Strait region. The need for clean water, and sanitation systems continues to be a silent crisis.

NSHC would like to direct this Committee's attention to some concerning decisions made by the I.H.S in the management of their sanitation funds. As it executes the Federal trust responsibility the United States has with federally recognized Tribes, over the last 40 years, the I.H.S has prioritized service to Indian communities, and pro-rated funds for Indians that live in non-Indian communities. Last October without any formal notice in writing nor consultation, the I.H.S changed their operation of the program removing the focus to Native communities. We believe this action is a direct assault to the Federal trust relationship, and urge that the Committee provide express and clear direction to the I.H.S to maintain its historical operation and focus on improving sanitation in Native communities.

There is much work to be done. As Congress considers infrastructure expansion in the United States, NSHC urges it not forget the dire public infrastructure needs in our Native communities. NSHC believes that it is critical that our self-governance Tribes have the ability to innovate how we address the sanitation needs of our communities. We recommend establishing a program within the I.H.S that would

allow Tribes to be innovative in addressing the need for basic sanitation systems. We thus request the subcommittees' support for establishing such a program within the I.H.S, and for expanding the current funding within the IHS budget that is allocated toward water and sewer projects. In this day and age, we should not have communities, nor homes within communities, that are unconnected to safe water and sewer.

Increasing temperatures are changing Alaska: thawing permafrost and eroding costal and river shorelines are damaging and shortening the operating life of critical public infrastructure in Native communities including sanitation systems. The State of Alaska and the Federal Government Accountability Office have identified 31 threatened Native communities, 12 of which are looking at relocating their villages. Funding for programs impacted by climate change, such as those related to addressing flooding and erosion, must not be cut, and we ask the subcommittees to help encourage the Federal funding agencies to be more responsive to the need for research and development, in order to address the sewer and water needs in these communities that are threatened by climate change.

Advanced Appropriations for I.H.S. For several years, Tribal Health Organizations have requested advance appropriations to facilitate budget planning, purchasing, hiring, and innovation, similar to the Veterans Administration enacted advanced appropriation in 2009. It has become nearly normal for appropriations to become chronically late. Both the VA and I.H.S provide direct medical care and both are the result of Federal policies. It is extremely challenging to prepare an annual operating budget without confirmed funding.

Thank you for your consideration of the concerns and requests of the Norton Sound Health Corporation.

[This statement was submitted by Megan Alvanna Stimpfle, Self-Governance Liaison.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF OPERA AMERICA

Madam Chairman and distinguished Members of the subcommittee, I am grateful for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of OPERA America, its Board of Directors and its more than 2,000 organizational and individual members. We strongly urge the subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies in the Committee on Appropriations to designate a total of $155 million to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for fiscal year 2019. This testimony and the funding examples described below are intended to highlight the importance of Federal investment in the arts, so critical to sustaining a vibrant cultural community throughout the country.

The NEA is a great investment in in the economic growth of every community. The NEA was established in 1965 with the mission to "strengthen the creative capacity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts participation." It has continued to meet this mission for over 50 years, recommending more than 2,400 grants in every Congressional District in the country in fiscal year 2017. Sixty-five percent of direct grants went to small (budgets under $500,000) and medium sized (budgets between $500,000 and $2 million) organizations. Additionally, 40 percent of NEA-supported activities took place in high-poverty neighborhoods and 36 percent of NEA grants reached underserved populations, such as people with disabilities and veterans. Between 2012 and 2015, NEA-supported programs reached 24.2 million adults and 3.4 children on average each year through 80,603 live events.

Funding from the NEA continues to support arts organizations and their communities by providing a high return on investment. The ratio of private and other public funds matching every NEA grant dollar is approaching 9:1, generating more than $500 million in matching supporting.

Before the establishment of the NEA, funding for the arts was mostly limited to larger cities. The NEA is the only arts funder in America, public or private, that supports the arts in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. Additionally, 40 percent of the NEA's program funds are distributed through State arts agencies, reaching tens of thousands throughout the U.S. NEA funding provides access to the arts in regions with histories of inaccessibility due to economic or geographic limitations.

At the national level, the arts and cultural sector contributed $763.6 billion to the U.S. economy in 2015, 4.2 percent of the GDP, and counted 4.9 million workers who earned $372 billion in total compensation. The tax-exempt performing arts organizations contributed $9 billion to the U.S. economy and employed 90,000 workers, who

earned $5.6 billion in total compensation. Consumers spent $31.6 billion on admissions to performing arts events.

Opera's increasing civic practice supports healthy and vibrant communities. Opera companies are finding new and exciting ways to bring the essence of opera to other local theaters and community centers, frequently with new and innovative works that reflect the diverse communities of the cities they serve. Strong partnerships with local schools extend the civic reach of opera companies as they introduce children to a multi-media art form and discover promising young talent.

Founded in 1970, OPERA America is that national service organization for opera and the Nation's leading champion for American opera. OPERA America's membership includes 157 professional member companies in the United States and Canada, located in 41 States, the District of Columbia, and seven Canadian provinces.

—*Economic Impact*: In fiscal year 2016, OPERA America's member organizations had expenses that totaled $1.1 billion, including both personnel and non-personnel expenses. As 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, opera companies depend on support from private philanthropy and governmental sources. In fiscal year 16, private support totaled $510 million, representing 47 percent of total operating income; while total city, county, State, and Federal Government support consisted of 7 percent of total operating income.

According to data compiled by the NEA and the Bureau of Economic Analysis' U.S. Arts and Culture Production Satellite Account, revenues from opera companies totaled $955 million, suggesting that opera companies comprise roughly 9 percent of the value added by tax-exempt performing art companies.

OPERA America's members employed a total of 2,551 full-time, 8,119 part-time, and 18,698 contract staff in 2017.

—*Communities Served*: Opera audiences are growing more diverse. From 2008–2012, the percentage of African-American attendees increased by 59 percent; and attendance by Latino audiences increased by 8.3 percent. During those same years, audience members in the 18–24 age bracket grew by 43.2 percent and those in the 25–34 age bracket grew by 33.8 percent.

—*Opera Works*: Much of the success of opera's increasing audience is the result of the creation of new works, telling uniquely American stories. Since 1900, over 1,000 new operatic works have been produced in North America, with more than 600 operas premiering between 1995 and 2017. In the 2016–2017 season alone, 30 North American operas premiered.

The two most frequently produced American operas in 2016–2017 include: As One, a chamber opera, depicts the experiences of its sole transgender protagonist as she endeavors to resolve the discord between her self and the outside world; and Dead Man Walking, based on the book of the same name by Sister Helen Prejean. In fact, As One is also the 10th most produced opera in the U.S., in a list that includes Carmen, La boheme, The Magic Flute, and Rigoletto.

NEA GRANTS AT WORK

NEA grants are awarded to opera organizations through its core programs: Art Works; Challenge America Fast Track Grants; and Federal/State Partnerships. In fiscal year 2017, the NEA awarded 73 grants to the opera field through the Art Works category, totaling $2,095,000.

OPERA America received an Art Works Grant to support programs and services for the entire field of opera in addition to an Our Town grant to help build opera companies' capacity to increase the scope and intensity of their civic engagement. Led by an experienced faculty, a powerful exchange of stories and case studies among members has created a core of expert practitioners who will lead the field in a coordinated effort to address important civic issues through reciprocal relationships with other arts and non-arts organizations. Below are just a few examples of the excellent initiatives. (Each organization referenced received an NEA grant in fiscal year 2017.)

Cincinnati Opera

Through Cincinnati Opera's new 5-year initiative, CO Next: Diverse Voices, the company is co-creating new works with non-arts partner organizations. The first original work in this series, Blind Injustice, will be developed in partnership with the Ohio Innocence Project and the Young Professionals Choral Collective. The piece will tell the stories of four exonerated prisoners. By reimagining how engagement and artistic practice can function in relation to diverse constituencies, Cincinnati utilizes opera in service of the needs of non-arts partners.

Houston Grand Opera

HGOco connects Houston Grand Opera's creative resources with the diverse and vibrant community. The "co" in HGOco stands for company, community, and collaboration. The Song of Houston initiative commissions new chamber operas and song projects that resonate with contemporary life in Houston and develops community projects that foster collaborations with many Houston-area organizations. The most recently completed initiative, The Veterans Songbook Project, provided an opportunity for veterans to participate in workshops held in collaboration with local veterans' service organizations and Houston-based composers.

Michigan Opera Theatre

Arts and sports are important sources of pride and revitalization for the city of Detroit. Michigan Opera will embrace both with "Take Me Out To the Opera!" presented alongside its Midwestern premiere of The Summer King, about baseball legend and Negro League player, Josh Gibson. Giving voice to Detroit's past and present commitment to equity and inclusion, this series of programs will explore the distinction of arts and sports as institutional leaders in breaking racial barriers during the era of segregation.

Opera Omaha

In the fall of 2017 Opera Omaha established the Holland Community Opera Fellowship. This program engages four opera performers to reside in Omaha for 2 years to perform and conduct service-oriented activities to the benefit of the community. The Fellows are selected by a panel of community members who help develop reciprocal relationships between Opera Omaha and the organizations and neighborhoods served by the program. Through this Fellowship, Opera Omaha seeks to build bridges across the demographic and ideological divides in the community and continue the company's shift to more community-responsive and co-created programming.

Opera Theatre of Saint Louis

In order to better serve the community, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis initiated conversations with local African American leaders seeking honest feedback. The lack of diversity on Opera Theatre's stage was identified as a key impediment to engaging audiences of color. To address this issue, last year the company began tracking the diversity of the young artists and principal cast members being hired. Opera Theatre of Saint Louis is committed to changing their casting practices to achieve diversity that is more representative of the Nation.

OPERA America is grateful for the $3 million increase to the NEA in fiscal year 2018. The continued bipartisan support for the agency has continued to support artists and audiences, allowing opera and the arts to address critical issues, making communities healthier and more vibrant.

We urge you to continue toward restoration and increase the NEA funding allocation to $155 million for fiscal year 2019.

On behalf of OPERA America, thank you for considering this request.

[This statement was submitted by Marc A. Scorca, President and CEO.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF ANY ANTI-ENVIRONMENT RIDERS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Appropriations Rider Pertaining to Alaskan "Small Remote Incinerators (SRIs)"

March 19, 2018

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, MINORITY LEADER SCHUMER, SPEAKER RYAN, MINORITY LEADER PELOSI, CHAIRMAN COCHRAN, RANKING MEMBER LEAHY, CHAIRMAN FRELINGHUYSEN, AND RANKING MEMBER LOWEY,

On behalf of our millions of members, we strongly oppose the inclusion of any anti-environment riders in the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus Appropriations bill. Including damaging legislative provisions in a massive must-pass funding bill harms our public health and environment, and it undermines the democratic process.

We have specific concerns with a rider in the Senate's fiscal year 2018 Interior, Environment, and Related Appropriations bill that would damage important clean air protections established by EPA in 2011 for toxic pollution from commercial and industrial waste incinerators. These protections secure significant climate and health benefits, reducing 5,200 tons of sulfur dioxide, 5,500 tons of nitrogen oxide, 25,000 tons of carbon monoxide, 710 tons of direct particulate matter, 470 tons of hydrogen chloride, 4.1 tons of lead, 0.95 tons of cadmium, and 260 pounds of mercury each year. The monetized value of the PM health benefits alone was estimated at $310 million to $830 million per year.[1]

Section 435 of the Bill, "Small Remote Incinerators" (SRIs), would undo these protections as to certain commercial and industrial waste incinerators in Alaska. By allowing these facilities to freely emit particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and various hazardous air pollutants including cadmium, dioxins, furans, hydrogen chloride, lead, and mercury, the bill will expose communities and families that live and work near such facilities to increased risks of cancer, heart disease, stroke, and other serious illnesses. The Bill would also set us on a dangerous path towards the piecemeal dismantling of clean air protections that are meant to provide consistent protection to all Americans.

Clean Air Act regulations pertaining to SRIs should be maintained. In contrast with the significant health benefits of these standards, the requirements for compliance are not particularly burdensome. The D.C. Circuit noted that all of the 28 SRI facilities covered by EPA's standards are located in Alaska, and concluded that "no record evidence suggests that the current SRI emission standards are not achievable."[2] It's clear that EPA has given—and continues to give—serious consideration to compliance and cost concerns surrounding these standards, and they have already withstood judicial scrutiny.

There are few responsibilities as fundamental for our Government as ensuring the air we breathe is clean and safe. Passing an appropriations package that includes Section 435's attack on the Clean Air Act would endanger the health of people in Alaska and set a dangerous precedent. By establishing special legislative exemptions, the proposed amendments create the very "race to the bottom" and health inequities that the Clean Air Act was designed to avoid. We urge you to reject all anti-environment riders in the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus Appropriations bill, including section 435 on small remote incinerators.

EDF Action
Earthjustice
Environmental Protection Network
Sierra Club
Greenpeace
Center for Biological Diversity
Alaska Wilderness League
The Wilderness Society

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE OREGON WATER RESOURCES CONGRESS

The Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC) is concerned about continuing reductions to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Water State

[1] EPA, Regulatory Impact Analysis: Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and Emission Guidelines for Existing Sources: Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units 5–9, 5–23 (Feb. 2011).

[2] *United States Sugar Corp. v. EPA,* 830 F.3d 579, 622 (D.C. Cir. 2016)

Revolving Fund Loan Program (CWSRF) and is requesting that appropriations for this program be increased to at least $2 billion in fiscal year 2019. The CWSRF is an effective loan program that addresses critical water infrastructure needs while benefitting the environment, local communities, and the economy.

OWRC was established in 1912 as a trade association to support the protection of water rights and promote the wise stewardship of water resources statewide. OWRC members are local governmental entities, which include irrigation districts, water control districts, drainage districts, water improvement districts, and other agricultural water suppliers that deliver water to roughly ⅓ of all irrigated land in Oregon. These water stewards operate complex water management systems, including water supply reservoirs, canals, pipelines, and hydropower facilities.

FISCAL YEAR 2019 APPROPRIATIONS

We recognize that we must make strategic investments with our country's scarce resources and maximize benefits to the American people. The CWSRF is a perfect example of the type of program that should have funding increased because it creates jobs while benefitting the environment and is a highly efficient return on taxpayer investment. Oregon, like many other States, continues to face high levels of unemployment and the CWSRF funded projects provide much needed construction and professional services jobs. Moreover, as a loan program, it is a wise investment that allows local communities to leverage their limited resources and address critical infrastructure needs that would otherwise be unmet.

Nationally, there are large and growing critical water infrastructure needs. In EPA's most recent needs surveys, *The Clean Watersheds Needs Survey 2012: Report to Congress and Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment: Fifth Report to Congress,* the estimated funding need for drinking water infrastructure totaled $384 billion (in 2011 dollars) and wastewater infrastructure needs totaled $271 billion (in 2012 dollars). Appropriations for water infrastructure, specifically CWSRF, should not be declining but remaining strong in order to meet these critical needs. In 2016 and 2017 appropriations for the CWSRF program were approximately $1.394 billion. We are concerned as we see this negative downward trend continuing while the status of our Nation's water infrastructure continues to decline.

We also continue to be highly supportive of expanding "green infrastructure," in fact, irrigation districts and other water suppliers in Oregon are on the forefront of "green infrastructure" through innovative piping projects that provide multiple environmental benefits, which is discussed in greater detail below. However, continually reducing the amount of funds available for these types of worthwhile projects has created increased uncertainty for potential borrowers about whether adequate funding will be available in future years. CWSRF is often an integral part of an overall package of State, Federal and local funding that necessitates a stronger level of assurance that loan funds will be available for planned water infrastructure projects. Reductions in the CWSRF could lead to loss of grant funding and delay or derail beneficial projects that irrigation districts have been developing for years.

Additionally, OWRC is pleased that EPA continues "strategic partnerships" with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) and other Federal agencies to improve water quality and address nonpoint source pollution. Oregon had one priority watersheds eligible for funding through the National Water Quality Initiative in 2017 and anticipates that additional watersheds will be included in the future. As Oregon is a delegated State, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) administers the CWSRF and is an important lead agency in incentivizing voluntary efforts to improve these and other impaired waterways in the State. DEQ and its administration of the CWSRF has been an extremely valuable tool in Oregon for improving water quality and efficiently addressing infrastructure challenges that are otherwise cost-prohibitive.

CWSRF NEEDS IN OREGON

The appropriations for the CWSRF program over the past few years has been far short of what is needed to address critical water infrastructure needs in Oregon and across the Nation. This has led to fewer water infrastructure projects, and therefore a reduction in improvements to water quality. DEQ's most recent "Proposed Intended Use Plan Update #2—State Fiscal Year 2018," lists 21 projects in need of a total of $166,079,756 in Oregon alone. The Federal capitalization grant funding awarded in fiscal year 2017 will total $14,977,000, which is wholly inadequate to address and complete these much-needed projects.

Now that irrigation districts are once again eligible for principal forgiveness (which was recently reinstated with the passage of the WIIN Act), seven irrigation

districts submitted applications for funding in 2018. All totaled Oregon irrigation districts have submitted applications to DEQ for over $63,000,000 for the design and construction of multiple projects to improve water quality and quantity associated with irrigation diversions, canals and pipelines throughout the State. OWRC is hopeful that with an increase in money available, there will be enough funding available to complete projects that will not only benefit the environment and the patrons served by the water delivery system, but also benefit the economy.

CWSRF AND IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

OWRC and our members are highly supportive of the CWSRF, including promoting the program to our members and annually submitting Federal appropriations testimony to support increased funding for the CWSRF. We believe it is an important funding tool that irrigation districts and other water suppliers are using for innovative piping projects that provide multiple environmental and economic benefits.

Many OWRC member districts have successfully received loans from the CWSRF over the last several years and many more continue to apply. Numerous irrigation districts and other water suppliers need to pipe currently open canals, which reduces sediment and water temperature and provides other water quality improvements as well as increasing water availability for fish and irrigators by reducing water loss from the delivery system. As an example of past success, in 2009, four irrigation districts received over $11 million funding in Oregon from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) through the CWSRF for projects which created valuable jobs while improving water quality. These four projects were essential to DEQ not only meeting but exceeding the minimum requirement that 20 percent of the total ARRA funding for the CWSRF be used for "green" projects. Without the irrigation district projects, it is likely that Oregon's CWSRF would not have qualified for ARRA funding.

THE IMPORTANCE AND SUCCESS OF LOCAL WATERSHED PLANNING

Oregon's success in watershed planning illustrates that planning efforts work best when diverse interests develop and implement plans at the local watershed level with support from State government. Oregon has recently revised their CWSRF rules; thus making conservation easier and its benefits to be better achieved in the State. As the national model for watershed planning, Oregon does not need a new Federal agency or Executive Branch office to oversee conservation and restoration efforts. Planning activities are conducted through local watershed councils, volunteer-driven organizations that work with local, State and Federal agencies, economic and environmental interests, agricultural, industrial and municipal water users, local landowners, Tribes, and other members of the community. There are over 60 individual watershed councils in Oregon that are already deeply engaged in watershed planning and restoration activities. Watershed planning in Oregon formally began in 1995 with the development of the Oregon Plan for Salmon Recovery and Watershed Enhancement, a statewide strategy developed in response to the Federal listing of several fish species. This strategy led to the creation of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), a State agency and policy oversight board that funds and promotes voluntary and collaborative efforts that "help create and maintain healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies" in 1999.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we applaud the CWSRF program for allowing Oregon's DEQ to make targeted loans that address Clean Water Act issues and improve water quality but also help incentivize innovative water management solutions that benefit local communities, agricultural economies, and the environment. This voluntary approach creates and promotes cooperation and collaborative solutions to complex water resources challenges. We respectfully request the appropriation of at least $2 billion for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund for Fiscal Year 2019.

Sincerely,

APRIL SNELL,
Executive Director.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE OREGON WATER RESOURCES CONGRESS

The Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC) is writing to express its strong support for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fisheries Restoration Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA) Program and is requesting that appropriations for this program be $15 million in fiscal year 2019, which is what FRIMA is currently authorized for. The FRIMA program is an essential cost-share funding program that helps water users and fishery agencies better protect sensitive, threatened, and endangered fish species while ensuring water supply delivery to farms and communities.

OWRC was established in 1912 as a trade association to support the protection of water rights and promote the wise stewardship of water resources statewide. OWRC members are local governmental entities, which include irrigation districts, water control districts, drainage districts, water improvement districts, and other agricultural water suppliers that deliver water to roughly ⅓ of all irrigated land in Oregon. These water stewards operate complex water management systems, including water supply reservoirs, canals, pipelines, and hydropower production.

FISCAL YEAR 2019 APPROPRIATIONS

The FRIMA program meets a critical need in fishery protection and restoration, complimenting other programs through the U.S Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS), while leveraging State, local, and private funds. The program provides vital cost-share funding that helps meet fishery needs without placing the burden solely on the backs of farmers and ranchers who rely on the same water source. Fish passage and fish screens installations are a vital component to fishery protection with several benefits:

—Keeps sensitive, threatened and endangered fish out of canals and water delivery systems
—Allows fish to be safely bypassed around reservoirs and other infrastructure
—Eliminates water quality risks to fish species

There are over 100 irrigation districts and other special districts in Oregon that deliver water supplies to over 1 million acres of irrigated cropland in the State. Almost all of these districts are affected by either State or Federal Endangered Species Act listings of Salmon, Steelhead, Bull Trout or other sensitive, threatened or endangered species. The design and installation of fish screens and fish passage to protect the myriad of fish species is often cost-prohibitive for individual districts to implement without outside funding sources.

Oregon irrigation districts anticipate no less than $25 million in funding will be required to meet current fish passage and fish screen needs. Limited cost-share funds are available from the Oregon Watershed Enhanced Board (OWEB) program in Oregon, but the primary cost-share for fish screen and fish passage projects has been provided by the districts and their water users. Project needs include both construction of new fish screens and fish passage facilities as well as significant upgrades of existing facilities to meet new requirements (new species, new science) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service and the FWS. Upgrades are often needed to modernize facilities with new technologies that provide better protection for fish species as well as reduced maintenance and increased lifespan for the operator.

BACKGROUND OF THE FISHERIES RESTORATION IRRIGATION MITIGATION ACT (FRIMA) PROGRAM

FRIMA, originally enacted November 2000, created a Federal partnership program incentivizing voluntary fish screen and fish passage improvements for water withdrawal projects in Idaho, Oregon, Washington and western Montana. The funding goes to local governments for construction of fish screens and fish passage facilities and is matched with non-Federal funding. Irrigation districts and other local governments that divert water for irrigation accessed the funding directly, while individual irrigators accessed funding through their local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), which are local governments affiliated with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

FRIMA was reauthorized as part of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN) of 2016 for only $15 million, well short of the estimated $500 million in fish screening and passage needs in the Pacific Northwest alone. The original legislation in 2000 (Public Law 106–502) was supported and requested by the Pacific Northwest Partnership, a coalition of local governmental entities in the four Northwest States. As one of the members of that coalition, we appreciate and strongly support your efforts to reauthorize the FRIMA program. The FRIMA legislation authorized $25 million annually, to be divided equally among the four States

from 2001 to 2012, which was when the original authorization expired. The actual funding appropriated to the FRIMA program (through Congressional write-ins) ranged from $1 million to $8 million, well short of the $25 million it was authorized for and far short of what is needed to address fish passage and screening needs across the region. However, that small amount funding was used to leverage other funds and assisted the region in making measurable progress towards addressing fish screens and fish passage needed to protect sensitive, threatened, and endangered fish species.

FRIMA funding was channeled through FWS to State fishery agencies in the four States, distributed using an application and approval process based on a ranking system implemented uniformly among the States, including the following factors: fish restoration benefits, cost effectiveness, and feasibility of planned structure. All projects provided improved fish passage or fish protection at water diversion structures and benefitted native fish species in the area, including several State or federally listed species. Projects were also subject to applicable State and Federal requirements for project construction and operation.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

FRIMA projects provide immediate protection for fish and fills a large unmet need in the Pacific Northwest for cost-share assistance with fish screening and fish passage installations and improvements. A report by FWS covering program years fiscal year 2002–2012 provides State-by-State coverage of how the Congressional provided funding has been used in the program. Compared to other recovery strategies, the installation of fish screens and fish passage infrastructure has the highest assurance for increasing numbers of fish species in the Pacific Northwest. Furthermore, the installation of these devices have minimal impacts on water delivery operations and projects are done cooperatively using methods that are well accepted by landowners and rural communities.

The return of the FRIMA program will catalyze cooperative partnerships and innovative projects that provide immediate and long-term benefits to irrigators, fishery agencies, and local communities throughout the Pacific Northwest. This program is also a wise investment, with past projects contributing more than the required match and leveraging on average over one dollar for each Federal dollar invested. FRIMA provides for a maximum Federal cost-share of 65 percent, with the applicant's cost-share at 35 percent plus the on-going maintenance and support of the structure for passage or screening purposes. Applicants operate the projects and the State agencies monitor and review the projects.

OREGON'S PROJECT BENEFITS

Twenty-six fish screens or fish passage projects in Oregon were previously funded using FRIMA for part of the project financing. These projects have led to:

—Installation of screens at 17 diversions or irrigation pumps
—Removal or modification of 12 fish passage barriers
—Three-hundred sixty-five miles being re-opened to fish passage

In addition, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has used some of the FRIMA funding to develop an inventory of need for fish screens and passages in the State. Grants ranged from just under $6,000 to $400,000 in size with a local match averaging 64 percent of the project costs, well over the amount required under the Act (35 percent). In other words, each Federal dollar invested in the FRIMA program generates a local investment of just over one dollar for the protection of fish species in the Pacific Northwest.

The following are examples of how Oregon used some of its FRIMA money:

Santiam Water Control District Project: Fish screen project on a large 1050 cubic feet per second (cfs) multipurpose water diversion project on the Santiam River (Willamette Basin) near Stayton, Oregon. Partners are the Santiam Water Control District, ODFW, Marion Soil and Water Conservation District, and the City of Stayton. Approved FRIMA funding of $400,000 leveraged a $1,200,000 total project cost. Species benefited included winter steelhead, spring Chinook, rainbow trout, and cutthroat trout.

South Fork Little Butte Creek: Fish screen and fish passage project on a 65 cfs irrigation water diversion in the Rogue River Basin near Medford, Oregon. Partners are the Medford Irrigation District and ODFW. Approved FRIMA funding of $372,000 leveraged a $580,000 total project cost. Species benefited included listed summer and winter steelhead, coho salmon, and cutthroat trout.

Running Y (Geary Diversion) Project: Fish screen project on a 60 cfs irrigation water diversion in the upper Klamath Basin near Klamath Falls, Oregon. Partners

are the Wocus Drainage District, ODFW, and Jeld-Wen Ranches. Approved FRIMA funding of $44,727 leveraged a total project cost of $149,000. Species benefited included listed red-band trout and short-nosed sucker.

Lakeshore Gardens Project: Fish screen project on a 2 cfs irrigation water diversion in the upper Klamath Basin near Klamath Falls, Oregon. Partners are the Lakeshore Gardens Drainage District and ODFW. Approved FRIMA funding of $5,691 leveraged a total project cost of $18,970. Species benefited included red-band trout, short-nosed sucker and Lost River sucker.

CONCLUSION

Providing appropriations for the FRIMA program will fill a vital funding gap for fish screens and fish passage projects that are needed to better protect sensitive, threatened, and endangered fish species, which also benefits the economy, local communities, and the environment we share. FRIMA funds projects that are ready to be constructed and will provide both immediate improved protections for fish and immediate jobs for the construction of the projects. Dollar-for-dollar, providing screening and fish passage at diversions is one of the most cost-effective uses of restoration dollars, creating fishery protection at low cost, with low risk and significant benefits. The return of the FRIMA program will catalyze cooperative partnerships and innovative projects that provide immediate and long-term economic and environmental benefits to irrigators, fishery agencies, and local communities throughout the Pacific Northwest. We respectfully request an appropriation of $15 million for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries Restoration Irrigation Mitigation Act program for fiscal year 2019.

[This statement was submitted by April Snell, Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman, and Honorable Members of the Committee, I am Ron Allen, the Alternate Tribal Commissioner and Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee for the U.S. Section of the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC). The U.S. Section prepares an annual budget for implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The integrated budget details program needs and costs for Tribal, Federal, and State agencies involved in the Treaty. Tribal participation in the Treaty process is funded within the Bureau of Indian Affairs budget.

—In order to meet the increased obligations under the Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement, the 25 affected Tribes identified costs at $5,200,000 for Tribal research projects and participation in the U.S.-Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty process, an increase of $857,278 over fiscal year 2017 enacted level. The funding for Tribal participation in the Pacific Salmon Treaty is a line item in the BIA's budget under Rights Protection Implementation.

Under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service programs, the U.S. Section identified funding needs as follows:

—USFWS participation in the Treaty process is funded at $372,362 for fiscal year 2017. The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission's Regional Mark Center (PSMFC) receives support from the USFWS to provide data services to the PSC process at a level of $236,189 for fiscal year 2017. The U.S. Section recommends increasing the funding for PSMFC by $150,000. The recommended total for the two programs for fiscal year 2019 is $758,551.

This base funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supports critically important on-going work and participation in the process. The funding for Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission's Regional Mark Processing Center is utilized to meet Treaty requirements concerning data exchange with Canada. These program recommendations are integrated with those of participating State and Federal agencies to avoid duplication of effort and provide for the most efficient expenditure of limited funds.

The U.S. Section of the PSC is recommending an adjustment to support the work carried out by the 25 treaty Tribes' participating in implementation of the Treaty. Programs carried out by the Tribes are closely coordinated with those of participating State and Federal agencies. Tribal programs are essential for the United States to meet its international obligations. Tribal programs have taken on additional management responsibilities due to funding issues with State agencies. All participating agencies need to be adequately supported to achieve a comprehensive U.S. effort to implement the Treaty.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service activities are essential so the U.S. can maintain the critical database to implement the Treaty. The work of the Regional Mark Processing Center includes maintaining and updating a coastwide computerized information management system for salmon harvest data as required by the Treaty. This work has become even more important to monitor the success of management actions aimed at reducing impacts on ESA-listed salmon populations. Canada has a counterpart database. The U.S. database will continue to be housed at the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Funding to support activities under the Pacific Salmon Commission comes from the Departments of Interior, State, and Commerce. The U.S. Section can provide a cross-cut budget summary to the Committee. Adequate funding from all three Departments is necessary for the U.S. to meet its Treaty obligations. All the funds are needed for critical data collection and research activities directly related to the implementation and are used in cooperative programs involving Federal, State, and Tribal fishery agencies and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Canada. The commitment of the United States is matched by the commitment of the Government of Canada.

Mr. Chairman, the United States and Canada established the Pacific Salmon Commission, under the Pacific Salmon Treaty of 1985, to conserve salmon stocks, provide for optimum production of salmon, and to control salmon interceptions. After 30 years, the work of the Pacific Salmon Commission continues to be essential for the wise management of salmon in the Pacific Northwest, British Columbia, and Alaska. For example, upriver bright fall Chinook salmon from the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River are caught in large numbers in Alaskan and Canadian waters. Tribal and non-Tribal fishermen harvest sockeye salmon from Canada's Fraser River in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and in Puget Sound. Canadian trollers off the west coast of Vancouver Island catch Washington coastal Coho salmon and Puget Sound Chinook salmon. In the Northern Boundary area between Canada and Alaska, fish from both countries are intercepted by the other country in large numbers. The Pacific Salmon Commission provides a forum to ensure cooperative management of salmon populations. The agreements in the current Annex Chapters for management of Chinook, Coho, Chum and transboundary populations expire at the end of 2018. The Annex Chapter for management of Fraser River Sockeye and Pink salmon expires at the end of 2019. The U.S. and Canada are negotiating revisions to the current agreements. It is critically important to have adequate resources for U.S. participants to implement the revised agreements and protect our Tribal Treaty resources.

Before the Treaty, fish wars often erupted with one or both countries overharvesting fish that were returning to the other country, to the detriment of the resource. At the time the Treaty was signed, Chinook salmon were in a severely depressed state because of overharvest in the ocean as well as environmental degradation in the spawning rivers. Under the Treaty, both countries committed to rebuild the depressed runs of Chinook stocks, and they recommitted to that goal in 1999 when adopting a coastwide abundance based approach to harvest management. Under this approach, harvest management has complemented habitat conservation and restoration activities undertaken by the States, Tribes, and other stakeholders in the Pacific Northwest to address the needs of salmon listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act. The 2008 Chinook agreement continued these commitments and the upcoming revisions will continue to build on these efforts. The combination of these efforts is integral to achieving success in rebuilding and restoring healthy, sustainable salmon populations.

Finally, you should consider that the value of the commercial harvest of salmon subject to the Treaty, managed at productive levels under the Treaty, supports the infrastructure of many coastal and inland communities. The value of the commercial, recreational fisheries, and the economic diversity they provide for local economies throughout the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, is immense. The Commission recently funded an economic study of the fisheries and determined that this resource creates thousands of jobs and is a multi-billion dollar industry. The value of these fish to the 24 treaty Tribes in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho goes far beyond their monetary value, to the cultural and religious lives of Indian people. A significant monetary investment is focused on salmon due to the listings of Pacific Northwest salmon populations under the Endangered Species Act. Given these resources, we can continue to utilize the Pacific Salmon Commission to develop recommendations that help with the development and implementation of solutions to minimizing impacts on listed stocks. We continue to work towards the true intent of the Treaty, and with your support, we will manage this shared resource for mutual enhancements and benefits.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my written testimony submitted for consideration by your Committee. I want to thank the Committee for the support that it has given the U.S. Section in the past. Please feel free to contact me, or other members of the U.S. Section to answer any questions you or Committee members may have regarding the U.S. Section of the Pacific Salmon Commission budget.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF BRENDA PHILIPSEN

DEAR COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

As an American citizen and taxpayer, I am very upset at Congress' inclusion of Section 116 language in the Omnibus spending bill.

This provision could strip up to 50,000 wild horses and burros of Federal protections that were passed unanimously by Congress and have been in place for nearly 50 years. Especially troubling is the section authorizing of the killing of "advanced age" animals, which could mean that thousands of healthy middle- to older-aged animals who currently enjoy Federal protection will be destroyed. Other loopholes include no provisions for accountability, transparency or accounting for the fates of transferred horses and no penalty for violating the provisions. Additionally, there is no prohibition on the transfer of horses by receiving agencies to third parties that could then kill the horses or burros for non-commercial purposes. Further, the provision for "immediate" transfer could send thousands of unbranded, and therefore untraceable, horses into the slaughter pipeline.

Language put in place by Congress to prevent commercial slaughter and restrict euthanasia is well intended but ineffective and unenforceable. Further, it is inappropriate to upend a unanimously passed Act of Congress through a last minute spending bill. Americans overwhelmingly oppose horse slaughter and support protecting wild horses and burros on our public lands. Please honor the will of the people by fixing the problem caused by this language this language when the Omnibus expires on September 30, 2017.

Thank you for your consideration.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE PUEBLO OF SANTA CLARA, NEW MEXICO

Recommendations

1. IHS—Provide full funding and advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service.
2. IHS—Maintain funding for Community Health Representatives.
3. IHS—$150 million in mandatory funding for SDPI.
4. BIA—Increase funding for disaster recovery and prevention programs.
5. BIA—Establish a BIA Emergency Response Fund.
6. USFS—Increase support for Tribal Forest Protection Act implementation.
7. BIA—$3 million for the BIA Endangered Species Program.
8. BIA—$30 million for the Tribal Climate Resilience Program.
9. DOI—$30 million for Department-wide Landscape Conservation Cooperatives.
10. EPA—Provide full funding for the EPA General Assistance Program.
11. BIA OSG—$2 million in baseline funding for the Office of Self-Governance.
12. BIA—Maintain $1 million in dedicated funding for NAGPRA implementation.
13. BIA—Increase funding for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices under the NHPA.

Introduction

Thank you Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee for the opportunity to testify on the important topic of Federal funding for American Indian and Alaska Native programs under your jurisdiction. My name is J. Michael Chavarria and I am the Governor of the Pueblo of Santa Clara, also serving in the capacity of the Chairman for the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council and Vice-Chairman for the All Pueblo Council of Governors (APCG). Santa Clara Pueblo is located north of Santa Fe, New Mexico, in the foothills of the Valles Caldera Park Service Unit. On behalf of my Pueblo, we thank you and your staff for your hard work in protecting the interests of Tribal nations in the Federal budgeting process. The Federal budget plays an essential role in fulfilling the Federal Government's trust and treaty obligations to Tribal nations by ensuring that critical programs and services receive adequate resources to fulfill their intended purpose. These programs are provided to Tribal nations because of the unique political relationship that exists between our sovereign governments.

As a Tribal leader, I have developed a deep understanding of our community's pressing needs, as well as of the immense potential of the Santa Clara People to succeed if given the appropriate level of resources and support. To further these twin objectives of progress and achievement, I offer the following fiscal year 2019 budget recommendations for the subcommittee.

I. PROMOTING ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY HEALTHCARE IN INDIAN COUNTRY

Provide Full Funding and Advance Appropriations for the Indian Health Service. The IHS strives to provide Tribal citizens with access to high quality and comprehensive medical services. Unlike other Federal healthcare agencies, such as Veterans Affairs, the IHS must balance the delivery of services with years of underresourcing and the detrimental, lingering effects of sequestration under the Budget Control Act of 2011. The sum of this equation is all too often manifested in negative health outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Natives who depend on the IHS for care. Full advance appropriations for the IHS would promote greater stability in services, medical personnel recruitment and retention, and facilities management. It would also provide the IHS with parity to other Federal healthcare agencies that have demonstrated success in delivering consistent medical services under advance appropriations that have otherwise been interrupted by budget-related complications like continuing resolutions. IHS appropriations reform is urgently needed to provide Indian Country with access to this same peace of mind and reliability in healthcare services. *We urge Congress to fully fund advance appropriations for the IHS under the fiscal year 2019 budget and beyond.*

Maintain Funding for the Community Health Representatives (CHR). CHRs are a valued and valuable asset in the Indian healthcare systems. Providers come from the communities they serve and have the necessary Tribal cultural understanding to identify, respond to, and address our Pueblo members' needs. They also serve as important sources of basic healthcare services, disease prevention services, and health education. We are deeply disturbed by the President's fiscal year 2019 proposal to eliminate all funding for this unique and highly effective program. *We urge Congress to maintain funding for CHRs and promote community-connected care in Indian Country.*

Maintain $150 million in Mandatory Spending for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. As you are well aware, communities across Indian Country are associated with tremendous, alarming, and debilitating statistics related to incidences of diabetes and diabetes-related complications among Tribal members. The Pueblo of Santa Clara is no exception. SDPI is a critical program that has demonstrated success in reducing incidences in diabetes and end-stage renal disease in Tribal communities, as well as in preventing, treating, and managing symptoms. *We strongly urge Congress to maintain the current $150 million in SPDI mandatory funds.*

II. EFFECTIVE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Increase Funding for BIA Disaster Recovery and Prevention Programs. The stewardship of land, minerals, water and other natural resources is key to both the economic well-being of Pueblo people and to their cultural survival. As Tribal leaders, we strive to balance these interests through beneficial partnerships and the effective management of our natural resources. Nature, however, chooses her own course. Our Pueblo has been devastated by not one but three catastrophic wildfires—the 1998 Oso Complex Fire, 2000 Cerro Grande Fire, and the 2011 Las Conchas Fire. We have invested heavily in the development of fire preparedness and suppression resources to protect life and property. The BIA and other Federal agencies have worked closely with us to carry out these activities and address what continues to be an existential threat to our Pueblo. Because of these efforts, we are proud to say that Santa Clara is home to top-tier Tribal forestry and land management departments. *We urge Congress to increase funding for BIA natural disaster recovery and prevention programs to better protect Tribal and Federal lands.*

Establish a BIA Emergency Response Fund. Our experiences with disaster relief highlight the need for Tribal nations to receive assistance as soon as possible following a natural disaster. For many Tribal governments, however, the upfront investment in emergency staff and services, and the high cost-sharing requirements of certain Federal programs present significant financial barriers. When added to the unavoidable bureaucratic delays in distributing funds, it often takes an unacceptable amount of time for communities to receive disaster relief at a time when quick access to resources is of the essence. With the increased intensity and scope of wildfires, floods, and other natural disasters in recent years, we anticipate the need for these resources will only continue to grow. For this reason, we recommend

the creation of a BIA Emergency Response Fund. The idea behind this fund would be for the BIA to have readily at hand significant funding that can be deployed as necessary to address short- and long-term disaster recovery and disaster mitigation needs in Indian Country. *We recommend an initial amount of $5 million be allocated to establish a BIA Emergency Response Fund within the Office of Trust Services.*

Prioritize Implementation of the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) in the USFS. The TFPA (Public Law 108–278) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to give special consideration to tribally-proposed Stewardship Contracting or other projects on Forest Service or BLM land bordering or adjacent to Tribal lands to protect trust and Federal resources from fire, disease, and other threats. These stewardship agreements are an important tool for fighting the ever-growing threat of wildfires in the West. Empowering Tribal governments as caretakers to protect Tribal lands by managing adjacent Federal lands is a smart policy. The TFPA was authorized, however, without a designated funding mechanism. As a result, efforts to the implement its beneficial provisions have been impeded. *We urge the subcommittee to provide $5 million in fiscal year 2019 in priority funding for the implementation of the TFPAwithin the U.S. Forest Service.*

Protect Wildlife with Restored Funding for the BIA Endangered Species Program. The effective management and conservation of our natural resources is not limited to the waters, soil, and trees that form the rich landscape of Pueblo Country. We must also account and appropriately care for the diversity of wildlife that is meaningful to our culture and essential to maintaining our ecosystems' equilibrium. The BIA Endangered Species Program provides Tribal nations with the technical assistance and financial resources to protect endangered species on Tribal lands through natural resources restoration and management, as well as economic development. *We recommend Congress provide $3 million for the BIA Endangered Species Program in fiscal year 2019.*

Promote Sustainable Tribal Communities Through the EPA General Assistance Program. EPA funding and grants enable our Pueblo to administer and support an array of projects that improve the quality of life for our people and safeguard the natural resources that provide us with physical and spiritual sustenance. Without these funds, our Pueblo would face tremendous hurdles in delivering essential services such as clean drinking water and hazardous waste management to our people. Among the most widely utilized EPA sources of funding is the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP), which assists Tribal nations in developing the internal capacity to manage their own environmental protection programs. Cuts to the GAP will directly impact front-line environmental staff working for Tribal governments and place our natural and cultural resources at unacceptable risk. We support the GAP's spirit of greater local control, cooperative Federalism, and exercise of self-determination in allowing Tribal nations to manage their resources. *We strongly urge Congress to provide full GAP funding to advance sustainable environmental protection measures in Indian Country.*

Maintain Funding for the Tribal Climate Resilience Program. Across America, communities are facing mounting challenges related to our progressively unstable natural environment. We have seen this in catastrophic wildfires in the southwest, debilitating snowfalls in the northeast, persistent droughts in the northwest, and severe floods in the southeast. Invasive species, disappearing tree lines, and accelerated rates of erosion are also taking an increasing toll on our agricultural and natural resources. The BIA Tribal Climate Resilience Program and Department-wide Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (administered in agencies such as the BLM, FWS, NPS, BIA, and BOR) provide Tribal nations with the tools to manage resource stressors and develop adaptive management plans. Both programs prioritize intergovernmental coordination to mitigate and prevent further environmental degradation. Continuing these programs is critical not only for Tribal nations, but for all Americans. *We, therefore, recommend Congress provide $30 million for the BIA Tribal Climate Resilience Program and $30 million for Department-wide Cooperative Landscape Conservation programs.*

III. SUPPORT FOR TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

Increase Funding and Support for the Office of Self Governance (OSG). The Pueblo of Santa Clara is a self-governance Tribe, meaning we have assumed control of many Bureau of Indian Affairs functions in our community. We provide our Tribal members with a full range of governmental and social services, including Tribal education, elder care, public works, and traditional cultural practices to support their spiritual and physical well-being. OSG plays a pivotal role in supporting the

exercise of our Tribal sovereignty by providing financial assistance and compacting services to the 277 Tribal nations participating in the program. Yet, the OSG is constantly operating at a deficit—both financially and in personnel—that impairs its ability to fully support self-governance Tribes and the delivery of essential, timely services to our people. *We recommend that Congress provide at least $2 million as baseline funding for the Office of Self Governance to fulfill its mission in serving self-governance Tribes.*

IV. PROTECTING TRIBAL CULTURAL PATRIMONY

Maintain the $1 million in Dedicated Funding for NAGPRA Implementation. The theft, trafficking, and sale in objects of Tribal patrimony causes immeasurable harm to our way of life. An object of Tribal patrimony is not meant to be simply displayed in a museum or hung on the wall as art. It is a vital part of the community with both presence and purpose. Congress has recognized the special status of these objects and is working closely with Tribal nations to develop appropriate Federal protections. The $1 million in dedicated funding for NAGPRA implementation in fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018 is contributing to tremendous progress in this area. We are happy to report that Congress's support has translated into the creation of a dedicated FTE position and Bureau-wide trainings on the nuances of the law and the importance of Tribal patrimony. We look forward to continuing to expand these achievements going forward. *We strongly encourage Congress to maintain the $1 million in direct funding for NAGPRA implementation in fiscal year 2019.*

Support Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs). The preservation of Tribal sacred and cultural sites is a priority for the Pueblo of Santa Clara and all of Indian Country. Such sites may be found in natural geographic formations or in man-made markers and monuments. Damage or destruction of these sites is often irreversible, forever altering the way in which we can express ourselves as Pueblo People. More Tribal nations are choosing to establish THPO equivalent to State offices under the National Historic Preservation Act to protect Tribal heritage. Our officers use their expertise to identify sacred and cultural sites and coordinate with the appropriate officials and third parties to ensure that they are conserved for future generations. *We appreciate that Congress has stood with Tribal nations in rejecting proposed cuts to THPO funding and we urge the subcommittee to include further support for this vital program in its fiscal year 2019 budget recommendation report.*

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE PUYALLUP TRIBE OF INDIANS

Mr. Chairman and Members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the fiscal year 2019 appropriations for American Indian and Alaskan Native programs. My name is David Z. Bean, Tribal Council Member for the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. The Puyallup Tribe is an independent sovereign nation having historically negotiated with several foreign nations including the United States in the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854. This relationship is rooted in Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution, Federal laws and numerous Executive orders. The governing body of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians is the Puyallup Tribal Council which upholds the Tribe's sovereign responsibility of self-determination and self-governance for the benefit of the 4,875 Puyallup Tribal members and the 25,000 plus members from approximately 355 federally recognized Tribes who utilize our services. The Puyallup Reservation is located in the urbanized Seattle-Tacoma area of the State of Washington. The 18,061-acre reservation is a "checkerboard" of Tribal lands, Indian-owned fee land and non-Indian owned fee land. Our reservation land includes parts of six different municipalities (Tacoma, Fife, Milton, Puyallup, Edgewood and Federal Way).

The following written testimony being submitted to the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee documents the Puyallup Tribe's views on the President's fiscal year 2019 Federal budget. The focus of the written testimony will be on the President's proposed budget for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS). Within the BIA budget, $2.4 billion is proposed for fiscal year 2019, a decrease of $317 million from the fiscal year 2018 CR level. For the IHS, $5.424 billion is proposed, a decrease of $113 million below the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. Included in both budgets the President proposes to fully fund Contract Support Costs (CSC) in fiscal year 2019. The budget provides $231 million for BIA CSC and $822 million for IHS CSCs. We appreciate the increased funding being proposed for the BIA and IHS and funding CSCs at 100 percent. However, the years of inadequate funding and the effects of inflation has impacted the Tribe's ability to fully exercise self-determination and self-governance. As negotiations proceed on the fis-

cal year 2019 budget and future appropriations, efforts to insure adequate funding is provided for Indian programs will be paramount. To preserve the increased funding levels realized in recent years and contained in the proposed fiscal year 2019 budget for the BIA and IHS, the increases should be viewed by Congress and the administration as new "base funding" amounts with annual increases to meet actual need. Specific issues and needs are;

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR—BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Public Safety & Justice: The fiscal year 2019 budget request includes $350 million for BIA Public Safety & Justice. This represents a $55 million decrease from the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. We are requesting support from the Subcommittee to fund Public Safety & Justice at the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of $405 million. The $94 million for Tribal and BIA detention and corrections funding is of great importance to the Puyallup Tribe. In fiscal year 2009, the Puyallup Tribe received a Department of Justice ARRA grant, in the amount of $7.9 million to construct a 28 bed adult corrections facility. Construction on the facility was completed in February 2014 and came online in May 2014. Over the past four (4) years the Puyallup Tribe has worked closely with the BIA-Office of Justice Services National and Regional staff on identifying the operating and staffing costs associated with the Puyallup Tribe's new adult corrections facility. The Puyallup Tribe submitted a Public Law 93–638 contract request to the B.I.A. for Operations and Maintenance funding for the new facility, including Pre-Award, Start-up, Transitional funding, Staffing and O&M funding. The agreed upon estimated cost of operating the facility was set at $2.6 million annually. The BIA base funding offered to the Tribe in fiscal year 2018 was approximately $715,136 or 27 percent of actual need. We cannot support the President's proposed fiscal year 2019 funding of $94 million, for Detention & Corrections. The Puyallup Tribe requests support from the subcommittee to fund the Tribe's Adult Corrections facility at the established true cost of operations, estimated at $2.6 million annually. Further, we request the subcommittee at a minimum fund Detention & Corrections at the fiscal year 2018 enacted level.

In addition, we operate a Tribal Court program through a Public Law 93–638 contract with the B.I.A. In fiscal year 2015, our base funding was increased from $45,000 to $194,996 and remains this amount for fiscal year 2019. While this increase to our Tribal Court Base funding is appreciated, it does not equal the amount of Tribal funds necessary to fully operate the Tribal Court program. In fiscal year 2018, the Tribe has allocated $1.172 million of Tribal funds for the Tribal Court budget. The President's fiscal year 2019 budget proposes an $8 million reduction. We are requesting support from the subcommittee to fund the Tribal Courts program at the fiscal year 2018 enacted level.

Natural Resources Management: The Puyallup Tribe as stewards for land and marine waters in the Usual and Accustomed fish, shellfish and wildlife areas has treaty and governmental obligations and responsibilities to manage natural resources for uses beneficial to the Tribal membership and the regional communities. Despite our diligent program efforts, the fisheries resource is degrading and economic losses are incurred by Native and Non-native fishermen and surrounding communities. Our resource management responsibilities cover thousands of square miles in the Puget Sound region of the State of Washington with an obligation to manage production of anadromous, non-anadromous fish, shellfish and wildlife resources. Existing levels of support are inadequate to reverse the trend of resource/habitat degradation. For fiscal year 2019, a minimum funding level of $8.562 million is necessary for BIA Western Washington (Bolt) Fisheries Management program. Increase in funding would provide new monies for shellfish, groundfish, enforcement, habitat, wildlife and other natural resource management needs. As the aboriginal owners and guardians of our lands and waters it is essential that adequate funding is provided to allow Tribes to carry-out our inherent stewardship of these resources.

The Puyallup Tribe continues to operate a number of salmon hatcheries that benefit Indian and non-Indian commercial and sport fisheries in the Pacific Northwest/Puget Sound. We work cooperatively with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, neighboring Tribes, Federal agencies and State fishery managers to insure the success and sustainability of our hatchery programs. The Puyallup Tribe will continue to advocate and secure increased funding for Fish Hatchery Operations and Maintenance funding. The President's fiscal year 2019 budget proposes a $3.4 million reduction from the fiscal year 2018 CR level for Fish Hatcheries Operations and Fish Hatchery Maintenance. We request the subcommittee fund Fish Hatchery Operations and Maintenance programs at $10.3 million for fiscal year 2019.

The Timber, Fish and Wildlife (TFW) Supplemental and U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty programs has allowed for the expansion of Tribal participation in the

State forest practice rules and regulations and participation in inter-Tribal organizations to address specific treaties and legal cases which relate to multi-national fishing rights, harvest allocations and resource management practices. We request subcommittee support the funding recommendations of the NWIFC for the fiscal year 2019 TFW Supplemental program and the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty program.

Education: The Puyallup Tribe operates the pre-K to 12 Chief Leschi Schools which included a verified 2017–2018 School student enrollment of 640 + students, including ECEAP and FACE programs. With an increasing number of pre-kindergarten enrollment, Chief Leschi Schools will exceed design capacity in the near future. Additional education facility space will be necessary to provide quality educational services to the students and Tribal community. Additional, the cost of operation and maintenance of the Chief Leschi School facilities continues to increase in the areas of supplies, energy, structural and student transportation costs. The President's proposed fiscal year 2019 budget request for the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is $741 million, a decrease of $173 million from the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of $914 million. Once again the funding level does not meet the actual operational needs of Tribal education programs. The Tribe will continue to work with Congress, BIE and the National Congress of American Indians to increase funding in fiscal year 2019, including; Tribal Grant Support Cost for Tribally Operated Schools—$78 million; Student Transportation—$73 million; School Facilities Accounts—$109 million in facilities operations and $76 million in facilities maintenance; and Indian School Equalization Formula (ISEF)—$431 million.

Operations of Indian Programs & Tribal Priority Allocations: The President's fiscal year 2019 budget is in drastic need for increased funding for the B.I.A. Operations of Indian Programs. Within the Operations of Indian Programs is the Tribal Priority Allocations (TPA). The TPA budget functions include the majority of funding used to support on-going services at the "local Tribal" level, including; natural resources management, child welfare, other education, housing and other Tribal government services. These functions have not received adequate and consistent funding to allow Tribes the resources to fully exercise self-determination and self-governance. Further, the small increases "TPA" has received over the past few years has not been adequate to keep pace with inflation. The Puyallup Tribe is requesting support from the subcommittee to fund the Operation of Indian Programs at $2.411 billion, an increase of $411 million over the President's proposed fiscal year 2019 budget request and TPA at the fiscal year 2018 enacted level.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES—INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Inadequate funding of the Indian Health Service is the most substantial impediment to the current Indian Health system. The Puyallup Tribe has been operating healthcare programs since 1976 through the Indian Self-determination Act, Public Law 93–638. The Puyallup Tribal Health Authority (PTHA) operates a comprehensive ambulatory care program to the Native American population in Pierce County, Washington. The current patient load exceeds 9,000, of which approximately 1,700 are Tribal members. There are no Indian Health Service hospitals in the Portland Area so all specialties and hospital care have been paid for out of our contract care allocation. The Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) allocation to PTHA remains inadequate to meet the actual need. In fiscal year 2017, the Puyallup Tribe subsidized PRC with a $2.8 million contribution. In fiscal year 2018, the Tribal subsidy has grown to $6.2 million. Given that the PTHA service population is only comprised of 17 percent Puyallup Tribal members, Tribal budget priorities in fiscal year 2011 thru 2018 has made continued subsidies to the PTHA financially difficult for the Puyallup Tribe. The fiscal year 2019 budget requests $5.424 billion in discretionary budget authority for the Indian Health Service. This represents a $384 million increase above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level, but $113 million below the fiscal year 2018 omnibus appropriations. For Health Services programs the fiscal year 2019 budget requests funding for Clinical Services ($3.689 billion), Purchased/Referred Care ($955 million), Hospitals & Health Clinics ($2.19 billion) and Contract Support ($822 million). The Puyallup Tribe fully supports funding increases for existing I.H.S. programs and will work Congress to continue efforts to increase funding for I.H.S. and the critical programs administered by this Agency.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE RAMAH NAVAJO SCHOOL BOARD INC. (RNSB)

On an annual basis, leaders of the Ramah Navajo School Board Inc., (RNSB) have been presenting to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and related Agencies in Washington, DC. Unfortunately, we were not selected

to testify before the subcommittee this year to present our oral testimony; however, we still have piercing, continuing needs that we would like to discuss with you, including: (1) Facilities Improvement Repairs; (2) School Replacement Construction; (3) Water System Upgrade; (4) To return BIE to the structure before the Reorganization; (5) To maintain fiscal year 2019 funding at no less than fiscal year 2018 levels; and (6) Maintain long range school construction priority list.

Before we begin to elaborate on each of the items, we will refresh your memory of the people of Ramah Navajo who live in a very remote area in West Central New Mexico, on the Ramah Navajo reservation which is in the vicinity of Pine Hill, New Mexico. Historically (1950's–1960's), our children attended the public school in Ramah, New Mexico as part of the Gallup McKinley County School District. Unimproved roads on Ramah Navajo reservation made it difficult to transport our children to school; therefore a dormitory was built near Ramah public school. In 1968, the public school in Ramah was closed and students were bussed to Zuni, New Mexico, 50 plus miles one way. Doing this left Ramah Navajo a few options: bus the children an additional 3 hours per day, or to send their children to distance boarding schools located many miles away from their homes. Neither option was acceptable to the Ramah Navajo People.

Later in 1970, the Ramah Navajo people had a vision, and determination to control their own destiny, in regards to educating their own children. After consideration of all options, a delegation of five (5) Navajo elders, who were the founding members of the RNSB, petitioned Congress for assistance in forming their own educational facility. They were successful in the endeavor, which eventually led to the creation of the "Indian Self Determination Act" of Congress. All buildings were turned over to Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for maintenance and repair, but BIE has been very lax in the performance of their trust responsibilities, which includes insufficient money to properly maintain our buildings and infrastructure.

(1) Facilities Improvement Repairs

The majority of our buildings are nearly (50) fifty years old and the current work orders entered in MAXIMO have a projected cost over (5) five million dollars. In 2015, the school library and Kindergarten buildings were closed due to black mold and water damage in both buildings. The two buildings remain closed today, not usable by the K–12 students. The gymnasium remains open however; the ceiling condition poses serious health concerns due to the fiberglass insulation that is uncovered which allows air borne particles to enter the atmosphere. We also have water damage and black mold problems throughout the buildings.

While examining the MAXIMO entries we find that, over the past three (3) years, multiple entries were made for the library, kindergarten building and the gymnasium totaling $2,952,786 for costs to repair these three (3) buildings:

PRIORITY REPAIR PROJECTS: THREE BUILDINGS

Library Repairs	$823,478
Kindergarten Repairs	$298,407
Gymnasium Repairs	$1,830,901
Total Costs of Building Repair	$2,952,786

Proposed Public Lands Infrastructure Fund. We sincerely appreciate that BIE-funded schools are included among the national parks and national wildlife refuges as eligible for repairs and improvement funding from the Trump administration's proposed Public Lands Infrastructure Fund, however, we do have a number of questions and concerns, including the following: (1) It is uncertain whether the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund will garner Congressional support in order to move forward; (2) Assuming that the Fund gains such support, revenue projections are unpredictable and would require significant increases in energy leases and development on public lands to achieve the projected revenue streams; and (3) Royalty rates from energy leases are decreasing, making it unlikely that revenue will increase above the fiscal year 2018 baseline in the near future. We respectfully ask that the subcommittees provide full, consistent funding for Facilities Improvement and Repair and should additional funds become available from the proposed Public Lands Infrastructure Fund to address the BIE School System's $634 million maintenance backlog, we do not object.

(2) School Replacement Construction: Estimated Square Footage: 186,000

In light of our buildings being nearly fifty (50) years old, and considering the overall condition of those buildings, a new school would be a wiser decision, financially, rather than continuing to repair old, deteriorating facilities. Even with the requested funding for repairs, our buildings will still be in violation of existing laws, including health and safety, ADA and Environmental regulations. These building have exceeded their effective life.

Estimated Cost of a Replacement School: $86,393,213

(3) Water System Upgrade

Our water system is also antiquated; it remains an ongoing challenge to insure that sufficient water is available to satisfy the school, clinic and community. There were many days that the classroom temperature was either so cold, or there was insufficient water to support the student's needs; in those situations, we had no option but to send our students home for their safety and wellbeing. We have recently been notified by the BIE Safety Specialist that our water system lacks the capacity, and production, to adequately operate our fire suppression system on campus. Evaluation of the current water system and estimated costs to upgrade the system and insure its reliability, including wells, Pumps, Water lines, Tanks and Water Treatment Plant are as follows:

WATER SYSTEM UPGRADE

Pre-Engineering Report	$150,000
Design and Engineering	$500,000
Construction	$3,500,000
Total Cost of the Water System Upgrade	$4,150,000

(4) Return BIE to the Structure Before the Reorganization

RNSB is steadfast in its commitment to self-determination and believes that top-down reorganizations of offices, programs, and budgets by the BIA and BIE run counter to the principles of local control of local affairs. Since the earliest proposals were put forward to reform and reorganize the BIE, we have filed letters and testimony expressing our concerns. As the BIE Reorganization continues to move forward, we continue to have concerns both with the process and content of the Reorganization. In particular, the BIE reorganization process has made clear that moving boxes around on an organizational chart does not change organizational performance. Rather, a targeted focus on improving services is what will make the difference. We respectfully request that the BIE be returned to its original structure before the Reorganization began to be implemented and that the Department of Interior establish an advisory committee for its Indian education programs that is made up of local tribal school officials whose schools operate under Public Law 93–638, the Tribally Controlled Grant School Act (Public Law 100–297) and other authorities. Such an advisory body will help foster school-based reforms that would benefit students. Additionally, on an ongoing basis, an advisory committee will help improve communication, coordination and policy direction for Indian education.

(5) Maintain Funding at No Less Than fiscal year 2018 Levels and Protect the FACE Program

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 was enacted on February 9, 2018, as Public Law 115–123. This law, among other things, increased the domestic discretionary budget cap for both fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019. For 2018, we are deeply grateful to the subcommittees for rejecting the Trump administration's proposed budget cuts and for adding important increases under Education Construction for: Replacement School Construction; Replacement Facility Construction; and Facilities Improvement and Repair. These increases mean that faster progress can be made on the 2004 and 2016 Replacement School Priority Lists. Given that the discretionary spending cap was increased for fiscal year 2019 as well, we respectfully ask the subcommittees to continue the robust levels of funding for Education Construction and to reject the harmful proposals from the Trump administration to zero out important programs such as the Early Childhood and Family Development BIE budget category commonly referred to as the "FACE" program. The FACE program is designed to: (1) strengthen family-school-community relations, (2) increase parent participation in education, and (3) support parents in their role as a child's first and most important teacher. We run a successful FACE-funded program that plays a key role in preparing young children for a successful education. We were shocked

and saddened to see that the administration's proposal to zero this critical program out.

(6) Maintain a Long Range School Construction Priority List

We would first like to thank the subcommittees for providing important increases for Replacement School Construction; Replacement Facility Construction; and Facilities Improvement and Repair and for pressing the administration to draft the next School Replacement List and engage in long-range building replacement planning. Unfortunately, there are unsafe and decrepit schools all across Indian Country that desperately need to be on this next list. We believe that the only way this problem can be addressed is through good planning, oversight and robust, consistent funding. We respectfully ask the subcommittees to continue to provide robust funding each year and to continue to press the administration not only to draft the replacement list but to create a detailed lifecycle and replacement plan for all BIE school system facilities.

Conclusion

All these many years, we have maintained our vision and determination to control our own destiny when it comes to educating our own children. To this end, we work to nurture and develop students who will meet the challenges of today's ever changing society while perpetuating their culture and language. We ask that Congress uphold its trust and treaty responsibility and be our partner in this endeavor. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on these critical matters. Please contact Ramah Navajo School Board Inc. President Marlene Martinez at: marlene@rnsb.k12.nm.us with any questions.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE RECORDING ACADEMY

My name is Neil Portnow, I am the President/CEO of the Recording Academy, an organization that represents 23,000 individual music creators and professionals—songwriters, performers, studio professionals, and others creatively involved in making music. I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony to the Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies and thank the Members of the committee for their efforts to fully fund the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for fiscal year 2018.

For fiscal year 2019, the Recording Academy requests that the subcommittee funds the NEA at no less than $155 million.

As appropriators you are tasked with difficult decisions, but as you set spending levels for the next year, please remember, as you did for fiscal year 2018, why we must continue to support the arts. American culture is our identity. Music and art make our Nation strong and prosperous. It gives value to us as a nation beyond defined borders, ensuring that America continues to be, to borrow a phrase from American literature and invoked by President Reagan, the "shining city on a hill."

For less than $1 per American per year, funding the NEA is truly one of the most financially-sound investments our country makes. In 2016, NEA funds yielded more than $500 million in matching support—leveraging outside funds at a ratio of 9:1. The agency is at the center of our creative economy—a $700 billion industry that accounts for a larger share of our GDP than the American construction or transportation sectors. And with a $26 billion trade surplus, the American arts industry serves as a powerful ambassador abroad; it teaches our shared values and history in compelling ways, and it connects us as a people and as a world.

When it comes to music, the NEA has been invaluable to the development of music creators across the country, while helping preserve America's rich music culture. The agency has provided more than $400 million in funding to domestic music programs—from teaching kids how to play an instrument to supporting festivals of international acclaim. The NEA is an essential part of American music culture, and it must be funded to ensure that Americans in all congressional districts can continue to enjoy and participate in our rich musical and cultural heritage.

That is why I implore you and your colleagues in Congress to fully fund the NEA at a level of no less than $155 million for fiscal year 2019. Help protect and renew America's commitment to the arts and to music. It's our collective responsibility to preserve what binds us and to ensure that the whole world continues to benefit from one of our most unique and economically and spiritually important assets—and exports: American music.

For Additional Information

MICHAEL LEWAN
Director of Government Relations
Michael.Lewan@recordingacademy.com

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE REGIONAL AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

April 26, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Dirksen Office Building, SD–131
Washington, DC 20510

SENATOR MURKOWSKI:

This letter is written to express this agency's concern with the administration's fiscal year 2019 budget request to Congress which calls for steep cuts in funding to EPA, including a 33-percent reduction in Federal grants to State and local air pollution control agencies under Sections 103 and 105 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), for a total of $152 million. Such cuts would be devastating for many programs, including to the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (RAPCA) in Dayton, Ohio.

RAPCA appreciates the work by Congress to avoid budget cuts to State and local clean air agencies in fiscal year 2018, however RAPCA urges Congress to approve additional funding in fiscal year 2019 to carry out our important public health responsibilities.

Federal grants to State and local air quality agencies are the same now as they were 14 years ago in fiscal year 2004—$228 million. If adjusted for inflation, level funding would translate to approximately $303 million in today's dollars. Therefore, we ask Congress to increase State and local air grants by $75 million above fiscal year 2018 levels (i.e., approximately $151 million above the administration's request), for a total of $303 million.

RAPCA is part of the Public Health—Dayton and Montgomery County organization and is the local air pollution control agency serving Clark, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery and Preble counties in southwest Ohio. RAPCA is directly funded by U.S. EPA to implement the Clean Air Act and we work closely with Ohio EPA to accomplish the functions of issuing required air permits, conducting facility inspections and monitoring air quality, among other Clean Air Act requirements.

While great strides have been made in cleaning up the environment, air pollution remains a serious threat to public health. It causes tens of thousands of premature deaths in our country every year, as well as tens of millions of cases of adverse health impacts, such as cancer and damage to respiratory, cardiovascular, neurological and reproductive systems. Under the Clean Air Act, State and local air pollution control agencies have the "primary responsibility" for preparing implementation strategies to address air pollution problems. These tasks include, among others, air quality monitoring, planning and modeling, compiling air emission inventories, adopting regulations, analyzing data, and inspecting facilities. In southwest Ohio, for example, we are particularly concerned about ozone pollution and assuring compliance of high-profile facilities such as the Stony Hollow Landfill and the Fairborn Cement Plant in addition to being responsive to industry business needs with regards to assisting facilities with obtaining requisite construction air permits. Accordingly, we work with the local Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Organization (MPO), the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission to issue ozone air pollution advisories to alert the public when needed, as well as performing enhanced inspections and ambient air monitoring of high-profile facilities, in addition to meeting "routine" Clean Air Act requirements.

There are many challenges facing our agency in meeting the Clean Air Act requirements. Reductions in staffing levels and training, as well as staff retirements and retention are major obstacles to accomplishing our mission to protect public health. Since 2012, RAPCA has reduced staff by over 30 percent and additional cuts of the magnitude proposed by the administration would devastate our program and our ability to protect vulnerable populations from the harmful effects of air pollution as well as provide timely services to the regulated communities.

Maintaining the air pollution control program locally provides stakeholders in our region with opportunities for input to a local entity responsible for the air program.

RAPCA staff is committed to serving the community in which we live and dedicated to being more responsive to the requests from the public, the media, the business community, and to providing timelier service than the State. RAPCA is part of the Dayton region and we seek to improve the quality of life for all residents.

RAPCA is doing its best to improve air quality and provide quality services to the regulated community but adequate Federal funding is critical. Please help promote public health by ensuring Federal grants to State and local air quality agencies are increased to keep pace with inflation. RAPCA recommends Congress provide fiscal year 2019 grants in the amount of $303 million ($151 million above the administration's request) to maintain level funding from fiscal year 2004 levels, adjusted to inflation. Thank you for any assistance you can offer in this matter.

Sincerely,

JENNIFER MARSEE, RAPCA Administrator

cc:
Chairs of Appropriations Committees
Chairs of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittees

Senator Rob Portman, Ohio
Senator Sherrod Brown, Ohio
Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, 9th District of Ohio
Congressman Michael Turner, 10th District of Ohio
Congressman David Joyce, 14th District of Ohio
Congressman Warren Davidson, 8th District of Ohio

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES

Restore America's Estuaries is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that has been working since 1995 to restore our Nation's greatest estuaries. Our mission is to restore and protect estuaries as essential resources for our Nation. Restore America's Estuaries is an alliance of community-based coastal conservation organizations across the Nation that protect and restore coastal and estuarine habitat. Our member organizations include: American Littoral Society, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, Save the Sound—a program of the Connecticut Fund for the Environment, Galveston Bay Foundation, North Carolina Coastal Federation, EarthCorps, Save The Bay—San Francisco, Save the Bay—Narragansett Bay, and Tampa Bay Watch. Collectively, we represent over 250,000 members nationwide.

As you develop the fiscal year 2019 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill, Restore America's Estuaries and our members encourage you to provide the following funding levels within the Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for core programs that significantly support coastal community and ecosystem resilience and local economies:

—*$15 million for USFWS Coastal Program*
(Interior: USFWS: Resource Management: Habitat Conservation: Coastal Program)
—*$27 million for USEPA National Estuary Program*
(USEPA: Water: Ecosystems: National Estuary Program/Coastal Waterways)

These non-regulatory investments strengthen and revitalize America's coastal communities by protecting and restoring habitat, improving local water quality, and enhancing resilience. Healthy coastlines protect communities from flood damage and extreme weather, improve commercial fisheries, safeguard vital infrastructure, and support tourism and recreational opportunities.

USFWS COASTAL PROGRAM

The Coastal Program (CP) is a voluntary, incentive-based program that provides technical and financial assistance to coastal communities and landowners to protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands in 24 priority coastal ecosystems throughout the United States, including the Great Lakes. The Coastal Program works collaboratively within the USFWS to coordinate strategic priorities and make landscape-scale progress with other Federal, State, local, and non-governmental partners and private landowners. Since 1985, the Coastal Program has:

—Partnered with more than 5,000 Federal, Tribal, State, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, corporations, and private landowners.
—Restored 557,790 acres of wetland and upland habitat and 2,625 miles of stream habitat.
—Protected more than 2.1 million acres of coastal habitat.
—Provided technical assistance to a diverse range of conservation partners.

Our coastal communities and ecosystems are on the front lines of changing coastal conditions and increasing extreme weather. Support for the USFWS Coastal Program helps interested communities and partners address the new set of challenges facing coastal communities. The Coastal Program is the USFWS's key conservation tool delivering on-the-ground habitat restoration and technical assistance. Despite the Program's relatively small cost, it has a tremendous impact. In 2015 alone, the Coastal Program, along with 455 local partners, completed 266 projects restoring or protecting more than 90,000 acres of wetlands and uplands and 194 miles of stream habitat. A recent estimate by USFWS Coastal Program staff shows that the program leverages, on average, $8 non-Federal dollars for every Federal dollar spent. This makes the Coastal Program one of the most cost-effective habitat restoration programs within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Coastal Program stimulates local economies by supporting jobs necessary to deliver habitat conservation projects, including environmental consultants, engineers, construction workers, surveyors, assessors, and nursery and landscape workers. These jobs generate indirect economic activities that benefit local hotels, restaurants, stores, and gas stations. In total, the Coastal Program estimates that the average project supports 60 jobs and stimulates 40 businesses resulting in nearly thirteen dollars in economic returns for each dollar of Federal investment. Additionally, restoration jobs cannot be outsourced and $0.90 of every dollar spent on restoration stays within the State.

In Puget Sound, Washington, the Coastal Program invested $20,000 to support a project to clean up and remove old and abandoned fishing gear from the water, resulting in a direct economic impact to the local economy of $51,000. Lost and abandoned fishing gear like nets, lines, crab and shrimp traps pose many problems for people, fish and marine animals. Each year, derelict crab pots are estimated to trap and kill 372,000 Dungeness crabs, resulting in losses to the fishery of $1.2 million—30–40 percent of the value of the annual commercial catch of Dungeness crab in Puget Sound. This project removed 84 gillnets—preventing the loss of approximately 370,000 crabs and returning an estimated value of well over $1.5 million to the crab fishery alone.

In San Diego Bay, California, the Coastal Program provided funding and technical assistance to project partners to restore 300 acres of wetland, mudflat, and upland habitat to benefit more than 90 species of resident and migratory birds. Project partners transformed highly degraded salt ponds into lush habitat by breaching levees, regrading soils, and planting native vegetation. Just days after the completion of the project, tens of thousands of birds descended on the newly-restored habitat to rest, roost, and feed. Not only did this project restore a "Globally Important Bird Area," as designated by the American Bird Conservancy, but it also created 130 jobs and generated $13.4 million for the local economy.

At recent funding levels of approximately $13.4 million, the Coastal Program is able to provide technical assistance and support to partners, but can only provide limited project dollars. A modest increase over the amount included in the fiscal year 2017 Omnibus would help the Coastal Program increase their capacity to leverage willing and interested partners to deliver highly-effective and site specific habitat conservation and restoration programs that prevent Federal listing of species, promote species recovery, enhance coastal resilience, and boost local economies.

Restore America's Estuaries urges your continued support and funding for the USFWS Coastal Program and asks that you provide $15 million for fiscal year 2019.

USEPA NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

The National Estuary Program (NEP) is a non-regulatory network of voluntary community-based programs that safeguards the health of important coastal ecosystems across the country. The program utilizes a consensus-building process to identify goals, objectives, and actions that reflect local environmental and economic priorities.

Currently there are 28 estuaries located along the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts and in Puerto Rico that have been designated as estuaries of national significance. Each National Estuary Program demonstrates real environmental results through on-the-ground habitat restoration and protection and their efforts are tai-

lored to the specific local environmental and economic realities. Collectively, NEPs have restored more than 1.5 million acres of land since 2000.

NEPs work to ensure that Federal agencies work together with State, regional, NGO, and private partners to better manage ocean and coastal resources for the benefit of the Nation. Community partners are involved throughout the decision-making process to reduce conflicts, redundancies, and inefficiencies that waste time and money, and to ensure that restoration and conservation efforts are stakeholder-driven. NEPs play a key role in implementing national policies that result in better, more cost-effective coastal management that benefits States and local communities.

Restore America's Estuaries urges your continued support of the National Estuary Program and asks that you provide $27 million for USEPA National Estuary Program/Coastal Waterways in the fiscal year 2019 cycle.

CONCLUSION

Restore America's Estuaries greatly appreciates the support this subcommittee has provided in the past for these important programs. These programs effectively accomplish on-the-ground restoration work which results in major benefits:

1. *Economic Growth and Jobs.*—Coastal habitat restoration creates between 17 and 33 direct jobs for each million dollars invested, depending on the type of restoration. That is more than twice as many jobs as the oil and gas sector and road construction industries combined. The restored area supports increased tourism and valuable ecosystem services, including flood mitigation, shoreline protection, and enhanced fisheries, among others.
2. *Leveraging Private Funding.*—In 2015, Federal investment in the USFWS Coastal Program leveraged non-Federal dollars at a ratio of 34 to 1. The NEPs leveraged non-Federal dollars at a ratio of 15 to 1. In a time of shrinking resources, these are rates of return we cannot afford to ignore.
3. *Resiliency.*—Restoring coastal wetlands knocks down storm waves and reduces devastating storm surges before they reach the shore, protecting lives, property, and vital infrastructure for the nearly 40 percent of Americans that live in coastal communities.

We greatly appreciate you taking our requests into consideration as you move forward in the fiscal year 2019 appropriations process. We stand ready to work with you and your staff to ensure the health of our Nation's estuaries and coasts.

[This statement was submitted by Jeffrey R. Benoit, President and CEO.]

Contact information:

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PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE RIVERSIDE-SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY INDIAN HEALTH, INC.

I am Teresa Sanchez and I am the Board Vice-President for Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc. located in Southern California. I am also a member of the California Area Tribal Advisory Council and a member of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. Thank you for the opportunity to testify concerning the health needs of Tribal beneficiaries in southern California.

We are thankful for the support of Congress and the funding provided by the Subcommittee in the recently enacted fiscal year 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Public Law 115–141, to improve the health status of our people. This is why it is so disappointing to see that funding for Community Health Representatives ("CHRs") has been eliminated from the President's 2019 budget for the Indian Health Service (IHS). We are adamantly opposed to such cuts, as the CHR program has been one of the most successful during our 50 years of operation. We also oppose the elimination of the Health Education program.

Our organization provides services to Native Americans across two of the largest counties in the Country. We employ nine CHRs that are a critical part of our program. Each CHR is specifically trained in home healthcare and they fill an important gap, providing care to patients outside the Doctor's office. For instance, CHRs:

—Ensure patients follow the Doctor's orders, such as eating properly, taking their Medications timely and appropriately, and exercising when needed;
—Talk through tough healthcare decisions with patients; and
—Direct patients to outside resources, such as local food pantries or housing assistance.

The list could go on and on. The loss of CHRs would be simply devastating to many Native American Communities that are located far from health clinics in urban areas. We therefore ask this Committee to keep the CHR and the Health Education program fully funded for fiscal year 2019 and thereafter.

Another serious and long-term problem we face is the lack of IHS facilities construction funding. The three main IHS construction programs have largely excluded California Tribes.

For instance, Tribes often sit on the priority list for decades without ever receiving funds to build a new clinic. While the fiscal year 2018 Appropriations Act contained $497 million of new IHS construction funding, half of these funds were designated for Joint Venture Construction projects and related staffing packages. No California Tribes were approved for such projects, leaving almost no new money for California and no associated staffing dollars. Indeed, only one California Tribe has ever participated in the Joint Venture Program, and that was many years ago. Why? Because IHS developed the selection criteria without consulting with California Tribes.

Additionally, the 2017 Appropriations Act capped funding for the Small Ambulatory clinic program at $5 million, so no California Tribes received grants from the program that year. We appreciate that the subcommittee has identified $15 million for small ambulatory clinics construction in the fiscal year 2018 omnibus measure, within the $243.48 million appropriation for Health Care Facilities Construction. Our request is simple. We need help getting construction funds to California Tribes. We would like to see California Tribes receive a share of the fiscal year 2018 small ambulatory clinic and other IHS construction funds to address healthcare facility space needs in our Tribal communities.

Lastly, we need help getting the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to complete a lease of our clinic land. We have previously expressed our concerns regarding the BIA's lack of responsiveness and delays in processing this lease. Members of the House of Representatives, Congressmen Aguilar, Garamendi and the Staff of Congressman Ruiz and Congresswoman McCollum heard our concerns and agreed to write a letter to the BIA. We thank them for their help in removing these barriers.

Thank you for affording the Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc. the opportunity to submit testimony.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE SAC AND FOX NATION

On behalf of the Sac and Fox Nation thank you for the opportunity to present our requests for the fiscal year 2019 budgets for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Indian Health Service (IHS), and for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Sac and Fox Nation is home of Jim Thorpe, one of the most versatile athletes of modern sports who earned Olympic gold medals for the1912 pentathlon and decathlon.

Like all Self-Governance Tribes, we were impacted by the Federal Government's refusal to pay full contract support costs (CSC) for contracted and compacted programs since the statue was enacted. We appreciate that all arrearages are now up to date and ask that CSC be fully paid annually under the new budget structure without imposing any corresponding reduction in direct services to any Tribe. We continue to request full funding for CSC on a mandatory basis and that these funds will be made a permanent, indefinite appropriation.

In general, all Tribal programs especially BIA and IHS line items should be exempt from any budget recessions, sequestrations and unilateral budget reductions that are not equally assessed to other funding beneficiaries.

Tribal Specific Requests:

A. +$35,000 increase to our Tribal General Assistance Program (GAP)—EPA—The GAP program the Sac and Fox Nation is currently administering is $125,000. It was announced April 9, 2019 that the program will be cut by $10,000 (8 percent) for fiscal year 2019.
B. +$20,000 increase to our solid waste and recycling funding and request to lift the 2020 Moratorium on solid waste and recycling under the GAP—EPA.
C. +$35,000—EPA—The country's largest system of pipeline infrastructure (the "Pipeline Crossroads of the World" in Cushing Oklahoma) is in Sac and Fox

jurisdiction and we need funding to monitor our natural resources and ensure the safety of our citizens.

D. $5.35 million to Fully Fund Operations and Maintenance of the Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center (SFNJDC)—Public Safety and Justice—Office of Justice Services—Detention/Corrections Facility Operations and Maintenance Account—BIA.

TRIBAL SPECIFIC REQUESTS

A. +$35,000 TO OUR TRIBAL GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (GAP)—EPA

We request a $35,000 increase to support sufficient staff (1.5–2 FTEs) and to meet the needs of the community. The demand for Office of Environmental Services has escalated and created a shortage of available resources to fulfill the demand.

B. +$20,000 INCREASE TO FUND SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

In May of 2013, the U.S. EPA released the GAP Guidance, to help set a national framework for how GAP funding may be used. Included was the directive that GAP funds could no longer be spent on the operation and maintenance of solid waste implementation activities, including the construction of facilities, trash collection, transportation, backhaul, and disposal services. EPA required that Tribes build self-sustaining solid waste programs supported by other funding sources by 2017. Tribal leaders, community representatives, regional and statewide communities made their concerns known to the EPA and expressed deep concern that the 2017 deadline would be too quick to transition to an alternative model to fund solid waste management. A key message by Tribal leaders was that no other funding sources were set in place of GAP to cover the services that Tribes had been providing for their communities since 2002. The issue was brought before Congress in 2015 and in the fiscal year 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act an extension was granted, giving Tribes until 2020 to transition to different funding sources for their solid waste operations and backhaul. Beginning in fiscal year 2021, Tribal solid waste programs will no longer be able to use GAP funds for these specific efforts. EPA recently announced during the last Tribal Environmental Coalition in Oklahoma meeting on 3/27/18, that the 2020 Moratorium is being lifted. Sac and Fox Nation supports removing/lifting of the 2020 moratorium that will no longer prohibit the use of GAP funding to support solid waste programs.

C. +$35,000—PIPELINE CROSSROADS OF THE WORLD—LOCATED IN THE SAC AND FOX JURISDICTION NEEDS FUNDING TO ENSURE THAT WE CAN MONITOR OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR CITIZENS

While many owners and operators of the pipelines in and around Cushing believe there is no legal obligation to work with Tribes, the Sac and Fox Nation feels very differently and expect the United States to uphold its treaty and trust obligation to ensure the health and safety of our Tribal citizens. The environmental impacts to our community are significant and life threatening, and have sometimes been fatal. Oil is frequently referred to as the "sacred cow" but our most "sacred is our people"! Tribes continue to believe that it is the responsibility of the United States Government to honor the trust responsibility and protect us from environmental pollution, yet our pleas for help continue to fall on deaf ears. It is unfortunate that we have to seek legal remedies while our people continue to be subject to contamination of our soil and water.

D. $5.35 MILLION TO FULLY FUND OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SAC AND FOX NATION JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER (SFNJDC)—BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS—PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE—OFFICE OF JUSTICE SERVICES—DETENTION/CORRECTIONS FACILITY OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT

The Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) requires the Department of the Interior (DOI)—Indian Affairs (IA) to develop guidelines for approving correction centers for long term incarceration, as well as work with the Department of Justice on a long-term plan for Tribal detention centers. In the absence of appropriations to fully fund and fully implement TLOA, the intent of Congress and the effectiveness and benefits of TLOA to Tribal courts, law enforcement and detention programs in Indian Country are less of a reality and more of what Tribes have experienced in the past—an unfulfilled trust obligation. We do not understand the Federal Government's desire to fund the construction of more detention facilities while our beds remain empty.

In 1996, the Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center (SFNJDC) opened its doors as the first regional juvenile facility specifically designed for American Indi-

ans/Alaska Natives (AI/AN), as well as the first juvenile facility developed under Public Law 100–472, the Self-Governance Demonstration Project Act. At that time, the BIA made a commitment to fully fund the SFNJDC operations; however this commitment was never fulfilled. Even though the Nation continues to receive and use Federal dollars to address the issue of juvenile delinquency and detention for Tribes in the Southern Plains Region and Eastern Oklahoma Region, it has never received sufficient funds to operate the facility at its fullest potential. As with all Tribal programs, ours is indicative of the "trickle-down effect" resulting in limited funding to pay for incarceration fees coupled with even less capability to transport juveniles to be transferred to our facility.

Full funding would allow the Nation to provide full operations including (but not limited to):

—Juvenile detention services to the 46 Tribes in Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas and Louisiana;
—Rescue more of our at-risk youth and unserved youth in need of a facility like the SFNJDC;
—Re-establish programs we have lost due to inadequate funding such as: On-site Mental Health Counseling; Transitional Living, Vocational Training, Horticulture, Life Skills, Arts and Crafts, Cultural Education and Activities, Spiritual Growth and Learning;
—Offer job opportunities in an area that is economically depressed; and,
—Fully staff and expand staff training to address high volume of staff turnover which will allow for continuity in operations and service delivery.

The lack of adequate funding from the BIA and decreases in base funding have mushroomed into underutilization and erosion of the programs our facility was built to offer. The current funding level represents only approximately 10 percent of what is needed to fully fund the SFNJDC operations and maintenance. Additional funding in the amount of $5.35 million, over what Sac and Fox already receives in base funding ($508,000), would fully fund the facility at a level to address the need of juvenile delinquency in the quad State area and create opportunities for employment for more Tribal members.

The SFNJDC is a 50,000+ square foot, full service, 24 hour, 60 bed (expandable to 120 beds) juvenile detention facility that provides basic detention services to all residents utilizing a classification system based on behavioral needs to include special management, medium and minimal security.

Through a partnership with the local High School, students are afforded an education at the public school level, including a graduation ceremony and issuance of a certificate upon successfully achieving the State requirements. Additionally, the Sac and Fox Nation has an on-site Justice Center providing Law Enforcement and Tribal Court services and the Nation also operates an on-site health clinic which provides outstanding medical services that include contract service capabilities for optometry, dental and other health-related services.

2. NATIONAL REQUESTS—BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

A. Concern: lack of access to administrative law judges for probate.
B. The Sac and Fox Nation was one of the first Tribal governments to implement VAWA. But, we cannot take full advantage of VAWA because we don't have the funding to pay for incarceration/rehabilitation for individuals convicted under VAWA.
C. Fully fund all provisions of the TLOA that authorizes additional funding for law and order programs that affect Tribal nations.
D. Allocate $83 million in additional funding to the BIA to increase base funding for tribal courts, including courts in Public Law 280 jurisdictions, and to incrementally move towards fully meeting the need for Tribal court funding.
E. Increase funding for Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) law enforcement and detention by at least $200 million over the fiscal year 2017 funding level of $353 million, including an increase in funds for officer recruitment and training and for Tribal detention facilities operations and maintenance.
F. Increase Tribal Base Funding (instead of through grants). Provide increases via Tribal base funding instead of through grants to Tribal governments. Grant funding, particularly inside the BIA, is not consistent with the intent of Tribal self-determination.

3. NATIONAL REQUESTS—INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

A. $6.4 billion Mandatory Funding (maintain current services) a 33 percent increase over the fiscal year 2016 planning base.
B. Opioid Funding—Increase funding and include Tribal set asides in any funding decisions to States. Addressing the opioid epidemic is a nationwide priority.

American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) face opioid related fatalities three times the rate for Blacks and Hispanic Whites.

C. Oppose moving Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) into the discretionary spending from the mandatory account.

The Sac and Fox Nation supports the National Requests of the National Congress of American Indians, the National Indian Health Board and the National Indian Education Association.

Thank you for allowing me to submit these requests on the fiscal year 2019 budgets.

[This statement was submitted by Kay Rhoads, Principal Chief.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE SELF-GOVERNANCE COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION TRIBAL CONSORTIUM

On behalf of the Self-Governance Communication & Education Tribal Consortium (SGCETC), I am pleased to provide the following written testimony regarding funding priorities for Self-Governance Tribes participating in the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Indian Health Service (IHS). Today, 272 federally-recognized Tribes and Tribal Organizations exercise Self-Governance authority within DOI and 360 federally-recognized Tribes and Tribal Organizations exercise Self-Governance authority within IHS to operate and manage health programs. SGCETC recognizes the hard work this subcommittee has committed over the last few years to uphold the Federal trust responsibility and Tribal sovereignty. It is only through continued partnership and open communication that Tribal governments can achieve self-sufficiency and self-determination. We hope that the subcommittee will continue to champion Indian Country's priorities and to empower Tribal governments to meet the needs of Tribal citizens.

As such, Self-Governance Tribes make the following recommendations to strengthen Tribal governments, economies, and programs:

Hold Tribal Programs and Services Harmless From Future Sequestration, Budgetary Rescissions, or Reductions

Tribal governments experienced heavy budgetary cuts as a result of the 2012 sequester. These cuts affect direct services to Tribal citizens, which include, but are not limited to, public safety, social welfare, and healthcare services. As you begin to deliberate the fiscal year 2018 appropriations for the BIA and IHS, Self-Governance Tribes first, ask your support to urge Congress to restore Tribal funding cuts and, second, to uphold the Tribal trust responsibility and amend the Budget Control Act of 2011 to exempt Tribal funding from future sequesters.

Mandatory Funding for Contract Support Costs

Self-Governance Tribes deeply appreciate the work that this subcommittee and others have done to achieve full funding for contract support costs (CSC). Tribal governments can now improve and expand services for Tribal citizens rather than decrease or eliminate services to cover indirect costs necessary to properly manage programs. Under the indefinite appropriation structure created by the fiscal year 2016 Consolidated Appropriation Act, Tribal direct services are protected from reductions. Self-Governance Tribes ask that, at a minimum, the subcommittee protect this structure, but further request that the subcommittee consider moving CSC funding to a mandatory category to further protect from any future reductions.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Increase Tribal Base Budgets and Recurring Funding as Opposed to Grant Funding

Tribal Self-Governance is the most successful policy in the history of Tribal-Federal relations because it stimulates efficient and effective government spending. Increases to Self-Governance Tribal Base Budgets will allow Tribes to fund core Tribal government programs such as community and economic development, natural resource management, and community safety. However, Self-Governance Tribes have noticed a troubling trend that DOI and BIA are moving one-time funding opportunities to grants that are restrictive in nature—undermining core Self-Governance tenants. This trend allows DOI to heavily regulate the administration of Tribal programs and prevents grants from being transferred through Self-Governance Agreements, which in turn, hinders Tribal governments' ability to re-design programs to better meet the needs at the local level and impedes economic self-sufficiency.

Fully fund Fixed Costs and Tribal Pay Costs

Most Federal agencies receive annual increases to their Fixed Costs levels each year to address inflationary costs associated with Fringe Benefits and Pay Costs. However, historically, Tribes are treated differently resulting in significant job losses. Self-Governance Tribes request that the subcommittee fully fund Fixed Costs and Tribal Pay costs and treat Tribes the same as our Federal counterparts who, prior to Self-Governance, operated similar programs to those that are now managed by Tribal governments.

Increase Funding for Tribal Courts, Including Those in Public Law 280 Jurisdictions

Each year Self-Governance Tribes rank public safety as one of our highest priority need areas. Self-Governance Tribes often use other one-time funding or Tribal discretionary funding to support this public service without a regular tax base like other governments and despite the Federal trust responsibility to create safe communities. As recently as 2015, BIA estimated that only 6 percent of the total need for Tribal courts is currently funded. Self-Governance Tribes request that the subcommittee implement an incremental plan in order to close the gap between funding and the significant need in Tribal communities.

Instruct Indian Affairs to Internally Transfer Recurring Funding to the Office of Self Governance to Properly Execute Its Mission

The Office of Self Governance has 14 staff members who distribute $450 million to nearly half of all federally-Recognized Tribes participating in Self-Governance, negotiate annual funding agreements with eligible Tribes and consortia, coordinate the collection of budget and performance data from Self-Governance Tribes, and resolve issues that are identified in financial and program audits of Self-Governance operations. However, Indian Affairs currently provides just $1.5 million on a recurring basis for an office that needs at least $1.9 million to support a full staff. We request that the subcommittee include language that instructs Indian Affairs to internally transfer recurring funding to OSG in order to fully fund staff.

Fund the Indian Guaranteed Loan Program, Surety Bonds, and Development Bonds at a Minimum of $15 Million

The Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development's (OIEED) Division of Capital Investment oversees the Indian Loan Guarantee Program and loan subsidy program, and has authority to support surety bonding for Indian contractors. The Loan Guarantee Program promotes Tribal sovereignty, Tribal and Native-owned business, and economic development unlike SBA-certified support. Additionally, the OIEED operated revolving credit facility has a $15 return from private sector lenders for every $1 in Federal funds. With a small addition to the program's annual credit subsidy, the total amount of financing available in Indian Country could rise from $100 million to $250 million. As this administration and Congress prioritizes rebuilding America's infrastructure and creating America's job, this relatively small investment could have a huge impact in Indian Country and rural America.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Support Mandatory Funding for IHS

The mission of the IHS is to raise the health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) to the highest possible level. This mission stems from the Federal trust responsibility to provide health services, resulting from treaties, court decisions, and other agreements whereby Tribes ceded vast amounts of land. This trust responsibility is not only a moral and ethical obligation, but also a legal responsibility of the Federal Government to Tribes and AI/AN. Despite this responsibility, the IHS budget remains in discretionary appropriations. To ensure that the Federal obligations are more consistently met and to bring parity with other Federal health programs, Self-Governance Tribes recommend that the IHS appropriation be moved to instead be a mandatory appropriation.

Support Advanced Appropriations for IHS

Since fiscal year 1998, there has been only 1 year (fiscal year 2006) when the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies budget was enacted by the beginning of the fiscal year. Providing sufficient, timely, and predictable funding is needed to ensure the Federal Government meets its obligation to provide healthcare for AI/ANs and bring IHS to parity with other Federal agencies that provide healthcare and receive advanced appropriations, such as the Veterans Health Administration. Enacting advanced appropriations for the IHS will provide more stable funding and

sustainable planning for the entire system by appropriating funding 2 years in advance.

Advocate for an Increase in Funding To Support Current IHS Services

Current services include mandatory cost increases necessary to maintain those services at current levels. These "mandatories" are unavoidable and include medical and general inflation, pay costs, contract support costs, phasing in staff for recently constructed facilities, and population growth. If these mandatory requirements are not funded, Tribes have no choice but to cut health services, which further erodes the quantity and quality of healthcare services available to AI/AN people. We urge the Committee to fully fund the IHS Budget Formulation Workgroup recommendations to maintain current services.

Restoration of the Community Health Representative (CHR) Program

The President's proposed budget includes elimination of the CHR program—one of the most critical and important services provided to our Tribal citizens. The Community Health Representative (CHR) Program is a unique concept for providing healthcare, health promotion, and disease prevention services. CHRs are great advocates, in part, because they come from the communities they serve and have Tribal cultural competence. Their dedicated work has assisted many to meet their healthcare needs. We strong urge restoration of funding for the CHR program.

Modernization of the Resource Patient Management System (RPMS)

The RPMS is essentially the health information technology system of the IHS. It is significantly supported by the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VISTA). Planning is well underway for the Veteran's Affairs (VA) to replace VISTA with a commercial, off-the-shelf system, and the President's budget for 2019 includes a significant request for this initiative. Without software and development support from VISTA, RPMS may no longer be viable or economical for the IHS to maintain. Self-Governance Tribes request an additional appropriation amount to plan for modernization of the Resource Patient Management System (RPMS), or conversion to a new system to avoid impacts on the provision of care.

Increase Funding for Purchased/Referred Care Program

The Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) Program pays for urgent, emergent, and other critical services that are not directly available through IHS and Tribally-operated health programs. At current funding levels, most IHS and Tribally-operated programs are only able to cover Priority I (life and limb) and some Priority II services required for AI/AN patients. The current strain on PRC programs is not likely lighten as the industry trend to construct smaller, outpatient ambulatory care centers grows. Self-Governance Tribes urge the subcommittee to consider this priority area to increase access to critical care for AI/AN patients.

Increase Facilities Funding

Self-Governance Tribes recommend that the subcommittee work to fund increases to the IHS Facilities funding, including increases for Maintenance & Improvement, Sanitation Facilities Construction, Health Care Facilities, and Environmental Health Support. Dedicated funding and coordination of other Federal agency funding to increase the number of facilities and take care of current facilities is critical to meeting Indian Country's growing need for quality healthcare and curbing public health concerns in rural and remote communities like Alaska.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Increase Funding for the Indian General Assistance Program

The Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) allows Tribes to leverage environmental programs to best serve their communities. Many of these programs include protecting communities, managing natural resources, initiating energy efficiency activities, and small scale renewable energy projects. In 1999, $110,000 was set as the average cost for a Tribe to sustain a basic environmental program. However, this amount has not kept up with inflation, leaving Tribes with just 67 percent (67 percent) of the buying power in 2017. An additional $98 million is needed to close the inflationary gap.

Increase the Tribal Set-aside for the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) to 5 Percent of the National Drinking Water SRF

Access to basic modern amenities such as running water, sewage, or electricity, are an afterthought for many American citizens, however many AI/ANs do not have the same luxury. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 12 percent of Tribal homes do not have safe or basic sanitation facilities, which is twenty times

as high as non-Native homes. The lack of access to basic sanitation facilities poses a serious risk to the public health of Tribal communities. we ask that the subcommittee increase the Tribal set-aside to provide additional opportunities to build necessary infrastructure to support safe drinking water require all agencies with similar funding to coordinate, with IHS as the lead agency, to ensure that all AI/ANs have safe water.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for the opportunity to share the appropriations priorities of Self-Governance Tribes with the subcommittee. We look forward to your continued partnership.

[This statement was submitted by the Hon. W. Ron Allen, Chairman, Self-Governance Communication & Education Tribal Consortium, and Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE SHOALWATER BAY TRIBE

The requests of the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe (Tribe) for the fiscal year 2019 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies budget are as follows:

—Appropriate $500,000 through the Tribe's self-government agreement with the BIA to address additional planning efforts in the second phase of a necessary Tribal relocation.
—Contract Support Costs (CSC) Funding
—105(l) Clinic Leases
—IHS Advance Appropriations
—No Rescissions
—Special Diabetes Prevention Initiative

Background.

The Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe provides this written testimony on fiscal year 2019 funding for programs affecting Indian Tribes which are funded through your subcommittee. My name is Charlene Nelson, and I am the Chairwoman of the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe which is located 2,800 miles west by northwest of where we are meeting today on the beautiful north shore of Willapa Bay, facing out to the Pacific Ocean.

My own personal history matches closely with many of you serving on this subcommittee, as I understand you consistently are tasked with determining how to fund and shape Federal programs that positively impact the health, environment, and learning of American people. I worked for decades in the field of education. As a former commercial fisherman in Alaska, I came to understand the economic potential of a healthy environment. Prior to my service on Tribal Council, I worked in the Tribe's Health and Women's Wellness Program, learning firsthand that vibrant and successful Indian communities are not possible without first attending to human health.

Relocation Assistance.

I am here today to talk to you about survival. In this case, the survival of our Tribe, its lands, homes, businesses, and its people.

This is my second term as Chairwoman of the Shoalwater Bay Tribe. During my prior period chairing the Tribe, I spent the vast majority of those 10 years spearheading an effort to help the Tribe and surrounding area survive the threat of coastal erosion. As a result of those efforts, the Army Corps of Engineers worked with the Tribe to construct an erosion control embankment south and west of the Reservation. The embankment went into service 5 years ago and this winter it took a beating and is now a new concern of the Tribe and the Corps. The embankment had temporarily halted the erosion that directly threatened the Reservation and State Highway 105, which connects the surrounding Tokeland community to schools, grocery stores, healthcare, banks, and housing. But that erosion has regained momentum and there is no clear sense of how long Highway 105 will survive.

But through the process of fighting for the Tribe's survival from coastal erosion, we learned a great deal. We learned, among many other things, that essentially the entire Reservation, with one small exception on Eagle Hill, is no higher than 6 feet above the ordinary high water mark of the Willapa Bay tides. The low elevation of the entire reservation puts it squarely within a tsunami zone that ensures, in the case of a tsunami event, that the Reservation would be wiped out. Think about that for a moment—an entire Tribe wiped out in an instant.

Attached to this testimony is a map entitled Exhibit A that lays out the Tribe's intentions: to continue the preliminary engineering, planning and initial funding to construct a road to an upland elevation, out of the tsunami zone, to begin the relocation process of the Tribe. The cost to carry out this next phase of work is $500,000, and the Tribe is seeking this subcommittee's support in developing a funding vehicle to support these efforts through the Tribe's existing BIA self-governance compact.

Exhibit A shows a part of the Reservation at the bottom left intersection, as well as Highway 105 in yellow. The new road, to the north east of the main reservation, will provide access to a higher elevation land base that the Tribe owns that is safe from the threats of coastal erosion and tsunami.

This relocation project will require a number of partners, the Tribe, State, Interior Corps of Engineers. While our request today is for planning and implementation money for the Tribe from the BIA, other temporary efforts are under serious consideration. For instance, realizing how dire she situation is, the State and Corps of Engineers have under serious and immediate consideration a joint project for a dynamic revetment to help protect the berm which is endangered because the wave action is now split where it hits the shore and part goes north and part comes toward the berm.

We appreciate these efforts but the Tribe also needs the resources to be actively involved in what ultimately is our own relocation.

Contract Supports Costs

We greatly appreciate the House and Senate Interior appropriations subcommittees work over the past several years in making a reality the full payment of Contract Support Costs (CSC) by both the IHS and the BIA. We are also very pleased that the administration—both the current and the previous one—has followed suit and requested that CSC be maintained as a separate appropriations account in IHS and in BIA and with an indefinite funding of 'such sums as may be necessary". This action has been crucial to the strengthening of Tribal governments' ability to successfully exercise their rights and responsibilities as governments.

In both fiscal year 2017 and 2018 Act, however, the administrations proposed to reinstate provisions from the Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriations Act for IHS which are contrary to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act with regard to CSC. The first is the "carryover" clause that could be read to deny the CSC carryover authority granted by the ISDEAA; the other is the notwithstanding" clause used by IHS to deny contract support cost for their grant programs—Domestic Violence Prevention; Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention; Zero Suicide Initiative; after-care pilot projects at Youth Regional Treatment Centers; funding for the improvement of third party collections; and accreditation emergencies. We are grateful that Congress has not gone along with those two proposals and are hoping and expecting that you will have the same reaction for the same tired administration requests for fiscal year 2019.

105(l) Clinic Leases.—We are concerned by the administration's proposed request to amend the law in order to avoid full compensation for leases under section 105(l) of the ISDEAA. The proposed bill language in the IHS Administrative provisions is designed to overrule the decision in *Maniilaq Association v. Burwell,* 170 F. sup. 3d 243 (D.D.C. 2016) which held that section 105(l) of the ISDEAA provides an entitlement to full compensation for leases of Tribal facilities used to carry out ISDEAA agreements. The proposed language would exclude section 105(l) of the ISDEAA as a source of entitlement to funding for section 105(l) leases, leaving it entirely within the discretion of the IHS. Tribes and Tribal organizations increasingly rely on section 105(l) leases to address chronically underfunded facilities operation, maintenance, and replacement costs. Congress declined to include such a provision in the fiscal year 2018 IHS appropriation bill and we ask that you treat this year's repeat proposal the same way.

IHS Advance Appropriations.—We ask for your support in placing the budget for the IHS on an advance appropriations basis. Under advance appropriations we would know a year in advance what the budget would be and importantly, would not be continue to be constrained by the start and stop level funding of Continuing Resolutions, each of which requires the same processing and manpower for each partial payment as one full apportionment. Even if CRs had not become the norm, having advance notice of funding levels would aid greatly in our health programs planning, recruitment, retention, and leveraging of funds. Finally, we note again that the Veterans Health Administration accounts have been receiving advance appropriations since fiscal year 2010. Both the VA and the IHS provide direct medical care and both are the result of Federal policies. The IHS budget should be afforded the same budget status consideration as the VA medical programs.

No Rescissions.—We have heard the talk of possible fiscal year 2018 rescissions and must object to that. After this year's enactment of the Bipartisan Budget Act and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, it would be outrageous to break these Congressional budget agreements and to interrupt the planning that is taking place among Tribes and Tribal organizations (and others) with regard to facilities, staffing, and services. We are grateful for the increases in the IHS and BIA fiscal year 2018 budgets made possible by those Acts, increases that should be maintained in the fiscal year 2019 appropriations bills.

Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI).—The administration proposed, with no real explanation of why, that a number of health programs' funding be changed from a mandatory to a discretionary status. Among them is the SDPI program, and we are concerned that it could lead to a reduction in funding for this critical program which has demonstrated good results in Indian Country. The fiscal year 2019 administration's proposal is for level funding of $150 million for SDPI in discretionary funding in the Indian Health Service budget. We understand it these funds would, if the administration's proposal is approved, come out of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittees' allocations. The current SDPI authorization extends through fiscal year 2019 and we hope that the authorization can be made permanent and at an increased funding level of $200 million or higher.

[This statement was submitted by Charlene Nelson, Chairwoman.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) sincerely appreciates this subcommittee's steadfast commitment to giving forestry and natural resources professionals the tools and support they need to improve the health and productivity of our Nation's public and private forests. On behalf of SAF's 11,000 members across the country, please accept this written public testimony on fiscal year 2019 appropriations for the USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the Department of the Interior (DOI).

Just as forests are fundamental to our Nation, so too are the professionals who study, manage, and care for these precious resources. Founded in 1900 by Gifford Pinchot, SAF is the premier scientific and educational organization in the United States—promoting science-based, sustainable management and stewardship of the Nation's public and private forests. SAF members include public and private sector natural resource professionals, researchers, CEOs, administrators, investment advisors, educators, and students.

Americans rely on the 751 million acres of public and private forests in the U.S. to provide clean and abundant air and water, forest products, fish and wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, forage and range resources, energy, and scenic beauty. SAF is eager to work with Congress, Federal agencies, and partners to identify reasonable solutions to increase the pace and scale of management on Federal lands, find new ways to work with private landowners, work across boundaries, keep forests as forests, incentivize active management, and deliver practical innovations to meet future challenges and market demands.

SAF's top priorities for fiscal year 2019 include a range of programs within USFS and DOI. With our forests facing unprecedented threats, these requests will assist forest managers and scientists in improving the health of our forests nationwide and providing a multitude of benefits for generations to come.

SAF TOP FEDERAL PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

1. Increase funding for USFS Forest and Rangeland Research to no less than $307 million, with no less than $83 million for the Forest Inventory and Analysis program.
2. Continue to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risks through increasing the pace and scale of forest management on Federal lands.
3. Maintain funding support for USFS State and Private Forestry Programs at or above the fiscal year 2018 funding levels.
4. Support Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Public Domain Forestry and Oregon & California Railroad Grant Lands funding levels at no less than $10 million and $113.7 million, respectively.

Forestry Research.—Investments in forestry research are essential for the future health and sustainability of the Nation's forests, which include 22 million small private forest landowners. Although this testimony focuses on USFS Forest and Rangeland Research programs, SAF also recognizes and supports the full array of forestry research efforts led by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geologic Survey, and others including land-grant institutions and

other universities. USFS Research and Development (USFS R&D) research conducted at the five USFS research stations, the International Institute of Tropical Forestry, and in the Forest Products Laboratory is crucial. Federal forestry research develops new products and practical innovation; identifies forest ecosystem disturbance response and forest resilience; helps responses to shifting social demands and demographic changes; and quantifies the contributions of forests to air and water quality. Without USFS leadership, investigation of these critical research needs would largely be left unfulfilled. Clear and relevant research helps eliminate uncertainties and builds consensus on management actions potentially avoiding litigation and enabling more projects to move forward.

If forest research capacity in the U.S. continues to decline, forest managers will not be able to meet current and future challenges with existing science and technical information. Continuing the trend of reductions in the USFS R&D budget will result in significant gaps in knowledge and in poor management of resources at a time of unprecedented threats posed by wildfire, drought, insects, disease, and invasive species. *SAF supports a funding level of $307 million for USFS R&D, with emphasis on prioritization of research projects uniquely suited to R&D expertise furthering agency and partner objectives.*

FIA Funding.—SAF strongly supports the funding increases for the USFS R&D Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program FIA is the backbone of U.S. forestry—providing the only national census of forests across all ownerships. Through FIA, USFS, with State forestry agency, university, and private sector partners, collects and analyzes forest data to assess trends on issues such as forest health and management, fragmentation and parcelization, and forest carbon sequestration. The data and information collected by FIA serve as the basis for identifying trends in forest ownership; assessing fish and wildlife habitat; evaluating wildfire, insect, and disease risk; predicting the spread of invasive species; determining capital investment in existing forest products facilities and selecting locations for new forest product facilities; and identifying and responding to priorities identified in State Forest Action Plans. The critical need for current information about the condition of our forests, with greater emphasis on the role of forests in maintaining and improving air quality, underlies the need for FIA program capacity to be increased in fiscal year 2018 and beyond. *SAF requests additional investment in FIA with a funding level of at least $83 million. We urge the subcommittee to ensure that this increase does not come at the expense of other research programs, and provide direction for future increases to allow the program to keep pace with ever-growing and diverse information needs.*

Fire Science Program.—SAF has concerns with the proposed elimination of the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) in the administration's fiscal year 2019 budget coupled with reductions in the National Fire Plan Research and Development (NFP R&D) will negatively impact the joint research program with over 200 Federal agency, university, and nongovernmental partners. Eliminating JFSP and reducing funding for the NFP R&D will hinder exploration of fire research and negatively impact efforts to restore resilience to the landscape. *SAF urges the subcommittee to restore the JFSP funding level to $6.9 million and maintain the NFP R&D at the funding level included in the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus bill.*

Wildfire Funding and Federal Forest Management.—We appreciate this subcommittee's longstanding support and tireless efforts to change the way wildfires are funded. Thank you for helping to finally the pass a wildfire funding fix that treats wildfires like other natural disasters. SAF expects to work with this subcommittee over the next 2 years to ensure that this new approach to funding wildfires is implemented, and that reduction of costs and transparency in fund expenditures continue to be pursued.

While passing a wildfire funding fix was a huge step forward, it is only one piece of the more complex and long-term process of improving forest health and reducing wildfire risks. SAF is pleased with the continued commitment to increasing the pace and scale of management on Federal lands with the USFS harvest target of 3.7 billion board feet, up from approximately 3 billion board feet in recent years. With up to 82 million acres in the National Forest System (NFS) still in need of restoration; however, SAF urges this subcommittee to encourage the agency to use all available tools to increase restoration levels by implementing more projects on Federal lands. USFS should expand collaboration with rural communities, partners, and industry to meet and exceed management goals outlined in forest plans. Authorizations in the 2014 Farm Bill and the 2018 Omnibus facilitate quicker responses to areas devastated by insects and disease, expand the use of Stewardship Contracting, and take advantage of Good Neighbor Authority and other mechanisms that work across boundaries to achieve shared objectives. Additionally, support for streamlining and enhancement of efficiencies through the Environmental Assessment and Decision-

Making efforts should help to improve forest and community resilience. However, decreases in NFS Forest Products program, Capital Improvement and Maintenance, and the administration's proposed elimination of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program could impede fulfillment of targets critical to economic sustainability and growth of local communities.

Hazardous Fuels.—A comprehensive approach to averting wildfire threats and improving forest resilience is imperative. The Hazardous Fuels and Fire Risk Management line items in the USFS and DOI budgets are integral to restoring forest health and reducing the costs of wildfire suppression. Through restoring and maintaining fire-resilient landscapes and communities, these programs support the goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. SAF appreciates this subcommittee's consistent support for wildfire management and encourages it to allocate funds to address wildfire risks inside and outside the wildland-urban interface. In addition to preventing and mitigating wildfire risks, these programs serve as an important source of jobs, maintain critical forest products processing capability, especially in rural communities, and expand markets for the use of biomass residuals as renewable energy through efforts like the USFS Woody Innovations Grant Program. *SAF supports funding the USFS Hazardous Fuels Program at $430 million and $184 million for DOI.*

State and Private Forestry.—SAF encourages this subcommittee to recognize the importance of USFS State and Private Forestry (S&PF) programs. The Urban and Community Forestry, Landscape Scale Restoration, Forest Stewardship, and Forest Health Management programs provide important technical and financial assistance to private landowners and the resource managers responsible for managing more than 60 percent of America's forests. Investments in these programs are leveraged by landowners, State and local agencies, and a variety of non-governmental organizations to help to build healthy and thriving forest resources that benefit all citizens. Likewise, the International Forestry program provides critical expertise, identification of new and diverse market opportunities for U.S. forest products, and advice to countries across the globe raising awareness of goods and services forests and U.S. exports can provide. *Eliminating, consolidating, or drastically cutting funding for these programs would have profound adverse impacts on people and communities across the country—particularly in rural communities—and will jeopardize the essential benefits all citizens rely on forests to provide. SAF recommends that these programs be at least maintained at fiscal year 2018 levels.*

Public Domain Program.—Finally, SAF is encouraged by the recognition of the important work of the BLM Public Domain Forestry (PD) program. SAF asks this committee to consider amending the extension of the Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund authorization in the 2015 Omnibus Bill to beyond 2020. SAF is concerned with the proposed funding reduction for the Oregon & California Railroad Grant Lands (O&C) in the President's proposed budget. SAF also requests that this subcommittee consider a provision to expand the 3000 acres insect and disease categorical exclusions to include the Bureau of Land Management through designation of the Secretary of Interior through the amendment of Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 in the 2014 Farm Bill. *SAF supports $10 million for the PD program and $113.7 million for the O&C program. We also urge this subcommittee to extend authorization of the Emergency Insect and Disease Designations through requests from Governors to the Secretary of the Interior as well as the Secretary of Agriculture through amendment of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act.*

Thank you for your consideration of these important requests. SAF and its extensive network of forestry and natural resources professionals stand ready to assist with further development and implementation of these efforts and ideas.

[This statement was submitted by Dave Lewis, President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION

My name is Katherine Gottlieb and I am the President and Chief Executive Officer of Southcentral Foundation (SCF). SCF is the Alaska Native Tribal health organization designated by Cook Inlet Region, Inc. and eleven federally-recognized Tribes—the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Igiugig, Iliamna, Kokhanok, McGrath, Newhalen, Nikolai, Nondalton, Pedro Bay, Telida, and Takotna—to provide healthcare services to beneficiaries of the Indian Health Service (IHS) pursuant to a government-to-government contract with the United States under authority of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), Public Law 93–638. SCF is a two-time recipient of the Malcolm Baldridge National Quality Award for health (2011 and 2017).

SCF, through our 2,300 employees, provides critical health services, including pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, Native men's wellness, dental, behavioral health and substance abuse treatment to over 65,000 Alaska Native and American Indian patients. This includes 52,000 people living in the Municipality of Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to the north, and 13,000 residents of 55 rural Alaska Native villages. Our service area encompasses over 100,000 square miles, an area the size of Wyoming. More so than any other affiliation of Tribes, Alaska Native people have assumed the broadest responsibilities under the ISDEAA to own and manage healthcare systems which, together with the Alaska Public Health System, serve 150,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people and thousands of non-Native residents in rural Alaska.

I want to thank this subcommittee, especially Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski, our Senator, for its leadership in securing significant increases in Federal appropriations for the Indian Health Service for fiscal year 2018, a total of $4.82 billion for IHS Services and Facilities (excluding Contract Support Costs), a $580 million increase over the fiscal year 2017 enacted level, and nearly $800 million above the administration's request for fiscal year 2018. My remarks today are simple: continue to increase Federal appropriations for IHS programs and services until health disparities between Alaska Native and American Indian people and other Americans are extinguished. At present, IHS per capita spending on healthcare for Alaska Native and American Indian people is about one-third of the average national per capita healthcare spending level. Today, we are also fighting an opioid epidemic which is taking a disproportionate toll on Alaska Native people. As Senator Murkowski noted: "Alaska may be a rural State, but we are not shielded from this epidemic." With a service population of 65,000, our resources are wholly insufficient in comparison to the crisis.

We are extremely troubled by the current administration's recent comments and actions that seek to undermine the sovereign status of Alaska Native and American Indian Tribes. We therefore ask that the subcommittee reject efforts by the administration to eliminate or cut appropriations to Indian healthcare programs. This subcommittee appropriated $450 million for programs such as the Community Health Representatives Program, the Health Education Program, the Tribal Management Grants Program and other programs that fund Indian healthcare in the Fiscal Year 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act, passed only a few weeks ago. Investing in Native healthcare will only improve the health of the Nation's first peoples.

SCF's testimony concerning the administration's fiscal year 2019 budget for IHS would be quite different were it not for the actions by this subcommittee and Congress to rebuke, in passing the fiscal year 2018 omnibus appropriation measure, the harmful cuts the administration proposed in fiscal year 2018 to Federal programs serving Alaska Natives and American Indians. We are confident that the subcommittee and the Congress will, in fiscal year 2019, advocate for continued increases in Federal programs serving Alaska Native and American Indian people and reject the administration's proposal to cut or eliminate important IHS programs and services.

1. Continue to Provide Increases for Behavioral Health Programs

Last year, we stressed to this subcommittee how important it was to increase funds for behavioral health. Alaska Native and American Indian people are disproportionately represented in substance abuse, especially opioid addiction, and suicide statistics. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and recently confirmed by IHS Chief Medical Officer, Rear Admiral Michael E. Toedt, Alaska Native and American Indian people "had the highest drug overdose death rates in 2015 and the largest percentage increase in the number of deaths over time from 1999–2015 compared to other racial and ethnic groups." During that time, deaths rose more than 500 percent among Alaska Native and American Indian people. The CDC also found that the suicide rate among Alaska Native people is almost four times the U.S. general population rate and at least six times the national average in some parts of the State.

This subcommittee supported a combined $16 million increase in fiscal year 2018 for the Mental Health ($100 million) and Alcohol and Substance Abuse programs ($228 million), a 5 percent increase over the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. We are pleased to see that the administration requests an increase for these programs in fiscal year 2019 by an additional $12 million ($340 million total). We recommend the subcommittee increase these programs by at least 15 percent above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. Behavioral health funds are critical to our most vulnerable population—our youth. SCF runs several programs that provide mental healthcare for Alaska Native youth which focus on building academic, vocational and leadership skills through culturally-appropriate methods. It is our firm conviction that

only by addressing the root causes that drive individuals to drug misuse and addiction—domestic and child abuse, poverty and unemployment—can we heal them.

We appreciate the administration including $150 million in the fiscal year 2019 budget for an Opioid Prevention, Treatment and Recovery program for Alaska Native and American Indian people. We recommend that these funds be distributed among Tribes and Tribal organizations as additions to our self-governance compacts and contracts. Alaska Native healthcare providers, like SCF, recognize that the size of the opioid and substance abuse problem in Alaska demands resources. Federal officials recently testified that far too few people suffering from addiction receive care. In a hearing last December before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, Federal health officials stated: "It is well-documented that the majority of people with opioid addiction in the U.S. do not receive treatment, and even among those who do, many do not receive evidence-based care. Accounting for these factors is paramount to the development of a successful strategy to combat the opioid crisis." With insufficient funds to address behavioral health challenges, we cannot reach those who suffer from substance abuse, those struggling with PTSD, our military veterans, or victims of violent crime. Prevention, education, and timely medication-assisted treatment (MAT) programs remain our most potent tools to raise a new generation of Alaska Native people who practice positive, life-affirming behavioral traits and who will, in turn, pass on these life skills to their children and grandchildren.

With our available funds, we established The Pathway Home, a voluntary, comprehensive, and individualized mental health program for adolescents aged 13 to 18 years. The Pathway Home teaches life skills to these Alaska Native youths so that they discontinue harmful behavior. Many of these youths have already experienced childhood trauma or seen family members struggle with drug and alcohol dependency, which puts them at greater risk of turning to drugs and alcohol. The Pathway Home creates a loving and supportive community environment and it is heartwarming to see how proud the graduates of this program are to go back out into the world with these new skills and new hope.

We applaud the efforts by Senators Alexander, Murray, Daines, Baldwin and others, that are putting forth legislation to address the opioid, meth and heroine crisis in Indian Country, and amend the 21st Century Cures Act to make Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations direct recipients of Federal funds now being awarded to the States within the State Response to the Opioid Abuse Crisis program by establishing a Tribal set-aside.

2. Reduce the Disparity in Federal Healthcare Expenditures for Alaska Native and American Indian People

In our testimony last year, we asked the subcommittee to prioritize general program increases which are shared equally by all Tribal programs. We are pleased to see that in the fiscal year 2018 appropriations for the IHS, the subcommittee included significant increases shared by all Tribal programs, such as a $110 million increase for Hospitals and Health Clinics, a $33.8 million increase for Purchased/Referred Care, a $6.3 million increase for Public Health Nursing, a $1.6 million increase for Urban Indian Health, and a $91.7 million increase in funding for Facilities Maintenance and Improvement. We also appreciate your acknowledgment that housing shortages in Alaska contribute to the high vacancy rates for medical personnel, especially in rural areas. For that reason, we appreciate the $11.5 million in the fiscal year 2018 omnibus for staff quarters and the $15 million for the Small Ambulatory Program for clinic construction.

For fiscal year 2019, we urge the subcommittee to prioritize general program increases. By the estimate of the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), IHS funding is only about 1/5 of the total Tribal needs budget of $30 billion. So long as appropriations for the Indian Health Service reside within the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, this subcommittee will always be challenged to appropriate sufficient funds to address the healthcare disparities between Alaska Native and American Indian people and the rest of the population.

3. Continue to Support Increases for Section 105(l) Lease Payments

As SCF testified last year, we recommend that the subcommittee create within the Direct Operations account a new subaccount to pay required Section 105(l) lease payments to Tribes and Tribal organizations that make tribally-owned or leased facilities available for IHS-financed health programs. This action is still necessary. For the second time, and in the face of two Federal court decisions addressing IHS's legal obligation to fund Section 105(l) leases, the administration's fiscal year 2019 budget asks Congress for statutory text, included in the Administrative Provisions concerning the IHS, to legislatively override Section 105(l), and the courts, and in-

sert a "notwithstanding" clause which would make all lease payments by the Secretary entirely discretionary on the part of the IHS. In short, the IHS would secure the right to use Tribal facilities to operate IHS-funded programs without paying for them which they had been doing for years by short-funding Village Built Clinic leases.

We urge the subcommittee to again reject IHS's efforts to repeal a key provision of the ISDEAA through the appropriations process. This subcommittee fully appreciates the challenges we face to build and maintain hospitals and clinics in unforgiving climates. Too often, lack of funds shortens the useful life of these vitally important structures. The cost to replace a hospital or clinic in Alaska is staggering. If Tribes and Tribal organizations are to extend the useful life of hospitals and clinics, we must be given the resources to properly operate and maintain them. Facilities worth having are worth maintaining.

Also, despite the obligation of the IHS to fully fund 105(l) leases, we have found the IHS to be slow to finalize these leases because they are not given enough money to fund all of the leases they are now clearly required to pay for. We continue to urge you to increase appropriations for Section 105(l) leases.

4. Contract Support Costs

With regards to Contract Support Costs, we appreciate the subcommittee's use of an indefinite appropriation, and the subcommittee's direction to IHS, in the fiscal year 2018 Conference Report, that transfers of Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention Program and other funds be awarded to Tribes through Indian Self-Determination Act compacts and contracts, and not through separate grants, so that associated "administrative costs" will be covered through the contract support cost process.

In 2017 and this year, we have also been witness to the IHS making unilateral policy changes concerning its CSC policy, already an overly complicated process. It requires Tribes to submit additional documentation to IHS and engage in two separate CSC negotiations each year. We urge the subcommittee to direct the agency to simplify its CSC policy and not attempt to reduce the award of CSC funds to Tribes through an unnecessarily complex methodology.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Southcentral Foundation and the people we serve.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

My name is Charles Clement and I serve as the President/CEO for the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC). I am honored for the opportunity to provide written testimony concerning SEARHC's priorities for the fiscal year 2019 appropriations for the Indian Health Service (IHS). SEARHC is most appreciative to Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and the Members of the subcommittee for championing the health needs of Alaska Natives and American Indians in the recently enacted fiscal year 2018 omnibus measure, Public Law 115–141. The appropriation includes critical funding increases to IHS Facilities and Services funding which SEARHC and countless Tribes and Tribal organizations assume under Indian Self-Determination Act compacts and contracts.

SEARHC is a non-profit Tribal health consortium, comprised of 15 federally-recognized Alaska Native Tribes, serving the southeast Alaska communities situated along the Southeast panhandle of Alaska. Our service area stretches over 35,000 square miles (about the size of Maine), and with no roads connecting many of the rural communities we serve, we work hard to provide quality health services to our communities.

Through our 25-bed acute care Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital (MEH) located in Sitka, the Ethel Lund Medical Center in Juneau, and a network of some 27 community clinics, SEARHC performs a wide array of services to our patients including medical, dental, behavioral health, physical therapy, radiology, pharmacy, laboratory, nutritional, audiology, optometry and respiratory therapy services. We also provide supplemental social services, substance abuse treatment, health promotion services, emergency medical services, environmental health services and traditional Native healing.

In fiscal year 2017, we logged 183,493 outpatient visits organization-wide, which include visits to our family and general practice, nursing clinics, behavioral health clinics, emergency department, telemedicine, radiology, rehabilitation and optometry services, nutrition, social services and specialty and surgery clinics. For the period 2016 through 2017, 100 babies were born at MEH.

The urgent healthcare needs of our Tribal members are heightened in areas like Southeast Alaska. Our communities are isolated and transportation and facilities costs are high. Travel to MEH requires a lengthy combination of automobile, ferry, and airplanes. Travel takes at least a day and often involves an overnight trip. Inclement weather delays travel even further.

We are therefore grateful for the subcommittee's rejection of the administration's proposed 18 percent cut in Facilities funding for fiscal year 2018 and appropriation of $322 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level for the current fiscal year. We appreciate the subcommittee's similar rejection of the administration's proposed reduction of $120 million to the IHS Services budget for fiscal year 2018, from the fiscal year 2017 enacted level, and decision to appropriate $378 million above the administration's fiscal year 2019 funding request.

SEARHC is in the process of securing title to the lands and buildings within the Mt. Edgecumbe Sitka campus so that we may more easily secure finances to replace our outdated hospital. The estimated cost exceeds $32 million. With leadership by Senators Murkowski and Sullivan, the Senate passed S. 825 on November 29, 2017. The measure simply transfers title to the 19-acre parcel to SEARHC for continued health services. We anticipate House action on the measure this session. Sufficient IHS Facilities and Services funding is critical to our mission.

IHS FACILITIES FUNDING

In a 2016 Facilities Needs Assessment report the IHS sent to Congress, the agency noted that: "Aging facilities risk code noncompliance, lower productivity, and compromises for healthcare services. Aging has pushed up costs of maintenance and essential repairs. . . . At the existing replacement rate, a new 2016 facility would not be replaced for 400 years." Needless to say, we can't wait that long. As the 2016 assessment further noted, older IHS facilities cannot adequately handle the needed level of services, even if fully staffed, and the resulting "facility capacity bottleneck" limits services well below the level required for current Alaska Native and American Indian populations. Modern facilities, with better designs, operate at lower costs and improve patient wait times, which remains a concern to us and to Congress.

We are therefore deeply disappointed by the administration's proposed fiscal year 2019 budget for the IHS Facilities account of $505.8 million, roughly $40 million below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and $362 million below the fiscal year 2018 enacted level which Congress and the President approved a few weeks ago.

We urge the subcommittee to again prioritize IHS Facilities and Services funding in the fiscal year 2019 appropriation. We see no alternative to overcoming chronic and historical health disparities between Alaska Natives and American Indians and the rest of the country without increasing funding. Per capita spending for Alaska Natives and American Indians is about one-third the national health spending level ($2,834 versus $9,990).

Several years ago, in testimony to the subcommittee, we made four recommendations to help address the health disparities that exist among Alaska Natives and American Indians and the rest of the population caused by outdated health facilities and limited staffing and equipment.

First, we asked Congress to replace aging IHS facilities like the MEH and to rank projects based on need rather than order of receipt to replace such facilities.

Second, we asked appropriators to tackle the chronic shortfall in appropriations for IHS's Facilities funds. This is a tall order. According to a recent Facilities Needs Assessment report by IHS presented to Congress, the agency estimated that it would cost $10.3 billion (2016) to construct an additional 18 million feet of new and replacement health facility space. That represents a 25 percent cost increase just from 2011, when the estimate was $8 billion. The Alaska Region's facilities space needs total 2.27 million at a cost of $2.16 billion, about 21 percent of all IHS Facilities requirement needs in the country. According to the 2016 IHS assessment, the Alaska Region ranks first in estimated cost requirements for health facility space and third in total square footage.

Third, we asked the subcommittee to provide staffing and equipment funds in the IHS appropriation for tribally-renovated IHS facilities as authorized under section 1634 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA). Section 1634 allows Tribes to renovate IHS facilities and authorizes IHS to provide staffing and equipment, or to place the Tribe on a separate priority list for such funds, when the renovation or modernization is approved by the IHS Area Director. Congress has, however, never funded this IHCIA program. We again urge the subcommittee to include at least $10 million for the section 1634 IHCIA program. SEARHC would be delighted to be the Alaska demonstration project for the initiative in fiscal year 2019.

Finally, we urged the subcommittee to appropriate additional funds to allow IHS to enter into more Joint Venture (JV) projects. The JV project provides IHS funds to staff facilities built with Tribal funds. SEARHC submitted a JV proposal to build a facility on Prince of Wales Island. Like 24 other applicants in a field of 37, our project was not chosen, although it received a high score. The JV model is not working sufficiently when only a third of projects are funded.

At nearly 70 years old, the Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital is the oldest facility in Alaska and one of the oldest Tribal health facility in the Nation. This is nearly twice as old as the average IHS hospital (40 years) and more than six-and-a-half times the age of the average U.S. hospital (10.6 years). The MEH was constructed toward the end of World War II by the War Department and focused largely on tuberculosis treatment through the 1950s. The hospital is in poor condition and ill-suited to a 21st century model of healthcare dominated by primary and ambulatory care facilities.

As noted above, the subcommittee responded in fiscal year 2018 with a $378 million increase in IHS Services and Facilities funding above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and full funding of Contract Support Costs (CSCs). We applaud the subcommittee's strong endorsement of Tribal health needs. But for SEARHC to realize our goals of a well-staffed and equipped replacement health facility for the MEH, and a critical access hospital to serve the Prince of Wales Island communities, including Craig and Klawock, the subcommittee must sustain and build on these important funding increases to the IHS budget in fiscal year 2019 and future years.

IHS SERVICES

SEARHC appreciates the administration's effort to increase fiscal year 2019 appropriations to the IHS, but we fail to understand why the administration would eliminate Preventive Health programs such as the Community Health Representatives Program and the Health Education Program, which Congress funded at $62.88 million and $19.87 million, respectively, in fiscal year 2018, or reduce the budget for the Urban Health Program by $1 million, and eliminate the Tribal Management Grants. In no instance did the administration seek input from or consult with affected Tribes and Tribal organizations. While we appreciate the administration including $150 million in the fiscal year 2019 budget for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) and $150 million for Opioid Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support (OPTRS), without modern hospitals and clinics, or the required funding for staffing and equipping these facilities, our challenge to improve the health of our communities is made more difficult.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS

A great deal of progress has been made on the issue of Contract Support Costs (CSCs), thanks in large part to this subcommittee. We appreciate the subcommittee retaining CSCs as an indefinite appropriation to ensure full funding to Tribes. We further appreciate the subcommittee, in its Conference Report accompanying the fiscal year 2018 omnibus appropriation, including language directing the IHS to award Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention funds, the Domestic Violence Prevention Program, and the Zero Suicide Initiative, and related programs, through Indian Self-Determination Act compacts and contracts, rather than separate grant instruments which the IHS has used to avoid the payment of CSC funds.

With regard to IHS's CSC policy, we remain concerned that the IHS is working outside the framework of the CSC Work Group, and its developing unilateral policies without consultation with Tribal representatives to the Work Group. The IHS's CSC policy is unnecessarily complicated and imposes additional administrative burdens on Tribal healthcare providers. The agency is falling behind in making fiscal year 2017 CSC adjustments, has not completed CSC adjustments for prior years, and miscalculates future CSC needs. These facts lead us to the conclusion that the IHS is working too hard to find ways to reduce such payments to Tribes.

We ask the subcommittee to instruct the IHS to redirect its energies to better ensuring that Tribal healthcare providers have the administrative resources we require to carry out live-saving health services to our patients, rather than thinking of ways to limit the payment of these important administrative support funds.

Thank you for affording SEARHC the opportunity to present our views.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

On behalf of the Squaxin Island Tribal Leadership and citizens, it is an honor to provide our funding priorities and recommendations for the fiscal year 2019 budgets

for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health Service (IHS). We request that Tribal program funding throughout the Federal Government be exempt from future sequestrations, rescissions and disproportionate cuts.

We express gratitude to the Committee for its foresight and leadership to fully fund Contract Support Cost (CSC) in the BIA and IHS. Although full funding in 2014 and 2015 was risky and did impact some other Tribal funding, in the fiscal year 2016 enacted spending bill you included an estimated amount to fully fund the CSC needs in 2016 and 2017. Under the new budget structure, going forward, the full CSC that Tribes are entitled to will be paid and other programs will not be reduced if payments are underestimated in the President's budget. The Squaxin Island Tribe agrees that maintaining this structure achieves the Nation's legal obligation to fully pay CSC and those payments should not be achieved by reducing direct services to any Tribe. We further request that the BIA and IHS CSC be reclassified to mandatory (permanent) funding.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE Specific Requests:

1. $500,000 Shellfish Management Program—BIA
2. $2.5 Million to Build and Operate an Oyster and Clam Nursery for Southern Puget Sound—BIA
3. $2.5 Million Increase for Northwest Indian Treatment Center (NWITC) Residential Program in IHS

REGIONAL Requests and Recommendations:

Squaxin Island Tribes supports the Regional Budget Requests of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC).

NATIONAL Requests and Recommendations:

Squaxin Island Tribe supports the National Budget Requests of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the National Indian Health Board (NIHB).

NATIONAL Requests and Recommendations—Bureau of Indian Affairs:

1. BIA Rights Protection—Increase funding to $52 million for the BIA Rights Protection Implementation
2. Fully Fund Fixed Costs and Tribal Pay Costs
3. Increase Tribal Base Funding (instead of through grants)
4. Law Enforcement:
   a. Allocate $83 million in additional funding to the BIA to increase base funding for Tribal courts.
   b. Increase funding for BIA law enforcement and detention by at least $200 million over the fiscal year 2017 funding level of $353 million.

NATIONAL Requests and Recommendations—Indian Health Service

1. Oppose moving Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) funding into discretionary spending from the mandatory account.
2. IHS mandatory funding (maintaining current services)—Provide a total of $6.4 billion for the Indian Health Service in fiscal year 2019, a 33 percent increase over the fiscal year 2016 planning base.
3. $150 million for Opioid Funding—Increase funding and include Tribal set asides in any funding decisions to States.
4. Purchased and Referred Care (PRC)—Provide an increase of $474.4 million.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE BACKGROUND

We are native people of South Puget Sound and descendants of the maritime people who lived and prospered along these shores for untold centuries. We are known as the People of the Water because of our strong cultural connection to the natural beauty and bounty of Puget Sound going back hundreds of years. The Squaxin Island Indian Reservation is located in southeastern Mason County, Washington and the Tribe is a signatory to the 1854 Medicine Creek Treaty. We were one of the first 30 federally-recognized Tribes to enter into a Compact of Self-Governance with the United States.

Our treaty-designated reservation, Squaxin Island, is approximately 2.2 square miles of uninhabited forested land, surrounded by the bays and inlets of southern Puget Sound. Because the Island lacks fresh water, the Tribe has built its community on roughly 26 acres at Kamilche, Washington purchased and placed into trust. The Tribe also owns 6 acres across Pickering Passage from Squaxin Island and a plot of 36 acres on Harstine Island, across Peale Passage. The total land area including off-reservation trust lands is 1,715.46 acres. In addition, the Tribe manages roughly 500 acres of Puget Sound tidelands.

The Tribal government and our economic enterprises constitute the largest employer in Mason County with over 1,250 employees. The Tribe has a current enrollment of 1,040 and an on-reservation population of 426 living in 141 homes. Squaxin has an estimated service area population of 2,747; a growth rate of about 10 percent, and an unemployment rate of about 30 percent (according to the BIA Labor Force Report).

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE SPECIFIC REQUESTS/JUSTIFICATIONS

1. $500,000—Shellfish Management—BIA

The Squaxin Island Tribe faces an ongoing budget deficit to maintain and operate the shellfish program at its current level of operation—a level that leaves 20 percent of treaty-designated State lands and 80–90 percent of private tidelands unharvested due to lack of funding. To address this shortfall and enable effective growth and development of the program, an annual minimum increase of $500,000 is requested. Shellfish have been a mainstay for the Squaxin Island people for thousands of years and are important today for subsistence, economic and ceremonial purposes. The Tribe's right to harvest shellfish is guaranteed by the 1854 Medicine Creek Treaty. Today, we are unable to fully exercise our treaty rights due to lack of Federal support for our shellfish management program.

2. $2.5 Million—Build and Operate an Oyster and Clam Nursery for Southern Puget Sound—BIA

A shellfish nursery is a capital project that is both proven and a cost effective technology that takes small oyster and clam seeds and provides a safe and controlled environment for the seeds to grow to a size that can survive integration onto a regular beach placement. Aquaculture is expected to provide almost two-thirds of the fish intended for global consumption by 2030. Aquaculture involves the breeding, rearing, and harvesting of freshwater and marine species of fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants. Producers farm in all types of water environments including ponds, rivers, lakes, oceans, and land-based, closed recirculating-water systems. The Squaxin Island Tribe is uniquely positioned to meet the demand for increased seed production in the shellfish industry. Ocean conditions are affecting the shellfish industry as a whole; ranking ocean acidification as the top concern. Ocean acidification is making it hard for the tiny organisms to make it through the most important stage of their life. They may eat as much algae as they can, but with current ocean conditions, such as the decreasing pH of the water, they cannot eat enough to get the energy they need to grow their shell and increase body mass. In addition, due to weather and/or other environmental factors, the regional shellfish growers in southern Puget Sound continue to face a shortage of viable seed for their shellfish farms.

Our original treaty-designated reservation, Squaxin Island, is a restricted-access area, and therefore an ideal location for such a nursery because it will not be disturbed by residents or recreational boaters. This project would be a capital cost of approximately $2.5 million. The Tribal in-kind contribution to the effort would include land, shoreline and operating costs. Comparable land and shoreline, if privately owned, would be easily valued in the higher millions. The Squaxin southern Puget Sound oyster and clam nursery will be an extension of another project that was created through a U.S. Department of Agriculture appropriation two decades ago for the Lummi Tribe, which created an oyster and clam hatchery in Northern Puget Sound.

3. $2.5 Million Increase for Northwest Indian Treatment Center (NWITC) Residential Program—IHS "D3WXbi Palil" meaning "Returning from the Dark, Deep Waters to the Light"

The Squaxin Island Tribe has been operating the Northwest Indian Treatment Center (NWITC) since 1994. The Center, given the spiritual name "D3WXbi Palil" meaning "Returning from the Dark, Deep Waters to the Light", is a residential chemical dependency treatment facility designed to serve Native Americans who have chronic relapse patterns related to unresolved grief and trauma. NWITC serves adult clients from Tribes located in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Since the original Congressional set-aside in the IHS budget for alcohol and substance abuse treatment for residential facilities and placement contracts with third-party agencies in 1993, NWITC has not received an adequate increase in the base IHS budget. With the well-documented nation-wide rise in prescription opioid and heroin abuse, it is more critical than ever to increase the NWITC's annual base in order to sustain the current services to the Tribes of the Northwest. AI/AN face opioid related fatalities three times the rate of non-Natives. An increase of $2.5 million would restore

lost purchasing power, ensure adequate baseline operating funds and allow NWITC to continue to meet the needs of Native Americans and their communities.

NATIONAL REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS—BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

1. BIA Rights Protection—Increase funding to $52 million—This Subactivity Account has a clear and direct relationship with the Federal trust obligation to Tribes. This program ensures compliance with Federal court orders by implementing effective Tribal self-regulatory and co-management systems. The benefits of these programs accrue not only to Tribes, but to the larger communities as well. In addition, this program supports implementation of the United States/Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty.
2. Fully Fund Fixed Costs and Tribal Pay Costs—Partial funding or failing to fund Pay Costs for Tribes has devastated Tribal communities by causing critical job losses. Over 900 Tribal jobs have been lost and an estimated 300 more jobs will be permanently lost on an annual basis if 100 percent Pay Costs are not provided. The Tribal losses are being further exacerbated by recent projections of costs that have been significantly underestimated. We strongly urge full funding of fixed costs and Tribal pay costs.
3. Increase Tribal Base Funding (instead of through grants)—Grant funding, particularly inside the BIA, is not consistent with the intent of Tribal self-determination. Tribal leaders have grown increasingly frustrated by the increase in Indian Affairs funding offer through grants. Allocating new funds via grants marginalizes and impedes Tribal Self-Determination and Self-Governance. Provide increases via Tribal base funding instead of through grants to Tribal governments.
4. Law Enforcement:
   a. Allocate $83 million in additional funding to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to increase base funding for Tribal courts, including courts in Public Law 280 jurisdictions, and to incrementally move towards fully meeting the need for Tribal court funding; and,
   b. Increase funding for Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) law enforcement and detention by at least $200 million over the fiscal year 2017 funding level of $353 million, including an increase in funds for officer recruitment and training and for Tribal detention facilities operations and maintenance.

NATIONAL REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS—INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

1. Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI)—Oppose moving SDPI funds into discretionary spending from mandatory spending. That will mean SDPI will compete for other Indian program funding annually, as opposed to being funded automatically. Need to have Tribal consultation.
2. IHS mandatory funding (maintaining current services)—Provide a total of $6.4 billion for fiscal year 2019, a 33 percent increase over 2016 planning phase. If these mandatory requirements are not funded, Tribes have no choice but to cut health services, which further reduces the quantity and quality of healthcare services available to AI/AN citizens.
3. $150 million for Opioid Funding—Increase funding and include Tribal set asides in any funding decisions to states. Addressing the opioid epidemic is a nationwide priority. American Indians and Alaska Natives face opioid related fatalities three times the rate on non-Indians. Tribal governments must be included in major agency-wide funding decisions, including to states, to treat and prevent opioid misuse.
4. Purchased and Referred Care (PRC)—Provide an increase of $474.4 million. The Purchased/Referred Care program pays for urgent and emergent and other critical services that are not directly available through IHS and Tribally-operated health programs when no IHS direct care facility exists, or the direct care facility cannot provide the required emergency or specialty care, or the facility has more demand for services than it can currently meet.

Thank you for accepting the fiscal year 2019 budget requests and recommendations for the Squaxin Island Tribe.

[This statement was submitted by Ray Peters, Intergovernmental Affairs Liaison.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony concerning the President's fiscal year 2019 budget for Indian programs within the Department of the Interior and the Indian Health Service. We would like to

thank this Committee for supporting Indian Tribes. Our testimony will focus on healthcare, public safety, education, and infrastructure.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has a government to government relationship with the United States of America, reflected in our 1851 and 1868 Treaties. These Treaties underscore the United States' ongoing promises and obligations of to the Tribe. Our testimony today is submitted with those promises and obligations in mind.

The Standing Rock Sioux Reservation encompasses 2.3 million acres in North and South Dakota. Approximately 8,500 of our 16,000 Tribal members, and 2,000 non-members, reside in eight communities spread across our rural Reservation. The Tribe's primary industries are cattle ranching and farming. The Tribe struggles to provide essential governmental services to our members. The Tribe's desire is to provide jobs and improve the economic standard of living on our Reservation.

Despite the Tribe's best efforts, our unemployment rate remains above 80 percent. In fact, over 40 percent of Indian families on our Reservation live in poverty—more than triple the average U.S. poverty rate. The disparity is worse for children, as 52 percent of the Reservation population under age 18 lives below poverty, compared to 16 percent and 19 percent in North and South Dakota, respectively. The Federal programs to aid Tribes and their members—established and promised by treaty—are essential. We ask the government to honor its commitments by adequately funding these Federal programs enacted for our benefit, so that our members may enjoy a standard of living comparable to that enjoyed by the rest of the Nation.

Our specific requests are as follows:

Indian Health Service.—We greatly appreciate the $500 million increase Congress provided in IHS funding for fiscal year 2018. We depend on IHS to care for our 16,000 enrolled Tribal members, many of whom suffer from diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension.

The Tribe requests increased funding for substance abuse response and treatment throughout Indian Country. The Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, like all of Indian Country, is facing an opioid and methamphetamine abuse crisis. Opioid addiction can be life long and must be treated as a behavioral health illness. Tribes need additional mental health specialists and substance abuse counselors to combat this issue in a holistic and productive way.

The Tribe knows that this Committee supports Indian Country and in particular our health priorities, but we want to be sure to voice our strong objections to the administration's proposal to eliminate the Community Health Representatives Program (CHRs). CHRs are the frontline for medical care in our communities. They conduct wellness checks on our elders, ensure that our children make their dental appointments, and provide our members with rides to medical appointments. Without these dedicated professionals, many of our members would not get the care that they need.

Child Protective Services.—Services to assist child victims are sorely lacking. The statistics demonstrate an overwhelming need. According to the Department of Justice, Indians have the highest rate of victimization in the Country. According to the 2016 ACF Report on Child Maltreatment, Indian children account for almost 30 percent of the abuse cases in North Dakota and almost 45 percent of the cases in South Dakota. However, we are only 5.5 percent of the population in in North Dakota and 9 percent in South Dakota. Finally, according to the Anne Casey Foundation, in 2015, 27 percent of the children in foster care in North Dakota were Indian and in South Dakota the statistic is even more startling at 49 percent of the children in that State's foster care system are Indian.

The Tribe's Child Protection Service program works very hard to address the needs of our children facing this crisis. But there are only two investigators for this program to protect our children in eight widely scattered communities across our Reservation. The CPS program is outstanding, but it is overwhelmed by the scope and magnitude of the problems it must address. Where child victims need to be placed in a different environment for their safety, there are far too few alternatives. For example, for a service population of about 8,000, there are only six approved foster homes on the Reservation. These homes are always at capacity, so we have no choice but to place some of these children—who have faced the trauma of violence in the home—off the Reservation, compounding trauma to the victim. There is simply an inadequate supply of safe housing alternatives for children who must be moved for their own safety.

We urge the Committee to increase funding for both BIA social services and ICWA programs. Without these resources, we will not be able to meet the needs of our most vulnerable population.

BIA—Public Safety and Justice.—Public safety is a priority for the Tribe. We applaud the final fiscal year 2018 enacted appropriations levels for Public Safety and Justice totaling $405 million, and urge the Committee to reject the administration's unwarranted reductions and continue to support increases for next year. As you know, funding is essential for public safety in Indian Country.

Law Enforcement.—The Tribe has seen firsthand that adequate law enforcement funding is key to reducing crime. A number of years ago, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe was selected to participate in the High Priority Program Goals initiative, which dramatically increased law enforcement positions on our Reservation. This had a significant positive impact in reducing crime. Increased numbers of police officers allowed proactive policing rather than reactive policing. This initiative enabled officers to be assigned within each Reservation community, which meant quicker response time to calls and more positive relationships between law enforcement officers and the communities they served. The increased law enforcement presence and patrols has deterred crime and resulted in our members feeling safer. The data confirms this. When compared to the number of violent crimes (homicide, rape, robbery, assault) that occurred between 2007 and 2009, the additional staffing reduced such crimes by approximately: 7 percent in 2010, 11 percent in 2011, and 15–19 percent in 2012. The initiative demonstrated the critical importance that adequate law enforcement staffing can have in our community.

HPPG ended after fiscal year 2013 and the Tribe's law enforcement personnel were reduced from the numbers that served us so well. We now have only 11 officers patrolling our entire 2.3-million-acre Reservation. We have only 1 School Resource Officer to serve the eight schools on the Reservation. This at a time when the need for public safety and security in our schools is at an all-time high. We strongly support an increase in funding for fiscal year 2019 for law enforcement services at Standing Rock.

Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).—We urge you to reject the administration's proposed cuts for BIE programs. Standing Rock relies on BIE funding for three Tribal grant schools—the Standing Rock Community School (K–12), Sitting Bull School (K–8), and Rock Creek School (K–8). The Standing Rock Community School is operated through a Joint Powers Agreement between the Standing Rock Tribal Grant School and the Fort Yates Public School District. The Fort Yates Public School District, like other public schools on the Reservation (Cannonball, Selfridge, McLaughlin, McIntosh, and Wakpala), depends on Federal impact aid to cover the costs of the public school's share of the school operations. The children in the schools on the Reservation are among the most at-risk students in the Nation. At seven out of eight Public and Tribal Grant Schools on our Reservation, 100 percent of the students are eligible for the Free or Reduced Lunch Program. At the remaining school, 90 percent of students are eligible for the Free or Reduced Lunch Program. The high rate of our student eligibility for the Free or Reduced Lunch Program documents that the majority of our families live at or below poverty level.

A critical source of funds for the operation of our Tribal grant schools is the Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP) Formula funds. The funds cover the costs of the schools' instructional programs, including salaries for teachers, teacher aides, school administrative staff and other operational costs. ISEP has not seen any meaningful increase in years. As a result, there has been a significant negative impact on the effectiveness of the schools' instructional programs. Academic programs are marginal at best and provide limited services to the students. It has become more difficult to attract and retain qualified staff. If the schools serving Indian children are to be effective and if our students are to succeed, and be college and career ready, ISEP funding must be increased.

The near flat line funding for virtually all aspects of BIE programs does not account for population growth, increased costs, or inflation. Student Transportation funding, intended to cover the costs of buses, fuel, maintenance, vehicle replacements, and drivers, has remained at the same level for years. Proposed cuts to BIE funding are unjustified. The substantial increases in fuel costs alone make it impossible to cover such costs. For Standing Rock, funds are further strained because we are a rural community, where bus runs for many of our students may take 1½ to 2 hours each way and can include travel on unimproved roads. These factors result in higher maintenance costs and shorter vehicle life. A substantial increase in funds for Student Transportation is long overdue.

Transportation.—Proper road maintenance on the Reservation is essential for the safety and health of our community, and for promoting economic opportunities. BIA Road Maintenance is responsible for 29,700 miles of BIA owned road and 931 BIA owned bridges. The administration request of $28 million request would fund approximately 16 percent of the level of need for BIA road maintenance. Thus, 84 per-

cent of the roads in the BIA systems will continue to be at poor or failing condition. These are roads used by school buses, first responders and police officers. In any other community this would be unacceptable. We urge the subcommittee to continue to increase funding for the BIA road maintenance program.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATORS IN SUPPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S DIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT PROGRAM (DERA)

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
SD-131
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
SH-125
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We write today concerning the pending appropriation in fiscal year 2019 for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Program ("DERA"). We believe that DERA provides us with a win-win in environmental and economic benefits and hope that you will fund the program at equal or above funding from fiscal year 2018.

As you know, our nation relies heavily on diesel power to transport commuters, harvest our crops, and build our infrastructure. Compared with traditional gasoline engines, diesel engines usually are more fuel-efficient and have a longer life span, but without the available technology, older diesel engines also produce more air emissions. New and retrofitted diesel engines are much cleaner than older, non-retrofitted diesel engines – over 90% cleaner. Unfortunately, there remain millions of older diesel engines that lack the latest pollution control technology in use and will remain in use for decades to come. Retrofitting older diesel engines with American-made technology can dramatically reduce diesel emissions, protecting our health and creating jobs here at home.

Enacted through the Energy Policy Act of 2005, DERA uses federal funding to leverage state and other non-federal funding sources to finance the voluntary installation of retrofits on existing heavy-duty diesel vehicles and engines, dramatically reducing harmful emissions. DERA has enjoyed overwhelming bi-partisan support since its enactment almost nine years ago. In 2005, DERA passed the Senate by a vote of 92 to 1. In 2010, the DERA reauthorization bill, which passed unanimously in the Senate and by voice vote in the House, authorized $100 million each year through 2016. Since implementation, DERA has become one of the most cost-effective clean air federal programs. DERA effectively cleans our air, protects human health, and creates jobs using American technology. It is a true win-win-win.

Despite all the success, the funding for DERA has not been able to keep up with the need. According to the EPA, funding requests for DERA rebates were exceeded by as much as 35:1 and requests for the national grant competitions exceeded availability by 7:1. Unfortunately, the

President's budget for fiscal year 2019 goes in the wrong direction – reducing DERA funding levels further from fiscal year 2018 levels of $75 million to $10million.

Although we appreciate dedication to reducing the federal deficit, we do not believe it makes sense to eliminate successful, bipartisan programs, like DERA that help drive our economy and protect our environment. We are also fearful that dropping funding levels too low will prevent many states from taking advantage of the program. This is why we are asking you to provide fiscal year 2018 level or robust funding for DERA in fiscal year 2019. This level of funding would still not meet the great need, but would provide a modicum of funding for the remaining work that needs to be done. At a time when our country continue to look for ways to create good manufacturing jobs and clean the environment, DERA stands out as a prime example of a program that works on many levels.

Thank you very much for considering our request. If you have any questions, we would invite your staff to contact Laura Haynes Gillam in Senator Carper's EPW office, laura_gillam@epw.senate.gov, 224-6159, or Jennie Wright in Senator Inhofe's office: jennie_wright@inhofe.senate.gov, 202-224-2925.

Sincerely,

Tom Carper
U.S. Senator

James Inhofe
U.S. Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senator

Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
U.S. Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
U.S. Senator

Kamala D. Harris
U.S. Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
U.S. Senator

Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator

Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senator

Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator

Tina Smith
U.S. Senator

Robert Menendez
U.S. Senator

Jeffrey Merkley
U.S. Senator

Cory A. Booker
U.S. Senator

Bernard Sanders
U.S. Senator

Tammy Duckworth
U.S. Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. Senator

Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator

Michael Bennet
U.S. Senator

Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator

Chris Van Hollen
U.S. Senator

PREPARED STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATORS IN SUPPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We are writing to ask you to reject the proposed cuts in funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Brownfields Program in the President's FY2019 budget request, and to include funding the program at the authorized amount. This important program drives economic growth by providing funds and technical assistance to assess and clean-up contaminated property sites for redevelopment, and helps promote successful local economic development in communities across the United States. Using funds from the Brownfields program, communities are able to convert liabilities into productive local assets. In the past, Brownfield funds have successfully laid the groundwork for manufacturing plants, commercial spaces, housing, community recreation facilities, and parks. Redeveloping contaminated properties creates jobs, improves environmental quality, and boosts local and state tax revenues.

As of March 1, 2018 the EPA's Brownfields program has assessed 27,689 properties, made 70,641 acres ready for reuse, leveraged the creation of 132,967 jobs, and $25.264 billion in funding since the program's inception in 1995. Further, EPA has found that approximately $16.99 is leveraged for each dollar the EPA Brownfields program spends and 8.9 jobs leveraged per $100,000 of EPA brownfields funds expended on assessment, cleanup, and revolving loan fund cooperative agreements. A study found that residential property values increased 5% to 15.2% once a nearby brownfield was assessed or cleaned up. Analyzing data near 48 of those brownfields, another study found an estimated $29 to $97 million in additional tax revenue for local governments in a single year after cleanup—2 to 7 times more than the $12.4 million EPA contributed to the cleanup of those brownfields.

Given the high success of EPA's Brownfields Program and its direct importance to economic recovery in rural and urban communities nationally, we are requesting that the program be adequately funded. While much has been done over the past two decades to clean-up and assess contaminated sites, a strong need still remains. EPA's Brownfields Program is making necessary investments that are helping to rebuild our country and to stimulate economic growth and jobs in our cities and towns.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We recognize that there are many competing priorities facing your subcommittee and we hope that you will support this program.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Christopher Van Hollen
United States Senator

PREPARED STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATORS IN SUPPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S LEAD ABATEMENT, INSPECTION, AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

As you draft the Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2019, we write to urge you to include robust funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) lead abatement, inspection, and enforcement programs.

Blood lead levels have declined by more than 90% since the mid-1970's – easily one of the great public health achievements in recent history. EPA, along with federal and state partners had worked together to drastically reduce or eliminate the use of lead in paint, gasoline, plumbing pipes, food cans, and a variety of other products to put us on a path towards minimizing human exposure. However, despite a decline in overall exposure, lead poisoning continues to be a problem in places with older homes and aging water supplies. The proposed cuts to EPA's budget will affect their ability to keep lead contamination out of these communities.

In both adults and children, lead poisoning decreases performance of the nervous system. At high levels of exposure, lead can severely damage the brain and kidneys and ultimately cause death. For pregnant women, lead may cause miscarriage. Lead is also especially dangerous for children under six years old, as exposure can reduce IQ, cause learning disabilities, and create behavioral problems.

Fortunately, lead poisoning is preventable. Federal law requires that certification is required for all firms (or sole proprietorships) that provide renovation, repair, and painting services in facilities built prior to 1978 and where children are routinely present. EPA works in cooperation with states, tribes, and territories to ensure firms are certified and use lead-safe work practices. In October 2017, EPA's lead enforcement program announced more than 100 federal enforcement actions completed over the last year that held renovation contractors, landlords, and property managers accountable for protecting communities from exposure to lead. Additionally, EPA uses its program funding to clean up lead contaminated waste sites to minimize exposure in surrounding areas.

We thank you in advance for your careful consideration and hope you will ensure that keeping our communities safe from lead continues to be a priority of the federal government by funding these critical EPA programs.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

PREPARED STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATORS IN SUPPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S LONG ISLAND SOUND GEOGRAPHIC PROGRAM

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall,

We are writing to urge you to fund the Environmental Protection Agency's Long Island Sound Geographic Program at $14 million in the Fiscal Year 2019 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill.

Federal funding to continue the Environmental Protection Agency's program for Long Island Sound is critical to our regional economies and the quality of our environment. The Long Island Sound is one of 28 estuaries included in the National Estuary Program, and with more than 23 million people living within 50 miles of the Sound, it is a major contributor of economic development and a source of recreation for residents and visitors alike. According to the Long Island Sound Study, the annual economic value of the sound is between $17 billion and $37 billion each year. The Sound is home to more than 120 species of fish, which contribute to our states' vibrant commercial and recreational fishing industries.

In 2000 and 2006, respectively, Congress enacted the Long Island Sound Restoration Act and the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act, which together authorized critical funding for projects that improve water quality, restore and protect habitats, and increase public awareness to the issues affecting the Long Island Sound and its watershed. This funding has allowed the federal government, working with state and local partners, as well as with the private sector, to make significant progress in improving the Sound.

Funding provided by Congress has been critical in reducing the amount of nitrogen entering the Sound by 44 million pounds annually since 2000, reducing occurrences of hypoxia and harmful algal blooms that impair the Sound's water quality and fisheries. Continuing to fund the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Acts will allow the EPA to continue to work collaboratively with local stakeholders to address water quality and invest in new strategies to reduce pollution and improve the environmental quality of the region.

Important Environmental Protection Agency funding for the Long Island Sound Study area has been very effective in leveraging additional resources from state, local and private partners. According to the Long Island Sound Study Office, since 2006, for every $1 in EPA funding, $87 was leveraged from other sources.

Thank you for your attention to this request, and we urge you to work with us to ensure that this critical funding is retained for Fiscal Year 2019.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

PREPARED STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATORS IN SUPPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S PROGRAMS THAT IMPROVE CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITY ISSUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We are writing to support robust funding that increases the amount from last year for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) programs that improve children's environmental health and educational facility issues for FY19.

Outside of home, children spend most of their time in schools and educational institutions. Twenty years of published research has shown that indoor environmental exposure to pollutants can be more intense than outdoor exposures and that school facilities have been neglected for decades. In fact, a 2017 American Society of Civil Engineers' report rated school infrastructure a D+. These are problems affecting children and their families, personnel, the health care system, and schools themselves. Poor indoor environments in schools decrease seat time, attendance and test scores, and increase asthma and other health events, and thus increase health costs. There is clearly a significant need to educate, train, and encourage schools and childcare facilities on child-safe and effective facility management.

Led by the Office of Air and Radiation/Indoor Environments Division, the EPA has a twenty-year history of successes in educating and convening PreK-12 and childcare owner-operators and personnel, as well as child health NGOs and state and local health agencies. This program hosts an annual symposia and have provided over 42,000 school personnel, districts, and non-governmental organizations on low-costs fixes and preventative steps to improve environmental quality. Additionally, the Office of Children's Health Protection, the Office of Water/Groundwater and Drinking Water division, the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, and the Office of Research and Development collaborate to provide guidance, grants, and research for safe drinking water and reducing exposure to toxic chemicals in schools. Properly funding these programs will allow continuation of this important work.

Furthermore, in February 2018, EPA Administrator Pruitt hosted fellow cabinet members and other key senior leaders to outline a federal strategy to reduce childhood lead exposure and associated health risks as part of the *President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children.*

Funding for key EPA programs addressing School and Child Care facilities and children's health will be essential for the EPA's success.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We recognize that there are many competing priorities facing your subcommittee and we hope that you will support these small proven programs that support healthier children and better educational outcomes.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SUPPORTERS OF THE FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM

DEAR CHAIRMAN MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBER UDALL,

The undersigned organizations are strong supporters of the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program funded by the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service). We rely on the inventory data and analysis of America's forests provided by the program, which make up the backbone of scientific knowledge on the current state of the Nation's forests. This critical information is needed to support sound policy and forest management decisions, both public and private, and is increasingly important for decisions regarding new and expanding markets. We urge the Congress to support the FIA program and request funding for the program in fiscal year 2019 of at least $83 million to move the program toward providing an accurate and timely inventory of America's forests. We also urge the inclusion of language ensuring that this funding would, at minimum, maintain historic remeasurement cycles—every 7 years in the east and every 10 years in the west—as referenced by the administration.

The data and information collected by FIA serves as the basis for: identifying trends in forest ownership; measuring carbon stocks; assessing fish and wildlife habitat; evaluating wildfire, insect, and disease risk; predicting the spread of invasive species; determining capital investment in existing forest products facilities and selecting locations for new forest product facilities; and identifying and responding to priorities identified in State Forest Action Plans.

The FIA program is utilized by a large set of diverse stakeholders interested in the state of America's forests. These include forest resource managers at mills, land managers, conservation groups, university students and faculty, and State and Federal agencies, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The undersigned organizations would like to work with Congress to further explore program potential. An annual funding level of $83 million would support a 7 year annualized program in the east, and a 10 year program in the west as recommended in the Forest Service's 2007 FIA Strategic Plan. In 2015 the Forest Service released an updated FIA Strategic Plan, which outlines a variety of potential program deliverables at funding levels. While we are supportive of at least $83 million in funding for fiscal year 2019, the 2015 Strategic Plan calls for $103 million to implement the 5 year annualized program called for in the 1998 Farm Bill. This reduction in cycle length would provide more accurate data to support important forest resource decisions. As engaged partners, we are interested in working with Congress and the Forest Service to make program delivery as efficient as possible and to support additional Federal investment to implement many of the useful tools outlined in the new FIA Strategic Plan—including full urban inventory, increased plot density, and improved carbon and biomass estimates.

There is a need to make FIA data more robust and more useful for emerging uses, such as accurate information regarding carbon stocks, forest sustainability moni-

toring, wildlife habitat assessments, and much more. Given the increasing pressures facing our forests—from wildfire, insects and disease and development—the FIA program is more important now than ever before. Funding the FIA program at $83 million for fiscal year 2019 would move toward providing for our growing data needs.

Sincerely,

Alabama Forestry Association
Aldo Leopold Foundation, Inc.
American Forest & Paper Association
American Forest Foundation
American Forests
American Wood Council
American Woodcock Society
Arkansas Forestry Association
Association of Consulting Foresters of America
Center for Invasive Species Prevention
Connecticut Forest & Park Association
Conservation Northwest
Conservation Resource Partners, LLC
Empire State Forest Products Association
Environmental Defense Fund
Enviva
Florida Forestry Association
Forest Business Network LLC
Forest Industry National Labor Management Committee
Forest Resources Association
Forestry Association of South Carolina
Green Forests Work
Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association
International Paper
Kansas Tree Farm Committee
Kentucky Forest Industries Association
Louisiana Pacific
Michigan Forest Association
Minnesota Forestry Association
Mississippi Forestry Association
National Alliance of Forest Owners
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
National Association of State Foresters
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wooden Pallet and Container Association
Ohio Forestry Association, Inc.
Rayonier
Ruffed Grouse Society
Rural & Agriculture Council of America
Society for Range Management
Society for the Protection of NH Forests
Society of American Foresters
Sonen Capital
Texas Forestry Association
The American Chestnut Foundation
The Hardwood Federation
The Pennsylvania Forestry Association
The Westervelt Company
Treated Wood Council
Trees Forever
Vermont Woodlands Association
Virginia Forestry Association
Washington Farm Forestry Association
Washington Forest Protection Association
Western Wood Preservers Institute
Wisconsin Paper Council

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SUPPORTERS OF THE GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND SAGE-STEPPE HABITAT IN THE AMERICAN WEST

DEAR CHAIRMAN MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBER UDALL:

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of sportsmen and women, conservationists and outdoor recreation enthusiasts represented by our organizations, we are writing to request your support for robust levels of fiscal year 2019 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations funding for several key programs benefitting the greater sage-grouse and sage-steppe habitat in the American West. We have also included three subcommittee report language requests for your consideration as a companion to our funding requests. We would like to thank this subcommittee for your tremendous leadership on sage grouse priorities through a series of recent budget cycles and encourage your continued commitment to the following important priorities:

BLM Resource Protection and Maintenance.—We support stable levels of fiscal year 2019 funding consistent with the final fiscal year 2018 level and additional funding if available for the BLM Resource Protection and Maintenance account. The Resource Protection and Maintenance account supports BLM land use planning and compliance activities as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and ensures public land conservation and environmentally sensitive resources, such as the greater sage-grouse, are fully considered during the land use planning process.

BLM Resource Management Planning.—The BLM is guided by the Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy which is the largest landscape-level conservation and

restoration effort in contemporary U.S. history, and is unprecedented in geographic scale and complexity. As BLM continues implementing the 98 sage grouse plans, new information and challenges have identified further needed investments to keep plan implementation effective and on schedule. We support strong fiscal year 2019 funding consistent with the final fiscal year 2018 funding levels for the BLM's focus on sage-grouse conservation. Greater sage-grouse habitat has experienced a precipitous decline across the West, and ongoing collaboration across public and private lands is needed to ensure this species remains off the Endangered Species list. These efforts also benefit other game species such as mule deer and support recreational hunting and associated rural jobs across much of the West.

We wish to thank the subcommittee for your support for increased fiscal year 2018 levels of funding for the Resource Management Planning subactivity and encourage the subcommittee to again recommend specific funding under this budget for greater sage-grouse, sage-steppe and other high priority conservation efforts. This activity includes funding for BLM's high priority planning efforts including the initiation of new resource management plans, plan evaluations and implementation strategies. Ensuring BLM has the resources necessary to integrate the most recent State and Federal fish and wildlife data; current trends in outdoor recreation and land use activities; and ongoing energy development within the planning process is paramount for ensuring the agency is achieving desired conditions across the more than 247 million acres of BLM-managed public lands. We support the BLM Land Use Planning function and its focus on collaboration with local communities and State and Tribal governments, as well as on science-based analysis.

BLM Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) Program.—The BLM Resource Management Planning sub-activity includes the AIM Program account. The AIM Program is built around a strategy designed to reach across programs, jurisdictions, stakeholders and agencies to provide a framework for consistent data and information valuable to decisionmakers. The AIM Program has been important in ongoing DOI and BLM sage-grouse partnership efforts and we support maintaining this program consistent with final fiscal year 2018 funding.

BLM Wildlife and Fisheries Management.—We support strong funding levels consistent with final fiscal year 2018 levels and increases if available for the BLM Wildlife and Fisheries Management account and the agency's work through this account to support the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of fish, wildlife and their habitats on public lands throughout the BLM system. Important BLM activities such as conducting inventories of fish and wildlife resources and developing cooperative management plans while providing for responsible recreation and commercial uses are critically important for BLM's ongoing work with State fish and wildlife agencies and local communities across the West. A BLM Wildlife Management program increase would primarily support more on-the-ground vegetative treatments to protect, improve, or restore sage steppe habitat and other high priority habitats. Funds also would assist States in implementing greater sage-grouse conservation plans. In addition to strong annual levels of funding for this account, we support specifically identifying annual funding within this account for sage-grouse conservation efforts.

BLM National Seed Strategy.—The BLM's efforts to implement the Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy are reliant upon successful execution of the National Seed Strategy, which is integral to the Administration's wildland fire rehabilitation efforts and the success of the DOI Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy. Congress approved a $5.0 million program increase in fiscal year 2017 within the Wildlife Management account to more aggressively implement the National Seed Strategy and develop much needed nationwide networks of native seed collectors, researchers developing wildland seed into commercial crops, farmers and growers increasing native seed supplies, and nurseries and storage facilities providing sufficient amounts of appropriate seed. Restoration ecologists will identify the appropriate timing and placement for seed and plant material to optimize treatment results. The seed materials and knowledge gained from BLM's investment in the National Seed Strategy will focus on restoring the sage-steppe landscape in the near term, with all BLM land rehabilitation and restoration efforts benefitting over the long-term. We support a level of funding consistent with fiscal year 2017 and final fiscal year 2018 levels for the National Seed Strategy.

BLM Office of Wildland Fire.—We support no less than $30 million in funding for the Resilient Landscapes program and increases consistent with fiscal year 2018 final funding and spend plans within the Office of Wildland Fire to allow the BLM to continue to support resilience work in the sagebrush ecosystem.

USFWS Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation.—We support several important programs within the USFWS budget to support greater sage-grouse conservation including the Conservation and Restoration; Wildlife and Habitat Management; and

Partners for Fish and Wildlife accounts. Consistent with earlier recommendations, we support the subcommittee's focus on sage-grouse within these budgets and encourage the subcommittee to continue to identify funding within the Candidate Conservation account for the sagebrush steppe ecosystem. Similarly, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program coordinates closely with BLM and NRCS to work with private landowners on voluntary, non-regulatory partnerships to advance sage-grouse conservation across the West. We strongly support this program and urge the subcommittee to consider an increase to support the work of program staff and their ongoing efforts to advance on-the-ground sage grouse conservation in close coordination with the Nation's ranching and agricultural communities.

USGS Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation.—We support funding consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels in fiscal year 2019 to provide the resources necessary for USGS engagement on sage grouse science, data collection and technical assistance.

USFS Greater-Sage Grouse Conservation.—The USFS is a key Federal partner along with DOI and its agencies in on-the-ground collaboration on sage grouse conservation. In addition to USFS sage-grouse forest planning activities, the agency has been engaged in the Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Engagement Strategy and has established a national position to coordinate on sage grouse issues as well as new State liaisons responsible for transferring information to the States. We support this USFS engagement role and the resources necessary to ensure this coordination remains a priority.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES LANGUAGE REQUESTS

1. We thank the subcommittee for your work to oppose new greater sage-grouse language in the final Fiscal Year 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act. In addition to continued support for BLM sage-grouse funding, we continue to encourage this subcommittee to oppose efforts to attach sage-grouse rider language during the fiscal year 2019 appropriations process.
2. We have concerns regarding recent indications the BLM is shifting funding away from the Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) strategy and its focus on the greater sage-grouse and data coordination activities. AIM is funded by both the BLM Wildlife Management and Planning subactivities. We strongly support maintaining this account consistent with fiscal year 2018 funding and ensuring sage-grouse remains a priority activity for this program.

   Recommended language: *As many of the greater sage-grouse plan decisions operate across multiple BLM field offices and jurisdictional boundaries, it is critical that BLM field offices have a shared understanding of the commitments in the greater sage-grouse plans and a common approach to implementing them. BLM's development of the Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) strategy has been critical in this effort and the Committee supports funding for AIM consistent with fiscal year 2018 levels.*
3. We have concerns regarding recent indications the BLM is shifting funding from resource programs designed to do proactive work (resource program subactivities: Cultural; Wildlife; Soil/Water/Air) to support oil and gas plan amendments. This has been a long-standing issue between programs at BLM. BLM Planning has long pushed the other BLM resource programs to use their funding to support oil and gas plans, planning amendments, and project assessments to help analyze how these proposed actions impact their resources (e.g., directing the BLM Wildlife Program to spend money studying how oil/gas amendments impact wildlife). Justifiably, we understand and support the resource programs using their funding for beneficial activities for their designated resources, but not for analyzing impacts from planning or project proposals from other programs.

   Recommended language: *The Committee has concerns regarding BLM funding shifts from BLM resource program subactivities such as cultural, wildlife, and soil/air/water for use by BLM to analyze impacts to designated resources of proposed projects or plans. All proposed project assessments or planning should come from funding within the planning program or within the sub-activity that is the primary beneficiary of the project or plan rather than from other non-planning, supporting resource program sub-activities.*

Thank you for your consideration of these appropriations and language requests and we look forward to working with you and your staff as the fiscal year 2019 budget process moves forward this year.

Sincerely,

Archery Trade Association
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
California Waterfowl
Fly Fishers International
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative
National Deer Alliance
National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Pheasants Forever
Pope and Young Club
Quail Forever
Quality Deer Management Association
Snook and Gamefish Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Wildlife Management Institute

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SUPPORTERS FOR INVESTMENT IN USDA FOREST SERVICE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

DEAR CHAIRMAN MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBER UDALL:

Improving the future health and sustainability of the Nation's forests and grasslands requires a strong investment in USDA Forest Service Research and Development (R&D), with benefits to forests, wildlife, and fish. The undersigned organizations and professional societies urge Congress to *increase funding for* all *Forest Service R&D to a minimum of $307 million in fiscal year 2019 including all necessary increases for the Forest Inventory and Analysis program and at least $224 million for the remaining Forest and Rangeland Research program areas.*

Building on over 100 years of critically important research, Forest Service R&D programs inform policy and land-management decisions that improve health and use of the Nation's forests and rangelands, including aquatic systems. Funding for these important activities is critical to sustaining the Nation's natural resources. Showing value in this investment requires R&D leaders and scientists be attuned and responsive in providing relevant and timely information and support with an ability to effectively deliver assistance to all users.

The work conducted at experimental forests and ranges, regional research stations, and the Forest Products Lab, incubates progress on new products and services; tracks disturbance responses; fosters greater forest resilience; quantifies contributions to air and water quality; and drives innovation in renewable energy and product development. Notable recent Forest Service R&D contributions include:

Using Science to Guide Drought Management Response

Forest Service R&D has been a leader in reviewing impacts of drought on U.S. forests and rangelands to help better manage for drought resiliency and adaptation going forward. In 2016 Forest Service R&D released an assessment report that included management options to help Federal, State, and private organizations implement strategies to sustain healthy, resilient ecosystems that continue to produce vital goods and services, such as forest products and recreational fishing opportunities. This scientific synthesis of all recent research with additional research into identifying drought indicators on the landscape are important to natural resources managers as they consider how to integrate drought contingencies in planning efforts.

Helping to Identify Pragmatic Solutions for Species at Risk

Through long-term monitoring and collaborative research efforts with state agencies and other partners, Forest Service R&D generates an understanding of wildlife-habitat relationships for multiple species and communities that enables informed land management decisions that benefit wildlife and people. This includes informing conservation efforts that have helped to avoid Endangered Species Act listings for several forest and rangeland wildlife species. The USFS works on the greater sage-grouse in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management culminated in two USFS Records of Decision and associated land management plan amendments to conserve greater sage-grouse and its habitat on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management-administered lands.

Improving Smoke and Fire Management Capabilities

The Prescribed Fire Combustion and Atmospheric Dynamics Research Experiment is a landmark study improving predictions of fire spread and smoke behavior. This

behavior prediction tool with the Blue Sky Smoke Management Model allows fire managers to better understand where flames and smoke from wildland fires will go to alert affected communities sooner and reduce human health effects. These tools also support decisionmaking for prescribed fires, allowing managers to model a variety of different scenarios to evaluate potential impacts on air quality and soil under a variety of conditions. Research scientists continue to expand on this landmark study by mapping risk assessments for entire national forests to better determine risk, predict cross boundary transmission probabilities that aid safe and effective use of fire as a tool. The desired outcome is increasing forest resiliency to disturbances, improving forest health, and protecting communities.

Developing Innovative Solutions to Managing Invasive Species

Forest Service R&D also develops innovative solutions to manage invasive pathogens and species that can decimate native plant and animal populations. This includes but is not limited to developing a cost-effective way to quickly identify the presence or absence of invasive species in an aquatic environment through eDNA technology; developing trees with a natural resistance to emerald ash borers; and successfully developing the first nonlethal treatment for white-nose syndrome (WNS)—a lethal fungal disease that has reduced bat populations by upwards of 80 percent in certain parts of the country. As voracious consumers of insect pests, bats reduce the pesticide bill of the U.S. agricultural industry by over $23 billion annually. Using a native soil bacterium to inhibit growth of the fungus that causes WNS, USFS researchers have been able to return previously sick bats to the wild.

Expanding and Protecting U.S. Market Opportunities for Forest Resources

The Forest Products Laboratory drives innovation and expansion of commercial applications for forest products. The work at the Lab on woody biofuels, advanced composites and wood structures, and value- added wood products promotes healthy forest ecosystems and economies by creating, enhancing, and protecting markets for forest products. In partnership with universities, scientists from Research Stations across the country, and partners in the private sector, the Lab is exploring potential of mass timber structures by conducting work on building codes and wood utilization models to increase use of wood in building construction and potentially invigorate markets for materials that were previously considered low value or undesirable. The Lab also houses the leading producer of nanocellulose material in the U.S. and explores breaking the woody fiber down to the nanoscale and what commercial uses make sense for this high strength, low weight material that can be collected from nearly any source. Building on unparalleled understanding of wood properties, R&D scientists are also able to combat deforestation and timber and wildlife trafficking by identifying origin of wood products, thereby protecting U.S. supply chains.

Calculating the Value of Urban Forests and Trees

The publication of Community Tree Guides helps managers calculate the value of new tree plantings in terms of property value increases, future energy savings, air pollutant uptake, and storm water runoff reduction. Credible information quantifying benefits of managed urban forests helps cities protect and restore environmental quality and enhance economic opportunity.

Guiding Conservation and Management of Aquatic Species

Using stream temperature and fish data, Forest Service R&D is developing important tools to inform and enhance management and conservation of aquatic resources. Climate Shield produces spatially-precise and user-friendly digital maps to guide conservation efforts in key watersheds. This tool forecasts specific locations that are most likely to continue supporting native cutthroat trout and ESA-listed bull trout allowing managers to make precise predictions about which streams are most likely to continue supporting native trout species based on future temperature scenarios.

Quantifying the Role of Forests in Providing Clean Air and Water

This research directly linking trees to clean air and water underscores the economic value and benefits trees and forests provide to all residents and communities. Recent R&D work shows that forests, which make up 26 percent of U.S. land area, are the source of 46 percent of the U.S. water supply—generating far better returns than other land uses. Forest Service R&D's understanding of how to manage forested landscapes to enhance production of sustained, low cost clean water supplies is critically important. Studies are also linking contributions of plants and trees to improved air quality and human health benefits. The community benefits that plants provide while removing pollutants and improving human health is valued at

nearly $7 billion every year and is significantly more cost effective than alternatives.

Advancing forest science is integral to improving the health and welfare of U.S. forests and citizens, increasing the competitiveness of U.S. products in the global marketplace, and adapting to unforeseen future challenges. Continuing the trend of reductions in the R&D budget will result in significant gaps in the knowledge base and data sets necessary to address the many threats facing our Nation's forests and associated wildlife could result in competitive losses in the global economy. *Therefore, our organizations request a funding level of $307 million for USFS R&D with emphasis on research projects uniquely suited to R&D expertise and the furthering of agency and partner objectives.*

Sincerely,

American Fisheries Society
Ecological Society of America
Society for Range Management
Society of American Foresters
The Wildlife Society

PREPARED STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT INVESTMENTS IN KEY FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBER UDALL,

As Congress begins the process of crafting a budget for fiscal year 2019, we recognize the tough choices that must be made, especially in light of the ever-increasing costs of wildfires and the budgetary conflicts that challenge creates. In these tight budgetary conditions, maximizing the effectiveness of Federal dollars through partnerships with State and local actors can play a large role in addressing our national forest challenges. For this reason, the undersigned organizations support investments in key Federal programs that support State and private forestry. A critically important component of the Forest Service's budget, these programs help tackle some of the most pressing issues we face in forestry like wildfires, insects, and diseases while conserving and improving America's forests; enhancing and protecting our drinking water; contributing to healthy, livable communities; and encouraging forest product innovation and utilization. In turn, this helps the nation to foster strong economic growth, especially in rural communities.

The USDA Forest Service's (USFS) State and Private Forestry Area (S&PF) serves as a linchpin for the conservation of America's forests. Providing critical technical and financial assistance to private landowners and the resource managers responsible for managing more than 60 percent of America's forests helps to increase the pace of work and on-the-ground results, improve the resilience of the Nation's forests, avoid conversion of forests to other land uses, and protect communities and the environment from forest pests, invasive species, and wildland fires.

In fiscal year 2019, funding for the following State and Private Forestry and related programs will help improve the health of the Nation's forests and encourage economic growth in a sector that sustains more than one million jobs in the United States. Our funding level requests include:

—$29 million for the Forest Stewardship Program [1]

Administered in cooperation with State forestry agencies, this program plays a fundamental role in keeping forests as forests. Forest insects, diseases, and wildfire know no bounds between Federal and non-Federal forests. Assisting some of the 22 million private forest owners in managing non-Federal forests can help minimize the impacts to Federal lands saving the Federal taxpayer millions of dollars. A forest landowner with a forest stewardship plan is almost three times more likely to actively manage his or her land than one without a plan, leading to jobs and rural economic stimulus. Those who have stewardship plans are actively managing their lands for wildlife, clean water, and forest products. Ninety percent of the Nation's wood supply comes from private forest lands.

—$107 million for the Forest Health Management Programs—$59 million Federal Lands and $48 million Cooperative Lands

Pests and disease are national problems affecting private and public lands. Nationally, their impact is in the tens of billions of dollars. The USFS Forest

[1] President's budget proposes changing name of the Forest Stewardship Program to Working Forest Lands.

Health Management Program supports efforts to prevent, contain, and eradicate these costly and dangerous pests and pathogens affecting trees and forests. Support for Forest Health programs is critical on both public land and private land, as insects and disease know no boundaries and forest health outcomes on any landscape depend upon a cross-ownership approach.

—$87 million for State Fire Assistance and $16 million for Volunteer Fire Assistance Programs[2]

Ninety percent of the Nation's wildfires are human-caused and most of these fires start on State and private lands, often spreading to Federal lands. Initial attack is the key to reducing large fire costs and these programs are critical to these suppression efforts. State and volunteer fire crews provide much of that initial attack response and are deployed to assist on Federal fires and other emergency or disaster situations, in compliance with national safety and training standards.

—$23 million for Landscape Scale Restoration

The USFS works collaboratively with States and other partners using State Forest Action Plans to target limited resources to the highest priority forest needs across ownerships to achieve results with meaningful local, regional, and national impacts. In an era when our forests are facing an increasing number of challenges, this program allows for a small Federal investment to be matched and leveraged by States and put towards the most pressing threats to the forests that sustain American communities.

—$83 million for Forest Inventory and Analysis

This program is our country's forest census, which has been ongoing since 1930 across all-ownerships, including the two-thirds of America's forests which are State or privately owned. FIA enables forest managers to understand the scope and scale of trends and changes in forest conditions, sustaining public benefits such as clean air and water, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, jobs and wood products. The collection and reporting of growth, removal, health, and other critical forest data in a timely manner is vital for forest industry and others in planning their future economic investments based on availability of forest raw materials.

While not specifying suggested budget levels, we want to also call your attention to the need for funding for programs which support community forestry programs as well as forestry research, which provides opportunities to expand forest markets and improve the health and quality of urban and rural communities. A combination of responsible forest management combined with healthy forest products markets will benefit the forest landscape and the communities that live in and around them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alabama Forestry Association
Aldo Leopold Foundation, Inc.
American Forest Foundation
American Forests
American Wood Council
American Woodcock Society
Center for Invasive Species Prevention
Connecticut Forest & Park Association
Conservation Resource Partners, LLC
Empire State Forest Products Association
Environmental Defense Fund
Enviva
Florida Forestry Association
Forest Business Network LLC
Forest Industry National Labor Management Committee
Forest Resources Association
Green Forests Work
Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association
International Paper
Kansas Tree Farm Committee
Kentucky Forest Industries Association
Louisiana Pacific
Michigan Forest Association
Minnesota Forestry Association
Mississippi Forestry Association
National Alliance of Forest Owners
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
National Association of State Foresters
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association
Ohio Forestry Association, Inc.
Rayonier
Ruffed Grouse Society
Rural & Agriculture Council of America
Society for Range Management
Society for the Protection of NH Forests
Society of American Foresters
Sonen Capital

[2] President's budget proposes changing the name of these programs to National Fire Capacity and Rural Fire Capacity.

Texas Forestry Association
The American Chestnut Foundation
The Hardwood Federation
The Pennsylvania Forestry Association
The Westervelt Company
Treated Wood Council
Trees Forever
Vermont Woodlands Association
Virginia Forestry Association
Washington Farm Forestry Association
Washington Forest Protection Association
Western Wood Preservers Institute
Wisconsin Paper Council

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SUPPORTERS OF THE JOINT FIRE SCIENCE PROGRAM

DEAR CHAIR MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBER UDALL:

As researchers, extension unit leaders, and practitioners who work with the Federal land management agencies on wildland fire, we urge you to maintain and fully fund the Joint Fire Science Program at historical levels of $6.914 million annually through the USDA Forest Service's Wildland Fire Management and $5.9 million annually through the U.S. Department of Interior Wildland Fire Management. Wildland fire is occurring over more acres at greater severity than in the past. Fire seasons are lengthening, exposing communities to greater risk from fire, post-fire floods, and smoke. The need for science is greater than ever to support strategic allocation of resources to meet the goals of the National Cohesive Strategy—restoring and maintaining fire-adapted landscapes, promoting fire-adapted communities, and fostering safe and effective response to fire.

The Joint Fire Science Program model for funding critical research, based on management priorities and with requirements for active science delivery, makes the program uniquely valuable and the only one of its kind. No other program offers researchers the opportunity to address fire management challenges in direct response to manager priorities. Based on direction from Congress, the program is a partnership of six Federal land management agencies that work together to identify and address problems associated with managing wildland fuels, fires, and fire-impacted ecosystems. Fire and land managers from the USDA Forest Service and U.S. Department of Interior together identify issues of critical interest, competitively allocate funding to researchers to tackle those issues via applied research, and require active delivery of science to managers and policymakers, linking science to management.

With a relatively limited budget, the Joint Fire Science Program has improved efficacy and accountability of agency activities by funding research to address important topics. Past research has focused on such salient issues as understanding smoke impacts to communities, overcoming barriers to prescribed fire, identifying how drivers of fire costs affect decisionmaking, analyzing fire behavior, and understanding fire effects on resources and communities. The program supports regional Fire Science Consortia that support science delivery to the management and practitioner communities. Research and science delivery under this program have proven valuable for both Federal land managers and partner organizations working to restore fire-adapted landscapes and promote fire-adapted communities.

We ask Congress to reject the administration's proposal to cancel the Joint Fire Science Program and request you maintain the Joint Fire Science Program at its past funding levels. Further, it is important that the program remain funded from within the Forest Service's Wildland Fire budget, rather than from Forest Service Research. Embedding the program in an already constrained research budget undercuts this successful model of a management-driven research program that responds directly to the challenges of wildland fire. We thank Congress for its past support of the Joint Fire Science Program and ask you to continue to make a priority of this important science-management partnership.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Cassandra Moseley (cmoseley@uoregon.edu) or Courtney Schultz (Courtney.Schultz@colostate.edu).

MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION AND COALITION SIGNATORIES

Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils
Forest Stewards Guild
National Association of State Foresters
Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition
Society of American Foresters

UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP SIGNATORIES

John P. Hayes, Dean, Warner College of Natural Resources, Colorado State University
Mark Paschke, Research Associate Dean, Warner College of Natural Resources, Colorado State University
Anthony S. Davis, Acting Dean, College of Forestry, Oregon State University
Ken Smith, Assistant Dean of the Environment, Integrated Program in the Environment, The University of the South
J. Keith Gilless, Dean, College of Natural Resources, University of California, Berkeley
Janet E. Nelson, Vice President for Research and Economic Development, University of Idaho
Martin Main, Associate Dean for Extension, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida
Thomas H. DeLuca, Dean, W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation, University of Montana
Cassandra Moseley, Senior Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation, University of Oregon
Lisa Graumlich, Dean, College of the Environment, University of Washington
Daniel J. Robison, Dean, Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design, West Virginia University

SIGNATORIES BY STATE

Alaska

Dawson Foster, Student and Wildland Firefighter, State of Alaska Division of Forestry, Anchorage
Alison D. York, Researcher, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks
Casey Brown, Post-doctoral Researcher, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks
Bob Christensen, Chief Executive, SEAWEAD, Gustavus
Aaron Ferguson, Sustainability Catalyst, Spruce Root Community Development, Juneau
Brian Buma, Assistant Professor, University of Alaska, Juneau

Alabama

Nathan Hatch, Consultant Forester, Alabama Prescribed Fire Council, Auburn
David Curry, Retired, Huntsville
Ted DeVos, Forester/Wildlife Biologist, Bach and DeVos Forestry/Alabama Prescribed Fire Council-chair 2018, Montgomery
J. Kevin England, Science Instructor/Botanist, Ardmore High School, Moulton
J. Ryan Mitchell, Outreach and Technical Assistance Coordinator, The Longleaf Alliance, Stockton
Raien Emery, Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
Justin Hart, Associate Professor, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
Kevin Willson, Graduate Student, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

Arkansas

Kyle Lapham, Fire Manager, The Nature Conservancy, Little Rock
Kenneth Wallen, Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas System, Monticello
Tiffany Hackler, Human Resources Manager, Rogers

Arizona

Melanie Colavito, Human Dimensions Specialist, Ecological Restoration Institute, Flagstaff
Andrea Thode, Professor, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff
Clare Aslan, Assistant Professor, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff
Scott Goetz, Professor, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff
Stephanie Mueller, Graduate Student, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff
Thomas D. Sisk, Olajos-Goslow Chair of Environmental Science and Policy, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff
Thomas Kolb, Professor, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff
James Allen, Professor and Executive Director, Northern Arizona University School of Forestry, Flagstaff
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Shere A. Fischer, Phoenix

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Michelle Foss, Restoration Biologist, Fontenelle Forest, Bellevue
Noah Sundberg, Fontenelle Forest, Bellevue
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New Jersey

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New Mexico

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Jeremy Gingerich, Assistant General Manager, Vermejo Park LLC, Raton
John Lissoway, Member, Forest Stewards Guild, Santa Fe
Sam Berry, Project Coordinator, Forest Stewards Guild, Santa Fe
Zander Evans, Executive Director, Forest Stewards Guild, Santa Fe
Mark Meyers, Forester, New Mexico State Land Office, Santa Fe
Tim L. Kirkpatrick, President, East Mountain Interagency Fire Protection Association (EMIFPA), Tijeras

Nevada

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Peter Weisberg, Professor, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno
Thomas Dilts, Research Scientist, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno
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April Smith, Stay at Home Mother, Reno

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Wisconsin

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Curt Meine, Senior Fellow, Aldo Leopold Foundation, Baraboo
Steven Swenson, Director of Conservation, Aldo Leopold Foundation, Baraboo
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Josh Kraemer, Project Manager, Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council, Brodhead
Fred Wollenburg, Landowner, The Prairie Enthusiasts, Dalton
Stacey Marion, Restoration Ecologist, Adaptive Restoration, Madison
Mark Horn, Owner, Conservation Media LLC, Madison
Gary Werner, Volunteer Burn Boss, Dane County Chapter Ice Age Trail Alliance, Madison
Jacob Griffin, Associate Professor of Biology; Director of Environmental Studies, Edgewood College, Madison
Joe Lacy, Concerned Citizen, Prairie Enthusiasts, Madison
Hannah Spaul, Fire Manager, The Nature Conservancy, Madison
Thomas Pierce, The Prairie Enthusiasts, Madison
Ankur Desai, Professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison
H. Anu Kramer, Research Associate, University of Wisconsin, Madison
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Winslow D Hansen, PhD Candidate, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Madison
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Amelia Fass, Student, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, Madison
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Jan Ketelle, Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council, Mineral Point
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Curtis Wayka, Prescribed Fire/Fuels Technician, Menominee Tribal Enterprises, Neopit
Angus Mossman, Student, University of Wisconsin, Madison, North Freedom
Evan Larson, Associate Professor of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville
Matthew Smith, Land Manager, Riveredge Nature Center, Saukville
Jeb Barzen, Founder, Private Lands Conservation LLC, Spring Green
Isabel Moritz, Fire Crew, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
Jacob Barkalow, Student of Fire, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
Julie Dickson, College Student, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
Korey Badeau, Student, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
Logan Wimme, Undergraduate Forest Management, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
Max Richards, Student, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
Nick Bielski, Student, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
Dylan Wenker, Student, Stevens Point
Kelley Harkins, Undergraduate Wildland Fire Science Student, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
Nathan Holoubek, Research Scientist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Sun Prairie
Theran Stautz, Ecologist, Sun Prairie
Richard A. Hansen, Private land owner, Wautoma

West Virginia

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Nicholas Jeros, Supervisory Fire Engine Operator, Central Apps Fire Learning Network, Davis
Adele Fenwick, Fire Instructor and Practitioner, Morgantown

Wyoming

Daniel Laughlin, Associate Professor, University of Wyoming, Laramie
Kristina Hufford, Associate Professor, University of Wyoming, Laramie
Alex Spannuth, Fire Effects Monitor, Wyoming

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SUPPORTERS FOR MAINTAINING EFFECTIVE FUNDING LEVELS FOR ESSENTIAL WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION AND PROTECTION PROGRAMS AT THE USDA FOREST SERVICE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN MURKOWSKI AND RANKING MEMBER UDALL:

The undersigned organizations are writing to express our strong support for maintaining effective funding levels in the fiscal year 2019 appropriations process for essential wildfire risk reduction and protection programs at the USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the Department of the Interior (DOI). The important work accomplished through the State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance programs help decrease total Federal emergency wildfire suppression costs and reduce the threat of fire to people, communities, and both public and private lands.

America's forests and forest-dependent communities are at risk from outbreaks of pests and pathogens, persistent drought, and the buildup of hazardous fuels. Urbanization and development patterns are placing more homes and communities near fire-prone landscapes, leading to more destructive and costly wildfires, like those that burned more than 10 million acres in 2017 alone.

We thank you for your leadership in developing and securing a long-term wildland fire funding solution which will ensure that the USFS has the funding needed for both routine activities to local and State wildland fire preparedness and mitigation efforts as well as engage in emergency wildland fire suppression activities. This long-held goal of our organizations would not have been realized without your leadership and the work of this Committee. Additionally, our organizations thank you for providing additional funding to support the USFS until this fire funding fix takes effect in fiscal year 2020. We encourage you to continue providing this strong funding level to the USFS at least until the recently enacted fire funding fix takes effect in fiscal year 2020.

The fiscal year 2019 appropriations bill can provide for both necessary wildland fire suppression and fire risk reduction activities that reduce firefighting costs in the long run. We appreciate this Committee's continued support for the State Fire Assistance program and the Volunteer Fire Assistance program and encourage you to continue providing strong funding for these important programs.

State Fire Assistance (SFA) is the fundamental Federal mechanism for assisting States and local fire departments in responding to wildland fires and in conducting management activities that mitigate fire risk on non-Federal lands. The program helps train State and local first responders who are often first to arrive at a wildland fire incident, as well as equip them with the tools they need to put wildfires out in efficiently and safely.

For example, in fiscal year 2017, SFA directly funded hazardous fuel treatments on 83,845 acres (with another 92,276 acres treated with leveraged funding from partners) and provided assistance to communities around the country, supporting 4,581 risk assessment and fire management planning projects in more than 3,100 communities. Additionally, between 2008 and 2012, the program helped deliver more than $150 million annually in equipment for use by State and local first responders.

The localized support provided by SFA is crucial because most wildfires (80 percent during 2017) burn within State and local fire department jurisdictions. Even when it comes to wildfires on Federal lands, SFA-supported crews and engines are often the first to respond.

Our organizations are grateful for the Committee's decision to increase SFA funding to $80 million in fiscal year 2018. However, additional modest increases in SFA funding can help expand wildland fire preparedness and mitigation efforts and support State forestry agencies in repurposing equipment through the Federal Excess Personal Property and the Firefighter Property programs. *In fiscal year 2019, we urge you to provide $87 million for the State Fire Assistance program.*

The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program provides support to rural communities and is critical to ensuring adequate capacity to respond to wildfires, reducing the risk to communities, people, homes and property, and firefighters. This capacity is critical because these State and local resources are the first responders to more than 80 percent of wildland fires—whether on State, Federal or private lands. According to the Forest Service, during fiscal year 2017, the VFA program helped provide assistance to 8,821 communities, train 17,140 firefighters, expanded or organize 61 fire departments, and purchase, rehabilitate, or maintain nearly $9 million in equipment.

Our organizations greatly appreciate the Committee's work to increase VFA funding to $16 million in fiscal year 2018. *In fiscal year 2019, we urge you to provide no less than $16 million for the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program.*

We appreciate the difficult task the Committee faces in the current budget climate. It is important to remember, however, that these vital programs safeguard human life, habitat, and property, and reduce the overall cost of wildland fire management. Accordingly, we urge you to support funding for these critical programs.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

National Association of State Foresters
National Volunteer Fire Council
International Association of Fire Chiefs

PREPARED STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATORS IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACT (NEEA)

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We greatly appreciate your past support for funding the National Environmental Education Act (NEEA), and respectfully request that the Subcommittee on Interior and Environment continue its support for environmental education projects by funding this successful program pursuant to the formula prescribed in the act at $8.7 million in the Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bill.

- Since 1990 NEEA has been a highly effective, non-regulatory tool for improving student performance in science and math and protecting public health.
- Congress has consistently funded this program at approximately $9 million, which has been strongly supported by local communities and industry.
- NEEA helps build 21st century skills and promote job training, innovation, and leadership skills.
- The Act utilizes public-private partnerships to highly leverage scarce federal resources.
- NEEA programs achieve the statutory goal of educating millions of Americans with science-based information that spurs action to create healthy, livable communities that attract jobs.

Programs funded through this act have far-reaching and well-documented positive impacts. They enable citizens from all walks to make informed, scientifically sound decisions regarding energy consumption, water quality and conservation, and energy efficiency at homes, schools, and the work place. They provide practical applications for math, science, technology and engineering. Research indicates that this type of education increases critical thinking and the problem solving skills necessary to foster innovation and keep America competitive in a fiercely global economy.

With support from the NEEA, the National Environmental Education Foundation has partnered with 20 national companies, including Toyota, International Paper, Baxter International, Price Waterhouse and others to demonstrate that environmental education improves the bottom line in energy efficiency and employee recruitment and retention, producing millions of dollars of

savings. The North American Association for Environmental Education helps ensure that by the time students graduate high school they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to address pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges. Project Learning Tree, a program of the American Forest Foundation, demonstrably improves student achievement.

NEEA Grants have been awarded in all 50 states totaling more than 4,000 grants that support high quality, high impact educational programs that address local priorities and needs. They are effective because they allow students to apply science in a real world context and perform better on standardized tests in reading, math, writing, social studies, and science. This helps America close the education gap with other countries.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to fund NEEA programs at $8.7 million for Fiscal Year 2019.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE SUSANVILLE INDIAN RANCHERIA

The Susanville Indian Rancheria submits the following recommendations regarding the fiscal year 2019 Interior appropriations bill:

—Reject the large proposed cuts in the Bureau of Indian Affairs Social Services program (37 percent) and the Indian Child welfare Act (27 percent).
—Retain the BIA's Johnson O'Malley Program Which is Proposed for Elimination
—Reject the Proposal to Eliminate the IHS Community Health Representatives Program
—Continue Full, Mandatory Funding for IHS and BIA Contract Support Costs
—Funding for a New Medical Clinic
—Maintain the Special Diabetes Program's Funding as Mandatory
—Reject Rescissions and Protect the IHS and BIA from Sequestration

The Susanville Indian Rancheria includes over 1,180 Tribal citizens located in Northern California. The Tribe operates several programs through Indian Self-Determination Act compact and contracts with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), including the Tribe's two largest: The Consolidated Tribal Government Program and

the Road Maintenance Program. Through these programs, the Tribe operates aid to Tribal government, Johnson O'Malley, social services, Indian child welfare, community fire protection, adult and higher education, and job placement programs, as well as projects to maintain the Tribe's infrastructure. Through these programs, the Tribe is a vital part of the Susanville and Lassen County economic community.

The Tribe also operates the Lassen Indian Health Center via a Title V self-governance compact with the Indian Health Service (IHS). The Tribe and the Health Center serve not only our Tribal members, but also lineal descendants of California and other federally recognized Indians. As a result, our service population for Lassen County is over 1,900 individuals of Indian descent. The Health Center is a vital link for our patients, who receive medical, dental care, behavioral health services, substance abuse counseling, and pharmacy services. Providing both governmental and healthcare services is an important role for the Tribe, although we depend on our partners, IHS, BIA, and Congress, to fulfill their contractual obligations.

Reject the BIA Social Services Reduction of 37 percent. The administration's proposed cut to BIA social services is astonishing. We use our limited Tribal Priority Allocation funds ($22,506) toward urgent needs of our Tribal members. In the past two and one half months, the Tribal office has processed over 100 social services types of requests. We estimate that we would need a 141 percent increase in our TPA just to meet the minimum needs for our Tribal members.

Reject the Proposed Indian Child Welfare Act Reduction of $5 million or 27 percent. The Susanville Indian Rancheria uses what limited TPA funding it receives ($44,414) towards salaries, telephone costs, supplies, NICWA membership dues, expert witness fees, training, and legal fees. We have averaged slightly over 12 active cases each month with some cases being closed and others being opened due to various reasons (abuse, parent reunification, etc.). In addition we receive an average of 5–8 daily correspondences on ICWA matters that require a response. We have an urgent need for more Native foster homes and have worked with Lassen County Child and Family Services in certifying some Native foster homes. But many of our Tribal member children (and Tribal children who are not Susanville Indian Rancheria members) are being placed in homes that do not meet with ICWA placement preference law. It is very important that Native children do not lose their connection with their culture as this this connection is what keeps children whole and provides strength of mind and body. We estimate that would need a 323 percent increase to meet the minimum ICWA-related needs for our Tribal children.

Retain the Johnson O'Malley Program. We strongly oppose the proposal to eliminate the Johnson O'Malley Program (JOM). The JOM serves a very important function for the Susanville Indian Rancheria as it makes possible three after school tutors and also provides the partial salary of our Education Programs Director. In addition, these funds are used for Renaissance learning dues that help our students increase their reading skills, as well as providing assistance for summer activities. We are pleased as we are on track with increasing the reading levels of our students, increasing their math proficiency and increasing cultural awareness. Without these funds we would lose all that we have gained in the past few years. We are proud of our students and what they have accomplished.

Reject the Administration's Proposed Elimination of the IHS Community Health Representatives Program. We are astonished that the administration would propose the elimination of the Community Health Representatives Program (CHR) which was funded at $62.8 million in fiscal year 2018. The CHR program provides community-based essential home visiting services to elders and to people of all ages, serving both medical and psycho-social health needs. These home-based services increase the involvement of individuals in managing and improving their own health—especially with chronic disease management—and help prevent avoidable emergency room visits and hospital re-admissions.

Funding for a New Medical Clinic. The Susanville Indian Rancheria is in dire need of a new medical clinic. Our current facility is no longer large enough to house our employees that provide services to our Indian people in Lassen County. It is not cost effective to update this very old facility. While we have undertaken the planning of a facility but we lack the funding for construction. We are pleased to see the fiscal year 2018 IHS health facility construction funding increase and encourage you to keep providing such funding for replacement of medical facilities.

Maintain the Special Diabetes Program Funding as Mandatory. We oppose the administration's proposal to change the SDPI program from one which is funded on a mandatory basis to discretionary funding. We understand that the same would be true for the HHS Community Health Centers programming. It appears to be a way to require appropriations subcommittees to have to use their funding allocations for what previously was mandatory funding and thus not counted against their alloca-

tion. Many people in Indian Country would like all IHS funds to be mandatory. Making SDPI funds discretionary could open it up to reductions and also subject it to short-term Continuing Resolutions thus leading to difficulties in planning and recruiting and retaining staff.

Continue Full Funding of Contract Support Costs. We are so appreciative of the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees' support of full and mandatory funding for IHS and BIA Contract Support Costs and for finding a way to make that happen. This action has been crucial to the strengthening of Tribal governments' ability to successfully exercise their rights and responsibilities. We do feel that the IHS should pay Contact Support Costs on its grant programs and appreciate the House Committee Report language from fiscal year 2018 encouraging them to do so.

Reject Funding Rescissions and Protect IHS and BIA from Sequestration. We are aware that there is an effort among some in Congress and by the Office of Management and Budget to rescind some funding made available by the Bipartisan Budget Act and the Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2018, and we urge you reject such a proposal. The bipartisan agreement that was reached should not be broken. We are grateful for the fiscal year 2018 funding increases made available for the BIA and IHS—notably in the Facilities Accounts. Also of particular significance is the increase in funds to address the national opioid abuse epidemic for which Tribes will belatedly have direct access.

While we have not had an automatic across-the-board sequestration of discretionary Federal funds since fiscal year 2013, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act should nevertheless be amended to exempt the IHS and BIA from such reductions. Other health programs, e.g., the Veterans Health Administration, Medicaid grants, and Medicare payments (except for a 2 percent reduction for administration) are held harmless.

Thank you for your consideration of the views of the Susanville Indian Rancheria.

[This statement was submitted by Deana M. Bovee, Tribal Chairwoman.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE URBAN FOREST COALITION

The Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC) is comprised of more than 30 national organizations and corporations representing hundreds of thousands of professionals and millions of supporters who care and support sustainable trees and green infrastructure where people live. Collectively, we are asking for your support for several programs under the Interior subcommittee's jurisdiction that support urban and community forests and green infrastructure.

Our Nation's 138 million acres of urban and community forest lands impact over 190 million Americans that live in these communities and are vital to creating and maintaining healthy, livable communities of all sizes by providing many scientifically proven social, economic, and environmental benefits to people. The ability to mitigate air pollution, reduce energy consumption, mitigate the heat island effect, improve human health, and reduce storm water runoff have directly or indirectly reduced costs in communities by millions of dollars. The collective value and benefits of community trees equals over $10 billion nationwide. With a projected 394 million Americans living in urbanized areas by 2050, investing in trees to create livable communities needs to happen now.

While a Federal input of funds for urban forestry may be questioned because most urban forestry programs are accomplished at the State and local level, the Federal support and leadership through the USFS and overarching program leverages funds ranging from 2:1 to 5:1 in projects and grants. The Federal "seed" money is often the key to including these programs at the State and local level, the collaboration and leadership of the care for trees where people live every day in all sizes of communities across the country results in a cumulative national urban forest canopy that the Federal Government could not oversee or fund. Most smaller communities do not have the resources to practice urban tree management. The Federal funds passed through the States provides the resources to initiate their programs to manage the trees in their communities. These same funds set the bar for the management of the urban tree management in larger communities and at the State level. This reduces redundancy and sets a standard of care consistent across the Nation.

SUFC greatly appreciates the leadership and support of this subcommittee in ensuring level—and even increased —fiscal year 2018 funding levels for these important and effective programs. We ask you to again reject the drastic cuts proposed in the President's fiscal year 2019 budget, particularly the zeroing out of programs like Urban and Community Forestry, Landscape Scale Restoration, and Community Forests and Open Space Conservation. Defunding or severely cutting these pro-

grams would have profound and lasting repercussions on people and communities across the country.

USDA FOREST SERVICE: STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

Urban and Community Forestry Program (U&CF)

U&CF directly assists State government, nonprofit organizations and partners that manage and steward our Nation's urban and community forests. Working with the State forestry agencies, the program provides technical, financial, research, and educational support and services to local government, nonprofit organizations, community groups, educational institutions, and Tribal governments.

In fiscal year 2016, U&CF reached over 8,200 urban and rural communities and 200+ million people in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and affiliated Pacific Island Nations. U&CF is a high-impact program and a smart investment as Federal support is often leveraged 2:1 (or in many cases significantly more) by States and partner organizations. U&CF engages citizens in cities and towns, brings together diverse partners, public and private resources, and demonstrates that Federal investment can have huge and lasting impacts on communities of all sizes.

SUFC is deeply concerned by the President's proposal to defund the U&CF program in fiscal year 2019. Zeroing out this important program would completely erode the capacity that has been developed in cities and towns of all sizes and jeopardize many local public and private partnerships and collaborative projects in which Federal assistance is essential. *SUFC recommends the Urban and Community Forestry Program be funded at $31.3 million in fiscal year 2019.*

Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR)

The LSR program strategically prioritizes resources by competitively allocating Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act funds. It focuses on targeting Federal investments—leveraged by State and local resources—to areas of greatest need, highest value, or strongest innovation potential, identified in each State Forest Action Plan. Urban and community forestry projects along with other cooperative programs have been supported by LSR in the past. However, we want to ensure that LSR is not a substitute to the Urban and Community Forestry program or other cooperative programs, but a supplement. *SUFC recommends funding the Landscape Scale Restoration program at $23.5 million in fiscal year 2019.*

Community Forests and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP)

CFP has made substantial progress in preserving forests by increasing opportunities for Americans to connect with forests in their own communities and fostering new public-private partnerships. CFP has supported nearly three dozen community forest projects in cities and towns across 17 States and Territories. In the latest round of CFP grants, project partners leveraged $10.6 million in Federal funds to secure $34.5 million in non-Federal funding, resulting in more than 15,000 acres of community forests. This impressive leveraging ratio demonstrates the willingness of local entities to match Federal funding with significant commitments of funding and other resources. *SUFC recommends an increase in funds to $5 million in fiscal year 2019.*

Forest Health Management

Forests across the country are threatened by insects and disease pathogens introduced from abroad as unwanted hitchhikers on imports. The damage usually starts in urban forests because most imported goods enter this country through urban ports. As a result, municipal governments across the country are spending an estimated $3 billion each year to remove trees on city property killed by non-native pests. Homeowners are spending an additional $1 billion to remove and replace trees on their properties and are absorbing an additional $1.5 billion in reduced property values. These costs are projected to rise to more than $36 billion as pests spread. The pests do not stay in the cities, however. They spread to the rural and wildland forests and threaten their many values. While preventing introductions are the desired approach, it is essential that the U.S. Forest Service initiate programs countering these pests as soon as they are detected. Only such prompt and aggressive actions can protect public and private forests from massive pest spread and tree devastation. This program provides essential expertise and assistance to State and municipal agencies and private landowners working to prevent these pests' spread and to develop effective strategies to minimize the damage they cause. *SUFC recommends $48 million for cooperative lands programs under the Forest Health Management program.*

USDA FOREST SERVICE: FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

SUFC urges the subcommittee to provide $303 million for the overall R&D program.

Urban and Community Forestry Research

The Forest Service Research and Development (R&D) program provides critical financial support for urban forestry research activities to develop information and tools for understanding conditions and trends in our Nation's urban and community forests. U.S. Forest Service researchers have made huge strides in recent years through collaborative efforts to develop new tools, such as i-Tree, for mapping current tree cover, assessing trends, developing local strategies, and building greater understanding of the environmental, economic, and social services that trees and forests provide to communities. *We urge the subcommittee to continue including language in Interior Appropriations reports encouraging the Forest Service to maintain a strong and vibrant urban forest research program.*

Non-native Insects and Diseases Research

Among the major research challenges facing R&D is the destruction of our Nation's urban forests caused by non-native insects and diseases. People who value urban forests join supporters of rural and wildland forests in depending on Forest Service R&D to develop better tools for pest detection and protective strategies including chemical and biological controls and breeding of trees resistant to pests. Currently, however, Forest Service research stations allocate only about $3 million for research on non-native insects and diseases—barely more than 1 percent of its total budget. *In the absence of a budget line item for invasive species research, we urge the subcommittee to include language in its Interior Appropriations report encouraging the Forest Service to increase funding for research targeting non-native insects and pathogens.*

Urban Forests in Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA)

The collaborative efforts between SUFC and the U.S. Forest Service brought urban forest data into the mainstream of the agency's national data-collection program. FIA has long provided the Nation's forest census, but it had not historically included urban areas because of its definition of forests. *We ask the subcommittee to encourage the Forest Service to continue and strengthen its efforts to integrate urban forest data into FIA so that its critical data-collection efforts address all of our Nation's forests, including our current and expanding 138 million acres of urban forest.*

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF)

Green infrastructure, including urban forests, can be a cost-effective and resilient approach to managing stormwater. The use of green infrastructure for stormwater control also provides many community co-benefits enumerated above. SUFC is pleased that EPA supports the use of green infrastructure for stormwater management and that green infrastructure is an eligible use under the CWSRF—a critical financing program for local communities investing in water infrastructure. CWSRF funding was maintained in the President's Preliminary fiscal year 2018 Budget proposal at the fiscal year 2017 level of $1.394 billion. *SUFC supports robust funding for CWSRF along with efforts to expand the use of green infrastructure to 20 percent to meet Clean Water Act goals.*

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLPP)

The State and Local Assistance Program provides matching grants to States and localities for protection and development of parks and recreation resources and is the primary Federal investment tool to ensure that families have easy access to urban forests in parks and open space, and neighborhood recreation resources. This nationally competitive program complements the existing State and local assistance program by creating opportunities for outdoor play as well as developing or enhancing outdoor recreation partnerships in cities. *SUFC requests $110 million for the State and local assistance program, which includes $12 million for ORLPP.*

SUFC MEMBERS

Alliance for Community Trees
American Forests
American Planning Association
American Rivers
American Society of Consulting Arborists
American Society of Landscape Architects
Arbor Day Foundation
Bartlett Tree Foundation
Center for Invasive Species Prevention
City Forest Credits
Green Infrastructure Center
International Society of Arboriculture
Keep America Beautiful
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Landscape Professionals
National Association of State Foresters
National Recreation and Park Association
OPEI Foundation
The Davey Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
Society of American Foresters
Society of Municipal Arborists
Student Conservation Association
Tree Care Industry Association
TREE Fund
The Trust for Public Land
Utility Arborist Association
Water Environment Federation

SUPPORTERS

Audubon Naturalist Society
California ReLeaf
California Urban Forests Council
Community Design Assistance, Virginia Tech
Leibman Associates, Inc.
Maryland Environmental Health Network
Maryland Forestry Foundation
Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee
Peninsula Urban Forestry LLC
Rachel Carson Council
ReLeaf Michigan
Shenandoah Valley Network
The Baltimore Tree Trust
Torrice Media
Trees Forever
Woodstock Tree Board

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

The Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony to the subcommittee regarding our priorities for fiscal year 2019 concerning appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health Service (IHS). We are grateful for this subcommittee's bipartisanship, reflected in the final fiscal year 2018 omnibus measure, Public Law 115–141, which Congress passed in March, and for the positive results the subcommittee has made possible in Alaska. We ask the subcommittee to build on its successes realized in the fiscal year 2018 budget when deciding on funding for BIA and IHS programs for fiscal year 2019.

TCC is a non-profit intertribal consortium of 37 federally-recognized Indian Tribes and 41 communities located across Alaska's interior. TCC serves approximately 18,000 Alaska Natives in Fairbanks where TCC headquarters is located, and in the rural villages in Alaska's vast interior, located along the 1,400 mile Yukon River and its tributaries.

To give you an idea of that great distance, Washington, D.C. is 1,400 miles from Oakley, Kansas, which Senator Moran represents. There's a lot of country between Washington, D.C. and Oakley, Kansas. Imagine how our 41 Alaska Native communities feel in Alaska's vast Interior. These villages are remote, often inaccessible by car. Alaska Native residents must overcome many challenges to sustain healthy communities, educate their children, ensure their health and safety, and care for their elders and themselves. This subcommittee, better than most, understands the great unmet needs in healthcare, public safety, education and job training faced by Alaska Native communities which struggle to provide essential services to maintain their members and culture.

About a year ago, across the capital, in a 2-day hearing held by your House counterparts, Congressman Tom Cole of Oklahoma laid out the stark truth; 2016 Federal per capita healthcare spending on Alaska Natives and American Indians, compared to Federal spending on Medicare, Veterans, and Medicaid recipients was "at the absolute bottom, and not by a little bit, but by a lot." The figures don't lie: $2,834 in per capita spending for IHS medical care expenditures per person versus $12,744 in Medicare spending for 2016. That is about four and-a-half times the per capita

expenditure level by the IHS. Federal appropriations for the IHS would need to more than triple just to match the per capita national health spending level of $9,990 per person. Congressman Cole could not understand the basis for the administration proposed cuts to IHS funding the administration proposed that year and neither could we. He stated that a $300 million cut in IHS funding was "not defensible or acceptable."

That is why TCC opposes the administration's fiscal year 2019 budget for IHS. The administration's fiscal year 2019 budget for IHS Services and Facilities totals $4.451 billion, which is $368 million below the $4.819 billion enacted by Congress for fiscal year 2018 for IHS Services and Facilities (excluding Contract Support Costs), which Congress passed a little over 1 month ago. TCC supports the recommendation of the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) to fully fund the IHS through the enactment of a true "needs based budget," phased in over 12 years, with at least a 33 percent increase (to $6.4 billion) in IHS funding for fiscal year 2019, as well as providing advance appropriations for the IHS. So long as the IHS budget is part of the Interior appropriation, such increases will remain our great collective challenge.

Nonetheless, we urge the Committee to continue its bipartisan work and increase fiscal year 2019 appropriations above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level to reduce continued healthcare disparities between Alaska Native and American Indians and non-Natives. According to the IHS:

—Alaska Natives and American Indians born today have a life expectancy that is 4.4 years less than the U.S. all races population (73.7 years to 78.1 years);

—Alaska Natives and American Indians continue to die at higher rates than other Americans in many categories, including chronic liver disease and cirrhosis (nearly 5 times the rate), diabetes mellitus (3 times), unintentional injuries (2.5 times), assault/homicide (2 times), suicide (2 times), and alcohol-induced death (7 times);

—According to a 2016 study examining behavioral health programs and Medicaid in Alaska: "Statewide gaps in the continuum of care combined with gaps in healthcare coverage perpetuate a cycle of crisis response and create costly inefficiencies."

—According to the CDC, the suicide rate among Alaska Natives is almost four times the U.S. general population rate and at least six times the national average in some parts of the State.

—According to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, in 2011, over 50 percent of some 4,500 reports of maltreatment substantiated by Alaska's child protective services, and over 60 percent of nearly 800 children removed from their homes were Alaska Native children.

We must stop this cycle of abuse and destruction. Alaska Native villages require the resources to build healthy families and communities. They do so by ensuring Alaska Native families have such basic necessities as housing, healthcare and public safety services. This subcommittee has worked in a bipartisan manner to increase funds for Alaska Native villages and Tribes in such areas in recognition of the great unmet needs faced by Alaska Native communities. When the administration requests so little funding for Tribal needs, it makes our job, as Tribal advocates, and your job, as Congressional appropriators, more difficult to obtain a greater share of fiscal year 2019 discretionary dollars for Tribal needs. For rural interior Alaska Native communities, facing a State budget deficit for fiscal year 2019, Federal appropriations make the difference between the success and failure of our efforts and, in turn, the wellness of our Tribal members. We have faith that this Committee will defend and increase fiscal year 2019 Federal funding levels for Indian Country.

1. IMPROVE TRIBAL HEALTH CARE QUALITY AND ACCESS (IHS)

Build on the fiscal year 2018 Enacted Budget for IHS. TCC greatly appreciates the nearly $500 million increase Congress included in the fiscal year 2018 enacted budget for the Indian Health Service, including a $244 million increase in funding for IHS Clinical Services, a $322 million increase in IHS Facilities funding, and full payment of Contract Support Costs. We are especially appreciative of the $33 million increase in Purchased/Referred Care (P/RC) for fiscal year 2018, $15 million for small ambulatory clinics construction, and $11.5 million for staff quarters, which is critical to our Tribal communities. TCC remains one of the only Tribal health entities in Alaska that does not have a regional hospital so our members are more dependent on village clinics to provide routine and emergency healthcare. We also rely heavily on P/RC funds. We also appreciate your acknowledgment that housing shortages in Alaska contribute to the high vacancy rates for medical personnel, especially in rural areas.

TCC cannot understand why the administration proposes in fiscal year 2019 to eliminate funding the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund (−$72 mil.), the Community Health Representatives program (−$62.8 mil.), the Health Education Program (−$19.8 mil.), or reduce funding for the Alaska Immunization program below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. Nor can we understand the administration cutting IHS Facilities program funding some $40 million below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level—and $362 million below the fiscal year 2018 level—when our needs are so great.

TCC greatly appreciates the administration including $150 million in the fiscal year 2019 budget for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) and $150 million for Alaska Natives and American Indians to fight the opioid epidemic. We recommend that this Committee, in report language, or Congress, in legislation such as the Senate HELP Committee's S. 2680, the "Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018," direct the IHS to allocate the 5 percent set-aside for Tribes in a manner similar to how the SDPI funds are now allocated, to ensure every Tribal community receives a share of the $25 million set-aside within the State Response to the Opioid Abuse Crisis funds.

With respect to the payment of full Contract Support Costs, we are appreciative of the Committee's use of an indefinite appropriation, as well as the Committee's direction to IHS in the fiscal year 2018 Conference Report that transfers of Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention Program and other funds be awarded to Tribes through Indian Self-Determination Act compacts and contracts, and not through separate grants, so that associated "administrative costs" will be covered through the contract support cost process.

The IHS has made its CSC policy, however, unduly complicated and we urge the subcommittee to continue to monitor that the agency faithfully implements direction from the subcommittee on this subject as well as Supreme Court holdings. Full payment of CSCs means just that and the IHS should not be permitted, by its policies, to undermine that essential goal.

2. EXPAND PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRIBAL COURT IN INTERIOR ALASKA

As our Chief and President, Victor Joseph, testified last year, we cannot stress enough the importance village leaders place protecting our children, and all Tribal members from sexual abuse, domestic violence and substance abuse. TCC is on record with numerous resolutions to express our members' exasperation over insufficient public safety services in our remote Alaska Native Villages. We cannot state it any clearer: Interior Alaska's rates of sexual abuse, domestic violence, and child rape are among the highest in the Nation. We have a crisis.

For that reason, we oppose the proposed cuts to the BIA budget included in the administration's fiscal year 2019 budget, a reduction of $600 million below the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of $3 billion, with a $409 million cut to the BIA Operation of Indian Program (OIP) programs, including a cut of $55 million to the Public Safety and Justice funds from the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. TCC urges the Committee to reject this budget.

We appreciate the Committee's $13 million appropriation in fiscal year 2018 for Public Law 280 courts and Conference Report language that expresses the Committee's "concern" about Tribal courts' needs identified in the Indian Law and Order Commission's November 2013 report, which highlighted the fact that "Federal investment in Tribal justice in 'Public Law 280' States [like Alaska,] has been more limited than elsewhere in Indian Country." The Committee directed the BIA to work with Tribes and Tribal organizations in Public Law 280 States to consider options that promote, design, or pilot Tribal court systems for Tribal communities that are subject to full or partial State jurisdiction under Public Law 280.

TCC has limited recurring funds to pay for our Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program which works in conjunction with Alaska State Troopers. Our VPSOs are the "First Responders in the Last Frontier" and they respond to emergency calls, fire, EMS and search and rescue. With limited funds for public safety, the role of Tribal Courts in Alaska Native villages is critical. It allows our villages to address public safety concerns at the community level and break the cycle of arrest, prosecution and incarceration.

We urge the Committee to provide increased funds for Public Law 280 courts so that we may better address public safety issues in our remote Interior Alaska Tribal communities. We also appreciate the $7.5 million in fiscal year 2018 BIA Public Safety and Justice funds to help people affected by opioid addiction.

3. EXPAND TRIBAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOB TRAINING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TCC continues its mission to assist hundreds of Tribal members in Fairbanks and in our Native villages with CDL classes, employment training in such areas as facility maintenance, flooring and cabinet installation, plumbing, plastic and cooper pipe fitting, wildland firefighting training, and cooking. With unemployment rates among Alaska Natives and American Indians multiple times the national unemployment rate of 4.1 percent, we cannot understand the lack of funding within the BIA's Community and Economic Development Programs, nor the administration's proposal to reduce fiscal year 2019 funding for Job Placement and Training by 33 percent, to $8 million. We appreciate the subcommittee including $12.5 million for fiscal year 2018 for job placement and training and hope that a portion of those funds reach Alaska Native Villages. There is great dignity in learning a trade and providing for your family.

Please provide meaningful increases to the BIA budget for these and related programs in fiscal year 2019 to help promote job creation in our rural Native villages where work is seasonal and unemployment remains high. Our current resources are simply inadequate to the task at hand.

Thank you for permitting the Tanana Chiefs Conference the opportunity to submit written testimony.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall,

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership is a national coalition of sportsmen, conservation, and outdoor industry organizations that seeks to ensure all Americans have access to quality places to hunt and fish. We partner with 56 hunting, fishing, and conservation organizations to unite and amplify the voices of America's more-than 40 million sportsmen and women whose activities help sustain the $887-billion outdoor recreation economy.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter in support of the critical programs and initiatives within the Department of Interior (DOI) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that conserve fish and wildlife habitat, protect clean water flows, combat invasive species, and preserve recreational opportunities for generations to come.

As your subcommittee drafts fiscal year 2019 spending legislation for DOI and the EPA, we ask you to consider our recommendations below which we believe would constitute sound stewardship of our country's natural resources. Specifically, we support the following:

302(b) allocation increase: TRCP is encouraged by the fiscal relief provided by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which provided a roughly 12-percent increase in non-defense discretionary spending for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. In February 2018, TRCP submitted a formal request to full committee leadership for increases to each subcommittee's 302(b) allocation proportional to the overall non-defense increase. Given the nationwide conservation impact that relies on spending crafted in your subcommittee, *we urge the subcommittee to request an increase to its 302(b) allocation proportional to the overall non-defense increase.*

For each of the following line items, our requested funding level will generally reflect a 12 percent increase over fiscal year 2018 enacted appropriations. We believe this figure serves as a reasonable rule-of-thumb in light of the 12 percent non-defense discretionary funding increase provided by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

Land and Water Conservation Fund: Our organization's defining mission is to guarantee all Americans a quality place to hunt and fish, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund provides a direct source of funding to accomplish this goal. Since its establishment in 1965, the LWCF has been used to invest more than $16 billion in conservation and outdoor recreation by establishing new public fishing areas, opening new access to landlocked public lands, and acquiring land specifically to benefit fish, wildlife, and the sporting public. While TRCP and its partners continue to build support for permanent reauthorization of the LWCF prior to the program's expiration this year, we strong encourage the subcommittee to provide strong and stable funding for the program.

We request $476,000,000 in funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

EPA Geographic Programs: TRCP sincerely thanks Congress for robustly funding EPA's Geographic Programs in fiscal year 2018, in light of the administration's budget request which zeroed-out these critical programs. The EPA Geographic Pro-

grams provide necessary Federal investments, leveraged several-fold by State and local dollars, to improve the quality of water and wetlands habitat for fish and wildlife, such as menhaden, Canadian geese, and other game species, of great import to the sportsmen's community, among other purposes.

We request $500,000,000 in total for the EPA Geographic Programs.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF): This program is the basis for critical partnerships between States and the Federal Government that allows States to address their highest priority water quality needs. We support the program's efforts to fund nature-based infrastructure and water quality improvement projects, as well as its work to protect estuaries. CWSRF projects are key to ensuring fish and wildlife habitats are maintained.

We request $1,561,153,000 for the EPA Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

Wetlands Program Development Grants: These categorical grants allow State, Tribal, and local governments to protect, manage, and restore wetlands, and they are an important component of any infrastructure investment. This voluntary program is crucial for restoration of a former or degraded wetland's restoration to their former States. In Colorado alone, these funds have helped to restore hundreds of thousands of acres of wildlife habitat and over 200 miles of streams.

We request $16,420,000 for EPA's Wetlands Program Development grants.

Nonpoint Source (Section 319) Grants: Today, more streams are impaired due to nonpoint sources of pollution than by point sources, which makes the Nonpoint Source Grant program more important than ever. These funds are important for helping States to take watershed-based approaches to the restoration of waters harmed by nonpoint source pollution. Section 319 grants have been used partially or fully to restore 674 waterbodies, including the Corsica River Tributaries, which significantly decreased nutrient discharges into the Chesapeake Bay, and the Lower Rio Blanco, which provided year-long trout habitat.

We request $191,425,000 for EPA's Section 319 grants.

National Estuary Program and Coastal Waterways: The National Estuary Program at EPA works to protect 28 key estuaries around the United States, including the Puget Sound, an important area to anglers that is home to cutthroat trout and salmon. This program works with State and local agencies as well as local nonprofits to create Comprehensive Conservation Management Plans that protect and improve the water quality and ecological integrity of each estuary. TRCP supports robust funding for this program. Without these funds, the progress made to rehabilitate these estuaries will be lost.

We request $29,930,000 for the National Estuary and Coastal Waterways Program.

Water Quality Research and Support Grants: As water supplies become more stressed due to increased demand on a limited supply, it is key to have the science and tools available to develop sustainable solutions to water management issues. The EPA's Water Quality Research and Support Grants help ensure water quality and availability for people and fish and wildlife habitat. The Chesapeake Bay, in particular, has benefited greatly from this program since two ongoing studies are working to decrease pollution that comes into the Bay. Ending this grant program would have long-term negative consequences for fish and wildlife that depend on the Chesapeake Bay.

Having been unfunded in the fiscal year 18 omnibus spending bill, we request the EPA's Water Quality Research and Support Grants program to be fully funded at its authorized level.

Hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreationists carry on long held traditions that contribute greatly to our Nation's culture while providing a financial foundation for land and water conservation efforts. Outdoor recreation spending is an economic engine across the country—Alaska sees $7.3 billion annually in consumer spending, supporting 72,000 jobs, while in New Mexico those figures are $9.9 billion and 99,000, respectively. Effective management of our natural resources is necessary to enable the long term enjoyment of America's outdoors, and we believe that the investments requested above would constitute strong stewardship of those resources and enable future generations to maintain pursuit of our shared passions.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony, and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues as fiscal year 2019 spending legislation progresses through Congress.

Sincerely,

WHIT FOSBURGH
President & CEO

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE EMPLOYEES CONCERNING THE NEW TELEWORK POLICY

DEAR COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Specifically Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue issued a new Telework Policy dated 01/04/2018; which severely limits the amount of time USDA employees may telework from an alternate location. This appears to be directed at customer service type USDA positions; however, does not distinguished. This new policy also does not distinguish differences between permanent telework; which is full time from an alternate location, and routine telework, which is scheduled work from an alternate location less than full time.

Secretary Perdue and the USDA says, "USDA supports programs that improve air quality, reduce traffic congestion, reduce the cost of office space, and assist employees in managing their work and family life."[1] However, with Mr. Purdue's recent change in the Departments telework policy this appears not to be the case. Previously, eligible employees were able to telework up to 4 days per week, with at least 2 days per pay period working from their official duty location.

In the Departments updated telework policy, dated 01/04/2018, stipulates an employee must telework a MAXIMUM of 2 days per pay period. In addition, employees must work from their official duty location at least 4 days per work. So if an employee works a 10 hour compressed schedule 4 days a week, this policy essentially dictates that employee can no longer telework. This policy punishes employees who choose to have a solid work-life balance and accomplishes their assigned work from an alternate duty location.

There are many positions within USDA are customer facing, which need for staff to be in those offices; these positions should be identify and addresses separately. There are a vast range of position which are not customer facing and there is not a need for employees to be in one centralized office, regional office, or headquarters (HQ) office (i.e.; USDA staff, agency HQ staff, NASS, Compliance offices, OIG, OGC, Etc.).

Employees at all levels have made personal decisions regarding employment, work/life balance, where to live, etc. all based on the previous policy, U.S. Code, Public Law, etc. allowing telework to the maximum extent possible. "Each executive agency shall establish a policy under which eligible employees of the agency may participate in telecommuting to the MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE within diminished employee performance."[2] This new telework policy may violate the U.S. Code, if not in specific texts, at least in the spirit of the statute.

In the fiscal year 2016 Status of Telework in the Federal Government Report to Congress, the Acting Director stated; 'Telework is an important tool for promoting Government efficiency, performance, and emergency preparedness. I commend Federal agencies for the remarkable evolution of telework as a strategic tool in support of agency missions and in service to the American people."[3] This new policy will increase overhead costs including: office space rent, utilities, transit subsidies, etc. and the morale of employees will plummet. Many agencies have been using telework in the past years in order to accomplish their mission. With decreasing budgets, telework is a way to reduce overhead costs; which can be redirected to other programs or mission in order to better serve the agriculture community.

In the fiscal year 2016 State of Telework on the Federal Government Report to Congress,[4] the USDA identified goals for telework (Appendix 19) including Goal of employee recruitment, Goal of employee retention, Goal of improved employee attitudes, Goal of emergency preparedness, and Goal of reduced commuter miles. With

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[1] https://www.dm.usda.gov/employ/worklife/telework/index.htm.
[2] Public Law 106–346, § 101(a) [title III, § 359], Oct. 23, 2000, 114 Stat. 1356, 1356A–36.
[3] https://www.telework.gov/reports-studies/reports-to-congress/2017-report-to-congress.pdf.
[4] https://www.telework.gov/reports-studies/reports-to-congress/2017-report-to-congress.pdf.

this change to the USDA teleworking policy, there is no upside; the new policy will have a negative effect on all of these goals.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will address this new policy with the Department to gain an understanding of why this change was needed, why eligibility and specific direction was not left to the individual agency or staff leadership, the cost of this change among other questions.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY COALITION

The USGS Coalition appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony about fiscal year 2019 appropriations for the United States Geological Survey (USGS). *The USGS Coalition requests that Congress to fund the USGS at $1.2 billion in fiscal year 2019.* The requested funding would allow the agency to sustain current efforts in scientific discovery and innovation and to make strategic investments that will produce the impartial knowledge and decision support tools needed by decision-makers across the country.

Few modern problems can be addressed by a single scientific discipline. The USGS is uniquely positioned to provide information and inform responses to many of the Nation's greatest challenges. The USGS is an agency that has a distinctive capacity to deploy truly interdisciplinary teams of experts to gather data, conduct research, and develop integrated decision support tools that improve ecosystem management, ensure accurate assessments of our water quality and quantity, reduce risks from natural and human-induced hazards, deliver timely assessments of mineral and energy resources, and provide emergency responders with accurate geospatial data and maps.

The USGS Coalition is an alliance of more than 80 organizations united by a commitment to the continued vitality of the United States Geological Survey to provide critical data and services. Coalition members include scientific organizations, universities, businesses, and natural resource managers.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR THE NATION

The USGS plays a unique role within the Department of the Interior, conducting research across a broad array of scientific disciplines and providing data that informs responses to many of the Nation's greatest challenges. To highlight just a few examples, USGS scientists:

—Reduce risks from natural hazards—including earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, flooding, drought, and wildfires—that jeopardize human lives and result in billions of dollars in damages annually.

—Inform management of freshwater resources—both above and below the land surface—for drinking water, agriculture, and commercial, industrial, recreational, and ecological purposes.

—Inform sound management of natural resources on Federal and State lands, including control of invasive species and wildlife diseases that cause billions of dollars in economic losses. This information is shared with other Interior bureaus and State agencies to allow for adequate monitoring and management.

—Provide vital geospatial and mapping data used in economic development, environmental management, infrastructure projects, and scientific applications by States, Federal agencies, and the private sector.

—Help predict the impacts of land use and climatic conditions on the availability of water resources and the frequency of wildfires. The Landsat satellites have collected the largest archive of remotely sensed land data in the world, which informs agriculture production and our Nation's response to and mitigation of natural hazards.

—Help make decisions about the Nation's energy future by assessing mineral and energy resources—including rare earth elements, coal, oil, unconventional natural gas, and geothermal. The USGS is the sole Federal source of information on mineral potential, production, and consumption.

FUNDING

Over the years, Congress has worked in a bipartisan fashion to provide essential funding to the USGS. These efforts have paid dividends and helped the USGS provide answers to the challenging questions facing decision-makers across the country.

The fiscal year 2019 budget proposes cuts of up to 20 percent for the USGS. The proposed funding level for USGS is very troubling, as the agency has made numerous economies in recent years. Any cuts in fiscal year 2019 or beyond would come

at the expense of scientific programs. As a science agency, much of the USGS budget is dedicated to salaries and equipment that must be maintained and updated to ensure the continuity of data acquisition and that the data gathered are reliable and available for future scientific investigations. We believe that the leadership of the USGS is doing all they can, and has been for a number of years, to contain costs while continuing to deliver high quality science.

One strength of the USGS has been its partnerships with many other Federal agencies, States, local governments, and private entities. These relationships, however, should not be mistaken as a means to transfer Federal activities to other entities. The work of the USGS is uniquely tied to the agency, as shown in the following examples.

—Expected losses from natural hazards in the U.S. are approaching $6 billion per year. These losses can be significantly reduced through informed decisions guided by the most current and thoroughly-researched understanding of the hazards, risks, and cost of mitigation. The USGS Science Application for Risk Reduction Project was created to innovate the application of hazard science for the safety, security, and economic well-being of the Nation by directing new and existing scientific research toward addressing gaps in vulnerability to help communities build resilience to natural hazards.

—Precise elevation data is needed for a variety of applications, including farming, infrastructure construction, flood mitigation, and avian safety. The U.S., however, does not yet have national coverage of high-quality topographic data. Given its expertise in mapping, the USGS is the lead entity for the 3D Elevation Program, which will acquire precise national elevation data coverage within 8 years. The program is estimated to provide benefits worth $1.1 billion a year to government and private entities.

—Nearly half of America's drinking water comes from underground aquifers. The large size of some aquifers, which can span the boundaries of multiple States, puts them beyond the scope of local water authorities. The USGS is evaluating water quality in 20 principal aquifers as part of the National Water-Quality Assessment Project. The program is testing for contaminants, such as pesticides, pharmaceuticals, and other pollutants that threaten human health.

—A major geomagnetic storm has the potential to cause a continent-wide loss of electricity and substantial damage to power-grid infrastructure. Although these events are rare, they do occur, such as the 1989 geomagnetic storm that disrupted power to the entire Canadian province of Québec. The USGS monitors Earth's magnetic field at 14 ground stations across the U.S. This information is critical for utility companies, who use the resulting geoelectric hazard maps to assess the vulnerability of their systems and to mitigate the predicted damages, thereby preventing costly power outages.

—A potash mineral deposit worth $65 billion was identified in Michigan as a result of the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program. The initiative catalogs and archives geological samples acquired during oil, gas, and mineral exploration. The program is run by the USGS and helps States to preserve and inventory their geological samples and data. The rock samples from Michigan were entered into a national database, where mining companies discovered their existence and are now assessing the potential for mining potash in Michigan. Without USGS funding, these mineral samples and their potential for new revenue and jobs would likely not have been discovered.

—Recent research by the USGS identified the potential for avian flu to move between Europe and North America when migratory birds congregate in Iceland during their migration. Wildlife diseases threaten not only the ecosystem and economic values of wild animals, but can also jeopardize human health. The USGS has unique technical expertise for surveillance and diagnosis of wildlife disease, such as identifying a potential transmission route of a deadly disease.

CONCLUSION

We recognize the financial challenges facing the Nation, but losing irreplaceable data can increase costs to society today and in the future. Data not collected and analyzed today is data lost forever. This is particularly significant for environmental monitoring systems, where the loss of a year's data can limit the scope and reliability of long-term dataset analysis. Moreover, the United States Geological Survey has a national mission that extends beyond the boundaries of the Nation's public lands to positively impact the lives of all Americans. For these reasons, the USGS Coalition requests that Congress work to provide $1.2 billion for USGS in fiscal year 2019.

The USGS Coalition appreciates the subcommittee's past leadership in strengthening the United States Geological Survey. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

[This statement was submitted by Elizabeth Duffy, Chair.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE

United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) has for 49 years, and with the most basic of funding, provided postsecondary career and technical education and family services to some of the most impoverished high risk Indian students from throughout the Nation. Despite such challenges we have consistently had excellent retention and placement rates and are fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. We are proud of our role in helping to break generational poverty and in helping to build a strong Indian Country middle class by training the next generation of law enforcement officers, educators, medical providers, and administrators; however, the need is great and we need to expand our efforts. We are governed by the five Tribes located wholly or in part in North Dakota. We are not part of the North Dakota University System and do not have a tax base nor do we receive State-appropriated funds.

The funding requests of the UTTC Board for fiscal year 2019 Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)/Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) are:

—$11 million for the line item, Tribal Technical Colleges which compares to the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of $7.5 million and the administration's fiscal year 2019 request of $6.5 million. Of our requested amount, $6.8 million is BIE funding for our Indian Self-Determination Act contract.
—Continue fully funding Contract Supports Costs with establishment of permanent, full, mandatory-funding.
—Continue full funding for Tribal Grant Support Costs for tribally-operated elementary/secondary schools.
—Establishment of a tribally-administered Northern Plains law enforcement training center at UTTC.

Thank you for supporting forward funding for UTTC several years ago and for supporting the forward funding for the remaining Tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) in the fiscal year 2018 appropriations bill, which includes Tribal and BIE-operated colleges on this schedule.

TCUs are authorized under differing titles of the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Act and there are other statutory authorities for three institutions administered through the Bureau of Indian Education.

Base Funding. UTTC administers our BIE funding under an Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act agreement, and has done so for 41 years. The UTTC portion of the Tribal Technical Colleges line item should be $6.8 million based on an $11 million appropriation. Acquisition of additional base funding is critical to our struggle to maintain course offerings and services to provide educational services at the same level as our State counterparts. BIE funds are central to the viability of our core postsecondary education programs and overall mission as a TCU. The following examples provide three of our most successful areas of study directed at addressing workforce shortage areas.

The nurse shortage is one example and one reason why the Associate of Applied Science in Practical Nursing Program is the most popular program offered. Licensed practical nursing (LPN) positions are readily available in Bismarck, North Dakota, and throughout the Nation. Workforce development data project the need will continue to 2030 in part due to the aging population (Baby Boom), nurse retirement, and nurse faculty shortages. These factors result is nursing programs restricting student admission, as there are not enough faculty to meet the faculty/student ratio requirements of State Boards of Nursing.

Business related programs are the second most popular and are set up as 2 + 2 program with the associates degree setting the foundation for a bachelor's degree should the student wish to continue their education to the next level. A significant need for administrators and human resource personnel continues to exist throughout North Dakota and the Great Plains Regions among Tribal and non-Tribal communities.

Criminal Justice is setup much the same with associate's degree serving as the foundation for transition into the bachelor's degree program, and prepares graduates for employment as Federal, State, or Tribal law enforcement, in a variety of areas. A huge shortage of law enforcement officers exist throughout the Great Plains and throughout Indian Country. Graduates may also consider the oppor-

tunity to enter law as there is a significant shortage of law trained personnel within Tribal judicial systems. The Oil Boom brought significant resources to North Dakota communities; however, the financial impact also resulted in a significant increase in crime such as substance abuse (opioid, methamphetamine, and heroin) and the resulting social ills such as human trafficking and domestic violence. A partnership with Lake Region State College of the North Dakota University System is under development that will enhance both of our Criminal Justice programs through the sharing of faculty and resources.

Funding for United Tribes Technical College is a good investment. We have:

—Higher Learning Commission Accreditation through 2021. A campus site visit held in April 2017 indicated we have a firm foundation for furthering efforts as a data driven institution. We offer 1 diploma, 4 certificates, 14 Associate degrees, and 4 Bachelor degree programs of study (Criminal Justice; Elementary Education; Business Administration; Environmental Science and Research). Business Management, Criminal Justice, Medical Coding and General Studies are fully available and offered online. UTTC continues to be the only TCU in the country approved by the Higher Learning Commission to offer full programs online.

—Services including a Child Development Center, family literacy program, wellness center, area transportation, K–7 BIE-funded elementary school, tutoring, counseling, family and single student housing, and campus security.

—A projected return on Federal investment of 20–1 (2005 study).

—From 2016–2017, UTTC had a fall to fall retention rate of 38.4 percent and a 2017 fall semester persistence rate of 49 percent. Of the 68 graduates in 2017, 45 students were employed, for a placement rate of 66 percent. Additionally, 14 of those graduates continued their education.

—Students from 51 Tribes were represented at UTTC during the 2016—2017 academic year.

—Our students are very low income, and 69.6 percent of our undergraduate students receive Pell Grants in 2016–2017.

—An unduplicated count of 557 undergraduate degree-seeking students and 4 non-degree seeking students; 1,382 continuing education students; and 28 dual credit enrollment high school students for a total of 1,571 of all students for 2016–2017.

—A critical role in the regional economy. A North Dakota State University study reports that the five Tribal colleges in North Dakota made a direct and secondary economic contribution to the State of $192,911,000 in 2016 and UTTC had a $59.6 million dollar direct and secondary economic impact on the Bismarck/Mandan communities for the same period.

Contract Support Costs. As mentioned above, we administer our BIE funding through an Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act contract, and thus Contract Support Costs (CSC) are vital to us. We thank the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees for the recognition of the legal obligation the Federal Government has to pay Tribal contractors their full CSC. This has been an enormously important development for Indian Tribes. We appreciate that the last three appropriations acts place Contract Support Costs for the BIA and the Indian Health Service (IHS) in their own accounts and that they are funded at an indefinite amount, thus assuring full funding. Given that this funding status for CSC is year to year, we join with others in Indian Country in supporting a long-term legislative solution that will provide full and permanent funding for Contact Support Costs. Placing CSC funding on a mandatory basis is the logical resolution to a long-term solution for CSC that will also protect the programs funded on a discretionary basis in the BIA and IHS budgets.

Tribal Grant Support Costs for K–12 Tribally-Operated Schools. We have a BIE-funded elementary school on our campus, the Theodore Jamerson Elementary School, and thus many of our college students and their children attend school on the same campus. For these elementary schools, Tribal Grant Support Costs are the equivalent of Contract Support Costs for Tribes although authorized under different statutory authorities. We thank you for providing what is estimated to be full funding for Tribal Grant Support Costs in fiscal year 2018 ($81 million).

A Northern Plains Indian Law Enforcement Academy. We again ask Congress to seriously look at the problem of addressing crime in Indian Country with an eye toward the establishment of a campus-based academy for training of law enforcement officers at UTTC. We ask that you direct the Secretary of Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to work with the Northern Plains Tribes and others on the

timely development of a plan for the establishment of an academy to better serve the Tribes residing in the Northern tier of the United States.

Establishment of such an academy at UTTC continues to be strongly supported by the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association (GPTCA) via Resolution 5–1–20–16. The Resolution requests that the Secretary of Interior and the BIA consult with the Tribes on the details of a plan for establishment of the Academy. Cultural and legal differences further support why such training should be tribally-directed in order to be appropriate for the realities of Tribal communities within different parts of the Indian Country. North Dakota and other northern border regions have special problems relating to drug and human trafficking. Additionally, the expanded Tribal authorities under the Tribal Law and Order Act and the Violence Against Women Act, and the Murdered Missing Indigenous Women movement, only further the importance of trained law enforcement officers within our Tribal communities. State and national training resources would have an important role in this new endeavor. Given our Criminal Justice program, our location and our campus resources, we propose the establishment of a Northern Plains Indian Law Enforcement Academy.

Basic law enforcement training is currently provided through the BIA's Indian Police Academy in Artesia, New Mexico, which often has waiting lists. The BIA is depending on the basic training provided by State academies to supplement what is provided at Artesia. UTTC is well positioned with regard to providing both basic and supplemental law enforcement training. An academy at UTTC would allow Tribal people in the Great Plains and other nearby regions a more affordable choice for training locations while minimizing the distance and long separation of trainees from their families.

In short, the BIA should be utilizing and enhancing the resources of UTTC to make a real difference in the law enforcement capability in Indian Country. We can offer college credit to trainees, and our facilities include the use of a state-of-the-art crime scene simulator. Maintaining safe communities is a critical component of economic development for our Tribal Nations, and local control of law enforcement training resources is a key part of that effort.

We know Members of this subcommittee have made a point to visit places in Indian Country and we would love to be able to arrange for you to visit United Tribes Technical College. Thank you for your consideration of our requests. *Hecetu yedo.* (It is so)

[This statement was submitted by Leander R. McDonald, President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee, the Western Governors' Association (WGA) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on the appropriations and activities of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). My name is James D. Ogsbury and I am the Association's Executive Director. WGA is an independent organization representing the Governors of 19 western States and three U.S Territories in the Pacific. The Association is an instrument of the Governors for bipartisan policy development, information-sharing and collective action on issues of critical importance to the western United States.

The agencies within the subcommittee's jurisdiction wield significant influence over vast areas of the American West. Ninety-four percent of all Federal lands are located in the western States and the Federal Government owns over 46 percent of the land within active WGA States. The work of this subcommittee is of vital importance to Western Governors, as it establishes how these lands are managed and how Federal agencies interact with other levels of government and the public.

There is a certain level of tension between States and the Federal Government, one that is embedded in the very fabric of our Constitution. These different layers of government must have a close and productive working relationship to increase efficiencies and maximize returns on taxpayer investments. The promotion of a greater partnership between States and the Federal Government is central to the mission of WGA and is reflected in our Policy Resolution 2017–01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship, which I commend to your attention.

Western Governors are eager to work with the Department of the Interior (DOI) to improve its efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability through deliberate and thorough consideration of the anticipated effects of its proposed reorganization. Governors have urged and continue to urge DOI to engage in meaningful, substantive consultation with States' top-elected officials on departmental reorganization, in-

cluding the proposed revision of its regional office boundaries. Reorganization offers an excellent opportunity to improve State and Federal consultation, coordination, and communication.

The promotion of greater partnership between States and the Federal Government is central to the mission of WGA and a key theme of two ongoing WGA projects: the National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative and the Species Conservation and Endangered Species Act Initiative. Responsible forest and rangeland management can only occur when Federal, State and local stakeholders work collaboratively to increase the health and resilience of our lands. Likewise, fish and wildlife conservation, essential to preserving the heritage of the West, is only possible through the cooperative efforts of State and Federal officials across multiple disciplines.

The National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative has develop strategies to improve public land management regimes in the West. Western Governors are pleased that the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, addresses the pressing problem of "fire borrowing," by which funding for routine Federal land management activities has been transferred to firefighting activities. The measure also includes a number of forest management reforms, many of which are recommended by the WGA initiative. Western Governors appreciate your leadership in enacting these commonsense, bipartisan solutions to problems land managers face in Western States. I hope the Governors' recommendations will continue to inform congressional action to address these challenges.

Western Governors believe that States should be full partners in the implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and have the opportunity to participate in listing decisions, critical habitat designations, recovery planning and delisting decisions. The Act is premised on a strong State-Federal partnership. Section 6(a) of the ESA states that: "In carrying out the program authorized by the Act, the Secretary shall cooperate to the maximum extent practicable with the States." WGA submits that such cooperation should involve meaningful consultation opportunities for States to comment, participate, or undertake proactive measures before the Federal Government takes action under the ESA.

States possess primary authority to manage most fish and wildlife within their borders, and they are the principal recipients of economic benefits associated with healthy species and ecosystems. At the same time, species listings and their associated prohibitions and consultations can affect Western States' abilities to promote economic development, accommodate population growth, and maintain and expand infrastructure. Consequently, States should have the right to intervene in judicial and administrative proceedings regarding the ESA. Western Governors urge the subcommittee to support the legal standing of States to participate in administrative and judicial actions involving ESA that, by their nature, implicate State authority and resources.

For the past 5 years, the subcommittee has adopted report language directing Federal land managers to use State fish and wildlife data and analyses as principal sources to inform land use, land planning and related natural resource decisions. Western Governors are deeply appreciative of your commitment to promote a positive relationship between the States and the Federal Government in the use of wildlife data while respecting the limitations of State data privacy laws. Federal managers need data-driven science, mapping and analyses to effectively manage wildlife species and habitat, and in many cases States generate the best available wildlife science. Western Governors encourage coordination between Federal and State agencies on wildlife data collection to avoid spending scarce resources on duplicative data collection efforts.

With respect to funding levels of appropriated programs, WGA recommends the enactment and full funding of a permanent and stable funding mechanism for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program administered by DOI. PILT funding does not represent a gift to local jurisdictions; rather it provides important compensation for the disproportionate acreage of non-taxable Federal lands in the West. Similarly, payments under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) are critical to compensating communities whose timber industries have been negatively impacted by actions and acquisitions of the Federal Government. Western Governors hope that you will appropriate full funding for both PILT and SRS payments in fiscal year 2019.

Data for water management and drought response planning is critical to Western States. Western Governors request adequate funding levels for the Cooperative Water Program and National Streamflow Information Program, both administered by the U.S. Geological Survey. This data is integral to the water supply management decisions of States, utilities, reservoir operators and farmers. They are also used for flood forecasts and are, accordingly, essential for risk assessment and water

management. These two programs are important elements of a robust water data management framework in the Western States, and they provide needed support for drought mitigation efforts throughout the West.

Infrastructure management is another crucial element of drought response. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) provide necessary support for communities to maintain and enhance their water infrastructure. Western Governors' Policy Resolution 2017–04, Water Quality in the West, encourages adequate funding for SRFs.

Western Governors continue to be concerned about the number of wild horses and burros on BLM lands. This number is presently estimated to be almost triple the current Appropriate Management Level (AML). Overpopulation can degrade rangeland, causing harmful effects on wildlife and domestic livestock and threatened and endangered species habitat. WGA supports a process to establish, monitor and adjust AMLs for wild horses and burros that is transparent to stakeholders, supported by scientific information (including State data), and amenable to adaptation with new information and environmental and social change.

The spread of invasive quagga and zebra mussels continues to be a major threat to Western water resources. To combat this threat, Western Governors request that the BLM, FWS, and NPS are provided with both the resources and statutory authority required to implement mandatory inspection and decontamination of all high-risk watercraft infested with quagga and zebra mussels leaving waterbodies under their jurisdiction.

Western Governors previously expressed concern regarding the development of the EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) 2015 Clean Water Rule, as States were not adequately consulted by the agencies during the rulemaking process. EPA and USACE have recently begun efforts to promulgate new language to clarify the jurisdictional boundaries of the Clean Water Act and have taken positive steps to engage WGA and individual States with respect to this issue. WGA looks forward to working with the agencies to develop a new rule that takes into account the viewpoints of the Western Governors and adequately protects States' primary authority over the management and allocation of water resources.

States have exclusive authority over the allocation and administration of rights to groundwater located within their borders and are primarily responsible for protecting, managing, and otherwise controlling the resource. The regulatory reach of the Federal Government was not intended to, and should not, be applied to the management and control of groundwater resources. WGA encourages Congress to include express and unambiguous language protecting States' authority over groundwater resources in any water-related legislation, as well as clear direction to administrative agencies to respect such authority. Accordingly, WGA appreciates the language included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, addressing existing statutory authorities for groundwater protection. Federal agencies should work through existing State authorities to address their groundwater-related needs and concerns. Such collaboration will help ensure that Federal efforts involving groundwater recognize and respect State primacy and comply with all statutory authorities.

States also possess delegated authority from EPA to manage air quality within their borders. Congress and EPA should recognize State authority under the Clean Air Act (CAA) and accord States sufficient flexibility to create air quality and emissions programs tailored to individual State needs, industries, and economies. State CAA programs require financial support from Congress, yet funding has declined since the CAA's enactment. In addition, given the unique character of the West and the region's attainment challenges, funding should be appropriated for EPA to assist Western States in research on background, interstate and transported ozone. More frequent and intense wildfires are steadily reducing the West's gains in air quality improvement. Smoke from wildfires causes exceedances under NAAQS for particulate matter and ozone, impacting public health, safety and transportation. Smoke management programs and prescribed fire (which is managed according to State SIPs) can reduce these impacts but is currently underutilized.

Improving electricity transmission and distribution siting and permitting is also a priority of Western Governors. WGA encourages congressional direction to Federal departments and agencies to work with States on identifying infrastructure locations and expediting the permitting of facilities that improve the reliability and resiliency of electricity in the Western States.

Western Governors and Federal land management agencies deal with a complex web of interrelated natural resource issues. It is an enormous challenge to judiciously balance competing needs in this environment, and Western Governors appreciate the difficulty of the decisions this subcommittee must make. The foregoing rec-

ommendations are offered in a spirit of cooperation and respect, and WGA is prepared to assist you in discharging these critical and challenging responsibilities.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL

The Western States Water Council (WSWC) is a government entity and instrumentality of each and every participating member State, created pursuant to a Western Governors' resolution in 1965. Our mission is to ensure that the West has an adequate, secure and sustainable supply of water of suitable quality to meet its diverse economic and environmental needs now and in the future. The Council is currently comprised of 18 States, including the 17 Reclamation States and Alaska. Water is a vital resource the availability of which has and continues to circumscribe growth, development, economic opportunity and our social and environmental quality of life. The following Federal policies and programs in support of State water needs require adequate and continuing appropriations.

FEDERALLY RESERVED INDIAN WATER RIGHTS

The public interest and sound public policy require the resolution of federally reserved Indian water rights claims in a manner that is least disruptive to existing uses of water, and the negotiated quantification of Tribal water rights claims is a highly desirable process which can achieve quantifications fairly, efficiently, and with the least cost. Indian water rights settlements involve a waiver of both Tribal water right claims and Tribal breach of trust claims that otherwise could result in court-ordered judgments against the United States and increase costs for Federal taxpayers. The successful resolution of certain claims may require "physical solutions," such as development of Federal water projects and improved water delivery and application techniques to provide the Tribes with "wet" water.

The Western States Water Council urges the Congress to make a strong fiscal commitment for meaningful Federal contributions towards the negotiation and implementation of tribal water rights settlements that recognizes the trust obligations of the United States Government. Further, settlements are not and should not be defined as Congressional earmarks. In addition, settlements should be funded without a corresponding offset or cuts to some other Tribal or essential Interior Department programs.

RECLAMATION FUND

The Western States Water Council strongly supports the appropriation and use of receipts that accrue to the Reclamation Fund for their intended purpose of financing authorized western water projects and programs, including infrastructure related to Tribal water rights settlements. While Interior has identified needs totaling $1.5 billion for projects related to Tribal water rights settlements, only $100.7 million was requested for fiscal year 2019.

The unobligated balance in the Reclamation Fund at the end of fiscal year 2017 was $13.824 billion and is estimated to be $15.442 billion by the end of fiscal year 2019. This unobligated balance continues to grow larger and larger as Reclamation Fund receipts are in fact spent elsewhere for other Federal purposes contrary to the Congress' original intent. The unobligated balance essentially reduces Federal borrowing to finance other Federal expenditures.

Regarding funding for the U.S. Geological Survey, Council member States and political subdivisions have long been partners in cooperative Federal water data collection and analysis programs, particularly the Groundwater and Streamflow Information (streamgaging) Program, as well as the Water Availability and Use Science Program. The Council also strongly supports continuing the National Land Imaging Program, including existing thermal imaging capabilities, and expresses its strong support for the expedited construction and launch of Landsat 9. Many of our member States use the thermal infrared image data, archived and distributed by the USGS, to measure and monitor consumptive water use, particularly agricultural water use, now made available from Landsat 7 and Landsat 8.

The Council urges the Congress to give a high priority to the allocation and appropriation of sufficient funds for these critical, vital USGS water resources observation and data gathering and management programs, which benefit so many. Inadequate funding allows the programs and equipment to erode to the point that it threatens the quantity and quality of basic data provided to a myriad, growing and diffuse number of decisionmakers and stakeholders, with significantly adverse consequences. There is a serious need for adequate and consistent Federal funding to maintain, restore, modernize, and upgrade Federal water observation and data

management programs, not only to avoid the loss or further erosion of critical information and data, but also to address new emerging needs, with a primary focus on coordinated data collection and dissemination.

Further, the Council urges the Congress to maintain the Federal financial support for the State Water Resources Research Institutes program—as authorized by the Water Resources Research Act of 1964. Today's institutes and centers provide a research infrastructure that uses the capabilities of universities to greatly assist and provide important support to Western State water agencies in long-term planning, policy development and management of the increasingly complex challenges associated with water in the West.

EPA STATE REVOLVING FUNDS

Lastly, the Council urges the Congress to ensure that stable and continuing Federal appropriations are made to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) capitalization grants and State and Tribal Assistance Grants at funding levels that are adequate to help States address their water infrastructure needs. The SRF capitalization grants are leveraged with State contributions to offer financial assistance to cities, towns, communities, and others for the planning, design, construction and rehabilitation of drinking water and wastewater-related infrastructure. These programs are one of the principal tools that States use to pursue the goals of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. Many States and communities are struggling to meet their water and wastewater challenges in the face of growing populations and aging infrastructure. Any reductions in Federal appropriations for the SRF programs ignores the multitude of needs already facing a funding gap, as the program is oversubscribed. Additionally, State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG), including Performance Partnership Grants (PPG) and other grants, are critical to the support of State programs that assure that the Nation's drinking water and water quality remain safe for public health.

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight the importance of these programs.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

The Wilderness Society (TWS) represents more than 1 million members and supporters who share our mission to protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places. When deciding on funding that affects hundreds of millions of Americans, we urge you to consider the full economic, social, environmental and cultural value of the many programs overseen by our land management agencies.

Additionally, we urge that in crafting the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill you avoid harmful policy riders that damage our land, air, water and wildlife. Must-pass appropriations legislation is not the appropriate venue for unpopular policy provisions which undermine bedrock environmental laws like the Wilderness Act, Antiquities Act, Roadless Area Conservation Rule and Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

The laudable goal of returning to regular order on appropriations must not continue to be undermined by the attempted inclusion of harmful policy riders which would damage the environmental protections all Americans value. Their inclusion only serves to further compromise an already challenging appropriations process.

Lastly, with reported proposed funding freezes and continued combativeness on behalf of the administration when it comes to spending appropriated dollars, we urge Congress to use its full powers to prevent any slow-walking, impoundments or reallocations of appropriated funding, counter to the letter or intent of appropriations legislation, or otherwise detrimental to our environment

Prudent investments in critical conservation programs will provide jobs and protect the health and economic wellbeing of local communities. With a great deal of focus from the administration and several in Congress on deferred maintenance backlogs, we urge appropriators to keep in mind that proper investments now mean not having to find more complicated fixes later. Proper investment today prevents the maintenance backlogs of the future. We urge bold action in support of conservation funding for fiscal year 2019. Specifically, TWS recommends:

RECREATION AND PUBLIC LANDS

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Now in its second half-century, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) remains the premier Federal program to conserve our Nation's land, water, historic, and recreation heritage. It is a critical tool to protect national parks, national wild-

life refuges, national forests, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, and other Federal areas. The companion LWCF State grants program provides crucial support for State and local parks, recreational facilities, and trails. Full funding for LWCF will allow land management agencies to manage our public lands more efficiently and cost-effectively. This is in part achieved through strategic inholdings acquisition which reduces internal boundary line surveying, right-of-way conflicts and special use permits.

LWCF also funds two other important State grant programs—the Forest Legacy Program and Cooperative Endangered Species programs—that ensure permanent conservation of important forest lands and threatened and endangered species' habitat, as well as important wildlife and recreational habitat and ensures that public lands stay public for hunters, anglers, and other outdoor recreationists for generations to come.

—TWS strongly supports fully funding LWCF at the authorized level of $900 million. For fiscal year 2018, a discretionary funding level of $561 million would have funded the priority projects listed by the Department of Interior.

—We will also note that as of the date of this public testimony, the annual agency produced list of LWCF priority projects has not been released, bypassing the required 30-day deadline for said release. This is now a troubling trend under the Trump administration.

—The Land and Water Conservation Fund also must be reauthorized this year, as its authorization from 2015 expires September 30.

BLM National Landscape Conservation System

The National Landscape Conservation System (Conservation Lands), overseen by the BLM, comprises over 30 million acres of congressionally and presidentially designated lands and waters, including National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas and other designations. Stewardship of the Conservation Lands provides jobs for thousands of Americans while supporting vibrant and sustainable economies in surrounding communities. The Conservation Lands provide immeasurable public values from modest investments: outstanding recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, clean water, wilderness, and open space near cities.

—TWS strongly supported the fiscal year 2017 President's budget request level of $50.645 million for BLM National Monuments and National Conservation Areas. With increased budget caps, our NLCS lands should see increased investment to ensure we are appropriately investing in our lands and preventing the maintenance backlogs of the future.

BLM Wilderness Management

We want to call specific attention to the Wilderness Management program, housed within BLM's National Landscape Conservation System. The Wilderness program plays a critical role in supporting the agency's multiple use and sustained yield mission, emphasizing continued collaboration, public involvement and youth engagement.

—TWS strongly supports restoring BLM Wilderness funding to the fiscal year 2011 level of $19.663 million. The enacted level for BLM wilderness management is a step in the right direction, but still 7 percent lower than the fiscal year 2011 enacted level in raw dollars. To just keep the fiscal year 2011 level on pace with inflation the fiscal year 2018 request would need to be $21.036 million.

U.S. Forest Service Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness

The Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness program provides critical funding to improve recreational access to our national forests, give training and employment opportunities for youth and veterans, modernize and improve the recreational permitting process, and protect our cultural heritage. We recommend that funding for the Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness program be restored to support much needed trails maintenance, update signage, fight invasive species, restore watersheds, and monitor effects of climate change, among other critical needs.

—We urge Congress to support wilderness and recreation by restoring funding to the fiscal year 2010 level of $285.1 million for the Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness Program. Recreation is the most ubiquitous use of our forest lands, and accounts for more than half of all job and income effects attributable to Forest Service programs (over 190,000 jobs and $11 billion in spending effects by visitors).

BLM Recreation Resources Management

The Recreation Resources Management program provides critical funding to improve recreation access for all visitors to BLM lands, engage youth, promote public health, protect visitor safety and strengthen rural economies. Investments in the Recreation program will support increased access for all types of recreation by maintaining trails and roads, increased access for hunters and anglers to world class fish and game habitat, and small businesses, guides and outfitters through processing commercial recreation permits.

—TWS strongly supports funding the Recreation Resources Management program at $56.5 million in fiscal year 2019. This is a small increase over the currently enacted level and would support record and growing recreational use of public lands to ensure efficient processing of recreations permits, oversight, and visitor safety.

U.S. Forest Service Legacy Roads and Trails

The Legacy Roads and Trails (LRT) program provides essential funding to improve recreational access, advance collaborative watershed restoration projects, provide clean drinking water, and protect aquatic species. Legacy Roads and Trails works because it is targeted—taking aim at larger road projects that are not able to be fixed with general road maintenance dollars and which often require leveraging of non-Federal funds by collaborative partners. It is results oriented. And it creates high-wage jobs. In 2018, Legacy Roads and Trails celebrated its 10-year anniversary, and the program's accomplishments continue to accumulate: 19,201 miles of needed roads maintained and/or storm-proofed to increase their ability to stand-up during powerful storms and ensure access to Forest Service lands; 1,072 culverts replaced opening 650 miles of stream habitat for fish; 7,411 miles of unneeded roads decommissioned greatly reducing the delivery of sediment to streams, many of which supply drinking water to rural and urban towns and cities; 141 bridges constructed or reconstructed for safety; 5,392 miles of trails fixed helping to keep the $10.3 billion trail-contribution to the Gross Domestic Product intact; 800–1,200 jobs created or maintained on average annually; and $3.5 million per year reduction in annual road maintenance costs.

—TWS strongly supports funding Legacy Roads and Trails at $50 million, as an individual line-item distinct from other accounts. We remain concerned about the consolidation of LRT into the CIM account within the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus. The highest appropriation for LRT was in 2010 at $90 million, and still the need far surpassed the program's capacity. LRT provides tremendous returns, through leveraging other public and private funding, reducing future maintenance costs, and creating jobs and contributing to local economies.

ENERGY

Bureau of Land Management Oil and Gas Policy

TWS believes that our public lands should be treasured and maintained for the benefit of all Americans. As we continue to extract publicly owned resources—nearly 200 million acres of our public lands are currently available for leasing—BLM must do so with full funding for programs that support operational safety, inspections, and both environmental and fiscal stewardship. BLM funding should encourage balanced oil and gas development on public lands with natural resource benefits and recreation uses and ensure that public resources are fully and fairly valued for the American people.

—TWS supports the recently increased Oil and Gas Inspections level of $48.4 million, and increased Resource Management Planning level of $60.125 million.

Sage Grouse Conservation Plans

Ranchers and other Americans benefit from Federal assistance in managing sagebrush across the western United States. Congress should fully fund the sage-grouse conservation strategy, which helped to prevent a listing under the Endangered Species Act. Full funding for implementation is important for the recovery of this critical western game species and those who rely on its habitat for their livelihood.

—TWS strongly supports a funding level of $89.7 million in fiscal year 2019 to conserve and restore sage steppe habitat through the Bureau of Land Management.

Renewable Energy

TWS is a strong proponent of transitioning our country to a clean energy economy by developing our renewable energy resources responsibly. We believe renewable energy is an appropriate and necessary use of public lands when properly sited in

areas that avoid habitat, resource, and cultural conflicts. Identifying and avoiding conflicts early helps ensure projects are permitted more efficiently with limited impact on wildlands. TWS hopes the Department will continue to support a program that ensures our public lands play an important role in supporting renewable energy infrastructure through environmental review, suitability screening, and identification of low-conflict designated leasing areas where wind and solar projects are likely to succeed—an approach which cut permitting times in half in the Dry Lake solar energy zone outside of Las Vegas.

—TWS strongly supports increasing funding for renewable energy programs across the Department of Interior to $110.4 million in fiscal year 2018. This increase would provide sufficient staff capacity to ensure continued implementation of the wind and solar leasing rule, mitigation strategies, the Western Solar Plan and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. Implementation of these programs will facilitate efficient permitting for projects in designated leasing areas and identification of new designated leasing areas in regions with strong development demand. Finally, this funding should support the ongoing review of the West-Wide Energy Corridors to facilitate more efficient and appropriate siting and permitting for transmission lines to ensure greater access for clean energy development.

[This statement was submitted by Jonathan Asher, Senior Representative, Government Relations.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) would like to thank Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall and the Members of the subcommittee for providing this opportunity to submit testimony in support of funding in the Fiscal Year 2019 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies (Interior) Appropriations Act for the Multinational Species Conservation Fund (MSCF), Office of International Affairs (IA), Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), and Cooperative Landscape Conservation Program (CLCP) accounts at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS), the International Forestry program at the U.S. Forest Service (FS–IF), and on preventing any rider from being attached to the bill that would adversely affect the 4(d) rule revision on the African elephant that was approved by FWS in 2016. WCS is deeply concerned by the President's budget proposal, which seeks to retreat from many of the important investments this subcommittee has made in domestic and international conservation under the Chair's leadership.

WCS was founded with the help of Theodore Roosevelt in 1895 with the mission of saving wildlife and wild places worldwide. Today, WCS manages the largest network of urban wildlife parks in the United States led by our flagship, the Bronx Zoo. Globally, our goal is to conserve the world's largest wild places in 16 priority regions, home to more than 50 percent of the world's biodiversity. We manage more than 200 million acres of protected lands around the world, employing more than 4,000 staff including 200 Ph.D. scientists and 100 veterinarians.

The American conservation tradition is based on promoting sustainable use of our natural resources in order to preserve the world's species and environment for future generations. In recognition of the current fiscal constraints, it is important to note that effective natural resources management and conservation has indirect economic benefits, including contributing to local economies through tourism and other means. Internationally, by supporting conservation, the U.S. is increasing capacity and governance in developing nations and improving our own national security as a result.

FWS—Multinational Species Conservation Fund—$11.1 Million: Global priority species, such as tigers, rhinos, African and Asian elephants, great apes, and marine turtles, face constant danger from poaching, habitat loss and other serious concerns. MSCF programs have helped to sustain wildlife populations by controlling poaching, reducing human-wildlife conflict and protecting essential habitat—all while promoting U.S. economic and security interests in far reaching parts of the world. These programs are highly efficient, granting them an outsized impact because they consistently leverage two to four times as much in matching funds.

WCS has had great success on projects using funds from the MSCF. One grant awarded to WCS in fiscal year 2016 through the African Elephant Conservation Fund will support park protection and management in and around Southern National Park in South Sudan, an area that has suffered severe poaching and a lack of governance during the recent civil wars. WCS is grateful that the Committee ap-

propriated $11.1 million for the program in fiscal year 2018 and support an appropriation of the same amount in fiscal year 2019.

FWS—International Affairs—$15.8 Million: The FWS International Affairs (IA) program supports efforts to conserve our planet's rich wildlife diversity by protecting habitat and species, combating illegal wildlife trade, and building capacity for landscape-level wildlife conservation. The program provides oversight of domestic laws and international treaties that promote the long-term conservation of plant and animal species by ensuring that international trade and other activities do not threaten their survival in the wild. Within IA, the FWS Regional Programs for Africa, Eurasia, and the Western Hemisphere seek to address grassroots wildlife conservation problems from a broad, landscape perspective, building regional expertise and capacity while strengthening local institutions. WCS asks that the subcommittee maintains support for $15.8 million, equal to the fiscal year 2018 appropriation.

FWS—Office of Law Enforcement—$77.1 Million: The U.S. remains one of the world's largest markets for wildlife and wildlife products, both legal and illegal. A small group of dedicated officers at OLE are tasked with protecting fish, wildlife, and plant resources by investigating wildlife crimes—including commercial exploitation, habitat destruction, and industrial hazards—and monitoring the Nation's wildlife trade to intercept smuggling and facilitate legal commerce. As the United States developed and implemented a comprehensive strategy to combat the growing crisis of wildlife trafficking over the last 5 years, many of the new responsibilities placed on FWS are enforced by OLE, and WCS supports continuing to fund the agency at $77.1 million, and maintaining existing language that allocates at least $7.5 million for combating wildlife trafficking. Additional funding for the program will support their efforts to maximize the scope and effectiveness of FWS' response to the international wildlife trafficking crisis by strengthening forensic capabilities and expanding the capacity of their Special Investigations Unit. It will also ensure OLE has an adequate number of law enforcement agents deployed to enforce laws against wildlife trafficking in the U.S. effectively and allow the agency to continue to support coordinated law enforcement actions against wildlife trafficking overseas through the deployment of FWS attachés in targeted U.S. embassies.

FWS—Cooperative Landscape Conservation—$13 Million: Many of the domestic conservation programs in this bill provide funding to States to implement their conservation goals. But wildlife does not recognize political boundaries, and scarce conservation dollars can best be spent when effective planning and coordination takes place across entire ecosystems. The CLCP funds a network of 22 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives in the U.S. and Canada, which use a collaborative approach between Federal, State, Tribal and local partners to identify landscape scale conservation solutions and work collaboratively to meet unfilled conservation needs, develop decision support tools, share data and knowledge, and facilitate and foster conservation partnerships. Funding would maintain support for landscape planning and design that will improve the condition of wildlife habitat and improve resilience of U.S. communities. WCS encourages the Committee to appropriate $13 million for this program.

USFS—International Forestry—$9 Million: The U.S. economy has lost approximately $1 billion per year and over 200,000 jobs due to illegal logging, which is responsible for 15–30 percent of all timber by volume. The FS–IF program works to level the playing field by reducing illegal logging and improving the sustainability and legality of timber management overseas, translating to less underpriced timber undercutting U.S. producers. Through partnerships with USAID and the Department of State, FSIP helps to improve the resource management in countries of strategic importance to U.S. security.

With technical and financial support from FS–IF, WCS has been working to conserve a biologically rich temperate forest zone called the Primorye in the Russian Far East for over a decade, focusing on the Amur tiger and Far Eastern leopard and their habitat, species with approximately 400 and 35–40 individuals remaining the wild, respectively. Human encroachment, illegal logging, and widespread use of agricultural burning fracture and threaten the habitat of these endangered animals and increase human wildlife conflicts. Since the Amur tiger and Far Eastern leopard are dependent on large tracts of intact, functional forest ecosystems, WCS has been focusing on these two species as a means to address larger biodiversity conservation and scientific-technological capacity building goals throughout the region. WCS supports an appropriation of $9 million for fiscal year 2019, equal to the amount appropriated in the current fiscal year.

No Harmful Rider on Ivory: On the ground in Africa and elsewhere, WCS scientists continue to see, first-hand, the devastating impact poaching is having on elephants, rhinos, tigers, and other iconic species. A study published by WCS found that in 2012 alone, 35,000 African elephants were killed for their ivory—that is an

average of 96 elephants per day or one killed every 15 minutes. This finding is supported by a subsequent study which also found that 100,000 elephants were poached between 2011 and 2013. Both studies show that conditions are dire for the subspecies of African forest elephants, which has declined by about two-thirds in a little more than a decade. Poaching at these rates may mean the extinction of forest elephants in the wild within the next 10 years and the potential loss of all African elephant species in the wild in our lifetimes. Action must be taken now to prevent this catastrophe from occurring.

There is broad consensus that the stunning increase in poaching is due to one factor—the illegal sale of poached ivory in commercial markets around the world. The illegal trade in elephant ivory and other products, like rhino horns and tiger skins, is worth at least an estimated $8 to $10 billion annually, and because of the lucrative nature of this industry, evidence is showing increasingly that transnational criminal organizations and extremist groups that are involved in other major trafficking operations—drugs, humans and weapons—are engaged in wildlife trafficking as well.

There is no question that China is the largest market for illegal ivory. However, the United States is also one of the larger destinations, both for domestic consumption and as a transshipment hub for Asia. As part of Operation Crash, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Department of Justice have successfully arrested criminals and prosecuted cases in several States involving millions of dollars of illegal ivory and rhino horn. These busts are strong evidence that there is a domestic problem with illegal ivory, all of which is smuggled in from overseas and which frequently crosses State lines, placing it firmly under Federal jurisdiction.

In 2016, the FWS began enforcing the U.S. Ivory Ban, which closed loopholes in the that allowed commercial ivory sales that have enabled illegal ivory to be sold in the U.S. for decades. The rule requires sellers to demonstrate that ivory items qualify for an exemption from the law so consumers may be assured they are purchasing a legal product. It also tightens the existing, Congressionally-mandated ban on the import of most ivory, with some narrow exceptions, including ones for sport-hunted trophies and musicians travelling with instruments that contain ivory. The rule continues to allow the domestic sale of items such as bona fide antiques and, to accommodate the concerns voiced by many stakeholders, also allows the sale of items like firearms, knives, instruments and artworks that contain only a small amount of ivory. It is also important to note that nothing in the rule makes the possession of legally-imported ivory illegal.

Past Interior bills in the House contained a provision that would have blocked FWS from implementing the ban, forcing the continuation of a system that we know does not work and has been a contributing factor in the poaching of 100,000 elephants over the past 3 years. WCS is grateful that the Senate did not included a similar provision in its bills and appreciate that no adverse rider on the issue appeared in the final legislation that passed Congress. WCS encourages the subcommittee not to include the same or a similar rider in the fiscal year 2019 bill.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective and to make a case for maintaining investments in conservation in the fiscal year 2019 Interior, the Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. Conservation of public lands is an American tradition and, as far back as 1909, Theodore Roosevelt recognized that the management of our natural resources requires coordination between all nations. Continued investment in conservation will reaffirm our global position as a conservation leader, while improving our national security and building capacity and good governance in developing countries.

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PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

The Wildlife Society (TWS) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony concerning the fiscal year 2019 budgets for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Founded in 1937, TWS inspires, empowers, and enables wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitat through science-based management and conservation. Appropriations for the following programs within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies will affect the current and future status of wildlife and wildlife professionals in North America. To enable the appropriate use of science within these programs and beyond, TWS respectfully requests the following programmatic funding in fiscal year 2019.

FISCAL YEAR 2019 INTERIOR APPROPRIATION REQUESTS—THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Agency	Program	Fiscal Year 2018 Enacted	Fiscal Year 2019 TWS
FWS	State & Tribal Wildlife Grants	63.6M	70M
	National Wildlife Refuge System	486.6M	586M
	Ecological Services	247.8M	255M
	NAWCA	40.0M	40M
	NMBCA	3.9M	6.5M
	Partners for Fish and Wildlife	51.6M	54M
	Migratory Bird Management	48.4M	50M
BLM	Wildlife & Fisheries Management	115.8M	121M
	T&E Species Management	21.6M	48M
	Wild Horse & Burro Management	75.0M	80.6M*
USGS	Ecosystems Mission Area	157.7M	174M
	Cooperative Research Units	17.4M	24M
USFS	Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat	136.4M	140M
	Forest and Rangelands Research	297M	307M

*BLM Wild Horse & Burro Management funding request accompanies request to remove an associated policy rider.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program (STWG) is the Nation's only program that encourages developing and implementing State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs), thereby directly supporting States in preventing wildlife from being listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Collectively, STWG funds support strong partnerships among Federal, State, Tribal, private, and nonprofit entities that enable wildlife professionals to implement on-the-ground conservation activities that benefit over 12,000 at-risk species. Between fiscal year 2002 and fiscal year 2010, appropriations for STWG were greater than $70 million per year. Subsequent budget reductions in STWG, however, have not allowed this highly successful program to reach its full potential. The Wildlife Society sincerely appreciates the $1 million increase provided for State formula grants in the fiscal year 2018 omnibus and requests at least $70 million in fiscal year 2019 to reflect pre fiscal year 2011 funding levels. TWS also requests removal of the fiscal year 2018 omnibus explanatory statement language that requires administrators of this program to place the highest priority for funding on ESA candidate species. While many States already utilize STWG funding for ESA candidate species conservation as outlined in their SWAP, other States utilize in whole or in part other conservation dollars —such as Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds (i.e., Pittman-Robertson) or ESA Section 6 grants. Removing this language in the fiscal year 2019 appropriations package will ensure States have the flexibility to spend funds as efficiently as possible through a program that is already highly accountable to Congressional reporting requirements.

As a member of the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE), TWS requests at least $586 million for the National Wildlife Refuge System's (NWRS) operations and maintenance accounts in fiscal year 2019. The NWRS has long been an economic driver, generating approximately $4.87 in economic activity for every $1 appropriated by Congress. However, CARE estimates that NWRS needs at least $900 million in annual operations and maintenance funding to properly administer more than 560 refuge units, 38 wetland management districts, and 5 marine national monuments spanning over 850 million acres of land and water. Without adequate funding, ecosystems are not restored; invasive species are left unchecked; infrastructure for multiple use opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and biking are not realized; and illegal activities, such as poaching, are not curbed.

Through the Ecological Services Program (ESP), FWS works with diverse public and private partners to help identify species facing extinction and reduce threats to their populations so that the requirement of Federal protection can be removed. Wildlife professionals in FWS are working on new strategies to increase efficacy of ESP and reduce regulatory burdens on private partners. The Wildlife Society was encouraged by a $2 million increase in funding provided for the Recovery line item. To efficaciously move species through all components of the ESA listing and delisting process, TWS also requests at least $23 million for Listing, $106 million for Planning and Consultation, and $35 million for Conservation and Restoration.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) is a cooperative, nonregulatory, incentive-based program that has demonstrated success in maintaining

and restoring wetlands, waterfowl, and other migratory bird populations by conserving more than 33.4 million acres since 1989. This program has remained chronically underfunded despite its demonstrated effectiveness. The Wildlife Society greatly appreciates the $2 million increase in the fiscal year 2018 omnibus and asks that Congress again provide at least $40 million for NAWCA in fiscal year 2019.

Since 2002, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) has provided more than $62.2 million in grants to support 541 projects in 36 countries that enable wildlife professionals to conserve 386 migratory bird species on 4.2 million acres in the U.S., Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. Moreover, NMBCA has achieved a partner match ratio of nearly 4:1 despite requiring only a 3:1 match. The needs of U.S. migratory bird species and conservation efforts to keep these species common extends to landscapes far beyond U.S. borders. As a result, TWS recommends Congress increase funding to at least $6.5 million in fiscal year 2019 to achieve greater conservation results under the program.

TWS regularly expresses the importance of wildlife habitat on private lands. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (PFW) allows voluntary habitat restoration goals, aligned with identified strategic priorities, on private lands to be achieved through cost-efficient financial and technical assistance. For the role this program plays in improving private lands wildlife stewardship while working to preempt ESA listings through projects like the Monarch Butterfly Conservation Initiative, TWS requests at least $54 million for PFW in fiscal year 2019.

The Migratory Bird Joint Ventures (MBJV), part of FWS' Migratory Bird Management program, are locally-directed partnerships that develop and implement science-based habitat conservation strategies for all species of birds across North America. These partnerships have leveraged Federal funds at 31:1 to enhance and protect over 27 million acres of avian habitat. The Wildlife Society supports $50 million for Migratory Bird Management for enhancing and promoting MBJV.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The Wildlife and Fisheries Management (WFM) program maintains and restores fish, wildlife, and their habitat across a large portion of America's western landscapes. This includes projects to balance effects of multiple public land uses, such as energy development and livestock grazing, with needs of native species. With the continued expansion of energy development on BLM lands—and the associated mitigation challenges—TWS recommends Congress support the WFM program with at least $121 million in fiscal year 2019.

The Threatened and Endangered Species Management Program (TESM) allows wildlife professionals at BLM to meet the agency's responsibilities in recovering the over 480 ESA listed species that occur on BLM managed lands. Program funds also work toward conservation and recovery of the 31 ESA candidate species on BLM lands prior to ESA regulations being considered. In a March 2001 Report to Congress, BLM called for a doubling of the TESM budget to $48 million over 5 years to meet the needs of the program. Nearly 20 years later, this goal has yet to be met. TWS strongly encourages Congress to increase overall funding for TESM to $48 million in fiscal year 2019 to work toward recovery of ESA-listed species and to proactively conserve ESA-candidate species.

TWS recognizes free-ranging horses and burros in the U.S. as ecologically invasive, feral species. Free-ranging horse and burro populations on the range reached >82,000 individuals in March 2018, exceeding BLM's estimated threshold for ecological sustainability by over 50,000 animals. To achieve ecologically sustainable levels of horses and burros on BLM rangelands without substantial budget increases, the current policy rider limiting sale and/or destruction of unwanted or unadoptable wild horses and burros must be removed from the Interior Appropriations bill. Until Congress enables BLM to responsibly manage free-ranging horses and burros by removing this text from the appropriations bill, Federal funds will continue to be wasted warehousing nearly 50,000 animals, rather than spent on productive rangeland management activities. Given the current management direction Congress has provided to the BLM, TWS recommends $80.5 million in fiscal year 2019, thereby restoring fiscal year 2017 funding levels. The Wildlife Society recognizes that removal of this appropriations rider will ultimately allow this program's budget to be reduced. The Wildlife Society is encouraged to see Congressional interest in this program detailed in the fiscal year 2018 omnibus explanatory statement, but we urge Congress to take the recommendations provided by the BLM and bodies such as the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board seriously when considering appropriated funds and associated riders.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

As a member of the USGS Coalition, TWS supports the critical and unique mission of USGS to provide objective scientific research and data collection on the complex environmental issues facing our Nation. TWS specifically requests at least $174 million for the Ecosystems Mission Area, which contains programmatic resources for fisheries, wildlife, environments, invasive species, and the Cooperative Research Units (CRU).

Within the Ecosystems Mission Area, TWS supports at least $24 million for the CRU program. This program fosters Federal, State, non-governmental organizations, and academic partnerships to provide actionable science tailored to the needs of wildlife managers on the front lines, and helps develop the next generation of wildlife professionals. These partnerships leverage more than three dollars in outside funds for every Federal dollar invested into the program. An increase of funding to $24 million would allow the CRUs to fill a record 36 CRU scientist vacancies (30 percent). These vacancies may continue to increase in scope if inflation-adjusted funding is once again neglected by Congress this fiscal year.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Improving the future health and sustainability of the Nation's forests and grasslands requires a strong investment in USFS Research and Development (R&D). Through long-term monitoring and collaborative research efforts with States and other partners, USFS R&D generates broad environmental and societal benefits, including an understanding of wildlife-habitat relationships for multiple species and communities that enables informed land management decisions. The Wildlife Society encourages Congress to increase funding for all Forest Service R&D to a minimum of $307 million in fiscal year 2018, including at least $224 million directed to Forest and Rangeland Research program areas exclusive of Forest Inventory and Analysis. Furthermore, TWS is concerned about the decrease in funding provided to USFS Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat in the fiscal year 2018 omnibus, and requests a return to fiscal year 2017 levels of $140 million.

[This statement was submitted by Dr. John E. McDonald, Jr., President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE YAKUTAT TLINGIT TRIBE

The Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (hereinafter "YTT" or "Tribe") makes the following requests for the fiscal year 2019 Indian Health Service (IHS) appropriations:

—Appropriate funds to fully cover Section 105(l) leases for healthcare facilities.
—Continue funding for the IHS Joint Venture Program and ensure that funds for staffing packages for completed programs are timely made available.
—Support funding for telecommunications connectivity in rural areas.
—Continue funding the Special Diabetes Program for Indians through mandatory, multi-year appropriations and continue funding other critical health programs, such as health education and Community Health Representatives.
—Continue to fully fund Contract Support Costs.

The Yakutat Tlingit Tribe appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on the fiscal year 2019 appropriations for several important programs. The Tribe is a federally recognized Indian Tribe located on the eastern shores of the Gulf of Alaska in the City and Borough of Yakutat, Alaska. We are in a very remote area 225 miles northwest of Juneau and 220 miles southeast of Cordova, Alaska, and can be accessed only by boat or air travel. Because of our geographic isolation, we believe it is absolutely critical that we are able to provide high quality health services in Yakutat. We currently operate the Yakutat Community Health Center (YCHC), at which we provide a substantial and increasing number of community healthcare services and counseling and prevention services.

The YCHC is funded in part through a community health center grant with the Health Resources and Services Administration, and we are a co-signer to the Alaska Tribal Health Compact under which we receive funding from the IHS under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act self-governance program. Other funding comes to us through the State of Alaska and third-party collections such as Medicaid and private health insurance, and we have for many years received funding from the Universal Service Administration Company to support our information technology needs to provide health services and maintain critical connectivity, including our tele-health services and coordination with Tribal health programs throughout Alaska. The City and Borough of Yakutat operates a volunteer Emergency Medical Services squad, but the YCHC is the only healthcare provider

in the community. The Yakutat Borough is in a Medically Underserved Area and is designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area for medical, dental and mental health.

FUND SECTION 105(L) HEALTH FACILITY LEASES

While the YTT does not currently have in place a Section 105(l) lease with the IHS, we believe that being able to exercise that authority under the ISDEAA is imperative to the ability of the Tribe and other Tribes and Tribal organizations to being able to carry out health programs in a safe and effective environment. Tribes and Tribal organizations are increasingly relying on Section 105(l) leases to address chronically underfunded facilities operation, maintenance, and replacement costs. This is not just an issue in Alaska, as there are Tribes outside of Alaska who also desperately need funding for their healthcare facilities.

However, the administration is again asking this year that Congress amend the ISDEAA so that the IHS does not have to fully fund such leases. The IHS's proposed bill language, which appears in the IHS Administrative Provisions, would effectively overturn the Federal court's decision in *Maniilaq Association v. Burwell,* 170 F. Supp. 3d 243 (D.D.C. 2016), in which the court found that Section 105(l) of the ISDEAA requires full compensation for leases of Tribal facilities used to carry out ISDEAA agreements. Funding such leases should not be placed wholly in IHS's discretion as it proposes. We thus ask that the IHS's proposed amendment to the ISDEAA not be included in the fiscal year 2019 appropriations bill, and that it be rejected just as it was when the administration made the same request last year.

FUND THE IHS JOINT VENTURE PROGRAM

The YTT is currently working toward building a new healthcare facility using its own Tribal funds. The Tribe is doing so under the IHS Joint Venture Program, authorized by Section 818(e) of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. The program involves a competitive pool of Tribes and Tribal organizations who agree to construct, acquire or renovate a Tribal healthcare facility while IHS commits to funding the initial equipment and a staffing package for the operation and maintenance of the new facility. The Tribe was selected for the program among a competitive pool of applicants, and has not only committed to constructing the new facility, but also to providing equipment funding. The IHS will thus be responsible under the program for providing recurring funding for staffing on completion of the construction project.

The new, 11,000 square foot facility will be built on land owned by the Tribe in Yakutat, Alaska. The facility will allow the Tribe to provide improved and increased health service delivery in our remote area, and we intend to expand our primary care services and dental care. We will also have space available for visiting specialty providers to use, as well as space for our health aides, behavioral healthcare providers, preventive care and our administrative staff.

The Tribe asks the subcommittees to support the continued funding for the IHS Joint Venture Program, and in particular asks that staffing funds be appropriated and made available to the IHS on a timely basis, so the Tribe can afford to open and staff the new facility on completion of construction without delay. Tribes like YTT have to commit far in advance to the construction costs and rely heavily on the funding for staffing to be available to them as quickly as possible on completion of the facility. Otherwise, it would be impossible for YTT to plan for and operate the new healthcare facility once it is complete. We need the security of knowing that the funding for staffing will be made available to us on a timely basis, so that we can advertise for and select new healthcare professionals and other staff needed for the expanded services, and to allow them time to relocate to Yakutat, Alaska.

SUPPORT TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONNECTIVITY FUNDING FROM USAC IN RURAL AREAS

Last year in our testimony on the fiscal year 2018 appropriations, we identified what we called a "potentially devastating development" related to the subsidy the Tribe receives from the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) for Internet service. The Tribe has for many years received a subsidy from USAC that pays for our Internet so that we can connect through satellite. The cost at more than $20,000 per month in the past would be prohibitive to our Tribal budget without the subsidies, which make it possible for the Tribe to instead pay around $500 a month.

That devastating development has now come to pass—the USAC has imposed a pro-rata reduction in Rural Health Care funding due to a funding cap, which is resulting in an $18 million unplanned shortfall for connectivity in Alaska for Tribal health programs this year alone. Nationally, we understand there will be a $50 mil-

lion cut to subsidies, meaning Alaska accounts for about one-third of the entire national cuts. It is expected to double next year, so the impact on Alaska Tribal programs could quickly rise to over $35 million. Because our connectivity is our lifeline for the provision of healthcare in Alaska, we are faced right now with trying to find funding out of our already limited budget, which will translate into greatly reduced healthcare services just to cover our Internet service costs.

While we understand this is not within the direct purview of these subcommittees, and this is a case that needs to be made with the Federal Communications Commission, this is such an imperative part of how we are able to carry out healthcare and related services in our rural community that it will have a devastating effect on our delivery of quality healthcare. We ask for the Subcommittees' support for lifting the cap and fully restoring the USAC subsidies to the Tribe and other Tribal health organizations throughout the State of Alaska.

MANDATORY FUNDING FOR THE SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS (SDPI)

The Tribe very much appreciates that Congress has reauthorized the SDPI through fiscal years 2018 and 2019 at the mandatory funding level of $150 million each year. The SDPI continues to provide critical funding for diabetes treatment and prevention programs for the Tribe's Alaska Native and American Indian patients. We continue to see significant outcomes in our community in terms of increased access to treatment and prevention services and decreased incidence of new diabetes diagnoses.

We are very concerned, however, that the President's budget for fiscal year 2019 proposes to move SDPI funding and a lot of other funding under the Department of Health and Human Services from mandatory to discretionary status, meaning that the funding would have to come out of other appropriated funds within the subcommittees' allocations. While the Tribe understands that this change from mandatory to discretionary funding for the SDPI would require Congress to amend the law establishing the SDPI, we are adamantly opposed to such a change. It would not only result in the loss of multi-year authorizations, which are imperative for being able to plan for and appropriately staff continued diabetes programs in our community, but would threaten the continued existence of the funding into the future. We strongly recommend that the subcommittees reject this proposal and maintain the SDPI as mandatory funding.

On another issue related to the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2019, we understand the administration proposes to entirely discontinue funding for Community Health Representatives and health education, both of which are crucial IHS programs throughout Indian Country in general. We support continued funding for those programs, as well as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Community Services Block Grants, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—all of which have direct impacts on the quality of health in Tribal communities.

CONTINUE FULL FUNDING OF CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS (CSC)

As in previous years, the Tribe wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to Congress for fully funding CSC in the past three fiscal years, and for making it an indefinite amount that is in a separate account in both the IHS and Bureau of Indian Affairs' budgets. The full funding of CSC has made a significant different in our ability to successfully carry out our ISDEAA agreements and recognize our rights and responsibilities under self-governance.

We object, however, to the IHS's renewed proposal to reinstate restrictions from the fiscal year 2016 Appropriations Act, which we view as being contrary to the ISDEAA. The administration is again proposing that the "carryover" clause be read to deny the CSC carryover authority of the ISDEAA, and that the "notwithstanding" clause be used as a basis for IHS to deny CSC for IHS grant programs, like Domestic Violence Prevention, Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention and other grants that have been important to YTT's mission of serving its community. We appreciate that the subcommittees did not adopt the IHS's proposal in the past two fiscal years, and request that you again reject the proposal for fiscal year 2019.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of the concerns and requests made by the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe.

[This statement was submitted by John Buller, Chairman.]