

the rules and pass H.R. 2200, the CBRN Intelligence and Information Sharing Act, as amended.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on the afternoon of June 25, 2015, due to my attendance at a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall No. 388—"nay," rollcall No. 389—"yea."

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate reingross the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1735) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes."

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana). Without objection, the motion to reconsider the vote on the question of concurring in the matter comprising the remainder of title II of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1314 is laid on the table.

There was no objection.

## APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1735, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXII and by direction of the Committee on Armed Services, I move to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1735) an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas.

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees:

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. THORNBERRY, FORBES, MILLER of Florida, WILSON of South Carolina, LOBIONDO, BISHOP of Utah, TURNER, KLINE, ROGERS of Alabama, SHUSTER, CONAWAY, LAMBORN, WITTMAN,

HUNTER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Messrs. HECK of Nevada, WENSTRUP, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Messrs. LANGEVIN, LARSEN of Washington, COOPER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. TSONGAS, Messrs. GARAMENDI, JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will announce the appointment of additional conferees at a subsequent time.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on consideration of the H.R. 2822, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). Pursuant to House Resolution 333 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2822.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

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## IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2822) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, with Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to bring to the floor H.R. 2822, the fiscal year 2016 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

As we begin, I want to personally thank Chairman ROGERS for his leadership and support. Under his guidance, the Committee on Appropriations is again setting the standard for getting things done in the House. The Interior bill is the seventh appropriation bill to come to the floor so far this year.

I also want to thank the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), my good friend and ranking member, for her partnership and work on this bill.

Finally, I want to thank each of our subcommittee members for their efforts and the collegiality that continues to be the hallmark of our subcommittee's deliberations. Even though we may have differences of opinion within this bill, I greatly appreciate the Members' constructive contribution, and I mean that sincerely.

The committee has made very difficult choices preparing this bill. As reported by the Committee on Appropriations, the fiscal year 2016 Interior and Environment bill is funded at \$30.17 billion, which is \$246 million below the fiscal year 2015-enacted level and \$3 billion below the budget request. We have made a sincere effort to prioritize needs within our 302(b) allocation. I would like to point out a few of the highlights.

Again, this year, the committee has provided robust wildland fire funding. Fire suppression accounts at the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service are fully funded at the 10-year average level. The hazardous fuels program was increased by \$75 million to \$526 million in the fiscal year 2015-enacted bill, and that increase has been maintained in this bill.

This bill also continues critical investments in Indian Country, a non-partisan priority of the committee. Building upon the bipartisan work of the former subcommittee chairmen MIKE SIMPSON, Jim Moran, and Norm Dicks, this bill continues to make investments in education, public safety, and health programs in Indian Country.

Overall, funding for the Indian Health Service is increased by \$145 million, or 3 percent, while funding for the Bureaus of Indian Affairs and Education is increased by \$165 million, or 6 percent, from fiscal year 2015 levels, the largest percentage increase in this bill.

This bill provides full funding in fiscal year 2016 for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes, or PILT, payments. PILT payments are made to 49 of the 50 States as well as to the District of Columbia, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The bill provides \$2.7 billion for the National Park Service, including more than \$60 million in new funding, relating to the centennial of the Park Service.

We have also addressed a number of priorities within the Fish and Wildlife Service accounts. The bill funds popular cost-shared grant programs above the fiscal year 2015-enacted levels. It also provides additional funds to combat international wildlife trafficking, protects fish hatcheries from cuts and closures, continues funding to fight invasive species, and reduces the backlog of species that are recovered but not yet de-listed.

The bill provides \$248 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, programs that enjoy broad support—bipartisan support, for that matter. Some Members would prefer more funding; others would prefer less for LWCF. We have attempted to forge a middle ground that begins to return the emphasis of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to its original intent of recreation and State and local acquisitions.

Overall, funding for EPA is reduced by \$718 million, or 9 percent, from fiscal year 2015-enacted levels. Members from the Great Lakes region will be pleased to know that the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is maintained at the fiscal year 2015-enacted level of \$300 million. Rural water technical assistance grants and many categorical grants, including radon grants, are level funded at the fiscal year 2015 enacted level.

Again this year, there is a great deal of concern over the number of regulatory actions being pursued by the EPA in the absence of legislation and without clear congressional direction. For this reason, the bill includes a number of provisions to stop unneces-

sary and damaging regulatory overreach by the Agency.

Before closing, I would like to address the Endangered Species Act provisions in this bill. We have no interest in interfering with science or letting any species go extinct, but we are concerned about Federal regulatory actions lacking in basic fairness and common sense. The provisions in this bill address problems created by an ESA driven not by science, but by court orders that drain limited Agency resources and force the Department to cut corners to meet arbitrary deadlines. Nowhere is this more evident than with the sage-grouse.

□ 1300

States are rightfully concerned that a listing or unnecessarily restrictive Federal land use plans will jeopardize existing conservation partnerships with States and private landowners. These partnerships are necessary to save both the sagebrush ecosystem and local economies.

So long as sage-grouse are not under imminent threat of extinction, cooperative conservation must be given a chance to work. That is why this bill maintains a 1-year delay on any decision to list sage-grouse along with full

funding to implement conservation efforts.

House consideration of this bill is the next step in a long legislative process. I hope over the coming months we will come together, as we do each year, to find common ground. In that spirit, I look forward to continuing to work with Ms. MCCOLLUM and the Members of the House on both sides of the aisle.

In closing, I want to thank the staff on both sides for their hard work on this bill. On the minority side, I would like to thank Rick Healy, Rita Culp, Joe Carlile, as well as Rebecca Taylor. They have played an integral role in the process, and their efforts are very much appreciated.

On the majority side, I would like to thank subcommittee staff Kristin Richmond, Jackie Kilroy, Betsy Bina, Jason Gray, Darren Benjamin, and Dave LesStrang. I would also like to thank Ian Foley, Rebecca Keightley, Alexandra Berenter, and Tricia Evans on my personal staff for their great work.

Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill. It deserves the support of the Members of this body.

I reserve the balance of my time.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
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TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR					
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT					
Management of Lands and Resources					
Land Resources:					
Soil, water and air management.....	43,239	46,755	43,239	---	-3,516
Rangeland management.....	79,000	76,444	79,000	---	+2,556
Grazing administration management.....	---	16,500	---	---	-16,500
Grazing administration management offsetting collections.....	---	-16,500	---	---	+16,500
Forestry management.....	9,838	9,980	9,838	---	-142
Riparian management.....	21,321	22,784	21,321	---	-1,463
Cultural resources management.....	15,131	17,206	15,131	---	-2,075
Wild horse and burro management.....	77,245	80,555	77,245	---	-3,310
Subtotal.....	245,774	253,724	245,774	---	-7,950
Wildlife and Fisheries:					
Wildlife management.....	52,338	89,381	89,381	+37,043	---
Fisheries management.....	12,530	12,685	12,530	---	-155
Subtotal.....	64,868	102,066	101,911	+37,043	-155
Threatened and endangered species.....	21,458	21,567	21,458	---	-109
Recreation Management:					
Wilderness management.....	18,264	18,559	18,264	---	-295
Recreation resources management.....	48,697	56,851	48,697	---	-8,154
Subtotal.....	66,961	75,410	66,961	---	-8,449
Energy and Minerals:					
Oil and gas management.....	53,183	59,671	53,183	---	-6,488
Oil and gas permit processing.....	32,500	7,125	32,500	---	+25,375
Oil and gas inspection and enforcement.....	41,126	48,000	41,126	---	-6,874
Subtotal, Oil and gas.....	126,809	114,796	126,809	---	+12,013
Oil and gas permit processing fees.....	-32,500	---	-32,500	---	-32,500
Oil and gas inspection and enforcement fees.....	---	-48,000	---	---	+48,000
Subtotal, offsetting collections.....	-32,500	-48,000	-32,500	---	+15,500
Coal management.....	9,595	10,868	9,595	---	-1,273
Other mineral resources.....	10,586	11,879	10,586	---	-1,293
Renewable energy.....	29,061	29,356	29,061	---	-295
Subtotal, Energy and Minerals.....	143,551	118,899	143,551	---	+24,652
Realty and Ownership Management:					
Alaska conveyance.....	22,000	22,220	22,000	---	-220
Cadastral, lands, and realty management.....	45,658	51,252	45,658	---	-5,594
Subtotal.....	67,658	73,472	67,658	---	-5,814
Resource Protection and Maintenance:					
Resource management planning.....	38,125	59,341	46,125	+8,000	-13,216
Abandoned mine lands.....	16,987	19,946	16,987	---	-2,959
Resource protection and law enforcement.....	25,325	25,495	25,325	---	-170
Hazardous materials management.....	15,612	15,786	15,612	---	-174
Subtotal.....	96,049	120,568	104,049	+8,000	-16,519

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
<b>Transportation and Facilities Maintenance:</b>					
Annual maintenance.....	38,637	38,942	38,637	---	-305
Deferred maintenance.....	26,995	31,387	26,995	---	-4,392
Subtotal.....	65,632	70,329	65,632	---	-4,697
<b>Workforce and Organizational Support:</b>					
Administrative support.....	47,127	50,942	47,127	---	-3,815
Bureauwide fixed costs.....	91,010	93,645	91,010	---	-2,635
Information technology management.....	25,696	25,958	25,696	---	-262
Subtotal.....	163,833	170,545	163,833	---	-6,712
Challenge cost share.....	2,413	12,416	2,400	-13	-10,016
National landscape conservation system, base program..	31,819	48,470	31,819	---	-16,651
Communication site management.....	2,000	2,000	2,000	---	---
Offsetting collections.....	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000	---	---
Subtotal, Management of lands and resources.....	970,016	1,067,466	1,015,046	+45,030	-52,420
<b>Mining Law Administration:</b>					
Administration.....	39,696	39,696	39,696	---	---
Offsetting collections.....	-57,000	-56,000	-56,000	+1,000	---
Subtotal, Mining Law Administration.....	-17,304	-16,304	-16,304	+1,000	---
Total, Management of Lands and Resources.....	952,712	1,051,162	998,742	+46,030	-52,420
<b>Land Acquisition</b>					
Land Acquisition.....	14,226	30,384	2,500	-11,726	-27,884
Emergencies, Hardships, and Inholdings.....	1,616	1,616	1,000	-616	-616
Acquisition Management.....	1,904	2,000	1,750	-154	-250
Recreational Access.....	2,000	4,000	2,000	---	-2,000
Total, Land acquisition.....	19,746	38,000	7,250	-12,496	-30,750
<b>Oregon and California Grant Lands</b>					
Western Oregon resources management.....	101,423	95,255	98,248	-3,175	+2,993
Western Oregon information and resource data systems..	1,772	1,786	1,772	---	-14
Western Oregon transportation & facilities maintenance	9,517	9,602	9,517	---	-85
Western Oregon construction and acquisition.....	312	324	312	---	-12
Western Oregon national monument.....	753	767	753	---	-14
Total, Oregon and California Grant Lands.....	113,777	107,734	110,602	-3,175	+2,868
<b>Range Improvements</b>					
Current appropriations.....	10,000	10,000	10,000	---	---
<b>Service Charges, Deposits, and Forfeitures</b>					
Service charges, deposits, and forfeitures.....	32,465	31,050	31,050	-1,415	---
Offsetting fees.....	-32,465	-31,050	-31,050	+1,415	---
Total, Service Charges, Deposits & Forfeitures..	---	---	---	---	---
<b>Miscellaneous Trust Funds and Permanent Operating Funds</b>					
Current appropriations.....	24,000	24,000	24,000	---	---
<b>TOTAL, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT.....</b>	<b>1,120,235</b>	<b>1,230,896</b>	<b>1,150,594</b>	<b>+30,359</b>	<b>-80,302</b>
(Mandatory).....	(34,000)	(34,000)	(34,000)	---	---
(Discretionary).....	(1,086,235)	(1,196,896)	(1,116,594)	(+30,359)	(-80,302)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)  
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	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
<b>UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE</b>					
Resource Management					
Ecological Services (FY 2015 Structure):					
Endangered species:					
Candidate conservation.....	12,030	---	---	-12,030	---
Listing and critical habitat.....	20,515	---	---	-20,515	---
Consultation and HCPs.....	62,550	---	---	-62,550	---
Recovery.....	77,916	---	---	-77,916	---
Subtotal.....	173,011	---	---	-173,011	---
Habitat conservation:					
Partners for fish and wildlife.....	51,776	---	---	-51,776	---
Conservation planning assistance.....	33,014	---	---	-33,014	---
Coastal programs.....	13,184	---	---	-13,184	---
National wetlands inventory.....	4,861	---	---	-4,861	---
Subtotal.....	102,835	---	---	-102,835	---
Environmental contaminants.....	9,557	---	---	-9,557	---
Subtotal, Ecological services.....	285,403	---	---	-285,403	---
Ecological Services (Proposed FY 2016 Structure):					
Listing.....	---	23,002	10,257	+10,257	-12,745
Planning and consultation.....	---	108,943	100,787	+100,787	-8,156
Conservation and restoration.....	---	126,298	33,396	+33,396	-92,902
(National Wetlands Inventory).....	---	(4,871)	(3,721)	(+3,721)	(-1,150)
(Coastal Barrier Resources Act).....	---	(1,390)	(1,390)	(+1,390)	---
Recovery.....	---	---	87,480	+87,480	+87,480
Subtotal.....	---	258,243	231,920	+231,920	-26,323
Habitat conservation (Proposed FY 2016 Structure):					
Partners for fish and wildlife.....	---	52,393	51,776	+51,776	-617
Coastal programs.....	---	13,375	13,375	+13,375	---
Subtotal.....	---	65,768	65,151	+65,151	-617
National Wildlife Refuge System:					
Wildlife and habitat management.....	230,343	249,832	230,343	---	-19,489
Visitor services.....	70,319	76,792	70,819	+500	-5,973
Refuge law enforcement.....	38,054	38,959	38,959	+905	---
Conservation planning.....	2,988	2,665	3,023	+35	+358
Refuge maintenance.....	132,498	139,910	139,910	+7,412	---
Subtotal.....	474,202	508,158	483,054	+8,852	-25,104
Conservation and Enforcement:					
Migratory bird management.....	46,468	53,602	47,718	+1,250	-5,884
Law enforcement.....	66,737	75,423	73,772	+7,035	-1,651
International affairs.....	14,506	14,696	14,599	+93	-97
Science support.....	16,985	---	---	-16,985	---
Subtotal.....	144,696	143,721	136,089	-8,607	-7,632
Fish and Aquatic Conservation:					
National fish hatchery system operations.....	52,860	53,418	52,418	-442	-1,000
Maintenance and equipment.....	17,920	19,920	19,920	+2,000	---
Aquatic habitat and species conservation.....	76,668	74,152	70,250	-6,418	-3,902
Subtotal.....	147,448	147,490	142,588	-4,860	-4,902
Cooperative landscape conservation.....	13,988	17,869	6,994	-6,994	-10,875

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
<b>Science Support:</b>					
Adaptive science.....	---	15,159	5,259	+5,259	-9,900
Service science.....	---	16,516	6,468	+6,468	-10,048
Subtotal.....	---	31,675	11,727	+11,727	-19,948
<b>General Operations:</b>					
Central office operations.....	39,985	42,257	39,985	---	-2,272
Regional office operations.....	37,722	41,798	37,722	---	-4,076
Servicewide bill paying.....	35,227	35,898	35,177	-50	-721
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.....	7,022	7,022	7,022	---	---
National Conservation Training Center.....	21,965	25,830	22,914	+949	-2,916
Health benefits for seasonal employees.....	---	1,103	---	---	-1,103
Subtotal.....	141,921	153,908	142,820	+899	-11,088
Total, Resource Management.....	1,207,658	1,326,832	1,220,343	+12,685	-106,489
<b>Construction</b>					
<b>Construction and rehabilitation:</b>					
Line item construction projects.....	6,554	11,554	4,011	-2,543	-7,543
Bridge and dam safety programs.....	1,972	1,972	1,972	---	---
Nationwide engineering service.....	7,161	7,286	7,161	---	-125
Total, Construction.....	15,687	20,812	13,144	-2,543	-7,668
<b>Land Acquisition</b>					
Acquisitions.....	25,071	35,911	9,000	-16,071	-26,911
Emergencies, Hardships, and Inholdings.....	5,351	5,351	2,500	-2,851	-2,851
Exchanges.....	1,500	1,500	1,000	-500	-500
Acquisition Management.....	12,613	12,773	10,000	-2,613	-2,773
Highlands Conservation Act Grants.....	3,000	---	3,000	---	+3,000
Recreational Access.....	---	2,500	2,000	+2,000	-500
Land Protection Planning.....	---	465	---	---	-465
Total, Land Acquisition.....	47,535	58,500	27,500	-20,035	-31,000
<b>Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund</b>					
<b>Grants and administration:</b>					
Conservation grants.....	10,508	10,508	10,508	---	---
HCP assistance grants.....	9,485	7,390	9,485	---	+2,095
Administration.....	2,702	3,002	2,702	---	-300
Subtotal.....	22,695	20,900	22,695	---	+1,795
<b>Land acquisition:</b>					
Species recovery land acquisition.....	9,462	11,162	9,462	---	-1,700
HCP land acquisition grants to states.....	17,938	17,938	17,938	---	---
Subtotal.....	27,400	29,100	27,400	---	-1,700
Total, Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.....	50,095	50,000	50,095	---	+95
<b>National Wildlife Refuge Fund</b>					
Payments in lieu of taxes.....	13,228	---	13,228	---	+13,228
<b>North American Wetlands Conservation Fund</b>					
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund.....	34,145	34,145	35,000	+855	+855
<b>Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation</b>					
Migratory bird grants.....	3,660	4,160	3,660	---	-500

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
<b>Multinational Species Conservation Fund</b>					
African elephant conservation fund.....	1,582	2,582	1,832	+250	-750
Rhinoceros and tiger conservation fund.....	2,440	3,440	2,690	+250	-750
Asian elephant conservation fund.....	1,557	1,557	1,557	---	---
Great ape conservation fund.....	1,975	1,975	1,975	---	---
Marine turtle conservation fund.....	1,507	1,507	1,507	---	---
<b>Total, Multinational Species Conservation Fund..</b>	<b>9,061</b>	<b>11,061</b>	<b>9,561</b>	<b>+500</b>	<b>-1,500</b>
<b>State and Tribal Wildlife Grants</b>					
State wildlife grants (formula).....	49,124	51,000	49,124	---	-1,876
State wildlife grants (competitive).....	5,487	13,000	5,987	+500	-7,013
Tribal wildlife grants.....	4,084	6,000	4,084	---	-1,916
<b>Total, State and tribal wildlife grants.....</b>	<b>58,695</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>59,195</b>	<b>+500</b>	<b>-10,805</b>
<b>TOTAL, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.....</b>	<b>1,439,764</b>	<b>1,575,510</b>	<b>1,431,726</b>	<b>-8,038</b>	<b>-143,784</b>
<b>NATIONAL PARK SERVICE</b>					
<b>Operation of the National Park System</b>					
<b>Park Management:</b>					
Resource stewardship.....	317,207	351,242	321,483	+4,276	-29,759
Visitor services.....	242,986	276,935	251,447	+8,461	-25,488
Park protection.....	348,802	359,034	351,953	+3,151	-7,081
Facility operations and maintenance.....	697,312	848,944	731,355	+34,043	-117,589
Park support.....	489,462	498,373	491,569	+2,107	-6,804
<b>Subtotal.....</b>	<b>2,095,769</b>	<b>2,334,528</b>	<b>2,147,807</b>	<b>+52,038</b>	<b>-186,721</b>
External administrative costs.....	180,004	180,603	180,004	---	-599
<b>Total, Operation of the National Park System....</b>	<b>2,275,773</b>	<b>2,515,131</b>	<b>2,327,811</b>	<b>+52,038</b>	<b>-187,320</b>
<b>National Recreation and Preservation</b>					
Recreation programs.....	589	858	589	---	-269
Natural programs.....	13,560	13,743	13,560	---	-183
Cultural programs.....	24,562	25,502	24,562	---	-940
International park affairs.....	1,648	1,667	1,648	---	-19
Environmental and compliance review.....	433	440	433	---	-7
Grant administration.....	2,004	2,037	2,004	---	-33
Heritage Partnership Programs.....	20,321	9,952	19,671	-650	+9,719
<b>Total, National Recreation and Preservation.....</b>	<b>63,117</b>	<b>54,199</b>	<b>62,467</b>	<b>-650</b>	<b>+8,268</b>
<b>Historic Preservation Fund</b>					
State historic preservation offices.....	46,925	46,925	46,925	---	---
Tribal grants.....	8,985	9,985	8,985	---	-1,000
Competitive grants.....	500	30,500	5,000	+4,500	-25,500
New Grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities.....	---	2,500	---	---	-2,500
<b>Total, Historic Preservation Fund.....</b>	<b>56,410</b>	<b>89,910</b>	<b>60,910</b>	<b>+4,500</b>	<b>-29,000</b>
<b>Construction</b>					
<b>General Program:</b>					
Line item construction and maintenance.....	61,678	153,344	62,894	+1,216	-90,450
Emergency and unscheduled.....	3,855	3,855	3,855	---	---
Housing.....	2,200	2,200	2,200	---	---
Dam safety.....	1,248	1,248	1,248	---	---

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	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Equipment replacement.....	13,500	13,500	13,500	---	---
Planning, construction.....	7,266	16,520	7,266	---	-9,254
Construction program management.....	36,771	48,330	36,771	---	-11,559
General management plans.....	11,821	11,970	11,821	---	-149
<b>Total, Construction.....</b>	<b>138,339</b>	<b>250,967</b>	<b>139,555</b>	<b>+1,216</b>	<b>-111,412</b>
Land and Water Conservation Fund (rescission of contract authority).....	-28,000	-30,000	-28,000	---	+2,000
<b>Land Acquisition and State Assistance</b>					
<b>Assistance to States:</b>					
State conservation grants (formula).....	42,000	45,000	42,000	---	-3,000
State conservation grants (competitive).....	3,000	5,000	3,000	---	-2,000
Administrative expenses.....	3,117	3,161	3,117	---	-44
<b>Subtotal.....</b>	<b>48,117</b>	<b>53,161</b>	<b>48,117</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-5,044</b>
<b>National Park Service:</b>					
Acquisitions.....	23,475	34,818	9,000	-14,475	-25,818
Recreational Access.....	---	2,000	2,000	+2,000	---
American Battlefield Protection Program.....	8,986	8,986	9,000	+14	+14
Emergencies, Hardships, Relocations, and Deficiencies.....	3,928	3,928	2,500	-1,428	-1,428
Acquisition Management.....	9,526	9,679	9,250	-276	-429
Inholdings, Donations, and Exchanges.....	4,928	4,928	4,500	-428	-428
<b>Subtotal.....</b>	<b>50,843</b>	<b>64,339</b>	<b>36,250</b>	<b>-14,593</b>	<b>-28,089</b>
<b>Total, Land Acquisition and State Assistance....</b>	<b>98,960</b>	<b>117,500</b>	<b>84,367</b>	<b>-14,593</b>	<b>-33,133</b>
Centennial Challenge.....	10,000	50,000	20,000	+10,000	-30,000
<b>TOTAL, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.....</b>	<b>2,614,599</b>	<b>3,047,707</b>	<b>2,667,110</b>	<b>+52,511</b>	<b>-380,597</b>
<b>UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY</b>					
<b>Surveys, Investigations, and Research</b>					
<b>Ecosystems:</b>					
Status and trends.....	20,473	22,178	20,473	---	-1,705
Fisheries: Aquatic and endangered resources.....	20,886	25,422	19,886	-1,000	-5,536
Wildlife: Terrestrial and endangered resources.....	45,257	46,671	44,257	-1,000	-2,414
Terrestrial, Freshwater and marine environments.....	36,224	42,755	35,224	-1,000	-7,531
Invasive species.....	16,830	19,281	16,830	---	-2,451
Cooperative research units.....	17,371	19,992	17,371	---	-2,621
<b>Total, Ecosystems.....</b>	<b>157,041</b>	<b>176,299</b>	<b>154,041</b>	<b>-3,000</b>	<b>-22,258</b>
<b>Climate and Land Use Change:</b>					
<b>Climate variability:</b>					
Climate science centers.....	26,735	37,403	26,435	-300	-10,968
Climate research and development.....	21,495	26,656	20,495	-1,000	-6,161
Carbon sequestration.....	9,359	18,513	9,359	---	-9,154
<b>Subtotal.....</b>	<b>57,589</b>	<b>82,572</b>	<b>56,289</b>	<b>-1,300</b>	<b>-26,283</b>
<b>Land Use Change:</b>					
Land remote sensing.....	67,894	97,531	72,194	+4,300	-25,337
Land change science.....	10,492	11,725	10,492	---	-1,233
<b>Subtotal.....</b>	<b>78,386</b>	<b>109,256</b>	<b>82,686</b>	<b>+4,300</b>	<b>-26,570</b>
<b>Total, Climate and Land Use Change.....</b>	<b>135,975</b>	<b>191,828</b>	<b>138,975</b>	<b>+3,000</b>	<b>-52,853</b>



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	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
<b>Energy, Minerals, and Environmental Health:</b>					
Minerals resources.....	45,931	47,717	45,931	---	-1,786
Energy resources.....	24,895	28,068	24,895	---	-3,173
Contaminant biology.....	10,197	12,070	10,197	---	-1,873
Toxic substances hydrology.....	11,248	15,447	11,248	---	-4,199
<b>Total, Energy, Minerals, and Env Health.....</b>	<b>92,271</b>	<b>103,302</b>	<b>92,271</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-11,031</b>
<b>Natural Hazards:</b>					
Earthquake hazards.....	59,503	57,952	59,503	---	+1,551
Volcano hazards.....	25,121	25,709	25,121	---	-588
Landslide hazards.....	3,485	4,039	3,485	---	-554
Global seismographic network.....	4,853	9,799	4,853	---	-4,946
Geomagnetism.....	1,888	3,624	1,888	---	-1,736
Coastal and marine geology.....	40,336	45,230	40,336	---	-4,894
<b>Total, Natural Hazards.....</b>	<b>135,186</b>	<b>146,353</b>	<b>135,186</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-11,167</b>
<b>Water Resources:</b>					
Groundwater resources.....	11,348	---	---	-11,348	---
National water quality assessment.....	59,459	---	---	-59,459	---
National streamflow information program.....	34,901	---	---	-34,901	---
Hydrologic research and development.....	11,215	---	---	-11,215	---
Hydrologic networks and analysis.....	30,134	---	---	-30,134	---
Cooperative Water Program.....	57,710	---	---	-57,710	---
Water Availability and Use Science Program.....	---	46,758	40,919	+40,919	-5,839
Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program.....	---	73,533	69,707	+69,707	-3,826
National Water Quality Program.....	---	96,087	94,141	+94,141	-1,946
Water Resources Research Act Program.....	6,500	6,500	6,500	---	---
<b>Total, Water Resources.....</b>	<b>211,267</b>	<b>222,878</b>	<b>211,267</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-11,611</b>
<b>Core Science Systems:</b>					
Science, synthesis, analysis, and research.....	24,299	25,897	24,299	---	-1,598
National cooperative geological mapping.....	24,397	25,339	24,397	---	-942
National Geospatial Program.....	58,532	75,731	58,532	---	-17,199
<b>Total, Core Science Systems.....</b>	<b>107,228</b>	<b>126,967</b>	<b>107,228</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-19,739</b>
<b>Science Support:</b>					
Administration and Management.....	84,192	90,599	84,192	---	-6,407
Information Services.....	21,419	22,229	21,419	---	-810
<b>Total, Science Support.....</b>	<b>105,611</b>	<b>112,828</b>	<b>105,611</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-7,217</b>
<b>Facilities:</b>					
Rental payments and operations & maintenance.....	93,141	107,047	93,141	---	-13,906
Deferred maintenance and capital improvement.....	7,280	7,280	7,280	---	---
<b>Total, Facilities.....</b>	<b>100,421</b>	<b>114,327</b>	<b>100,421</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-13,906</b>
<b>TOTAL, UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.....</b>	<b>1,045,000</b>	<b>1,194,782</b>	<b>1,045,000</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-149,782</b>

**BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT**

Ocean Energy Management

Renewable energy.....	23,104	24,278	23,104	---	-1,174
Conventional energy.....	49,633	59,869	49,633	---	-10,236
Environmental assessment.....	65,712	68,045	63,212	-2,500	-4,833
General support services.....	15,002	---	15,002	---	+15,002
Executive direction.....	16,319	18,665	16,319	---	-2,346
<b>Subtotal.....</b>	<b>169,770</b>	<b>170,857</b>	<b>167,270</b>	<b>-2,500</b>	<b>-3,587</b>

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	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Offsetting rental receipts.....	-94,868	-92,961	-92,961	+1,907	---
Cost recovery fees.....	-2,480	-3,661	-3,661	-1,181	---
Subtotal, offsetting collections.....	-97,348	-96,622	-96,622	+726	---
=====					
TOTAL, BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT.....	72,422	74,235	70,648	-1,774	-3,587
=====					
<b>BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT</b>					
Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement					
Environmental enforcement.....	8,314	---	8,314	---	+8,314
Operations, safety and regulation.....	133,597	151,768	133,094	-503	-18,674
Administrative operations.....	15,676	18,268	15,676	---	-2,592
General support services.....	13,912	---	13,912	---	+13,912
Executive direction.....	18,227	19,736	17,358	-869	-2,378
Subtotal.....	189,726	189,772	188,354	-1,372	-1,418
Offsetting rental receipts.....	-50,412	-49,399	-49,399	+1,013	---
Inspection fees.....	-65,000	-65,000	-59,000	+6,000	+6,000
Cost recovery fees.....	-8,167	-7,808	-7,808	+359	---
Subtotal, offsetting collections.....	-123,579	-122,207	-116,207	+7,372	+6,000
Total, Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement.....	66,147	67,565	72,147	+6,000	+4,582
Oil Spill Research					
Oil spill research.....	14,899	14,899	14,899	---	---
=====					
TOTAL, BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT.....	81,046	82,464	87,046	+6,000	+4,582
=====					
<b>OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT</b>					
Regulation and Technology					
Environmental protection.....	91,832	91,880	91,832	---	-48
Permit fees.....	40	1,900	40	---	-1,860
Offsetting collections.....	-40	-1,900	-40	---	+1,860
Technology development and transfer.....	14,455	20,086	15,205	+750	-4,881
Financial management.....	505	711	505	---	-206
Executive direction.....	15,921	15,711	15,711	-210	---
Civil penalties (indefinite).....	100	100	100	---	---
Subtotal.....	122,813	128,488	123,353	+540	-5,135
Civil penalties (offsetting collections).....	-100	-100	-100	---	---
Total, Regulation and Technology.....	122,713	128,388	123,253	+540	-5,135
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund					
Environmental restoration.....	9,480	11,431	9,480	---	-1,951
Technology development and transfer.....	3,544	6,283	3,544	---	-2,739
Financial management.....	6,396	6,477	6,396	---	-81

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	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Executive direction.....	7,979	7,883	7,883	-96	---
State grants.....	---	---	30,000	+30,000	+30,000
<b>Total, Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.....</b>	<b>27,399</b>	<b>32,074</b>	<b>57,303</b>	<b>+29,904</b>	<b>+25,229</b>
=====					
<b>TOTAL, OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT.....</b>	<b>150,112</b>	<b>160,462</b>	<b>180,556</b>	<b>+30,444</b>	<b>+20,094</b>
=====					
<b>BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION</b>					
<b>Operation of Indian Programs</b>					
<b>Tribal Budget System</b>					
<b>Tribal Government:</b>					
Aid to tribal government.....	24,614	24,833	24,614	---	-219
Consolidated tribal government program.....	76,348	77,088	76,348	---	-740
Self governance compacts.....	158,767	162,321	158,767	---	-3,554
Contract support.....	246,000	272,000	272,000	+26,000	---
Indian self determination fund.....	5,000	5,000	5,000	---	---
New tribes.....	463	464	463	---	-1
Small and needy tribes.....	1,845	3,095	1,845	---	-1,250
Road maintenance.....	26,461	26,693	26,693	+232	---
Tribal government program oversight.....	8,181	12,273	8,181	---	-4,092
<b>Subtotal.....</b>	<b>547,679</b>	<b>583,767</b>	<b>573,911</b>	<b>+26,232</b>	<b>-9,856</b>
<b>Human Services:</b>					
Social services.....	40,871	47,179	41,871	+1,000	-5,308
Welfare assistance.....	74,809	74,791	74,809	---	+18
Indian child welfare act.....	15,433	15,641	15,433	---	-208
Housing improvement program.....	8,009	8,021	8,009	---	-12
Human services tribal design.....	407	246	407	---	+161
Human services program oversight.....	3,105	3,126	3,105	---	-21
<b>Subtotal.....</b>	<b>142,634</b>	<b>149,004</b>	<b>143,634</b>	<b>+1,000</b>	<b>-5,370</b>
<b>Trust - Natural Resources Management:</b>					
Natural resources, general.....	5,089	8,168	5,089	---	-3,079
Irrigation operations and maintenance.....	11,359	12,898	11,359	---	-1,539
Rights protection implementation.....	35,420	40,138	35,420	---	-4,718
Tribal management/development program.....	9,244	14,263	9,244	---	-5,019
Endangered species.....	2,675	3,684	2,675	---	-1,009
Cooperative landscape conservation.....	9,948	30,355	9,948	---	-20,407
Integrated resource information program.....	2,996	3,996	2,996	---	-1,000
Agriculture and range.....	30,494	30,751	30,494	---	-257
Forestry.....	47,735	51,914	47,735	---	-4,179
Water resources.....	10,297	14,917	10,297	---	-4,620
Fish, wildlife and parks.....	13,577	15,646	13,577	---	-2,069
Resource management program oversight.....	6,018	6,066	6,018	---	-48
<b>Subtotal.....</b>	<b>184,852</b>	<b>232,796</b>	<b>184,852</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-47,944</b>
<b>Trust - Real Estate Services.....</b>	<b>127,002</b>	<b>143,686</b>	<b>125,817</b>	<b>-1,185</b>	<b>-17,869</b>
<b>Education:</b>					
Elementary and secondary programs (forward funded)..	536,897	565,517	550,034	+13,137	-15,483
(Tribal grant support costs).....	(62,395)	(75,335)	(75,335)	(+12,940)	---
Post secondary programs (forward funded).....	69,793	69,793	69,793	---	---
<b>Subtotal, forward funded education.....</b>	<b>606,690</b>	<b>635,310</b>	<b>619,827</b>	<b>+13,137</b>	<b>-15,483</b>

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	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Elementary and secondary programs.....	119,195	142,361	139,195	+20,000	-3,166
Post secondary programs.....	64,182	69,412	64,182	---	-5,230
Education management.....	20,464	57,381	30,956	+10,492	-26,425
Subtotal, Education.....	810,531	904,464	854,160	+43,629	-50,304
Public Safety and Justice:					
Law enforcement.....	328,296	334,976	331,304	+3,008	-3,672
Tribal courts.....	23,280	28,173	24,780	+1,500	-3,393
Fire protection.....	1,274	1,274	1,274	---	---
Subtotal.....	352,850	364,423	357,358	+4,508	-7,065
Community and economic development.....	35,996	40,619	40,505	+4,509	-114
Executive direction and administrative services.....	227,692	241,832	225,433	-2,259	-16,399
(housing improvement, road maint, etc. in bill lang)..	(48,553)	(46,663)	(48,785)	(+232)	(+2,122)
Total, Operation of Indian Programs.....	2,429,236	2,660,591	2,505,670	+76,434	-154,921
Construction					
Education.....	74,501	133,245	133,245	+58,744	---
Public safety and justice.....	11,306	11,306	11,306	---	---
Resources management.....	34,427	34,488	34,427	---	-61
General administration.....	8,642	9,934	8,642	---	-1,292
Total, Construction.....	128,876	188,973	187,620	+58,744	-1,353
Indian Land and Water Claim Settlements and Miscellaneous Payments to Indians					
White Earth Land Settlement Act (Admin) (P.L.99-264)..	625	625	625	---	---
Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Fund (P.L.96-420)(P.L.100-580)..	250	250	250	---	---
Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement (P.L.101-618)....	142	142	142	---	---
Navajo Water Resources Development Trust Fund (P.L.111-11).....	4,000	4,000	4,000	---	---
Navajo Gallup Water Settlement (P.L.111-11).....	9,000	17,800	15,556	+6,556	-2,244
Taos Pueblo Water Rights Settlement (P.L.111-291).....	15,392	29,212	29,212	+13,820	---
Aamodt Settlement (P.L.111-291).....	6,246	15,627	15,627	+9,381	---
Total, Indian Land and Water Claim Settlements and Miscellaneous Payments to Indians.....	35,655	67,656	65,412	+29,757	-2,244
Indian Guaranteed Loan Program Account					
Indian guaranteed loan program account.....	7,731	7,748	7,731	---	-17
<b>TOTAL, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND INDIAN EDUCATION.....</b>	<b>2,601,498</b>	<b>2,924,968</b>	<b>2,766,433</b>	<b>+164,935</b>	<b>-158,535</b>
DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES					
Office of the Secretary					
Leadership and administration.....	122,885	128,256	119,013	-3,872	-9,243
Management services.....	20,747	20,966	20,747	---	-219
New Coastal Resilience Fund.....	---	50,000	---	---	-50,000
Office of Natural Resources Revenue.....	121,631	128,717	125,519	+3,888	-3,198
Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).....	---	---	452,000	+452,000	+452,000
Total, Office of the Secretary.....	265,263	327,939	717,279	+452,016	+389,340

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	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
<b>Insular Affairs</b>					
<b>Assistance to Territories</b>					
<b>Territorial Assistance</b>					
Office of Insular Affairs.....	9,448	10,184	9,448	---	-736
Technical assistance.....	14,504	24,239	14,504	---	-9,735
Maintenance assistance fund.....	1,081	5,000	1,081	---	-3,919
Brown tree snake.....	3,500	3,000	3,500	---	+500
Coral reef initiative.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	---	---
Empowering Insular Communities.....	2,971	4,421	2,971	---	-1,450
Compact impact.....	3,000	1,344	3,000	---	+1,656
<b>Subtotal, Territorial Assistance.....</b>	<b>35,504</b>	<b>49,188</b>	<b>35,504</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-13,684</b>
American Samoa operations grants.....	22,752	22,752	22,752	---	---
Northern Marianas covenant grants.....	27,720	27,720	27,720	---	---
<b>Total, Assistance to Territories.....</b>	<b>85,976</b>	<b>99,660</b>	<b>85,976</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-13,684</b>
(discretionary).....	(58,256)	(71,940)	(58,256)	---	(-13,684)
(mandatory).....	(27,720)	(27,720)	(27,720)	---	---
<b>Compact of Free Association</b>					
Compact of Free Association - Federal services.....	2,818	2,818	2,818	---	---
Enewetak support.....	500	500	500	---	---
Compact payments, Palau.....	13,147	---	---	-13,147	---
<b>Total, Compact of Free Association.....</b>	<b>16,465</b>	<b>3,318</b>	<b>3,318</b>	<b>-13,147</b>	<b>---</b>
<b>Total, Insular Affairs.....</b>	<b>102,441</b>	<b>102,978</b>	<b>89,294</b>	<b>-13,147</b>	<b>-13,684</b>
(discretionary).....	(74,721)	(75,258)	(61,574)	(-13,147)	(-13,684)
(mandatory).....	(27,720)	(27,720)	(27,720)	---	---
<b>Office of the Solicitor</b>					
Legal services.....	59,091	63,167	58,500	-591	-4,667
General administration.....	4,971	4,982	4,921	-50	-61
Ethics.....	1,738	1,739	1,721	-17	-18
<b>Total, Office of the Solicitor.....</b>	<b>65,800</b>	<b>69,888</b>	<b>65,142</b>	<b>-658</b>	<b>-4,746</b>
<b>Office of Inspector General</b>					
Audit and investigations.....	37,538	39,503	37,538	---	-1,965
Administrative services and information management....	12,509	12,721	12,509	---	-212
<b>Total, Office of Inspector General.....</b>	<b>50,047</b>	<b>52,224</b>	<b>50,047</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-2,177</b>
<b>Office of Special Trustee for American Indians</b>					
<b>Federal Trust Programs</b>					
Program operations, support, and improvements.....	136,998	140,938	136,998	---	-3,940
(Office of Historical Accounting).....	(23,061)	(22,120)	(22,120)	(-941)	---
Executive direction.....	2,031	2,040	2,031	---	-9
<b>Total, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians.....</b>	<b>139,029</b>	<b>142,978</b>	<b>139,029</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-3,949</b>
<b>TOTAL, DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES.....</b>	<b>622,580</b>	<b>696,007</b>	<b>1,060,791</b>	<b>+438,211</b>	<b>+364,784</b>
(Discretionary).....	(594,860)	(668,287)	(1,033,071)	(+438,211)	(+364,784)
(Mandatory).....	(27,720)	(27,720)	(27,720)	---	---

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
<b>DEPARTMENT-WIDE PROGRAMS</b>					
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>					
<b>Fire Operations:</b>					
Preparedness.....	318,970	323,685	318,970	---	-4,715
Fire suppression operations.....	291,657	268,571	291,673	+16	+23,102
Subtotal, Fire operations.....	610,627	592,256	610,643	+16	+18,387
<b>Other Operations:</b>					
Fuels Management.....	164,000	148,279	164,000	---	+15,721
Resilient Landscapes.....	---	30,000	---	---	-30,000
Burned area rehabilitation.....	18,035	18,970	18,035	---	-935
Fire facilities.....	6,127	10,000	6,127	---	-3,873
Joint fire science.....	5,990	5,990	5,990	---	---
Subtotal, Other operations.....	194,152	213,239	194,152	---	-19,087
Subtotal, Wildland fire management.....	804,779	805,495	804,795	+16	-700
Total, Wildland fire management.....	804,779	805,495	804,795	+16	-700
<b>FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Account</b>					
FLAME wildfire suppression reserve account.....	92,000	---	92,000	---	+92,000
Total, all wildland fire accounts.....	896,779	805,495	896,795	+16	+91,300
Suppression Cap Adjustment.....	---	200,000	---	---	-200,000
Total, Wildland Fire Management with cap adjustment.....	896,779	1,005,495	896,795	+16	-108,700
<b>Central Hazardous Materials Fund</b>					
Central hazardous materials fund.....	10,010	10,011	10,010	---	-1
<b>Natural Resource Damage Assessment Fund</b>					
Damage assessments.....	2,500	2,063	2,475	-25	+412
Program management.....	2,192	2,466	2,170	-22	-296
Restoration support.....	2,075	3,607	2,054	-21	-1,553
Oil Spill Preparedness.....	1,000	1,100	990	-10	-110
Total, Natural Resource Damage Assessment Fund..	7,767	9,236	7,689	-78	-1,547
Working Capital Fund.....	57,100	74,462	56,529	-571	-17,933
<b>TOTAL, DEPARTMENT-WIDE PROGRAMS.....</b>	<b>971,656</b>	<b>1,099,204</b>	<b>971,023</b>	<b>-633</b>	<b>-128,181</b>
Appropriations.....	(971,656)	(899,204)	(971,023)	(-633)	(+71,819)
Disaster Relief cap adjustment.....	---	(200,000)	---	---	(-200,000)
<b>TOTAL, TITLE I, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.....</b>	<b>10,718,912</b>	<b>12,086,235</b>	<b>11,430,927</b>	<b>+712,015</b>	<b>-655,308</b>
Appropriations.....	(10,746,912)	(12,116,235)	(11,458,927)	(+712,015)	(-657,308)
Rescissions of contract authority.....	(-28,000)	(-30,000)	(-28,000)	---	(+2,000)
(Mandatory).....	(61,720)	(61,720)	(61,720)	---	---
(Discretionary without cap adjustment).....	(10,657,192)	(11,824,515)	(11,369,207)	(+712,015)	(-455,308)
(Disaster Relief cap adjustment).....	---	(200,000)	---	---	(-200,000)

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(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
<b>TITLE II - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY</b>					
<b>Science and Technology</b>					
Clean Air and Climate..... (Climate protection program).....	116,541 (8,018)	124,844 (8,124)	107,738 (8,018)	-8,803 ---	-17,106 (-106)
Enforcement.....	13,669	14,398	13,125	-544	-1,273
Homeland security.....	37,122	38,150	37,122	---	-1,028
Indoor air and Radiation.....	5,997	6,615	5,997	---	-618
IT / Data management / Security.....	3,089	3,196	3,089	---	-107
Operations and administration.....	68,339	79,170	68,339	---	-10,831
Pesticide licensing.....	6,027	7,691	6,027	---	-1,664
Research: Air, climate and energy.....	91,906	100,342	88,282	-3,624	-12,060
Research: Chemical safety and sustainability..... (Research: Computational toxicology)..... (Research: Endocrine disruptor).....	126,930 (21,409) (16,253)	140,722 (33,775) (15,417)	126,930 (21,409) (16,253)	--- --- ---	-13,792 (-12,366) (+836)
Research: National priorities.....	4,100	---	7,100	+3,000	+7,100
Research: Safe and sustainable water resources.....	107,434	111,022	102,576	-4,858	-8,446
Research: Sustainable and healthy communities.....	149,975	139,172	135,074	-14,901	-4,098
Water: Human health protection.....	3,519	3,766	3,519	---	-247
<b>Total, Science and Technology..... (by transfer from Superfund).....</b>	<b>734,648 (18,850)</b>	<b>769,088 (16,217)</b>	<b>704,918 (16,217)</b>	<b>-29,730 (-2,633)</b>	<b>-64,170 ---</b>
<b>Environmental Programs and Management</b>					
Brownfields.....	25,593	29,599	23,680	-1,913	-5,919
Clean air and climate..... (Climate protection program).....	273,108 (95,436)	336,907 (109,625)	247,472 (85,160)	-25,636 (-10,276)	-89,435 (-24,465)
Compliance.....	101,665	122,424	100,048	-1,617	-22,376
Enforcement..... (Environmental justice).....	240,637 (6,737)	269,256 (13,971)	226,656 (6,737)	-13,981 ---	-42,600 (-7,234)
Environmental protection: National priorities.....	12,700	---	12,700	---	+12,700
<b>Geographic programs:</b>					
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.....	300,000	250,000	300,000	---	+50,000
Chesapeake Bay.....	73,000	70,000	60,000	-13,000	-10,000
San Francisco Bay.....	4,819	3,988	3,988	-831	---
Puget Sound.....	28,000	29,998	28,000	---	-1,998
Long Island Sound.....	3,940	2,893	3,940	---	+1,047
Gulf of Mexico.....	4,482	3,908	3,908	-574	---
South Florida.....	1,704	1,340	1,340	-364	---
Lake Champlain.....	4,399	1,399	1,399	-3,000	---
Lake Pontchartrain.....	948	948	948	---	---
Southern New England Estuaries.....	5,000	5,000	---	-5,000	-5,000
Other geographic activities.....	1,445	939	---	-1,445	-939
<b>Subtotal.....</b>	<b>427,737</b>	<b>370,413</b>	<b>403,523</b>	<b>-24,214</b>	<b>+33,110</b>
Homeland security.....	10,195	10,274	10,195	---	-79
Indoor air and radiation.....	27,637	30,277	29,237	+1,600	-1,040
Information exchange / Outreach..... (Children and other sensitive populations: Agency coordination)..... (Environmental education).....	126,538 (6,548) (8,702)	155,678 (8,035) (10,969)	109,010 (6,548) ---	-17,528 --- (-8,702)	-46,668 (-1,487) (-10,969)
International programs.....	15,400	16,561	14,100	-1,300	-2,461
IT / Data management / Security.....	90,536	103,061	85,773	-4,763	-17,288
Legal/science/regulatory/economic review.....	111,414	138,786	90,503	-20,911	-48,283

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	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Operations and administration.....	482,751	505,402	480,482	-2,269	-24,920
Pesticide licensing.....	102,363	111,765	102,363	---	-9,402
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).....	104,877	111,242	104,877	---	-6,365
Toxics risk review and prevention.....	92,521	87,705	89,521	-3,000	+1,816
(Endocrine disruptors).....	(7,553)	(4,259)	(7,553)	---	(+3,294)
Underground storage tanks (LUST / UST).....	11,295	11,657	11,295	---	-362
Water: Ecosystems:					
National estuary program / Coastal waterways.....	26,723	27,310	25,098	-1,625	-2,212
Wetlands.....	21,065	23,334	19,882	-1,183	-3,452
Subtotal.....	47,788	50,644	44,980	-2,808	-5,664
Water: Human health protection.....	98,507	125,768	93,324	-5,183	-32,444
Water quality protection.....	210,417	254,299	192,550	-17,867	-61,749
Total, Environmental Programs and Management....	2,613,679	2,841,718	2,472,289	-141,390	-369,429
Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System Fund					
E-Manifest System Fund.....	3,674	7,368	---	-3,674	-7,368
Office of Inspector General					
Audits, evaluations, and investigations.....	41,489	50,099	40,000	-1,489	-10,099
(by transfer from Superfund).....	(9,939)	(8,459)	(8,459)	(-1,480)	---
Buildings and Facilities					
Homeland security: Protection of EPA personnel and infrastructure.....	6,676	7,875	6,676	---	-1,199
Operations and administration.....	35,641	43,632	27,791	-7,850	-15,841
Total, Buildings and Facilities.....	42,317	51,507	34,467	-7,850	-17,040
Hazardous Substance Superfund					
Audits, evaluations, and investigations.....	9,939	8,459	8,459	-1,480	---
Compliance.....	995	1,067	995	---	-72
Enforcement.....	166,375	173,263	160,375	-6,000	-12,888
Homeland security.....	36,362	33,767	33,767	-2,595	---
Indoor air and radiation.....	1,985	2,180	1,985	---	-195
Information exchange / Outreach.....	1,328	1,366	1,328	---	-38
IT /data management/security.....	14,485	15,642	14,485	---	-1,157
Legal/science/regulatory/economic review.....	1,253	1,241	1,241	-12	---
Operations and administration.....	128,105	137,340	125,525	-2,580	-11,815
Research: Chemical safety and sustainability.....	2,843	2,831	2,831	-12	---
Research: Sustainable communities.....	14,032	12,220	12,220	-1,812	---
Superfund cleanup:					
Superfund: Emergency response and removal.....	181,306	190,732	181,306	---	-9,426
Superfund: Emergency preparedness.....	7,636	7,843	7,636	---	-207
Superfund: Federal facilities.....	21,125	26,265	21,125	---	-5,140
Superfund: Remedial.....	501,000	539,618	515,491	+14,491	-24,127
Subtotal.....	711,067	764,458	725,558	+14,491	-38,900
Total, Hazardous Substance Superfund.....	1,088,769	1,153,834	1,088,769	---	-65,065
(transfer out to Inspector General).....	(-9,939)	(-8,459)	(-8,459)	(+1,480)	---
(transfer out to Science and Technology).....	(-18,850)	(-16,217)	(-16,217)	(+2,633)	---
Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund (LUST)					
Enforcement.....	620	627	620	---	-7
Operations and administration.....	1,352	1,681	1,352	---	-329
Research: Sustainable communities.....	320	348	320	---	-28



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Underground storage tanks (LUST / UST).....	89,649	92,670	89,649	---	-3,021
(LUST/UST).....	(9,240)	(9,409)	(9,240)	---	(-169)
(LUST cooperative agreements).....	(55,040)	(54,402)	(55,040)	---	(+638)
(Energy Policy Act grants).....	(25,369)	(28,859)	(25,369)	---	(-3,490)
<b>Total, Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund.....</b>	<b>91,941</b>	<b>95,326</b>	<b>91,941</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-3,385</b>
<b>Inland Oil Spill Program</b>					
Compliance.....	139	155	139	---	-16
Enforcement.....	2,413	2,424	2,413	---	-11
Oil.....	14,409	18,524	14,409	---	-4,115
Operations and administration.....	584	1,762	498	-86	-1,264
Research: Sustainable communities.....	664	513	485	-179	-28
<b>Total, Inland Oil Spill Program.....</b>	<b>18,209</b>	<b>23,378</b>	<b>17,944</b>	<b>-265</b>	<b>-5,434</b>
<b>State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)</b>					
Alaska Native villages.....	10,000	10,000	10,000	---	---
Brownfields projects.....	80,000	110,000	75,000	-5,000	-35,000
Clean water state revolving fund (SRF).....	1,448,887	1,116,000	1,018,000	-430,887	-98,000
Diesel emissions grants.....	30,000	10,000	50,000	+20,000	+40,000
Drinking water state revolving fund (SRF).....	906,896	1,186,000	757,000	-149,896	-429,000
Mexico border.....	5,000	5,000	5,000	---	---
Targeted airshed grants.....	10,000	---	20,000	+10,000	+20,000
<b>Subtotal, Infrastructure assistance grants.....</b>	<b>2,490,783</b>	<b>2,437,000</b>	<b>1,935,000</b>	<b>-555,783</b>	<b>-502,000</b>
<b>Categorical grants:</b>					
Beaches protection.....	9,549	---	---	-9,549	---
Brownfields.....	47,745	49,500	47,745	---	-1,755
Environmental information.....	9,646	25,346	9,646	---	-15,700
Hazardous waste financial assistance.....	99,693	99,693	99,693	---	---
Lead.....	14,049	14,049	14,049	---	---
Nonpoint source (Sec. 319).....	159,252	164,915	159,252	---	-5,663
Pesticides enforcement.....	18,050	18,050	18,050	---	---
Pesticides program implementation.....	12,701	13,201	12,701	---	-500
Pollution control (Sec. 106).....	230,806	249,164	230,806	---	-18,358
(Water quality monitoring).....	(17,848)	(18,500)	(17,848)	---	(-652)
Pollution prevention.....	4,765	4,765	4,765	---	---
Public water system supervision.....	101,963	109,700	101,963	---	-7,737
Radon.....	8,051	---	8,051	---	+8,051
State and local air quality management.....	228,219	268,229	228,219	---	-40,010
Toxics substances compliance.....	4,919	4,919	4,919	---	---
Tribal air quality management.....	12,829	12,829	12,829	---	---
Tribal general assistance program.....	65,476	96,375	65,476	---	-30,899
Underground injection control (UIC).....	10,506	10,506	10,506	---	---
Underground storage tanks.....	1,498	1,498	1,498	---	---
Wetlands program development.....	14,661	19,661	14,661	---	-5,000
<b>Subtotal, Categorical grants.....</b>	<b>1,054,378</b>	<b>1,162,400</b>	<b>1,044,829</b>	<b>-9,549</b>	<b>-117,571</b>
<b>Total, State and Tribal Assistance Grants.....</b>	<b>3,545,161</b>	<b>3,599,400</b>	<b>2,979,829</b>	<b>-565,332</b>	<b>-619,571</b>
<b>Subtotal, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.....</b>	<b>8,179,887</b>	<b>8,591,718</b>	<b>7,430,157</b>	<b>-749,730</b>	<b>-1,161,561</b>
<b>Administrative Provisions</b>					
Rescission.....	-40,000	---	-8,000	+32,000	-8,000
<b>TOTAL, TITLE II, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY</b>	<b>8,139,887</b>	<b>8,591,718</b>	<b>7,422,157</b>	<b>-717,730</b>	<b>-1,169,561</b>
Appropriations.....	(8,179,887)	(8,591,718)	(7,430,157)	(-749,730)	(-1,161,561)
Rescissions.....	(-40,000)	---	(-8,000)	(+32,000)	(-8,000)
(By transfer).....	(28,789)	(24,676)	(24,676)	(-4,113)	---
(Transfer out).....	(-28,789)	(-24,676)	(-24,676)	(+4,113)	---

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<b>TITLE III - RELATED AGENCIES</b>					
<b>DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</b>					
<b>FOREST SERVICE</b>					
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>					
Forest inventory and analysis.....	70,000	83,000	70,000	---	-13,000
Research and development programs.....	226,000	208,982	207,507	-18,493	-1,475
<b>Total, Forest and rangeland research.....</b>	<b>296,000</b>	<b>291,982</b>	<b>277,507</b>	<b>-18,493</b>	<b>-14,475</b>
<b>State and Private Forestry</b>					
Landscape scale restoration.....	14,000	23,513	14,000	---	-9,513
<b>Forest Health Management:</b>					
Federal lands forest health management.....	58,922	58,998	58,922	---	-76
Cooperative lands forest health management.....	45,655	40,678	40,678	-4,977	---
<b>Subtotal.....</b>	<b>104,577</b>	<b>99,676</b>	<b>99,600</b>	<b>-4,977</b>	<b>-76</b>
<b>Cooperative Forestry:</b>					
Forest stewardship.....	23,036	23,049	23,036	---	-13
Forest legacy.....	53,000	61,000	50,660	-2,340	-10,340
Community forest and open space conservation.....	2,000	1,683	1,683	-317	---
Urban and community forestry.....	28,040	23,686	23,686	-4,354	---
<b>Subtotal, Cooperative Forestry.....</b>	<b>106,076</b>	<b>109,418</b>	<b>99,065</b>	<b>-7,011</b>	<b>-10,353</b>
International forestry.....	8,000	4,004	8,000	---	+3,996
<b>Total, State and Private Forestry.....</b>	<b>232,653</b>	<b>236,611</b>	<b>220,665</b>	<b>-11,988</b>	<b>-15,946</b>
<b>National Forest System</b>					
Integrated resource restoration.....	---	822,110	---	---	-822,110
Land management planning.....	37,754	---	32,020	-5,734	+32,020
Inventory and monitoring.....	151,019	---	144,890	-6,129	+144,890
Land management planning, assessment and monitoring...	---	184,236	---	---	-184,236
Recreation, heritage and wilderness.....	261,719	263,942	256,839	-4,880	-7,103
Grazing management.....	55,356	49,706	55,356	---	+5,650
Forest products.....	339,130	---	355,000	+15,870	+355,000
Vegetation and watershed management.....	184,716	---	184,716	---	+184,716
Wildlife and fish habitat management.....	140,466	---	140,466	---	+140,466
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund.....	40,000	60,000	40,000	---	-20,000
Minerals and geology management.....	76,423	70,689	76,423	---	+5,734
Landownership management.....	77,730	71,601	77,730	---	+6,129
Law enforcement operations.....	126,653	126,030	126,653	---	+623
Valles Caldera National Preserve.....	3,364	---	---	-3,364	---
<b>Total, National Forest System.....</b>	<b>1,494,330</b>	<b>1,648,314</b>	<b>1,490,093</b>	<b>-4,237</b>	<b>-158,221</b>
<b>Capital Improvement and Maintenance</b>					
<b>Facilities:</b>					
Maintenance.....	55,369	55,674	55,369	---	-305
Construction.....	16,231	16,021	16,021	-210	---
<b>Subtotal.....</b>	<b>71,600</b>	<b>71,695</b>	<b>71,390</b>	<b>-210</b>	<b>-305</b>
<b>Roads:</b>					
Maintenance.....	143,454	129,580	140,653	-2,801	+11,073
Construction.....	24,640	24,682	24,640	---	-42
<b>Subtotal.....</b>	<b>168,094</b>	<b>154,262</b>	<b>165,293</b>	<b>-2,801</b>	<b>+11,031</b>

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<b>Trails:</b>					
Maintenance.....	69,777	74,264	69,777	---	-4,487
Construction.....	7,753	8,252	7,753	---	-499
Subtotal.....	77,530	82,516	77,530	---	-4,986
Deferred maintenance.....	3,150	33,451	3,150	---	-30,301
Legacy road and trail remediation.....	40,000	---	40,000	---	+40,000
Subtotal, Capital improvement and maintenance...	360,374	341,924	357,363	-3,011	+15,439
Deferral of road and trail fund payment.....	-17,000	-17,000	-16,000	+1,000	+1,000
Total, Capital improvement and maintenance.....	343,374	324,924	341,363	-2,011	+16,439
<b>Land Acquisition</b>					
Acquisitions.....	36,000	47,250	9,000	-27,000	-38,250
Acquisition Management.....	7,500	8,500	7,250	-250	-1,250
Cash Equalization.....	500	250	250	-250	---
Recreational Access.....	2,000	5,000	2,000	---	-3,000
Critical Inholdings/Wilderness.....	1,500	2,000	1,500	---	-500
Total, Land Acquisition.....	47,500	63,000	20,000	-27,500	-43,000
Acquisition of land for national forests, special acts	950	1,950	950	---	-1,000
Acquisition of lands to complete land exchanges.....	216	216	216	---	---
Range betterment fund.....	2,320	2,320	2,320	---	---
Gifts, donations and bequests for forest and rangeland research.....	45	45	45	---	---
Management of national forest lands for subsistence uses.....	2,500	2,441	2,441	-59	---
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>					
<b>Fire operations:</b>					
Wildland fire preparedness.....	1,145,840	1,082,620	1,082,620	-63,220	---
Wildland fire suppression operations.....	708,000	794,534	811,000	+103,000	+16,466
Subtotal, Fire operations.....	1,853,840	1,877,154	1,893,620	+39,780	+16,466
<b>Other operations:</b>					
Hazardous fuels.....	361,749	359,126	361,749	---	+2,623
(Hazardous Fuels Base Program).....	(346,749)	---	(356,749)	(+10,000)	(+356,749)
(Biomass Grants).....	(15,000)	---	(5,000)	(-10,000)	(+5,000)
Fire plan research and development.....	19,795	19,820	19,795	---	-25
Joint fire sciences program.....	6,914	6,917	6,914	---	-3
State fire assistance.....	78,000	78,012	78,000	---	-12
Volunteer fire assistance.....	13,000	13,000	13,000	---	---
Subtotal, Other operations.....	479,458	476,875	479,458	---	+2,583
Subtotal, Wildland Fire Management.....	2,333,298	2,354,029	2,373,078	+39,780	+19,049
<b>FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Account</b>					
FLAME wildfire suppression reserve account.....	303,060	---	315,000	+11,940	+315,000
Total, all wildland fire accounts.....	2,636,358	2,354,029	2,688,078	+51,720	+334,049

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Suppression cap adjustment.....	---	854,578	---	---	-854,578
Total, Wildland Fire Management with cap adjustment.....	2,636,358	3,208,607	2,688,078	+51,720	-520,529
Total, Forest Service without Wildland Fire Management.....	2,419,888	2,571,803	2,355,600	-64,288	-216,203
TOTAL, FOREST SERVICE.....	5,056,246	5,780,410	5,043,678	-12,568	-736,732
Appropriations.....	(5,073,246)	(4,942,832)	(5,059,678)	(-13,568)	(+116,846)
Disaster Relief cap adjustment.....	---	(854,578)	---	---	(-854,578)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Indian Health Services

<b>Clinical Services:</b>					
Hospital and health clinics.....	1,836,789	1,936,323	1,878,944	+42,155	-57,379
Dental health.....	173,982	181,459	178,959	+4,977	-2,500
Mental health.....	81,145	84,485	83,199	+2,054	-1,286
Alcohol and substance abuse.....	190,981	227,062	198,172	+7,191	-28,890
Purchased/referred care.....	914,139	984,475	935,726	+21,587	-48,749
Subtotal.....	3,197,036	3,413,804	3,275,000	+77,964	-138,804
<b>Preventive Health:</b>					
Public health nursing.....	75,640	79,576	78,499	+2,859	-1,077
Health education.....	18,026	19,136	18,802	+776	-334
Community health representatives.....	58,469	62,363	61,129	+2,660	-1,234
Immunization (Alaska).....	1,826	1,950	1,826	---	-124
Subtotal.....	153,961	163,025	160,256	+6,295	-2,769
<b>Other services:</b>					
Urban Indian health.....	43,604	43,604	44,410	+806	+806
Indian health professions.....	48,342	48,342	48,342	---	---
Tribal management grant program.....	2,442	2,442	2,442	---	---
Direct operations.....	68,065	68,338	67,384	-681	-954
Self-governance.....	5,727	5,735	5,735	+8	---
Contract support costs.....	662,970	717,970	717,970	+55,000	---
Subtotal.....	831,150	886,431	886,283	+55,133	-148
Total, Indian Health Services.....	4,182,147	4,463,260	4,321,539	+139,392	-141,721
<b>Indian Health Facilities</b>					
Maintenance and improvement.....	53,614	89,097	53,614	---	-35,483
Sanitation facilities construction.....	79,423	115,138	79,423	---	-35,715
Health care facilities construction.....	85,048	185,048	85,048	---	-100,000
Facilities and environmental health support.....	219,612	226,870	224,882	+5,270	-1,988
Equipment.....	22,537	23,572	23,362	+825	-210
Total, Indian Health Facilities.....	460,234	639,725	466,329	+6,095	-173,396
TOTAL, INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE.....	4,642,381	5,102,985	4,787,868	+145,487	-315,117

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
<b>NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH</b>					
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences...	77,349	77,349	77,349	---	---
<b>AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY</b>					
Toxic substances and environmental public health.....	74,691	74,691	74,691	---	---
<b>TOTAL, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES..</b>	<b>4,794,421</b>	<b>5,255,025</b>	<b>4,939,908</b>	<b>+145,487</b>	<b>-315,117</b>
<b>OTHER RELATED AGENCIES</b>					
<b>EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT</b>					
Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality.....	3,000	3,015	3,000	---	-15
<b>CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD</b>					
Salaries and expenses.....	11,000	12,271	11,000	---	-1,271
<b>OFFICE OF NAVAJO AND HOPI INDIAN RELOCATION</b>					
Salaries and expenses.....	7,341	8,400	7,341	---	-1,059
<b>INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT</b>					
Payment to the Institute.....	9,469	11,619	9,469	---	-2,150
<b>SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION</b>					
<b>Salaries and Expenses</b>					
<b>Museum and Research Institutes:</b>					
National Air and Space Museum.....	18,603	19,469	18,603	---	-866
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.....	23,957	24,343	23,957	---	-386
Major scientific instrumentation.....	4,118	6,118	4,118	---	-2,000
Universe Center.....	184	184	184	---	---
National Museum of Natural History.....	47,992	48,935	47,992	---	-943
National Zoological Park.....	25,420	26,603	26,120	+700	-483
Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.....	3,909	3,992	3,909	---	-83
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.....	14,025	14,271	14,025	---	-246
Biodiversity Center.....	1,520	2,285	1,520	---	-765
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery/Freer Gallery of Art.....	6,049	6,169	6,049	---	-120
Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.....	2,503	2,603	2,503	---	-100
Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum.....	4,755	4,842	4,755	---	-87
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.....	4,301	4,605	4,301	---	-304
National Museum of African Art.....	4,227	4,632	4,227	---	-405
World Cultures Center.....	284	284	284	---	---
Anacostia Community Museum.....	2,093	2,415	2,093	---	-322
Archives of American Art.....	1,859	1,898	1,859	---	-39
National Museum of African American History and Culture.....	40,648	41,501	41,148	+500	-353
National Museum of American History.....	22,840	24,333	22,840	---	-1,493
National Museum of the American Indian.....	31,444	32,077	31,444	---	-633
National Portrait Gallery.....	5,997	6,448	5,997	---	-451
Smithsonian American Art Museum.....	9,474	10,005	9,474	---	-531
American Experience Center.....	593	595	593	---	-2
<b>Subtotal, Museums and Research Institutes.....</b>	<b>276,795</b>	<b>288,607</b>	<b>277,995</b>	<b>+1,200</b>	<b>-10,612</b>
<b>Mission enabling:</b>					
<b>Program support and outreach:</b>					
Outreach.....	9,150	14,317	9,150	---	-5,167
Communications.....	2,567	3,945	2,567	---	-1,378
Institution-wide programs.....	10,505	14,784	14,384	+3,879	-400

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Office of Exhibits Central.....	2,974	3,037	2,974	---	-63
Museum Support Center.....	1,848	1,884	1,848	---	-36
Museum Conservation Institute.....	3,244	3,308	3,244	---	-64
Smithsonian Institution Archives.....	2,167	2,223	2,167	---	-56
Smithsonian Institution Libraries.....	10,399	10,748	10,399	---	-349
Subtotal, Program support and outreach.....	42,854	54,246	46,733	+3,879	-7,513
Office of Chief Information Officer.....	48,929	53,395	48,929	---	-4,466
Administration.....	34,067	34,977	34,067	---	-910
Inspector General.....	3,416	3,476	3,416	---	-60
Facilities services:					
Facilities maintenance.....	71,403	86,695	71,403	---	-15,292
Facilities operations, security and support.....	197,879	214,429	197,879	---	-16,550
Subtotal, Facilities services.....	269,282	301,124	269,282	---	-31,842
Subtotal, Mission enabling.....	398,548	447,218	402,427	+3,879	-44,791
Total, Salaries and expenses.....	675,343	735,825	680,422	+5,079	-55,403
Facilities Capital					
Revitalization.....	97,588	144,590	112,000	+14,412	-32,590
Facilities planning and design.....	22,600	55,410	27,119	+4,519	-28,291
Construction.....	24,010	---	---	-24,010	---
Total, Facilities Capital.....	144,198	200,000	139,119	-5,079	-60,881
TOTAL, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.....	819,541	935,825	819,541	---	-116,284
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART					
Salaries and Expenses					
Care and utilization of art collections.....	39,418	42,226	39,418	---	-2,808
Operation and maintenance of buildings and grounds....	33,858	34,532	33,858	---	-674
Protection of buildings, grounds and contents.....	22,418	22,943	22,418	---	-525
General administration.....	23,806	26,959	23,806	---	-3,153
Total, Salaries and Expenses.....	119,500	126,660	119,500	---	-7,160
Repair, Restoration and Renovation of Buildings					
Base program.....	19,000	26,000	19,000	---	-7,000
TOTAL, NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART.....	138,500	152,660	138,500	---	-14,160
JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS					
Operations and maintenance.....	22,000	21,660	21,660	-340	---
Capital repair and restoration.....	10,800	14,740	11,140	+340	-3,600
TOTAL, JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.....	32,800	36,400	32,800	---	-3,600
WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS					
Salaries and expenses.....	10,500	10,420	10,420	-80	---

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
<b>NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES</b>					
National Endowment for the Arts					
Grants and Administration					
Grants:					
Direct grants.....	62,380	63,420	62,380	---	-1,040
Challenge America grants.....	7,600	7,600	7,600	---	---
Subtotal.....	69,980	71,020	69,980	---	-1,040
State partnerships:					
State and regional.....	36,716	37,262	36,716	---	-546
Underserved set-aside.....	9,937	10,084	9,937	---	-147
Subtotal.....	46,653	47,346	46,653	---	-693
Subtotal, Grants.....	116,633	118,366	116,633	---	-1,733
Program support.....	1,990	1,780	1,780	-210	---
Administration.....	27,398	27,803	27,608	+210	-195
Total, Arts.....	146,021	147,949	146,021	---	-1,928
National Endowment for the Humanities					
Grants and Administration					
Grants:					
Bridging cultures.....	3,500	---	---	-3,500	---
Special Initiative: The Common Good.....	---	5,500	3,695	+3,695	-1,805
Federal/State partnership.....	42,528	43,040	43,040	+512	---
Preservation and access.....	15,460	15,200	15,200	-260	---
Public programs.....	13,684	13,454	13,454	-230	---
Research programs.....	14,784	14,536	14,536	-248	---
Education programs.....	13,265	13,040	13,040	-225	---
Program development.....	500	500	500	---	---
Digital humanities initiatives.....	4,400	4,480	4,480	+80	---
Subtotal, Grants.....	108,121	109,750	107,945	-176	-1,805
Matching Grants:					
Treasury funds.....	2,400	2,400	2,400	---	---
Challenge grants.....	8,500	8,500	8,500	---	---
Subtotal, Matching grants.....	10,900	10,900	10,900	---	---
Administration.....	27,000	27,292	27,176	+176	-116
Total, Humanities.....	146,021	147,942	146,021	---	-1,921
<b>TOTAL, NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES</b>					
	292,042	295,891	292,042	---	-3,849
<b>COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS</b>					
Salaries and expenses.....	2,524	2,653	2,524	---	-129
<b>NATIONAL CAPITAL ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS</b>					
Grants.....	2,000	2,000	2,000	---	---
<b>ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION</b>					
Salaries and expenses.....	6,204	6,080	6,080	-124	---

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
<b>NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION</b>					
Salaries and expenses.....	7,948	8,348	7,948	---	-400
<b>UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM</b>					
Holocaust Memorial Museum.....	52,385	54,959	52,385	---	-2,574
<b>DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION</b>					
Construction.....	---	68,200	---	---	-68,200
Salaries and expenses.....	1,000	2,000	---	-1,000	-2,000
<b>Total, DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION.</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>70,200</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-1,000</b>	<b>-70,200</b>
<b>TOTAL, TITLE III, RELATED AGENCIES.....</b>	<b>11,246,921</b>	<b>12,646,176</b>	<b>11,378,636</b>	<b>+131,715</b>	<b>-1,267,540</b>
(Disaster Relief cap adjustment).....	---	(854,578)	---	---	(-854,578)
<b>GRAND TOTAL.....</b>	<b>30,105,720</b>	<b>33,324,129</b>	<b>30,231,720</b>	<b>+126,000</b>	<b>-3,092,409</b>
Appropriations.....	(30,173,720)	(32,299,551)	(30,267,720)	(+94,000)	(-2,031,831)
Rescissions.....	(-40,000)	---	(-8,000)	(+32,000)	(-8,000)
Rescissions of contract authority.....	(-28,000)	(-30,000)	(-28,000)	---	(+2,000)
Disaster Relief cap adjustment.....	---	(1,054,578)	---	---	(-1,054,578)
(By transfer).....	(28,789)	(24,676)	(24,676)	(-4,113)	---
(Transfer out).....	(-28,789)	(-24,676)	(-24,676)	(+4,113)	---
(Discretionary total).....	(30,416,000)	(33,262,409)	(30,170,000)	(-246,000)	(-3,092,409)



Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I would like to acknowledge and thank Ranking Member LOWEY for her support and her mentorship as I start working on this very first appropriations bill on the House floor.

I would like to thank my subcommittee chairman, KEN CALVERT, for the effort he has put into this bill. I appreciate that even as Chairman CALVERT grappled with an inadequate funding allocation, he carried out his work in an open and thoughtful manner. The chairman is to be commended for his diligence in holding 14 budget hearings, where we received testimony from nearly 150 witnesses.

Let me also, along with the chairman, express my appreciation to the subcommittee staff on the minority and majority sides for their hard work during another difficult budget year.

Unfortunately, the inadequate 302(b) allocation given to the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations sets this bill up for failure. The majority's refusal to adopt a sufficient overall budget allocation for discretionary appropriations has led to a bill that severely underfunds investments and protections that are priorities for the American people.

The subcommittee's 302(b) allocation for FY 2016 is \$246 million below the current year's enacted level. When added to the cuts of the past 5 years, this bill is more than \$2 billion below the FY 2010 enacted level. In fact, when adjusted for inflation, this bill invests less than what was appropriated in 2005.

But it gets worse. The rising emergency costs of combating wildland fires, court-ordered Native American contract support costs, and the majority's decision to abandon mandatory funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program, otherwise known as PILT, means the remaining funding available for other critical public programs is far below the FY 2015 enacted.

PILT has been mandatory spending in the past, and almost 2,000 counties use this compensation for lost tax revenue to provide vital services. PILT should not be in this discretionary bill. It should be returned to mandatory spending.

The courts have ruled that Congress must pay full contract support costs to tribal nations. Contract support costs are true mandatory spending, and they should not be in this discretionary bill.

Catastrophic wildland fires are natural disasters and, just as any other natural disaster, they should be treated as such emergency spending. Catastrophic wildland fires should not be subject to discretionary spending caps in this bill.

Together, spending on these three activities consumes \$5.4 billion, or 18 percent of the bill's budget allocation. It is time for the authorizing committees to stop ignoring this problem and responsibly address what are truly man-

datory costs, because these costs are burning through our budget allocation.

So what does that mean for the rest of the programs funded by H.R. 2822? After years of cuts and flat funding, it means we are going backwards and undermining efforts to preserve America's natural and cultural heritage, failing to meet our commitments to the social and economic well-being of Native Americans, and causing real and lasting harm to the environment.

We received compelling testimony this year on the unmet needs in Indian Country, especially in the areas of education and health. Yet this bill's inadequate allocation means that many Native American programs receive far less funding than what the President requested and what Native Americans indeed deserve.

This is unfortunate because, as the chairman pointed out, he and I share a deep bipartisan commitment to bettering the lives of Native Americans and to uphold our Federal trust and treaty obligations.

Last year, attendance at our national parks was at a record high. With the upcoming centennial of the National Park Service in 2016, visitation is expected to increase. But what will visitors find when they come to the centennial celebration?

Without additional funding, they will find historic hotels in Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks that have serious health, safety, and accessibility issues. They will find closed facilities at Yosemite due to 70-year-old sewer lines that are failing. And under the Republican spending plan, what visitors will not find are the hundreds of seasonal rangers that the Park Service needs to hire to restore staffing capacity to 2010 levels.

Under H.R. 2822, less than 16 percent of the funds requested for the National Park Service's centennial are provided. By underfunding the Centennial Challenge, this bill misses the opportunity to allow the American public to support their parks through matching donations.

The National Park's Civil Rights initiative fares only slightly better, with just 19 percent of the request funded. It is our responsibility to act now to preserve the stories and monuments of the civil rights movement.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is cut by more than 25 percent below the FY 2015-enacted level, continuing the pattern of shortchanging conservation.

Wildlife programs are underfunded as well, with cuts or flat funding to programs that assist in the recovery of species or help to prevent their listing in the first place. Funding decisions such as these set up the Endangered Species Act to fail.

However, the most significant and devastating cuts are again targeted at the Environmental Protection Agency. The bill cuts the EPA by \$718 million from the FY 2015-enacted level, a 9 percent cut. This is on top of the nearly 20

percent cut the Agency has received over the past 4 years.

The air every American breathes and the water every American family drinks are all at risk by the funding cuts and policy attacks in this bill. When the majority says it wants to rein in the EPA, what they are really doing is denying the protection of our air and water.

The consequences of abandoning public health and environmental protection will be negatively felt in communities across this Nation. Why? Because this bill cuts the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Revolving Funds by more than half a billion dollars. The revolving funds are part of a partnership with our communities to build and repair infrastructure that protects America's drinking water and prevents sewage from contaminating our water. And when we invest in these water systems, we are also creating jobs in communities all across the country.

Earlier this month, the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior released their latest summer fire forecast, which showed that fire costs are likely to exceed FY 2015-enacted levels by nearly \$300 million.

Wildland fires burn up 12 percent, or \$3.9 billion, of the bill's allocation. And without some relief, these numbers will only continue to grow.

In just the past 3 years, we have had to make up a total of a billion-dollar shortfall that forced agencies to borrow funds from other accounts to pay for fire costs. We know the answer to this problem. Many of us are cosponsors of Mr. SIMPSON's bill, H.R. 167, to treat a portion of these wildfire costs as they are—disasters.

Yet as problematic as the funding decisions in this bill are, what is even more troubling are the more than two dozen problem legislative riders and funding limitations contained in the bill, with seven of these being new this year.

These provisions do not belong in the bill. These are proposals that should be moved through the authorizing committee, where open, transparent, and thoughtful debate can take place.

The riders the majority have hung on this bill undermine our Nation's bedrock environmental laws, endanger public health and safety, and deny the impact that climate change is having on our planet.

Several of these riders would require that Agency scientists and procedures be ignored, saying that they "can't be trusted." Yet other provisions would overturn Federal court decisions and limit judicial review.

As lawmakers, we create the legislation that guides our Nation, but my colleagues in the majority seem to need a reminder that we are only one of three branches of government. Clearly, we are the most important branch. But the other two branches have jobs to do as well.

For a majority that complains about the Federal rulemaking process, it is

surprising to see that the bill contains directives that certain Federal rules be issued. It would appear that the majority is okay with Federal rulemaking, but only as long as the rules are the ones they want.

With the inadequate funding and special interest provisions, I share the administration's concerns about this bill. I will submit the Statement of Administration Policy on H.R. 2822, which is eight pages and includes a veto threat.

#### STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 2822—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

(Rep. Rogers, R-KY)

The Administration strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 2822, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes. The bill drastically underfunds core Department of the Interior programs as well as the Environmental Protection Agency's operating budget, which supports nationwide protection of human health and our vital air, water and land resources. Funding levels in the bill would prevent investments that reduce future costs to taxpayers by facilitating increased energy development and maintaining facilities and infrastructure in national parks, refuges, forests, public lands, and Indian Country. They would make it harder for States and businesses to plan and execute changes that would decrease carbon pollution and address the challenges the Nation faces from climate change. They would also reduce support for partnerships and effective collaboration with States, local governments and private entities on efforts to restore and conserve natural resources. Further, the bill includes numerous highly problematic ideological provisions that have no place in funding legislation. These provisions threaten to undermine the ability of States and communities to address climate change and protect a resource that is essential to America's health—clean water, as well as the most basic protections for America's special places and the people and wildlife that rely on them. If the President were presented with H.R. 2822, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.

Enacting H.R. 2822 and adhering to the congressional Republican budget's overall spending limits for fiscal year (FY) 2016 would hurt our economy and shortchange investments in middle-class priorities. Sequestration was never intended to take effect; rather, it was supposed to threaten such drastic cuts to both defense and non-defense funding that policymakers would be motivated to come to the table and reduce the deficit through smart, balanced reforms. The Republican framework would bring base discretionary funding for both non-defense and defense for FY 2016 to the lowest real levels in a decade. Compared to the President's Budget, the cuts would result in tens of thousands of the Nation's most vulnerable children losing access to Head Start, millions fewer workers receiving job training and employment services, and drastic cuts to research awards and grants, along with other impacts that would hurt the economy, the middle class, and Americans working hard to reach the middle class.

Sequestration funding levels would also put our national security at unnecessary risk, not only through pressures on defense spending, but also through pressures on State, USAID, Homeland Security, and other non-defense programs that help keep us safe.

More broadly, the strength of our economy and the security of our Nation are linked. That is why the President has been clear that he is not willing to lock in sequestration going forward, nor will he accept fixes to defense without also fixing non-defense.

The President's senior advisors would recommend that he veto H.R. 2822 and any other legislation that implements the current Republican budget framework, which blocks the investments needed for our economy to compete in the future. The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress to reverse sequestration for defense and non-defense priorities and offset the cost with commonsense spending and tax expenditure cuts, as Members of Congress from both parties have urged.

The Administration would like to take this opportunity to share additional views regarding the Committee's version of the bill.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

EPA Operating Budget. The Administration disagrees strongly with the bill's reduction to EPA's operating budget by \$474 million, or 13 percent, compared to the FY 2016 Budget request. This reduced level of funding would significantly undermine implementation of the Clean Power Plan and the recently finalized Clean Water Rule. The Clean Power Plan is a flexible and practical approach to addressing the risks of climate change by reducing carbon pollution from the electric power sector, the largest source of carbon pollution in the United States. Climate change is not only an environmental challenge, it is also an economic, public health, and national security challenge. Unabated climate change is projected to hamper economic growth in the United States and put the health and well-being of the Nation at risk from extreme weather events, wildland fire, poor air quality, and illnesses transmitted by food, water, and disease carriers such as mosquitos and ticks. Failing to address climate change would also exacerbate poverty and contribute to environmental degradation in developing countries, potentially resulting in resource shortages, political instability, and conflict. Meanwhile, the bill also reduces funding to implement the recently finalized Clean Water Rule that would ensure waters protected under the Clean Water Act are more precisely defined and predictably determined. By delaying implementation of this rule, business and industry face a more costly, difficult, and slower permitting process.

State Categorical Grants. The Administration opposes the \$118 million reduction to State and Tribal Categorical grants compared to the FY 2016 Budget request. Often, States and Tribes implement environmental programs through delegated authorities. However, the bill reduces these grants to States and Tribes to carry out activities such as water quality permitting, air monitoring, and hazardous waste management programs. In addition, the bill reduces funding for brownfields projects by \$35 million, or 32 percent, from the FY 2016 Budget request. This reduced level of funding severely limits opportunities for local communities to revitalize their contaminated lands to improve environmental quality and spark economic redevelopment.

State Revolving Funds (SRFs). The Administration objects to the funding levels provided for EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water SRFs. The bill reduces SRF funding by a combined \$527 million from the FY 2016 Budget request, reducing necessary support to help communities finance water infrastructure improvements, resulting in approximately 200 fewer projects being funded nationally.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Limits for Power Plants. The Administration strongly objects

to section 428 of the bill, which would prohibit the use of funds to propose, finalize, implement or enforce carbon pollution standards for fossil fuel-fired electric generating units that are the largest source of carbon pollution in the United States. The bill seeks to derail Administration efforts to address under section 111 of the Clean Air Act the urgent economic, public health, and national security impacts of unabated climate change. Failure to reduce the utility sector's carbon footprint places the Nation at risk from extreme weather events, wildland fire, poor air quality, global instability, accelerated environmental degradation, and illnesses transmitted by food, water, and disease carriers such as mosquitos and ticks.

Clean Water Act (CWA). The Administration believes that the CWA provisions in the bill undermine efforts to protect America's clean water resources, which are critical to American families and businesses. The Administration strongly objects to section 422 of the bill in particular, which would disrupt the Administration's current efforts to clarify the scope of CWA, hamstringing future regulatory efforts, and create significant ambiguity regarding existing regulations and guidance.

Social Cost of Carbon (SCC). The Administration regards the SCC as an essential component of the environmental rulemaking process and opposes the Congress' interference with the Interagency Working Group's (IWG) development of the SCC. The Administration strongly objects to section 437 of the bill, which would force the IWG to revise the SCC using only the discount rates and "domestic" SCC values stated in Executive Order 12866 and Office of Management and Budget Circular A-4. This revision would ignore the trans-boundary movement of carbon, fail to capture key costs of carbon emissions, and disrupt dozens of upcoming rules that would use the SCC to monetize carbon reduction benefits.

Limitations on Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) Program under the Clean Air Act (CAA). The Administration objects to section 435 of the bill, which would block the finalization, implementation, and enforcement of a rule to prohibit certain uses of climate super-pollutants known as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Domestic action to reduce use of HFCs is consistent with U.S. advocacy for addressing HFCs on a global basis, such as through an amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

National Ocean Policy. The Administration objects to section 425 of the bill, which prohibits any funding provided in the bill from being used to implement the marine planning components of the National Ocean Policy. This provision would prohibit the Department of the Interior (DOI) and EPA from participating in marine and coastal planning efforts, a process to better determine how the ocean, the Nation's coasts, and the Great Lakes are managed in an efficient manner.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) Financial Assurance. The Administration objects to section 427 of the bill, which prohibits the use of funds to develop, propose, finalize, and implement financial responsibility requirements under CERCLA 108(b). On May 19, 2015, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ordered EPA to develop an expedited schedule for financial responsibility rules for the hardrock mining industry and for three other industries. This provision would severely limit EPA's ability to develop these rules in a timely manner and abrogates EPA's responsibilities laid out in CERCLA 108(b).

Classification of Forest Biomass Fuels as Carbon-Neutral. The Administration objects

to the bill's representation of forest biomass as categorically "carbon-neutral." This language conflicts with existing EPA policies on biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> and interferes with the position of States that do not apply the same policies to forest biomass as other renewable fuels like solar or wind. This language stands in contradiction to a wide-ranging consensus on policies and best available science from EPA's own independent Science Advisory Board, numerous technical studies, many States, and various other stakeholders.

**e-Manifest.** The Administration objects to the elimination of funding for e-Manifest development, EPA's system for electronically tracking the transport of hazardous waste. While the Administration acknowledges the concern about the pace of development of the e-Manifest, eliminating the requested \$7 million in funding at this time would jeopardize EPA's ongoing progress to develop the system and begin operations in the coming years.

**Lead Test Kits.** The Administration objects to section 426 of the bill that would disrupt EPA's current activities under the 2008 Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting rule until EPA approves a commercially available "improved" lead paint test kit. This provision would undermine EPA's efforts to protect sensitive populations from exposure to lead, a known toxin to children and developing fetuses, during home renovation projects.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DOI)

**Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Topline.** The Administration opposes the \$159 million, or 5 percent, reduction to BIA as compared to the FY 2016 Budget request. This funding level would limit DOI's ability to make key investments in education and wrap-around services to support Native youth, eliminating all increases to post-secondary scholarships and \$10 million for education program enhancement funds to allow Bureau of Indian Education to drive school improvement and reforms. The bill reduces funding for initiatives aimed at supporting tribal self-determination through the creation of a one-stop portal to facilitate access to Federal resources and funding to address data gaps in Indian Country, and the creation of an Office of Indian Affairs Policy, Program Evaluation, and Data to support effective, data-driven, tribal policy making and program implementation. In addition, this bill eliminates all increases to natural resources management on tribal lands, including funds to help tribal communities prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.

**National Park Service (NPS) Centennial.** The Administration opposes funding levels provided for the NPS Centennial. The bill fails to provide adequate funding to prepare for the Centennial in 2016, resulting in the delay of roughly 70 percent of line-item park construction projects and 36 percent of repair and rehabilitation projects, and forgoes millions in matching private donations. The bill also fails to provide funding for engaging youth and cultivating the next generation of conservation-minded individuals, including funding for transportation assistance to students from Title I schools.

**Onshore Inspection Fees.** The bill does not include a proposal in the FY 2016 Budget request to institute a new onshore oil and gas inspection fee program. The proposal, which is similar to the program already in place for offshore operations, would cover the cost of inspection activities and reduce the net cost to taxpayers of operating the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) oil and gas program. Failure to adopt the new fees and associated funding would hamper the BLM's ability to protect human safety, conserve energy resources, facilitate the proper reporting of oil

and gas production, and ensure environmental requirements are being followed in all phases of development.

**State and Tribal Wildlife Grants.** The Administration opposes the 15 percent reduction to State and Tribal Wildlife Grants compared to the FY 2016 Budget request. This important program allows States and Tribes, key partners in conservation, to strategically protect wildlife and conserve habitat in a way that complements Federal investments and yields better results for the public.

**Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).** The bill provides \$452 million for PILT, which the Administration has proposed to fund through a separate mandatory appropriation in line with its previous congressional enactment. While the Administration appreciates the Committee's support for PILT, inclusion of these funds in the bill comes at the expense of all other programs funded by the bill.

**Carcieri Land into Trust.** The bill fails to include the provision in the FY 2016 Budget request to clarify and reaffirm the Secretary of the Interior's authority to acquire land in trust under the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA). In *Carcieri v. Salazar*, 555 U.S. 397 (2009), the Supreme Court held that the Secretary could acquire land in trust under the IRA only for tribes that were "under Federal jurisdiction" in 1934. A legislative solution would help achieve the goals of the IRA and tribal self-determination by clarifying that DOI's authority under the law applies to all tribes, whether recognized in 1934 or after. Such legislation would be consistent with the longstanding policy of assisting Tribes in establishing and protecting a land base sufficient to allow them to provide for the health, welfare, and safety of tribal members, and in treating all tribes equally for purposes of setting aside lands for tribal communities.

**Hydraulic Fracturing: Section 439** of the bill would block DOI from implementing, administering or enforcing the Bureau of Land Management's recently-finalized Hydraulic Fracturing rule. This would leave the agency reliant on 30-year old requirements and prevent it from taking key steps to improve the safety of oil and gas drilling activities and improve opportunities for BLM to coordinate standards and processes with States and Tribes to reduce administrative costs and improve efficiency.

**Stream Buffer Regulation.** Section 423 would prohibit DOI's Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement from updating 30-year-old stream protection regulations to reflect modern science and technology and better protect people and the environment, provide industry more certainty, and address recent court decisions.

**Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Shooting.** Sections 421 and 424 would substantially impair the enforcement of a longstanding ban on the use of lead ammunition in the hunting of migratory waterfowl, and would complicate in other ways the overall implementation of hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting on public lands.

**Wildlife Trafficking.** Section 120 would interfere with ongoing Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) actions to combat wildlife trafficking, curb the poaching of African Elephants, and restrict trade in ivory, which would impair U.S. leadership in the global fight against ivory poaching.

**Endangered Species Act Restrictions.** Sections 117, 121, and 122 of the bill undercut the Endangered Species Act by limiting the ability of the FWS to properly protect, based on the best available science, a number of species, including the greater sage grouse, northern long-eared bat, and certain gray wolf populations. Language provisions, like those affecting the sage grouse, would only

create additional uncertainty and undermine unprecedented efforts to conserve the sagebrush landscape and the Western way of life.

**Federal Acknowledgement of American Indian Tribes.** Language under the heading "Bureau of Indian Affairs, Administrative Provisions" in the bill would block DOI from finalizing, implementing, administering, or enforcing the Administration's proposed Federal acknowledgment rule, preventing DOI's effort to improve the regulations governing the process and criteria by which the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges an Indian Tribe.

#### DOI AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA), FOREST SERVICE

**Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).** The Administration objects to the drastic reduction of \$152 million, or 38 percent, to the requested discretionary funding for DOI and USDA LWCF programs. LWCF is a cornerstone of Federal conservation and recreation preservation efforts. This funding level would severely impede agency capacity to further protect our Nation's natural heritage. To date, the LWCF has contributed to the protection of key public lands, such as Rocky Mountain National Park, Mount Rainier National Park, and portions of the Appalachian Trail, among others, as well as State and local recreation projects and important cultural heritage sites.

**Wildland Fire Suppression.** The Administration's cap adjustment for wildfire suppression was not included in this bill. Continued inaction on this proposal, which has bipartisan support, would increase the likelihood of disruptive funding transfers for suppression and away from the very restoration and fire risk reduction programs that are meant to restore landscapes and reduce suppression costs and restore landscapes.

**Land Management Operations.** The Administration opposes the \$502 million, or 8 percent, reduction to operational funding to land management agencies, relative to the FY 2016 Budget request. This reduction would undermine support for the provision of basic public and business services that support the long-term health and resilience of national parks, forests, refuges, and other public lands.

**Water Rights on Federal Land.** Section 434 prohibits agencies from conditioning land use authorizations on the transfer, relinquishment, or impairment of a water right, or on the acquisition of a water right in the name of the United States. This language is unnecessary for its intended purpose, and would preclude land management agencies from protecting the public interest. The provision would eliminate the ability of land management agencies to maintain sufficient water for other congressionally-designated purposes and ensure water rights are tied to the activities for which they were developed. These restrictions would also hamper cooperative work with land users to improve land conditions, such as range improvements, or conduct habitat mitigation activities as part of land use agreements.

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA), FOREST SERVICE

**Land Management Improvements.** The bill provides \$357 million for capital improvement and maintenance of the national forest system, a 5 percent increase from the FY 2016 Budget request. While the Administration supports the capital improvement and maintenance of the Nation's public forests in order to increase its health, resilience, and accessibility, the increase in this bill comes at the expense of other needed priorities.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**Indian Health Service (IHS) Topline.** The Administration strongly opposes the reduction to funding for Native American health

care programs and facilities of the Indian Health Service (IHS) by \$300 million, or 6 percent, below the FY 2016 Budget request. This would result in inadequate funding for the provision of health care to a population that is sicker and poorer compared to national averages. For example, compared to the FY 2016 Budget request, the bill reduces funding by nearly \$50 million for Purchased and Referred Care, a program that supports health care not available in IHS and tribal facilities, which would exacerbate existing levels of denied care and waiting lists for services.

**Contract Support Costs.** The Administration objects to the limitation in funding for tribal Contract Support Costs (CSC) for BIA and IHS. Specifically, the bill would limit funding for CSC that could perpetuate the funding issues described in the Supreme Court's *Salazar v. Ramah Navajo Chapter* decision. The Congress should pursue a long-term solution for CSC appropriations, providing an increase in funding in FY 2016 as part of a transition to a new three-year mandatory funding stream in FY 2017, as proposed in the President's Budget.

#### OTHER PROVISIONS

**Smithsonian Institution.** The bill reduces funding for the Smithsonian Institution by \$116 million, or 12 percent, below the FY 2016 Budget request—a reduction that can be expected to reduce public access to the Smithsonian as well as increase safety concerns through delays in planned renovations. With over 30 million visits to Smithsonian facilities recorded in 2014, it is important to ensure the museums, galleries, National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities that make up the world's largest museum and research complex remain open, maintained, and available to the generations of Americans who make use of this unique institution each year. Specifically, the bill reductions would delay renovation for the National Air and Space Museum, where the museum has had to establish temporary covered walkways to protect the public from potential falling debris from its facade, and would reduce operating hours for the museums, including the new National Museum of African American History and Culture.

**Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act).** The Administration urges the Congress to fully fund the FY 2016 Budget requests for DOI and EPA to implement the DATA Act. This funding would support efforts to provide more transparent Federal spending data, such as updating information technology systems, changing business processes, and employing a uniform procurement instrument identifier.

**U.S. Digital Service Team.** The Administration urges the Congress to fully fund the FY 2016 Budget requests for DOI and EPA to develop U.S. Digital Service teams. This funding would support managing the agency's digital services that have the greatest impact to citizens and businesses.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL CONCERNS

Several provisions in the bill raise separation of powers concerns.

The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress as the FY 2016 appropriations process moves forward.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, we owe it to our constituents to be good stewards of the environment, to be protectors of public health, and to be defenders of the public good. We can do better than what this bill offers. H.R. 2822 falls short of our responsibilities to present and future generations. As such, I cannot support the bill in its current form.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the full committee chairman.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the fiscal year 2016 Department of the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill. This is the eighth of the 12 individual bills that have made it to the floor. That is a record pace, by the way. It is the fastest that these bills have come before the House since at least 1974, when the Budget Control Act came into being.

This bill, as the chairman said, provides just over \$30 billion in discretionary funding for programs that preserve and nurture our Nation's unique natural and cultural heritage. This fulfills our responsibility to the American taxpayers to provide funding for these important programs within a smart and sustainable budget.

Our responsibility to the American taxpayers, of course, doesn't end there. The people of this Nation expect their government to act in a way that fosters economic development and job creation. This current administration has been neglecting that duty, instead choosing to push a regulatory agenda that would create an environment hostile to economic growth, that would put our energy independence at risk, and that could cost thousands of hard-working Americans their jobs.

So this bill takes important steps to stop this harmful executive overreach. First and foremost, we limit funding for the Environmental Protection Agency, cutting its funding by 9 percent from last year.

The bill also prohibits the EPA from implementing a litany of its egregious, expensive regulations, including applying new greenhouse gas regulations for power plants, updating existing ozone regulations, and changing the definitions of "navigable waters" and "fill material," all of which could spell disaster for our economy.

□ 1315

The bill also prevents the Bureau of Land Management from hampering economic growth by halting increases in oil and gas inspection fees and from burdening ranchers with higher grazing fees.

Provisions like these will help get the government out of the way of growth, preventing the overregulation and overtaxation of American business and industry, and keeping down manufacturing costs and utility bills for families across the country.

In addition, the bill also focuses funding on other important Department of the Interior related programs. For instance, the bill creates a new \$30 million program to help accelerate the reclamation of abandoned mine lands,

boosting local community redevelopment.

The bill also fulfills our moral and legal obligations to American Indians and Alaska Natives, increasing funding for programs that will help improve education systems, health facilities, and other infrastructure.

The bill prioritizes the prevention of and preparation for wildland fires, increasing funding for these programs billwide by \$52 million.

Mr. Chairman, this is a fine appropriations bill that we have before us today. I want to commend Chairman CALVERT for his good work on this bill. He, the ranking member, and the subcommittee have done a thorough job on the bill, and I am proud to support it. I also want to thank the staff for their work to bring this bill to the floor today.

This is the maiden voyage, Mr. Chairman, of this cardinal, this new chairman, the new chairman of this subcommittee. This is his first bill, and it is a good one. I want to salute him and his staff for doing a great job in putting together a bill that was tough to put together. Congratulations to you.

Before I close, Mr. Chairman, I want to take a moment to recognize one of my staff members, Mike Robinson, who will be moving on to greener pastures next week.

Mike started working for me nearly 20 years ago and has had several tenures in my personal office. Four years ago, he joined the Appropriations Committee, the front office, as coalitions and Member services director.

Many of our colleagues have gotten a chance to know Mike over these past 4 years. He has answered your questions. He has helped you offer amendments. He has helped guide dozens of appropriations bills to passage. He has been an integral part of the staff over these years, and we will miss him greatly when he departs.

Thank you, Mike, for all of your hard work. We are very grateful to you.

Mr. Chairman, this is an appropriations bill that puts our Nation's economy first. It preserves the role of the Federal Government, making sure the government is doing its job well, not in a way that intrudes into the lives of American businesses or the American people, but in a way that encourages our economy to grow and thrive, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman CALVERT; Chairman ROGERS; as well as my good friend BETTY MCCOLLUM, who is doing an outstanding job in her first year as ranking member of the subcommittee; and all the hard-working staff on both sides of the aisle.

However, while I appreciate the chairman's willingness to accommodate some Democratic priorities, this

is the latest in a series of bills that drastically shortchanges job-creating investments and vital environmental protections, while carrying a wish list of special interest giveaways that hurt hard-working American families' health and safety.

The President proposed to end sequestration through more reasonable and realistic budgeting 4 months ago, but Republicans have yet to engage on finding a workable solution. How much longer do we have to play this charade, the Republican shutdown strategy, before the House considers bills that could be enacted?

Refusing to adopt a sufficient overall allocation for discretionary investments has led to a bill that severely underfunds far too many priorities.

The EPA would be slashed \$1.17 billion below the President's request, \$718 million below the 2015 enacted level. Such a draconian cut would take EPA investments back to 1997 levels.

Capital programs are dramatically underfunded, with Indian Health facilities receiving \$173 million less than the President's request.

Over half a billion dollars in cuts to the State revolving funds endanger our Nation's water infrastructure, cutting 32,000 construction jobs on 207 projects, risking public health with fewer water and drinking water projects.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, which conserves irreplaceable lands and improves outdoor recreation opportunities, would be cut by 30 percent below the current level.

Unsurprisingly, the majority seeks to dismantle critical environmental protections in the bill that are supposed to advance environmental initiatives.

In a demonstration of solidarity with climate change deniers and the coal industry, the majority would prevent the administration from advancing new rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Despite the fact that it harmonizes existing activities to protect the environment, 2.8 million ocean industry jobs, \$282 billion in GDP generated by ocean industries in coastal States, the National Ocean Policy's implementation would be blocked.

Once again, the majority has waged war on the Endangered Species Act, placing politics above science and jeopardizing the protection of precious species, including wolves.

Instead of allowing the United States to lead the world to end the trade of ivory, the Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts would be rolled back.

Given the number of unnecessary riders, it is particularly disappointing that the majority didn't include our colleague, Mr. SIMPSON's wildfire bill, an excellent proposal that would improve our ability to prepare for and respond to disasters.

Democrats are more than willing to find a balanced and fiscally responsible way to lift the sequester that is strangling our investments in America's future and invest in a stronger defense,

better infrastructure, and bigger paycheck for America's hard-working families.

I hope that, as we move forward, this bill makes those investments and sheds unnecessary policy changes. I urge my colleagues to oppose this misguided bill.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS), our new hard-working member.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I want to express my appreciation to your hard work and to the ranking member, to your staff, and all who have worked so hard on this legislation.

This bill is notable for what it funds and what it doesn't fund.

West Virginians, we love our clean water. We love clean air. We love our mountains and our forests and our rivers.

What West Virginians do not love is this President's war on coal. This week, petitions from 26,000 West Virginians were delivered to my office asking the President to stop the war on coal. West Virginia's jobs and our citizens' livelihoods are on the line. The President has requested hundreds of millions of dollars to spend on new regulations, programs, and an army of lawyers to defend his illegal regulatory overreach.

Our State has lost 7,000 coal jobs in just the last 3 years of this administration. Today, we say "no" to funding the war on coal, "no" to regulatory overreach. We do cut the EPA's budget by more than \$1 billion from what was requested. We halt harmful, job-killing rules on new and existing coal-fired power plants.

We say no to changing the definition of navigable waters and fill material, no to imposing ozone regulations that are simply unachievable, and no to imposing the stream buffer zone rule.

The Administrator of the EPA even refused to come to West Virginia to talk to our communities and hard-working coal miners, but instead, when she refused, I brought coal miners to the Appropriations Committee to tell their story, and it was a powerful story.

Today, I am here with 26,000 other voices to make sure they are heard here at the Capitol.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership. Thank you for the hard work.

I would appreciate a "yes" vote on this important legislation.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER), a member of the subcommittee who is very valued.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by thanking the subcommittee chairman, my friend from California, and the ranking member, my friend from Minnesota, for the hard work that they have put into today's bill.

As a new member of the committee, I have gotten to see firsthand the enor-

mous amount of work that went into the product that we have before us today, and it is, frankly, a testament to the hard work of the Appropriations Committee staff that we have been able to get to this point.

I want to begin by expressing support for a number of really important provisions in the bill that I think are critical points of progress. In a very tough budget environment, this bill boosts funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service, increasing the Federal commitment to addressing the needs of Indian Country.

Coming from timber country, I can say that there is also a very strong effort here to ensure that the Forest Service can responsibly increase harvest levels on our national forests, as well as supporting new tools, such as collaboratives, that have the potential to bring folks together in a way that reduces the litigation risk surrounding these projects.

Of course, I would love for us to be able include in this bill Mr. SIMPSON's legislation addressing wildfire disaster funding. I have heard from so many people in my neck of the woods just how important it is that we get this taken care of it.

The bill also provides essential resources to support recovery efforts in the Puget Sound. As both the chairman and ranking member of the subcommittee know, this is big deal, both for our natural environment and for our economy; and I will continue working with them to make sure we are dedicating the needed resources for this critical effort.

Unfortunately, I will have to oppose the bill before us today. This bill comes in at \$2 billion below the President's budget request. It would cut funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It fails to make needed investments in the National Park System and takes a meat axe to the Environmental Protection Agency and the programs that protect clean water.

Mr. Chairman, to conclude, let me just say we need to come together in a bipartisan way to end sequestration, to remove these budget caps, and to work on bipartisan bills that make the investments our Nation needs to boost economic development and protect our natural resources for future generations.

I hope we do that, and I am eager to be a partner in doing that.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for the purpose of engaging in a colloquy.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to thank you and the Appropriations Committee for its hard work on bringing this important legislation to the floor.

As you know, we have been working with your staff on an issue of great importance to the Port of Savannah, which services 40 percent of American consumers.

Since 1940, the National Park Service has leased a small parcel of land on

Cockspur Island within the Fort Pulaski National Monument to the Savannah Bar Pilots. The bar pilots help navigate large ships through the Savannah River channel to the port and have done so from Cockspur Island since as far as back as the 1730s.

In 2011, at the request of the Park Service, Congress passed legislation to change the relationship between the bar pilots and the Park Service. With enactment of the Fort Pulaski National Monument Lease Authorization Act, Public Law 112-69, the relationship between the bar pilots and Park Service was shifted from a series of special use permits to a noncompete lease of up to 10 years.

□ 1330

At the time of consideration of the legislation, the Congressional Budget Office estimated the annual lease fee for the bar pilots would be \$25,000, a slight increase from their existing rate based on a 2008 appraisal conducted by the Park Service.

It has come to my attention that the Park Service is attempting to use passage of the legislation to increase the lease fee by as much as tenfold. This is extremely problematic because such an increase could threaten to force the bar pilots off Cockspur Island.

Simply given their history on the island, the idea of forcing the bar pilots to relocate is inappropriate, in and of itself. However, this is more troubling when you realize that pilotage services are required by law, so vessels are required to use their services to move in and out of the Port of Savannah, and there is no other known location from which pilots could operate more efficiently.

Moving the facility could lead to longer transit times for vessels, increased safety risk in foul weather, delays in ship movement, and greater fuel usage for pilots and vessels waiting to call on the Port of Savannah.

The resulting environmental and economic harm would significantly increase costs and could threaten growth at the Port of Savannah just as the Federal Government embarks on the construction phase of the \$706 million Savannah Harbor Expansion Project.

The legislation passed in 2011 was intended to create a long-term fix to the permitting issue, not to create an outlet by which the National Park Service could continuously raise fees to exorbitant levels.

Mr. Chairman, I would request your support of our efforts to find an equitable and timely resolution to this matter that reflects Congress' intent and establishes a process for ensuring that the pilots are charged only fair market value in line with previous National Park Service appraisals and that they are able to continue operating from their current location on Cockspur Island.

Mr. CALVERT. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for bringing this matter to my attention. I share your

concerns that this change could negatively impact the growth at the Port of Savannah just as work begins on the expansion project.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CALVERT. I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

I would note that, in testimony before the Senate, National Park Service Associate Director Stephen Whitesell testified that the Savannah bar pilots have operated "with virtually no adverse impact on park resources, on the visitor experience, or on park operations."

The legislation that passed at the request of the Park Service in 2011 was supposed to simply improve the legal basis through which the bar pilots and the Park Service entered into a contract.

I am committed to continuing to work with you to find an equitable and timely solution to this matter that ensures the Fort Pulaski National Monument Lease Authorization Act is appropriately implemented and that the bar pilots are not forced to move from Cockspur Island.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your attention to this issue and for your service in shepherding this important legislation through the legislative process.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), a colleague of mine on the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentleman from Minnesota, Ranking Member MCCOLLUM, as well as Chairman KEN CALVERT of California for working with me to include important language relative to the National Park Service.

Specifically, the report addresses a threat to a significant part of the history of the region I represent, the Battle of Lake Erie that paved the way for America's expansion beyond 13 colonies, commemorated by Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial at Put-In-Bay, Ohio.

Perry's Memorial is at the heart of coastal tourism in Ohio, attracting 130,000 visitors just last year, and more than double as many people were reached through their educational activities.

Despite its popularity, this site has been unnecessarily targeted for consolidation. The idea that resources and, more importantly, management of this popular site would shift to a noncontiguous, smaller installation in a different State is both concerning and, frankly, quite puzzling.

Reporting requirements included with the bill are there to ensure that Perry's Memorial will continue operating as a stand-alone site.

I would also ask the chairman and ranking member to continue working with me to address this need moving forward to ensure that this misguided consolidation plan is stopped.

Mr. CALVERT. Will the gentleman yield?

Ms. KAPTUR. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I am certainly happy to continue to work with the gentlewoman from Minnesota and to address her concerns as this process continues.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman very much, and I thank the ranking member.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. The gentlewoman from Ohio has my commitment to work with the chairman to resolve it.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank both the chairman and ranking member.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS).

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2822, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2016.

This bill responsibly ensures the EPA's regulatory overreach is checked by Congress. Key provisions included will stop the EPA's most burdensome and damaging regulations and encourage opportunities for water infrastructure investment.

This bill ensures that the EPA cannot use resources to expand the definitions of the "waters of the United States" and "fill material" beyond what Congress wrote in the Clean Water Act. As the King v. Burwell case just taught us, this administration is eager to redefine words to suit their purposes. This House must stand up to them, and in this bill, we are.

These key provisions are excellent backstops for ensuring the EPA's clean water rule does not move forward in implementation because this rule is nothing more than a Federal power grab and a substantial expansion of Clean Water Act jurisdiction. Even the agencies implementing this rule have concerns about the clarity of its changes.

I am also pleased to see the committee supports an integrated planning approach to help communities affordably manage and meet their burdensome regulatory obligations under the Clean Water Act. Communities face enormous financial pressure to have quality services for its residents, including clean water. This approach can potentially save ratepayers millions of dollars while focusing clean water investments in a way that ensures the greatest water quality benefit.

Lastly, this bill encourages the implementation of the bipartisan pilot program, Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, better known as WIFIA, that was authorized under WRRDA in 2014.

Provisions offered in this legislation will set the stage for EPA to implement WIFIA loans in fiscal years 2017 to provide credit assistance for water resource infrastructure projects and act as a complement to the major source of Federal investment in water

infrastructure, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, known as the SRF. This program will provide communities increased options and flexibility for funding their critical water infrastructure projects.

I thank Chairman CALVERT and Ranking Member MCCOLLUM for recognizing the importance of these provisions and for putting together a bill that sets appropriate levels for agencies and programs.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE), a thoughtful and valued member of the subcommittee.

Ms. PINGREE. I thank the ranking member for yielding me time and for the nice comments and the ability to work with her on the committee. I do appreciate the work of the Chair and the ranking member very much on this bill.

Mr. Chair, there are so many important programs that are funded in the Department of Interior Appropriations bill. I am proud to be on this committee and particularly to serve on this subcommittee.

Today's bill was written by a very good chairman in conjunction with a great ranking member, but at the end of the day, the funding levels are still too low. We cannot get bipartisan support on this bill when there are not enough dollars to go around. The reality is we need to get rid of the sequester, roll back the Budget Control Act caps, and pass these bills with funding levels that move our country forward, not backward.

As so many of my colleagues have stated, when adjusted for inflation, this bill provides less than the appropriated levels in FY 2005. That is just not sufficient for the vital programs in this bill, programs that monitor and protect the water we drink and the air we breathe and regulate the products we use.

There are some highlights in today's bill, such as the Bureau of Indian Education construction budget and the Forest Legacy program and the international forestry accounts, and I am glad to see them there, but there is so much more to be concerned about.

I am deeply disappointed in the cut to the Fish and Wildlife Service endangered species listing program, which is cut by 50 percent, and the overall Land and Water Conservation Fund cuts. This overall Land and Water Conservation Fund level is 20 percent less than last year, and that is very frustrating, knowing how important this program is to every single congressional district in the country.

I am concerned that programs such as the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program are funded at last year's level—and no higher—when we really need to understand the diseases that affect our fish and establish treatment options to protect them.

The U.S. Geological Survey that funds critical research programs and

the monitoring of climate change, stormwater gauges, earthquake and weather research is also funded only at last year's level.

The National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities were denied the additional resources they requested, including funds that would have been used to increase programming for our veterans and wounded warriors.

For those of us in Maine who are so proud of our national park, Acadia National Park, and are strong supporters of parks across the country, there is simply not enough funding. There are not enough dollars for the improvements and maintenance that is needed in any given year, but particularly needed in this special centennial year.

The National Park centennial is a once in a lifetime opportunity for us to highlight our parks and help millions of Americans who have not been to a national park before to see our Nation's greatest treasures.

Again, I recognize completely the position that this subcommittee and our other subcommittees have been in because of the Budget Control Act caps, but these programs deserve more.

I look forward to working with our chair and ranking member as this bill moves forward, to try to improve the areas that still need attention.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, it is my pleasure to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, today, I rise in support of H.R. 2822, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2016.

It is no secret that the EPA is out of control. I think everybody across this great land knows that. A few weeks ago, the EPA issued their final rule to redefine waters of the U.S., completely ignoring the will of the House and stakeholders all across America.

Under this rule change, waters of the U.S. would now include smaller bodies of water and even some dry land. In fact, this new definition would extend the EPA's regulatory reach to seemingly any body of water, including that water puddled in your ditch after a rain storm. Yes, you heard me right.

I have heard from small-business owners, farmers, Realtors, and homebuilders in my district; and they are all concerned about the negative impact this rule could have—and rightly so. This rule is so broad that it could very well require them to get permission from a Federal bureaucrat before acting on their own property.

I commend Chairman CALVERT and the other members of the committee for including language in this appropriations bill to prohibit any funds from being used to implement this new rule.

I am proud to support this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time is left?

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota has 9 minutes remaining.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), a valued Member of this body.

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentlewoman, my friend, for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise today to oppose this legislation for many reasons but, in particular, because it vastly underfunds the operation of our national parks, as well as many other important priorities.

Next August, the National Park Service will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Our national parks are the envy of the world and serve as a model for their emphasis on conservation.

The National Park System accounts for more than 400 parks, heritage areas, monuments, and the historical sites; occupies more than 84 million acres of land in all 50 States; and is home to more than 1,000 endangered or threatened animal species. It is the responsibility of the National Park Service to preserve these sites so that future generations may enjoy them.

Our national parks tell a rich story of our stunning landscapes, natural wonders, and historic sites. From Yosemite National Park in California to Mammoth Cave—the world's longest known cave system, in Kentucky—to the Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee and North Carolina, our national parks are an essential part of the American fabric and have been called America's best idea.

This bill appropriates approximately \$2.33 billion for the operation of the National Park System over the next year. This is more than \$187 million below the amount that was requested by the President. This account funds the critical needs of our National Park System, such as support services for new responsibilities within the system, resource stewardship, and facilities management.

The National Park System is a significant driver of economic activity. More than 275 million people visit our national parks each year. In 2013, it was estimated that every dollar invested in the National Park Service saw a return of \$10.

We need to do better in ensuring that this economic engine and beacon of American tourism is operating at the highest level so that it can continue to fulfill its vital economic, environmental, and cultural role.

Ensuring that the National Park Service has proper funding for operation ensures that we are able to preserve the story of our country's development into the Nation that it is today.

In my home State of Rhode Island, the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, created last year after I sponsored legislation in the House in cooperation with Senator JACK REED in the Senate, marks the birthplace of the American industrial revolution.

Sites like old Slater Mill in Pawtucket and the Museum of Work and

Culture in Woonsocket help tell the story of how America became an economic superpower.

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It embodies our Nation's economic, environmental, social, and cultural transformation. In the best spirit of the National Park Service, the Blackstone River Valley tells a nationally significant multidimensional story. It illustrates how a beautiful natural landscape and powerful waterways fueled the industrial revolution and launched far-reaching changes to our Nation's economy and social structure.

Blackstone serves only as one example of why it is essential that our national parks are properly funded and are able to operate in a manner in which millions of Americans continue to appreciate the storied history of our Nation.

It is long past time to end sequester and set spending levels that meet our current responsibilities to be good stewards of the environment and protect the natural beauty of America.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. CALVERT. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS), a valued Member of this body.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member for yielding me the time.

You know, my Republican colleagues have made no secret about the fact that they want to strangle the EPA and undermine its vital environmental work, but they make little mention of how this bill also threatens our national security.

I represent Las Vegas, which is the home of a number of critical radiation response programs, including one of the only two EPA mobile field labs that can quickly be deployed should a radiological incident occur anywhere in the West. They can process air, soil, and water samples.

Because of ongoing budget cuts led by the Republicans, however, EPA will soon be moving this unit to Montgomery, Alabama, and decommissioning its other mobile lab. That will leave the whole country with only one EPA radiation response lab, which will be located over 2,000 miles from Los Angeles, 2,600 miles from Seattle, and 1,800 miles from Las Vegas and the Nevada test site.

Now, Republicans may be willing to gamble our health and safety to satisfy their corporate friends, but I am not, and that is why I am asking my colleagues to vote against this legislation and fund our agencies at levels necessary to protect our national security.

Mr. CALVERT. I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I do not have an update on the Member that I am waiting for.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I will just say that this is a good bill. A lot of work has gone into it, and I would make sure that everyone votes for it because it is a fine bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chair, let me thank our Ranking Member, Congresswoman MCCOLLUM, for yielding, and for her tremendous leadership of this Subcommittee.

Mr. Chair, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Interior and Environment bill before us would place health and safety of all Americans at risk. It dangerously cuts funding by \$246 million from FY2015 levels and is \$3.1 billion less than the President's FY2016 request.

The deep cuts to this bill would undermine our air quality, land, water and conservation funding and will have devastating impacts on all communities in my home state of California and across the country.

What's worse—this bill slashes funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by more than 700 million dollars—from FY2015 levels and funds the agency at more than a billion dollars less than the President's FY2016 request. These profound cuts would significantly harm the Clean Water Fund and the Safe Drinking Water Fund—critical programs that ensure the safety of our drinking water and our children.

It also includes \$40 million in cuts to the Historic Preservation Fund (HPP), which would weaken the National Park Services' (NPS) ability to preserve sites significant in the Civil Rights Movement. This includes sites like the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, where many of us participated in the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

Furthermore, there are also egregious policy riders in this bill that would block clean air protections, such as the EPA's Clean Power Plan.

Too many families, particularly those in low-income, vulnerable communities, already suffer from poor air quality because of dirty carbon pollution.

We know that communities of color are disproportionately affected by pollution-related illnesses, including asthma. According to the American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology, one in six African American and one in nine Latino children suffer from asthma.

There are other toxic policy riders that would block the protection of our imperiled wildlife under the Endangered Species Act, like the Greater Sage Grouse population.

The Endangered Species Act is the only law that has safeguarded more than 2,000 plants and wildlife from extinction. This law enjoys broad support from nearly 85 percent of Americans. And yet here we are again, with a bill that seeks to undermine decades of, animal protection and runs counter to vast public support.

Mr. Chair, we need to continue to fight to defend our environment, address climate change, and make real, meaningful impacts on reducing greenhouse gas emissions so we protect our environment, our children and our future.

Unfortunately, the bill before us does just the opposite.

I hope that as this process moves forward, we can address the insufficient funding allocations and backwards policy riders that would

harm every American and put our precious environment at risk.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment each amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment. No pro forma amendment shall be in order except that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate. The chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD designated for that purpose. Amendments so printed shall be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2822

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OF LANDS AND RESOURCES

For necessary expenses for protection, use, improvement, development, disposal, cadastral surveying, classification, acquisition of easements and other interests in lands, and performance of other functions, including maintenance of facilities, as authorized by law, in the management of lands and their resources under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, including the general administration of the Bureau, and assessment of mineral potential of public lands pursuant to section 1010(a) of Public Law 96-487 (16 U.S.C. 3150(a)), \$1,015,046,000, to remain available until expended, including all such amounts as are collected from permit processing fees, as authorized but made subject to future appropriation by section 35(d)(3)(A)(i) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191), except that amounts from permit processing fees may be used for any bureau-related expenses associated with the processing of oil and gas applications for permits to drill and related use of authorizations; of which \$3,000,000 shall be available in fiscal year 2016 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.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POE OF TEXAS

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:



Page 2, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is really relatively simple. It takes \$1 million from the Bureau of Land Management's management of lands account and inserts it right back into the account with the intent of identifying unused land for potential sale to Americans.

The service charges, deposits, and forfeitures account already has the authority to dispose of land under the Bureau of Land Management, but is not specifically appropriated funds.

Today, Mr. Chairman, the United States Government owns and controls 640 million acres of American land. This is 27 percent of the entire landmass in the United States. If you take all of the countries in Western Europe, the United States Government, Uncle Sam, owns that much land and more.

In this poster to my left, the red portions of the poster identify land that is owned by Uncle Sam, the Federal Government. The white portions, of course, are land that is owned by private entities. Included in the red area is Alaska. The red area represents 27 percent of the landmass in the United States. A lot of this land is unused, and it is not even managed by the Federal Government. It is just sitting in these different parts of the country.

This amendment is very simple. It tells the Bureau of Land Management to study the possibility of selling some of this land back to Americans. Let Americans own America, not all of it. We are not talking about the national parks, the national forests. We are not talking about Yosemite. We are talking about the unused abandoned land in the United States, but yet it is still owned by this Federal Government.

That is what this amendment does; it is to require a study take place.

Mr. Chairman, I ask that this amendment be adopted.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE of Texas).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLORES

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

On page 2, line 20, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)” after the dollar amount.

On page 62, line 8, insert “(reduced by \$12,307,693)” after the dollar amount.

On page 75, line 14, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)” after the dollar amount.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment, along with my friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and my friend from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER).

This amendment will address an energy infrastructure issue that faces our Nation today, as well as continuing regulatory overreach by the Environmental Protection Agency.

We all know that the American shale revolution has dramatically improved our energy security at home and our economic opportunity for hard-working Americans. The United States is now the number one producer of oil and gas in the world, yet we are in the midst of new challenges due to a lack of appropriate infrastructure to bring those resources to our consumers.

Also, the EPA has recently reported that methane emissions from oil and gas wells are down 79 percent since 2005, and total methane emissions from natural gas systems are down 11 percent since that same year. However, the administration intends to propose another regulation that only results in more bureaucratic red tape and higher energy costs. This does nothing to address the underlying issue.

There is a better solution, which not only achieves lower greenhouse gas emissions, but also improves the outcomes for the American taxpayer.

My amendment would increase the amount of funds made available to both the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service by \$5 million each to help expedite the approval of additional pipeline infrastructure that would more efficiently and more cleanly deliver our taxpayer-owned resources to consumers. This will ensure that the BLM and the Forest Service have the appropriate resources to permit rights-of-way for gathering lines on Federal lands. This increase would be offset by a very modest reduction of less than one-half of 1 percent to the EPA environmental programs and management accounts.

It is important that we safely bring these natural resources to market using the latest low-emissions, cutting-edge technology. Permitting and constructing this critical infrastructure is beneficial to the environment since natural gas could be transported, processed, and sold to consumers instead of being vented or flared, which creates the greenhouse gas problems.

Finally, constructing more pipelines furthers our country's ongoing energy renaissance, while creating more jobs and growing our economy. A recent API study shows over 1.1 million jobs on average per year and over \$1.1 trillion in capital investments will be generated by updating our domestic mid-stream infrastructure.

So, in a nutshell, my amendment provides three great outcomes: first, it reduces greenhouse gas emissions; second, it provides critical infrastructure to safely transport taxpayer-owned re-

sources to consumer markets; and third, it promotes good-paying American jobs for these hard-working American families.

I also want to take a second to compliment and thank my friend from California (Mr. CALVERT) and all of the subcommittee members and all of the subcommittee staff for such a great job on this Interior Appropriations bill.

I urge our Members to support my amendment and to support the underlying bill.

Mr. CALVERT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FLORES. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. I like the amendment. I would accept that amendment.

Mr. FLORES. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman's amendment would cut \$12 million from the Environmental Protection Agency program and shift \$5 million to the Bureau of Land Management and \$5 million to the Forest Service.

Now, I know cutting the EPA is an easy target for many of my colleagues across here on the other side of the aisle, but I want to assure my colleagues and understand if this amendment were to be adopted, this account funds program is important to both sides of the aisle. For example, it includes permitting for construction projects across the country; toxic risk prevention, part of the successful brownfields program; pesticide licensing; indoor air quality; radiation.

Quite frankly, the EPA's work goes beyond the political talking point of various regulations, and it is necessary to keep this valuable Agency able to do the functions it needs to do to protect public health.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, I want to make sure that everybody knows that this cuts one-half of 1 percent from the EPA to hopefully help stop them from pursuing a regulatory scheme where the industry is already working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and then it takes that money and puts it into accounts where we actually achieve greenhouse gas reductions and we bring taxpayer-owned resources to market in a clean, safe, and efficient way.

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My amendment accomplishes all of those things: reduces greenhouse gas emissions, better jobs, and better infrastructure for hard-working Americans.

Again, I ask all Members to support my amendment and to support the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$14,000,000)”.

Page 18, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$11,611,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, in listening to the previous debate, I would certainly agree we have made great strides in America in accessing oil and gas, so much so that we have now become almost energy independent, all for the good. All of that has happened in the last 7 to 8 years, and we are thankful for that.

However, this appropriation has more money than needed. The administration has asked for about \$32 million less.

I would like my colleagues to take a look at where we really do need to spend some money. This amendment that I am proposing deals with this. This is California’s water situation today. The great Central Valley of California is rapidly depleting its aquifers. The water resources that agriculture and communities depend upon are rapidly depleting.

This amendment would move about \$11,611,000 to the USGS, to Geological Survey, for the purposes of studying the aquifers of California. Now, keep in mind that the State of California voters approved a \$7 billion bond act of which a good portion of that money is for underground aquifer storage.

We have to have the science; we have to have the engineering to go with it, and this amendment would provide the additional money that the USGS needs in order to do the surveys and the engineering and understanding the geology of those areas where we might be able to have the aquifers replenished. That is what it is all about.

This leaves plenty of money behind for the purposes that the committee has identified in the approval and the permitting of mineral and gas and oil resources.

I see my colleague from California, who is well aware of these issues, including aquifers in the San Fernando and the Santa Anna aquifer area, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MARCHANT). The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I don’t necessarily oppose where the gentleman wants to go; I just oppose the offset right now because, under the budget scenario that we are operating under, we obviously have cut back a lot of these agencies somewhat.

I am sympathetic to the job that the United States Geological Survey has. As you know, in California, we probably have the most adjudicated water rights in the world. I will work on this in the future as this process moves forward.

If it is necessary, after some conversations with USGS, that they need additional resources, I will be happy to work with the gentleman to attempt to do so, but this offset, we could not accept at this time.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman.

Certainly, the chairman understands the issues of water in California, as well as anyone does, and also understands that, in order for us to meet the current and certainly any future drought, we are going to have to use the aquifers, which will require the services and the knowledge and capability of the U.S. Geological Survey to fully comprehend the potential that the various aquifers have throughout the State, those in southern California, as well as the Central Valley and coastal areas.

I would be delighted working with the chairman as the process moves along and see if we might be able to find sufficient money and address the specific needs of aquifer surveys by the USGS. I look forward to working with the gentleman on that.

Rather than taking a “no” vote on this and going to a vote, I heard the gentleman suggest that we can work together and quite possibly solve this problem.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. YOHO

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$25,325,000)”.

Page 132, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$25,325,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman CALVERT and the ranking members for the fine work they have done on H.R. 2822. I think, overall, it is a great bill.

What my amendment does is move over \$25 million from the Bureau of Land Management’s law enforcement activities and transfer that money into the deficit savings account.

Just a brief cap, BLM, Bureau of Land Management, has a force of roughly 200 uniformed officers and 70 criminal investigators on staff enforce-

ing a wide range of laws. In addition, the FBI has 35,000 agents; the Department of Homeland Security has over 70,000 enforcement agents; the IRS has over 3,700 criminal investigation employees, including 2,600 special agents; the ATF has over 2,500 special agents; and the DEA has over 5,000.

With just those five agencies, there are over 115,000 national law agents in just these five agencies. I feel that we have enough Federal agencies to deal with the problem to enforce the laws on the books, especially when we are talking about the violations on Federal lands.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman’s amendment would cut \$25 million from the Bureau of Land Management program and put the savings into the so-called spending reduction account.

The gentleman pointed out that he plans on reducing that amount on law enforcement in the Bureau of Land Management. The employees who are out doing this work are already overstretched and find themselves sometimes in very dangerous positions.

The BLM is the caretaker of our Nation’s public lands. They protect one-eighth of the country. I think that we should make sure that BLM law enforcement is able to do their job, do their job safely, come home to their families, and protect America’s resources.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. YOHO. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, as the gentleman knows, I am a westerner. As was pointed out by Mr. POE, a significant amount of the West is in BLM control. In dealing with the BLM over the years, they have a lot of land mass that they deal with, and they also work with the Native American tribes and others dealing with really a restricted number of law enforcement.

We have commented and criticized about how well they operate, but I would hope that we didn’t have to do this because there is a considerable need for some law enforcement in those vast areas in which the Federal Government owns throughout the Western United States.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Chairman, I agree with that. This amendment is about priorities.

I think with the state of the economy that we are on both sides, I don’t have to remind people that we have the debt ceiling coming up, and we are short of money; we have the highway trust fund that is going to come up again at the end of July, and we are short of money. I believe that the Federal Government has enough agents and more than enough debt for sure.

I just encourage people to vote in favor of this amendment.

We get people from our district, and they talk to us about what happened out in Nevada with the Cliven Bundy case. When you have the Bureau of Land Management with SWAT capabilities showing up like they do, we get asked: Why are agencies like this having that kind of tactical gear? Why do they have that kind of capacity?

This is not to weaken them in a sense, and we do have to patrol those areas. I just think, at this point in time, that \$25 million would serve our debt.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, this bill already is \$246 million below the FY 2015-enacted level. This amendment only causes further damage.

Let's look at what has been happening over the past decade. As the funding has decreased, we know from committee hearings that the demands on the BLM have increased. There are more oil and gas leases to manage to make sure that they are properly protected.

These issues that we deal with in the Bureau of Land Management, also with law enforcement, is working directly with the public sometimes who are out recreating and accessing these lands.

I would just like, once again, to reiterate my strong opposition to cutting law enforcement for BLM.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Chairman, in lieu of what the chairman is saying, I will withdraw the amendment at this time if we can have a serious discussion about the debt before September.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$4,010,000)".

Page 8, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,902,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, this bill deals with the very real problem for delivering water to southern California.

Those people who are familiar with the way in which the California water system works, water flows down the Sacramento River—I will just put this up here—water comes down the Sacramento River from the north and up the San Joaquin from the south.

It all gets to the delta where the massive pumps at Tracy pick the water

up, put it in the canals, and send it to the San Joaquin Valley and then on to southern California, Los Angeles, Orange County, and other cities in that massive urban area.

There is a problem in the delta, a lot of problems. One of the problems is aquatic plants. The delta is being totally overrun by water hyacinths. Other parts of the United States and the West are also finding these invasive water aquatic plants plugging their pumps, reducing water supply, eliminating opportunities for boating, recreation, fishing, and the like.

What this amendment does is address that problem by adding \$3,902,000 to the aquatic habitat and species conservation fund, thereby allowing the Federal agencies to work with the State and local agencies to attack the aquatic plants.

Specifically in the delta, those who want to have more water flowing south to the San Joaquin Valley and southern California's great metropolitan areas, including Orange County, ought to be in favor of unplugging the pumps and getting the water hyacinths reduced in the delta.

That is what we would do. It is a very real problem; it is a problem that exists today, and it is also money that comes from some 32 million more dollars in this Bureau of Land Management oil and gas permitting account than the President thought necessary. Surely, there is a little bit of room to move around so that southern California can have the water that it needs.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1415

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what the gentleman is attempting to do, again, on the offset.

Right now, the BLM is involved in this issue of the sage-grouse in the West. We, in effect, gave both the BLM and the Fish and Wildlife Service additional resources in order for us not to be in a position to list the sage-grouse so as to make sure that we do what is necessary in the sage ecosystem.

At the same time, we have plussed up conservation accounts within the Fish and Wildlife Service for those types of invasive species. We have a number of invasive species, not just in the plant world, but, obviously, we have this invasive clam, as you mentioned, that is stuffing up the quagga mussel, and that is causing disruptions throughout the West.

I appreciate what the gentleman is trying to do. It is just that we are under the budget allocations we have. We have done what we can in both of these accounts, which is to do good work on conservation and to make sure we conserve species and get rid of bad species throughout the United States. I would hope the gentleman would with-

draw his amendment, and I will work with him in the future on the other issue.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, the chairman is quite correct. We do have a problem. We do have quagga mussels. We have this particular one, the water hyacinths, and there are other aquatic invasive species that are causing havoc throughout the United States—certainly, the quagga mussel in the East, along the Great Lakes, Chicago and the rest—and certainly in California. The energy systems at Hoover Dam, on the Colorado River, are impeded by quagga mussels, and there is the delta with water hyacinths, and there are other lakes and streams throughout the West.

If we let this problem continue to grow, we are going to continue to have less water and less power available to us. This is just under \$4 million coming out of an account that was plussed up by some \$32 million over and above what the administration thought necessary. I would remind all of us that the administration has done a rather good job on permitting, so much so that we now have the greatest production of oil and gas ever in the United States, so much so that we are on the verge of becoming energy sufficient.

Do we need another \$32 million to do what is already being done, or would that \$4 million of that \$32 million be better spent in dealing with the very real problem of trying to get water to the pumps so it can go south to Orange County and to Los Angeles and to San Joaquin County?

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with you, but I am going to ask for a vote on this one.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, in closing, the plus up in the BLM account was primarily to help resolve the issue in 11 States involving the sage-grouse, which is close to a listing, and we have a plus up in the Fish and Wildlife Service accounts to recognize a real problem that hits 11 Western States.

We do not underestimate the problems in the West as they involve the drought, and we are going to continue to work on that. Again, I would oppose this based upon the offset.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

In addition, \$39,696,000 is for Mining Law Administration program operations, including the cost of administering the mining

claim fee program, to remain available until expended, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Bureau and credited to this appropriation from mining claim maintenance fees and location fees that are hereby authorized for fiscal year 2016, so as to result in a final appropriation estimated at not more than \$1,015,046,000, and \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, from communication site rental fees established by the Bureau for the cost of administering communication site activities.

#### LAND ACQUISITION

For expenses necessary to carry out sections 205, 206, and 318(d) of Public Law 94-579, including administrative expenses and acquisition of lands or waters, or interests therein, \$7,250,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GUINTA

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$7,000,000)".

Page 8, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$11,000,000)".

Page 9, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

Page 16, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$4,000,000)".

Page 62, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,000,000)".

Page 77, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,000,000)".

Page 105, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

Mr. GUINTA (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from New Hampshire and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire.

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill in order to increase funding by \$16 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Since 1977, LWCF receipts have been collected annually to specifically fund Federal land acquisition, conserve threatened and endangered species, and provide grants to States. However, more than \$18 billion has been syphoned from the LWCF trust fund since the program's inception in 1965, diverted from their original conservation purpose. Despite a history of underfunding, the LWCF remains a crucial Federal program to conserve our Nation's land, water, historic, and recreational heritage.

As those in my home State of New Hampshire know, we are lucky to call one of the most pristine ecological environments in the Nation our home, and we understand firsthand LWCF's impact on both our State's natural resources and on our access to hunting,

fishing, and outdoor activities. The LWCF is also an essential tool to expand public lands and to protect national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, wild and scenic river corridors, national scenic and historic trails, the Bureau of Land Management lands, and other Federal areas.

I applaud the Appropriations Committee for its hard work on this important bill as it does prevent harmful executive overreach, reduces regulatory burdens on job creators and local communities, and it finds important savings for taxpayers. I certainly urge my colleagues to support the underlying bill, but given the importance of the LWCF programs across the country and in New Hampshire, I believe more robust funding for this particular program is important for the reasons I have stated.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, as the gentleman knows, the bill already provides \$87 million for other land acquisition. Our intent was to needle a Federal land acquisition program that has strong support in the East—certainly, in New Hampshire—and lukewarm support in the West, where the government already owns a significant amount of real estate in the Western United States. When the conference begins on this bill with the Senate, Congress will exercise its power of the purse by selecting projects from the President's budget to improve recreational access that have strong local, State, and congressional support.

I will work with the gentleman. I know he is a strong advocate of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, but this amendment might leave advocates on both sides of the aisle with some difficult and unnecessary choices. Therefore, I ask the gentleman to consider withdrawing his amendment, knowing I will be working with him in the future to see if we can't be of assistance through the conference process.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman, and I look forward to working with him on this particular issue as it is important and critical to New Hampshire.

I recognize the differences between the East and the West and the challenges that we do face. Certainly, I support, again, the underlying bill, and I look forward to working with the chairman on this very important issue in New Hampshire.

Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, to everyone here, this is one of those amendments that really becomes a talking point amendment, but this is something we need to talk about. Our colleague, a moment ago, raised the question of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In addition to the words that he spoke, we need to be aware that, later this next month—in about 100 days, actually, I guess that is more than a month—the Land and Water Conservation Fund is going to disappear. It needs to be reauthorized, and I see on the floor here today the men and women who are in a position to make that happen.

We really cannot lose this program. For example, there are projects in the Sequoia National Forest, which is in the majority leader's district, that were funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. There is a Galloway Park playground expansion in Clark County, Ohio. I think we know in whose district that is—the Speaker's district. The chairman of the subcommittee here is from San Bernardino. There is the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, and there is a Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway. I am sure the chairman is familiar with that parkway. These are all Land and Water Conservation projects that, over the years, have been in place. We have 100 days, and we have got some work to do here.

Is the money available? Yes. There is \$18 billion in the Land and Water Conservation Fund, should it continue to exist, that has not been spent. It is sitting there. Well, I guess there is an IOU there. Actually, the cash isn't there. There is an IOU because, over the years, we have diverted money from the original purpose and law to transfer that money over to all kinds of projects. Perhaps some of it even went to debt reduction. Nonetheless, it has not been used for its intended purpose and legal purpose, which is for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Every year, over \$900 million of royalties comes in from the oil and gas and energy companies for the public resources that they mine or pump out of the earth. Only a small fraction of that money has ever gone to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

I want all of us to pay attention to this extraordinarily important program—a program that I was able to work with when I was Deputy Secretary at the Department of the Interior, overseeing the projects in all of

our districts—parks, local parks, some of the big national parks, including national forests, such as the one in Mr. MCCARTHY's district.

Why are we not moving aggressively to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund? Why is it that, every year, we deny the public, whether it is a playground or a swimming pool or a park expansion playground in Ohio, the opportunity for better lives in their own communities?

I do not understand, and I don't think that if any of us were to think about this for any amount of time that we would not say, yes, let's reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Let's not let it expire. Let's make sure that the money that was intended for it—the royalties from the resources of this great Nation—be spent on providing for the projects that all of America can enjoy. That is what it is all about.

I don't know if I will go to a vote on this one, but I have, in my view here, leaders in the House who really have the power and, I think, the obligation to make sure the LWCF, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, is reauthorized and that we adequately fund it. I achieved, at least, my own goal of talking about something that I believe to be important.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### OREGON AND CALIFORNIA GRANT LANDS

For expenses necessary for management, protection, and development of resources and for construction, operation, and maintenance of access roads, reforestation, and other improvements on the revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands, on other Federal lands in the Oregon and California land-grant counties of Oregon, and on adjacent rights-of-way; and acquisition of lands or interests therein, including existing connecting roads on or adjacent to such grant lands; \$110,602,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That 25 percent of the aggregate of all receipts during the current fiscal year from the revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands is hereby made a charge against the Oregon and California land-grant fund and shall be transferred to the General Fund in the Treasury in accordance with the second paragraph of subsection (b) of title II of the Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C. 1181f).

#### RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

For rehabilitation, protection, and acquisition of lands and interests therein, and improvement of Federal rangelands pursuant to section 401 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1751), notwithstanding any other Act, sums equal to 50 percent of all moneys received during the prior fiscal year under sections 3 and 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act (43 U.S.C. 315b, 315m) and the amount designated for range improvements from grazing fees and mineral leasing receipts from Bankhead-Jones lands transferred to the Department of the Interior pursuant to law, but not less than

\$10,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$600,000 shall be available for administrative expenses.

#### SERVICE CHARGES, DEPOSITS, AND FORFEITURES

For administrative expenses and other costs related to processing application documents and other authorizations for use and disposal of public lands and resources, for costs of providing copies of official public land documents, for monitoring construction, operation, and termination of facilities in conjunction with use authorizations, and for rehabilitation of damaged property, such amounts as may be collected under Public Law 94-579 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 185), to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary of section 305(a) of Public Law 94-579 (43 U.S.C. 1735(a)), any moneys that have been or will be received pursuant to that section, whether as a result of forfeiture, compromise, or settlement, if not appropriate for refund pursuant to section 305(c) of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1735(c)), shall be available and may be expended under the authority of this Act by the Secretary to improve, protect, or rehabilitate any public lands administered through the Bureau of Land Management which have been damaged by the action of a resource developer, purchaser, permittee, or any unauthorized person, without regard to whether all moneys collected from each such action are used on the exact lands damaged which led to the action: *Provided further*, That any such moneys that are in excess of amounts needed to repair damage to the exact land for which funds were collected may be used to repair other damaged public lands.

#### MISCELLANEOUS TRUST FUNDS

In addition to amounts authorized to be expended under existing laws, there is hereby appropriated such amounts as may be contributed under section 307 of Public Law 94-579 (43 U.S.C. 1737), and such amounts as may be advanced for administrative costs, surveys, appraisals, and costs of making conveyances of omitted lands under section 211(b) of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1721(b)), to remain available until expended.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The Bureau of Land Management may carry out the operations funded under this Act by direct expenditure, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements and reimbursable agreements with public and private entities, including with States. Appropriations for the Bureau shall be available for purchase, erection, and dismantlement of temporary structures, and alteration and maintenance of necessary buildings and appurtenant facilities to which the United States has title; up to \$100,000 for payments, at the discretion of the Secretary, for information or evidence concerning violations of laws administered by the Bureau; miscellaneous and emergency expenses of enforcement activities authorized or approved by the Secretary and to be accounted for solely on the Secretary's certificate, not to exceed \$10,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding Public Law 90-620 (44 U.S.C. 501), the Bureau may, under cooperative cost-sharing and partnership arrangements authorized by law, procure printing services from cooperators in connection with jointly produced publications for which the cooperators share the cost of printing either in cash or in services, and the Bureau determines the cooperator is capable of meeting accepted quality standards: *Provided further*, That projects to be funded pursuant to a written commitment by a State government to provide an identified amount of money in support of the project may be carried out by the

Bureau on a reimbursable basis. 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.

#### UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as authorized by law, and for scientific and economic studies, general administration, and for the performance of other authorized functions related to such resources, \$1,220,343,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$10,257,000 shall be used for implementing subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e) of section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) (except for processing petitions, developing and issuing proposed and final regulations, and taking any other steps to implement actions described in subsection (c)(2)(A), (c)(2)(B)(i), or (c)(2)(B)(ii)).

□ 1430

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CLAWSON OF FLORIDA

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. I have an amendment for consideration, please.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 8, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,200,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I will be brief and also try to improve just a little bit on a very good bill.

My congratulations to the team and to the ranking member and to the chairman.

Included in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife resource management account is funding for the National Wildlife Refuge System. By my amendment, we ask that an extra \$1 million be added to this account. We are offsetting the increase by taking \$1 million from the \$2.4 billion Environmental Protection Agency programs and management account, hardly a stretch.

The National Wildlife Refuge System has grown to over 563 national wildlife refuge and 38 wetland management districts, 150 million acres in all. We have several of these national wildlife refuges in my district or near my district, including J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island and the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge outside of Naples.

The "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, in particular, sets itself apart as a leading contributor to the economy, with 816,000 visitors a year. Importantly, my hero, my mother, loves to go there, and I love to take her there in the autumn of her lifetime. I ask my fellow Members to support this

\$1 million adjustment to these national treasures.

Mr. CALVERT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I think this is a good amendment. I certainly support it and would ask Members to vote "aye" on the amendment.

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman and the ranking member.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CLAWSON of Florida).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### CONSTRUCTION

For construction, improvement, acquisition, or removal of buildings and other facilities required in the conservation, management, investigation, protection, and utilization of fish and wildlife resources, and the acquisition of lands and interests therein; \$13,144,000, to remain available until expended.

#### LAND ACQUISITION

For expenses necessary to carry out the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, (16 U.S.C. 4601-4 et seq.), including administrative expenses, and for acquisition of land or waters, or interest therein, in accordance with statutory authority applicable to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, \$27,500,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated for specific land acquisition projects may be used to pay for any administrative overhead, planning or other management costs.

#### COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary to carry out section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1535), \$50,095,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended.

#### NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND

For expenses necessary to implement the Act of October 17, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 715s), \$13,228,000.

#### NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.), \$35,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION

For expenses necessary to carry out the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), \$3,660,000, to remain available until expended.

#### MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary to carry out the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.), the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4261 et seq.), the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), and the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.), \$9,561,000, to remain available until expended.

#### STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS

For wildlife conservation grants to States and to the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico,

Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Indian tribes under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, for the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished, \$59,195,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount provided herein, \$4,084,000 is for a competitive grant program for Indian tribes not subject to the remaining provisions of this appropriation: *Provided further*, That \$5,987,000 is for a competitive grant program to implement approved plans for States, territories, and other jurisdictions and at the discretion of affected States, the regional Associations of fish and wildlife agencies, not subject to the remaining provisions of this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, after deducting \$10,071,000 and administrative expenses, apportion the amount provided herein in the following manner: (1) to the District of Columbia and to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, each a sum equal to not more than one-half of 1 percent thereof; and (2) to Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, each a sum equal to not more than one-fourth of 1 percent thereof: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall apportion the remaining amount in the following manner: (1) one-third of which is based on the ratio to which the land area of such State bears to the total land area of all such States; and (2) two-thirds of which is based on the ratio to which the population of such State bears to the total population of all such States: *Provided further*, That the amounts apportioned under this paragraph shall be adjusted equitably so that no State shall be apportioned a sum which is less than 1 percent of the amount available for apportionment under this paragraph for any fiscal year or more than 5 percent of such amount: *Provided further*, That the Federal share of planning grants shall not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of such projects and the Federal share of implementation grants shall not exceed 65 percent of the total costs of such projects: *Provided further*, That the non-Federal share of such projects may not be derived from Federal grant programs: *Provided further*, That any amount apportioned in 2016 to any State, territory, or other jurisdiction that remains unobligated as of September 30, 2017, shall be reapportioned, together with funds appropriated in 2018, in the manner provided herein.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service may carry out the operations of Service programs by direct expenditure, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements and reimbursable agreements with public and private entities. Appropriations and funds available to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall be available for repair of damage to public roads within and adjacent to reservation areas caused by operations of the Service; options for the purchase of land at not to exceed \$1 for each option; facilities incident to such public recreational uses on conservation areas as are consistent with their primary purpose; and the maintenance and improvement of aquaria, buildings, and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Service and to which the United States has title, and which are used pursuant to law in connection with management, and investigation of fish and wildlife resources: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 44 U.S.C. 501, the Service may, under cooperative cost sharing and partnership arrangements authorized by law, procure printing services from cooperators

in connection with jointly produced publications for which the cooperators share at least one-half the cost of printing either in cash or services and the Service determines the cooperator is capable of meeting accepted quality standards: *Provided further*, That the Service may accept donated aircraft as replacements for existing aircraft: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, all fees collected for non-toxic shot review and approval shall be deposited under the heading "United States Fish and Wildlife Service—Resource Management" and shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, to be used for expenses of processing of such non-toxic shot type or coating applications and revising regulations as necessary, and shall remain available until expended.

#### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

##### OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

For expenses necessary for the management, operation, and maintenance of areas and facilities administered by the National Park Service and for the general administration of the National Park Service, \$2,327,811,000, of which \$10,001,000 for planning and interagency coordination in support of Everglades restoration and \$96,961,000 for maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation projects for constructed assets shall remain available until September 30, 2017.

##### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CLAWSON OF FLORIDA

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 14, line 10, after the first dollar amount, insert "increased by \$1,000,000".

Page 14, line 10, after the second dollar amount, insert "increased by \$1,000,000".

Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "reduced by \$1,250,000".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, by this amendment, we are asking for an additional \$1 million to be put towards Everglades restoration to be paid for with a decrease in the Environmental Protection Agency's environmental programs and management account.

I first want to say that I am grateful to my Democratic colleague from Florida, PATRICK MURPHY, who has supported me on this and repeatedly supports our important Everglades initiatives.

Shortly after retiring from the private sector 3 years ago, I took a walk in the Gulf with my father. When we waded into the Gulf, we got to about knee depth of water, and we looked down and we couldn't see our toes because that was a bad year for all the discharges into the Gulf of Mexico.

So my dad said to me: Can you do something about this? Just get involved.

I said: Dad, what can a retired auto parts executive do to help this situation?

He said: If you get involved, you will figure out what to do.

From there, I got involved in local matters and then eventually came here to Congress.

In Florida, we are indeed blessed to have an extensive network of over 1.5 million acres of freshwater and saltwater, known as Everglades National Park. It is the largest remaining subtropical wilderness in the United States, and it serves as home to numerous beautiful species, including a number of endangered species. For these reasons, we must guarantee the Everglades continue to reflect our shared values of healthy landscape through effective stewardship and conscientious management, and that is why I offer this amendment today.

Mr. CALVERT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the gentleman's amendment. I know he has been a champion for the Everglades. It is certainly a concern of this committee. I want to get out there and look at those pythons in the Everglades. I understand they are all over the place.

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. There are too many of them.

Mr. CALVERT. Yes, too many, that is the problem.

I would be happy to support this amendment. I would urge an "aye" vote when it comes up.

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CLAWSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. SEWELL OF ALABAMA

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 14, line 10, after the first dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,500,000)".

Page 14, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$4,500,000)".

Page 15, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$4,500,000)".

Page 36, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$7,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentlewoman from Alabama and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the subcommittee chairman, as well as the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), the ranking member, for their hard work in shepherding this important legislation to the floor and, most importantly, for working with me and my staff to propose this amendment and to make sure that it is budget neutral.

On the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, we need to invest in the

National Park Service sites associated with the civil rights movement, not cut necessary funding. Seminal locations such as the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site tell the story of the struggle for civil rights and voting rights in this country. It is our obligation to preserve these prominent locations for future generations.

My amendment increases funding by \$2.5 million for the documentation and preservation of civil rights history as well as restores \$2.5 million for the rehabilitation and preservation of historic sites on the campuses of Historically Black Colleges, and \$2 million additional for competitive grants for the civil rights initiative to preserve sites of the civil rights movement.

Institutions such as Miles College in Alabama and Tougaloo College in Mississippi served as a base for students who were involved in the civil rights movement. Some projects that would benefit would include digitizing the archives at places like Tuskegee University, where the Tuskegee Airmen as well as the records and papers of Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver reside. Other sites that would benefit from this funding include the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site in Washington, D.C., the Selma Interpretive Center at Selma University, the Selma to Montgomery Interpretive Center at Alabama State University, and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historic Park in Maryland.

Mr. Chairman, over the last 5 years, as the Representative of the Seventh Congressional District and a proud product of Selma, Alabama, my native hometown, it has been an honor to not only represent this wonderful district, but to protect the legacy of those that came before us and to make sure that the history of the movement is preserved for future generations.

It was my high honor on March 7, 2015, to welcome President and Mrs. Obama as well as President and Mrs. George W. Bush, along with 100 Members of Congress and the Senate, Republican and Democrat, to my hometown of Selma, where we commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March. Let us try to preserve that history and continue to show our commitment to the legacy of JOHN LEWIS and those brave Freedom Fighters who changed the Nation as well as this world by their quest for equality and justice for all.

I want to again thank the subcommittee chair, Mr. CALVERT, and I want to thank the ranking member, Ms. MCCOLLUM, for their dedication and commitment to this preservation. I urge my colleagues to support the Sewell amendment and commit ourselves to the task of preserving the civil rights and voting rights.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. I claim time in opposition, but I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentlewoman for a fine amendment and the great work that she has done working with both the majority and minority staff in fashioning this amendment.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CALVERT. I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for the generosity of yielding to me.

I also support the Sewell amendment to increase funding for the President's civil rights initiative. I remain a strong supporter of the President's initial request for \$50 million for the civil rights initiative. While the gentlewoman's amendment would increase funding by \$7 million, we still have a long way to go to get the adequate funding for these very important sacred places, I might add, in our Nation's history, to protect them.

I appreciate the majority's willingness to accept this amendment, and I thank the sponsor for offering it.

I thank the gentleman, once again, for his kindness in yielding.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I just want to again reiterate my thanks. In this commemorative year of the Selma to Montgomery March and so many pivotal moments, including our upcoming 50th anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act, I thank you for your commitment to making sure that we preserve these wonderful sites for future generations.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Chair, I wish to join my colleague from Alabama, Congresswoman SEWELL, to support this amendment, which would restore necessary funding for preserving our nation's Civil Rights history.

This amendment would increase funding by \$2.5 million for documentation and preservation of Civil Rights history, as well as restoring \$2.5 million for the rehabilitation and preservation of historic sites on the campuses of HBCUs. In my own state of Maryland, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Dorchester is currently putting together educational programming in conjunction with the Harriet Tubman State Park, which is slated to open later this year.

This National Monument is an important part of telling our American story—especially in light of the fact that, currently, only 26 of our nation's 460 national parks have a primary focus on African-American history.

It is our responsibility as federal representatives to come together in order to preserve the history of our nation and its people. We must keep this commitment to preserve the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement, and the land and structures that will keep that legacy alive.

I encourage all of my colleagues, both Democrat and Republican, to support this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GALLEGO

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 14, line 10, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Chairman, my amendment will help ensure that all communities are able to participate in decisions that shape the National Park Service. Environmental justice is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people—regardless of race, color, national origin, or income—with respect to our Nation’s environmental laws and policies. This amendment represents an important step towards that goal.

The NPS has a robust planning, environment, and public comment database and Web site, known as PEPC.

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This Web site is used for consultation and providing information on planning issues such as management plans, construction projects, environmental assessments, and environmental impact statements. This Web site is how the users of the National Park Service can participate in NPS decisionmaking.

Unfortunately, however, PEPC is only available in English—no Spanish, none of the Asian languages spoken by the fastest growing segment of our population, and none of the indigenous languages of our Native American brothers and sisters.

To address this shortcoming, my amendment will provide \$1 million to update PEPC. This funding will provide translation of the contents of PEPC to the public, the ability of the public to provide input into the PEPC process in the most commonly spoken languages, and informing affected communities of the improvements.

Mr. Chairman, America is becoming more and more diverse every day, and our land management agencies must adapt to it. It is critical that new and growing community can access our public lands and services. They are the new users and stewards that Federal land management agencies such as the National Park Service must engage as it prepares for its centennial.

To reach these Americans, the NPS will need improved tools to clearly communicate with people who may struggle to comprehend materials in English. That is exactly what my

amendment intends to accomplish. This measure will help the Park Service and the Department of the Interior to achieve their performance benchmarks.

One of the key measures of the Department’s environmental justice outcomes is outreach to minority and underserved communities. Executive Order 13116 states that all Federal agencies shall provide access to services for persons with limited English proficiency. By offering a Web interface in multiple languages, NPS will increase its relevance to minority communities and help the Department of the Interior to make progress towards this very important requirement.

Mr. Chairman, we can all agree that engaging the public on important decisions that affect their communities is a linchpin of our system of government. When all communities are afforded access to the decisionmaking process, we improve the outcomes of those decisions and we strengthen our democracy.

I hope all Members will join me in supporting this critical amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BEYER

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 14, after line 14, insert the following:

EMERGENCY INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS

For expenses necessary for emergency infrastructure repairs related to the National Park Service deferred maintenance backlog, \$11,500,000,000, to remain available until expended.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to provide \$11.5 billion to fund emergency infrastructure repairs related to the National Park Service deferred maintenance backlog.

Mr. Chair, earlier this month, the National Park Service, at the recommendation of the Department of Transportation, took the precautionary measure of closing two lanes on the iconic Arlington Memorial Bridge, one of the most important entrances to the Nation’s Capital and a major artery for many of my constituents commuting to work every day.

The crisis of the Memorial Bridge, whose replacement will cost a startling \$250 million, demonstrates the degrada-

tion of park infrastructure throughout the country. It also shows the extent of the backlog and the need to provide funds to ensure reliability for the economy as well as the safety of the public.

The backlog has also grown because of a steady decline in the construction account. Over the last decade, there has been a 62 percent decline, \$227 million in today’s dollars. The Park Service receives only 58 cents out of every dollar needed just to keep the backlog from growing.

Mr. Chair, the United States is the richest country in the history of mankind. We are the democratic leader, the military leader, the human rights leader, the financial leader of all the world. Can we not also be the investment leader?

This country needs to be the country that invests in our infrastructure today for our children and our grandchildren tomorrow.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of increased funding for the National Park Service in order to address the deferred maintenance backlog.

Despite its significant and multifaceted contributions to our country, the National Park Service budget has been shrinking, compromising its ability to adequately protect our treasured national history. Shrinking appropriations and increasing wear and tear on aging infrastructure has led to a maintenance backlog of approximately \$11.5 billion dollars, including dilapidated visitor centers, unmaintained trails, and failing water treatment facilities.

More than half of the maintenance backlog, approximately \$6 billion, is comprised of transportation projects that require funding through the Highway Trust Fund, not the Park Service. The Arlington Memorial Bridge, which is so important to our nation, connecting the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery, is so badly corroded that it must be partially shut down for six to nine months. In fact, the estimated total cost of repairs for the bridge is more than the entire annual allocation to the Park Service from the Highway Trust Fund.

This trend is completely unsustainable if we want our children and grandchildren to have the same opportunity to visit and enjoy some of our nation’s most iconic sites.

At recent hearings on the Natural Resources Committee, I have heard many of my colleagues express their frustrations with the maintenance backlog. This is our opportunity to address the problem, but we are once again kicking the can down the pothole riddled, crumbling road.

Next year is the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, which will bring even more visitors to our parks. I urge my colleagues to not only address the maintenance backlog at the National Park Service, but to come together and pass a long-term fix for the Highway Trust Fund so that we can address the maintenance backlog.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order that the amendment proposes a net increase in budget authority in the bill.



The amendment is not in order under section 3(d)(3) of House Resolution 5, 114th Congress, which states:

“It shall not be in order to consider an amendment to a general appropriations bill proposing a net increase in budget authority in the bill unless considered en bloc with another amendment or amendments proposing an equal or greater decrease in such budget authority pursuant to clause 2(f) of rule XXI.”

The amendment proposes a net increase in budget authority in the bill in violation of such section.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of increased funding for the National Park Service in order to address the deferred maintenance backlog.

Despite its significant and multifaceted contributions to our country, the National Park Service budget has been shrinking, compromising its ability to adequately protect our treasured national history.

Shrinking appropriations and increasing wear and tear on aging infrastructure has led—

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman must confine her remarks to the point of order.

Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, the Interior Subcommittee has done its best to invest in parks, but given its insufficient allocation, this was the only meaningful way for the very obvious need for the \$11.5 billion for infrastructure.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

The gentleman from California makes a point of order that the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia violates section 3(d)(3) of House Resolution 5.

Section 3(d)(3) establishes a point of order against an amendment proposing a net increase in budget authority in the pending bill.

As persuasively asserted by the gentleman from California, the amendment proposes a net increase in budget authority in the bill. Therefore, the point of order is sustained. The amendment is not in order.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### NATIONAL RECREATION AND PRESERVATION

For expenses necessary to carry out recreation programs, natural programs, cultural programs, heritage partnership programs, environmental compliance and review, international park affairs, and grant administration, not otherwise provided for, \$62,467,000.

#### HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary in carrying out the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), \$60,910,000, to be derived from the Historic Preservation Fund and to remain

available until September 30, 2017, of which \$500,000 is for competitive grants for the survey and nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places and as National Historic Landmarks associated with communities currently underrepresented, as determined by the Secretary, and of which \$4,500,000 is for competitive grants to preserve the sites and stories of the Civil Rights movement: *Provided*, That such competitive grants shall be made without imposing the matching requirements in Section 102(a)(3) of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470(a)(3)).

#### CONSTRUCTION

For construction, improvements, repair, or replacement of physical facilities, including modifications authorized by section 104 of the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989 (16 U.S.C. 410r-8), \$139,555,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, for any project initially funded in fiscal year 2016 with a future phase indicated in the National Park Service 5-Year Line Item Construction Plan, a single procurement may be issued which includes the full scope of the project: *Provided further*, That the solicitation and contract shall contain the clause availability of funds found at 48 CFR 52.232-18.

#### LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

##### (RESCISSION)

The contract authority provided for fiscal year 2016 by section 9 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-10a) is rescinded.

#### LAND ACQUISITION AND STATE ASSISTANCE

For expenses necessary to carry out the Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-4 through 11), including administrative expenses, and for acquisition of lands or waters, or interest therein, in accordance with the statutory authority applicable to the National Park Service, \$84,367,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended, of which \$48,117,000 is for the State assistance program and of which \$9,000,000 shall be for the American Battlefield Protection Program grants as authorized by section 7301 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11).

#### CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE

For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of section 814(g) of Public Law 104-333 (16 U.S.C. 1f) relating to challenge cost share agreements, \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended, for Centennial Challenge projects and programs: *Provided*, That not less than 50 percent of the total cost of each project or program shall be derived from non-Federal sources in the form of donated cash, assets, or a pledge of donation guaranteed by an irrevocable letter of credit.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. TSONGAS

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 16, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$30,000,000) (reduced by \$30,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My amendment is intended to recognize the National Park Service's Centennial Challenge and the importance of funding the program at the level requested by President Obama and the National Park Service.

Next year is the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, a milestone in this country's history that we as a nation should be proud of and celebrate. For a century now, the national parks have preserved and protected our Nation's natural, cultural, and historic resources for the use and enjoyment of future generations. I am proud to represent two national parks.

In my hometown, the Lowell National Historic Park was the first urban national park of its kind, commemorating, preserving, and protecting the catalytic role the city played in spawning America's Industrial Revolution.

Minute Man National Historic Park is just down the road in Concord, where visitors can see firsthand where the shot heard 'round the world was fired and where the American Revolution began.

The many visitors to both sites are grateful that our country has made the commitment to protecting our history and our landscapes for future generations, coming away awed and inspired by the sites that have shaped who we are as a people.

The upcoming centennial is a tremendous opportunity to increase public engagement with our parks so that we may not only celebrate the places we love to visit with family and friends, but also make the necessary investments that will prepare our parks for the next 100 years.

Despite its significant and multifaceted obligations, the Park Service budget has been shrinking, compromising its ability to ensure adequate protection to our treasured national history.

Since 2010, there has been more than a 7 percent, or \$178 million in today's dollars, reduction in the account to operate national parks. Over the last decade, there has been a 62 percent, or \$227 million in today's dollars, decline in the National Park Service construction account. This has led to an enormous deferred maintenance backlog, totaling \$11.5 billion of dilapidated visitor centers, unmaintained trail centers, and failing water treatment facilities.

Historically, our parks have had bipartisan support. To mark the 50th anniversary of the National Park Service in 1966, President Eisenhower initiated Mission 66, which invested more than \$1 billion in improvements to visitor facilities throughout the park system.

Ten years ahead of the 100th anniversary, President George W. Bush launched the Centennial Initiative, a 10-year, \$3 billion plan to restore the parks through a combination of public and private funding. That effort was never fully realized, but President Obama revived the initiative ahead of the 2016 centennial celebration.

In the FY15 omnibus spending bill, Congress provided \$10 million to reinvigorate the Centennial Challenge. The initial \$10 million Federal investment was matched by an additional \$16 million in private donations for signature centennial projects.

In total, 106 projects were selected throughout the country to improve visitor services, chip away at the deferred maintenance backlog, and support youth programs. Over 200 projects were submitted, demonstrating the high demand for additional money to be matched by private contributions.

Given the overwhelming success from the \$10 million investment this year, Congress should strongly consider increasing funding levels for the Centennial Challenge in 2017.

I understand that this is a difficult task, given the inadequate funding allocation provided for the Interior Department under the Budget Control Act and sequestration. I regret that we were unable to do so through this amendment. The funding allocation for the National Park Service represents yet another example of why Congress must work together on a bipartisan basis to end sequestration.

I hope that we can find a way to support the Centennial Challenge and the President's budget request for the National Park Service so that we not only celebrate the places we love to visit with family and friends, but to make the necessary investments that will prepare our parks for the next 100 years.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER.)

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Representative TSONGAS' amendment to support the National Park Service's Centennial Challenge.

As a former National Park Service Ranger, I am proud to serve as a Congressional Friend of the National Park Service Centennial, and I eagerly await the centennial in 2016: Find Your Park.

As the NPS approaches its centennial year, it is important to ensure they have the resources they need to enter into the second century of service to the American people. The Interior Subcommittee has tried its very best to invest in parks, given its insufficient allocation; but with the centennial approaching and the buildup of park needs, this level is not remotely enough for parks.

Recognizing the serious impact of both the Budget Control Act and emergency wildfire suppression on the Interior allocation, Congress still must find a way to meet the needs of parks by securing another budget deal to get rid of the threat of sequester. There is no better time than the centennial for a robust investment in our national parks by Congress and the American people. It is time to make our national parks a national priority.

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Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. POE of Texas). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In addition to other uses set forth in section 407(d) of Public Law 105-391, franchise fees credited to a sub-account shall be available for expenditure by the Secretary, without further appropriation, for use at any unit within the National Park System to extinguish or reduce liability for Possessory Interest or leasehold surrender interest. Such funds may only be used for this purpose to the extent that the benefitting unit anticipated franchise fee receipts over the term of the contract at that unit exceed the amount of funds used to extinguish or reduce liability. Franchise fees at the benefitting unit shall be credited to the sub-account of the originating unit over a period not to exceed the term of a single contract at the benefitting unit, in the amount of funds so expended to extinguish or reduce liability.

For the costs of administration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund grants authorized by section 105(a)(2)(B) of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-432), the National Park Service may retain up to 3 percent of the amounts which are authorized to be disbursed under such section, such retained amounts to remain available until expended.

National Park Service funds may be transferred to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation, for purposes authorized under 23 U.S.C. 204. Transfers may include a reasonable amount for FHWA administrative support costs.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH

For expenses necessary for the United States Geological Survey to perform surveys, investigations, and research covering topography, geology, hydrology, biology, and the mineral and water resources of the United States, its territories and possessions, and other areas as authorized by 43 U.S.C. 31, 1332, and 1340; classify lands as to their mineral and water resources; give engineering supervision to power permittees and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensees; administer the minerals exploration program (30 U.S.C. 641); conduct inquiries into the economic conditions affecting mining and materials processing industries (30 U.S.C. 3, 21a, and 1603; 50 U.S.C. 98g(1)) and related purposes as authorized by law; and to publish and disseminate data relative to the foregoing activities; \$1,045,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017; of which \$57,637,189 shall remain available until expended for satellite operations; and of which \$7,280,000 shall be available until expended for deferred maintenance and capital improvement projects that exceed \$100,000 in cost: *Provided*, That none of the funds provided for the ecosystem research activity shall be used to conduct new surveys on private property, unless specifically authorized in writing by the property owner: *Provided further*, That no part of this appropriation shall be used to pay more than one-half the cost of topographic mapping or water resources data collection and investigations carried on in cooperation with States and municipalities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

From within the amount appropriated for activities of the United States Geological

Survey such sums as are necessary shall be available for contracting for the furnishing of topographic maps and for the making of geophysical or other specialized surveys when it is administratively determined that such procedures are in the public interest; construction and maintenance of necessary buildings and appurtenant facilities; acquisition of lands for gauging stations and observation wells; expenses of the United States National Committee for Geological Sciences; and payment of compensation and expenses of persons employed by the Survey duly appointed to represent the United States in the negotiation and administration of interstate compacts: *Provided*, That activities funded by appropriations herein made may be accomplished through the use of contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements as defined in section 6302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the United States Geological Survey may enter into contracts or cooperative agreements directly with individuals or indirectly with institutions or nonprofit organizations, without regard to 41 U.S.C. 6101, for the temporary or intermittent services of students or recent graduates, who shall be considered employees for the purpose of chapters 57 and 81 of title 5, United States Code, relating to compensation for travel and work injuries, and chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, relating to tort claims, but shall not be considered to be Federal employees for any other purposes.

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT  
OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

For expenses necessary for granting leases, easements, rights-of-way and agreements for use for oil and gas, other minerals, energy, and marine-related purposes on the Outer Continental Shelf and approving operations related thereto, as authorized by law; for environmental studies, as authorized by law; for implementing other laws and to the extent provided by Presidential or Secretarial delegation; and for matching grants or cooperative agreements, \$167,270,000, of which \$70,648,000, is to remain available until September 30, 2017 and of which \$96,622,000 is to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That this total appropriation shall be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary and credited to this appropriation from additions to receipts resulting from increases to lease rental rates in effect on August 5, 1993, and from cost recovery fees from activities conducted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, including studies, assessments, analysis, and miscellaneous administrative activities: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as such collections are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2016 appropriation estimated at not more than \$70,648,000: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$3,000 shall be available for reasonable expenses related to promoting volunteer beach and marine cleanup activities.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. CAPPS

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 21, line 3, after each of the first and second dollar amounts, insert "(reduced by \$5,434,000)".

Page 64, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,434,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentlewoman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Chairman, drilling for and transporting oil and gas is a dirty and dangerous business. There is no disputing that.

No matter what assurances are given by the oil industry, spills do happen, and they will continue to happen as we depend on fossil fuels for our energy needs.

Sadly, my constituents in Santa Barbara, California, are far too familiar with this reality. Just over a month ago, on May 19, over 100,000 gallons of crude oil spilled from the Plains All American pipeline along the Gaviota Coast. The oil spilled down a hill, through a culvert, and into the ocean, eventually spreading thick, black tar along nearly 100 miles of coastline.

This was a unique spill, in that it impacted both land and ocean, requiring both the Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, as well as the Coast Guard to respond to and lead the clean-up effort.

When it comes to oil spills, the damage gets worse by the minute, so ensuring that spill response teams are properly trained and prepared to respond quickly is essential to minimizing the impacts. This is precisely why the EPA has jurisdiction over the inland oil spill program.

The EPA uses this funding to prevent, to prepare for, and to respond to oil spills associated with the more than 600,000 oil storage facilities that the Agency regulates. The EPA's oil program also provides oil spill response resources and training for States, localities, and tribal governments.

Despite its scope and importance, this program has been seriously underfunded for years, and H.R. 2822 only makes things worse by funding this program at nearly 25 percent less than the President requested.

My amendment would simply increase funding for this program by \$5.4 million, to match the President's requested amount of \$23.4 million for fiscal year 2016. This modest increase in funding would help ensure that EPA can do its job to help protect coastal areas, like the one I represent, from the impacts of oil spills.

The funding increase, however, would be offset by reducing the conventional energy account at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, or BOME, by an equal amount.

I want to be clear. This funding reduction for BOME is intended to target the funding used for new offshore oil and gas leasing. BOME will continue to fund safety operations and environmental assessments.

The new 5-year offshore oil and gas program being drafted by BOME calls for 14 potential lease sales, including in some new areas off the East Coast. Expanding drilling by cutting funding for oil spill cleanup is incredibly irresponsible.

Mr. Chairman, I have spent my entire career in Congress fighting to stop off-

shore drilling because I firmly believe the risks outweigh the benefits. Perhaps the current majority does not agree with me on this goal.

I hope we can at least all agree that we should not be expanding oil drilling unless we are properly preparing for the spills that will inevitably occur. As long as we drill for oil, there will be oil spills, and the economic and ecological risks of these spills only increases when the oil is extracted offshore.

While the Coast Guard is responsible for responding to offshore spills, the recent spill in my district shows that offshore drilling can also have onshore impacts, especially for coastal communities like those I represent.

The oil that spilled from the Plains All American pipeline was extracted just a few miles offshore in Federal waters. It was then pumped onshore to a holding facility, and it continued through the pipeline that ruptured. This offshore oil spilled from the pipeline, down a hillside, on to the beach, and back into the ocean under which it had been extracted.

Drilling and spill cleanup are inextricably linked. The least we can do is ensure that the EPA has the resources it needs to ensure that the spills are quickly and properly cleaned up when they inevitably happen.

This is precisely what my amendment seeks to achieve. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. As in the case with many of the amendments today before us, I cannot support the offset. Let me say this: EPA may be reimbursed for oil spill response activities from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.

Now, personally, I think EPA should have direct access to that trust fund to avoid the delays, these administrative reimbursement delays, when responding to an oil spill such as what happened in California. However, that is an authorizing issue, not an appropriating issue.

That is the proper place because those dollars will be there eventually to clean that up, and we just need to clean up the bureaucracy to have more immediacy in that process.

This offset, I cannot support; and so, for that reason, I oppose the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Chairman, I have no additional speakers. I am prepared to close. In closing, I would like to reiterate two points.

First, that oil and gas exploration is inherently dangerous, there is no disputing that. Spills do happen. Unfortunately, my district observed these consequences firsthand during the Plains pipeline spill just over a month ago.

Second, if we are going to continue to extract, to transport, and to utilize

oil, we need to be prepared for the inevitability of these spills. The EPA's inland oil spill program is intended for just this purpose, to be prepared to respond to the inevitable.

It is irresponsible to develop new oil extraction, including offshore, without being prepared to respond to its risk.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support for this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I would urge a "no" vote on this amendment. I don't agree to the offset. The fact that we have an Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, that should be accessed.

I will be happy to work with the gentlewoman to work with the authorizers where we can get more immediate response to these kinds of activities that happen from time to time around the country, but I urge a "no" vote on this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPs).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

OFFSHORE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

For expenses necessary for the regulation of operations related to leases, easements, rights-of-way and agreements for use for oil and gas, other minerals, energy, and marine-related purposes on the Outer Continental Shelf, as authorized by law; for enforcing and implementing laws and regulations as authorized by law and to the extent provided by Presidential or Secretarial delegation; and for matching grants or cooperative agreements, \$123,354,000, of which \$66,147,000 is to remain available until September 30, 2017, and of which \$57,207,000 is to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That this total appropriation shall be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary and credited to this appropriation from additions to receipts resulting from increases to lease rental rates in effect on August 5, 1993, and from cost recovery fees from activities conducted by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, including studies, assessments, analysis, and miscellaneous administrative activities: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as such collections are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2016 appropriation estimated at not more than \$66,147,000.

For an additional amount, \$65,000,000, to remain available until expended, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary and credited to this appropriation, which

shall be derived from non-refundable inspection fees collected in fiscal year 2016, as provided in this Act: *Provided*, That to the extent that amounts realized from such inspection fees exceed \$65,000,000, the amounts realized in excess of \$65,000,000 shall be credited to this appropriation and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2016, not less than 50 percent of the inspection fees expended by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement will be used to fund personnel and mission-related costs to expand capacity and expedite the orderly development, subject to environmental safeguards, of the Outer Continental Shelf pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), including the review of applications for permits to drill.

#### OIL SPILL RESEARCH

For necessary expenses to carry out title I, section 1016, title IV, sections 4202 and 4303, title VII, and title VIII, section 8201 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, \$14,899,000, which shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, to remain available until expended.

#### OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

##### REGULATION AND TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, Public Law 95-87, \$123,253,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That appropriations for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement may provide for the travel and per diem expenses of State and tribal personnel attending Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement sponsored training.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. JOHNSON OF OHIO

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk. The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 24, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

Page 65, lines 5 and 10, after each dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Ohio and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I, too, would like to thank Chairman CALVERT and the subcommittee for a great underlying piece of legislation. We have got a great appropriations bill here, and I look forward to supporting it.

My amendment to the FY 2016 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill will keep the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's spending in check with the agency's obligation. Specifically, it will reduce OSM's regulation and technology budget by \$2 million and transfer those funds to the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

According to OSM, States and tribes perform 97 percent of the regulatory activity relating to surface coal mining in the United States; yet OSM receives 25 percent of the staffing resources to perform 3 percent of the work.

This amendment will help bring spending in parity with the work done by OSM.

Although the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, or SMCRA, was enacted to allow States with approved programs to assume exclusive jurisdiction of mining in their States, under the current administration, OSM has increasingly used its inflated budget to improperly usurp the lawful decisions of State regulators.

This amendment will help curtail excessive Federal interference and restore the State's role in surface mining regulation. For instance, over the past 5 years, OSM has spent more than \$10 million of its disproportionately large budget to pursue a wholesale regulatory rewrite of the agency's regulatory program.

Dubbed the "stream protection rule" by the agency, this massive regulatory undertaking has little to do with protecting streams and more to do with riding roughshod over State regulating programs and the role of other agencies, including State Clean Water Act regulators.

During its pursuit of the stream protection rule, OSM has completely cut States out of the process, in violation of its legal obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act.

My amendment will help restrain the resources of the agency from promulgating a rule made without State consultation and in violation of NEPA.

In fact, 10 States initially signed a memorandum of understanding with OSM and agreed to serve as cooperating agencies for the development of the environmental impact statement to accompany the so-called stream protection rule.

Of those 10 States, six have withdrawn their respective MOUs due to lack of consultation from OSM. These States include Alabama, New Mexico, Utah, Texas, Kentucky, and West Virginia. More States are expected to withdraw. While Wyoming is still a co-operating agency, they have requested that their State seal be removed from the EIS.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my fellow colleagues to support this amendment that will keep spending in check with the OSM's statutory responsibilities.

Mr. CALVERT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment. I understand there is a level of frustration regarding the Office of Surface Mining's continued use of funds to develop the stream buffer rule, and we attempted to address that through the bill language to limit funding.

I certainly support what you are doing for water infrastructure. It is a good amendment that will leverage jobs, and I urge an "aye" vote.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to my colleague from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY).

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of Congressman JOHNSON's amendment to cut \$2 million from the Office of Surface Mining regulatory and technology budget and transfer those funds to the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

This amendment will cut funding for an office that has launched an all-out war on coal in my home State of West Virginia. The Office of Surface Mining's stream protection rule is intentionally designed to shut down all surface mining and a significant section of underground mining in the Appalachian region.

□ 1515

A 2012 study found the rewrite of the stream protection rule is estimated to cost nearly 80,000 direct coal-related jobs. The coal industry is vital to West Virginia and my district. Coal supports over 90 percent of the power generation in my State. It is crucial that we cut the funding for the Office of Surface Mining before they can do any more damage.

I thank my colleague for offering this amendment and urge its passage.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I thank subcommittee Chairman CALVERT again for supporting this amendment.

I urge a "yes" vote by my colleagues. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

In addition, for costs to review, administer, and enforce permits issued by the Bureau pursuant to section 507 of Public Law 95-0987 (30 U.S.C. 1257), \$40,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That fees assessed and collected by the Office pursuant to such section 507 shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a fiscal year 2016 appropriation estimated at not more than \$123,253,000.

#### ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND

For necessary expenses to carry out title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, Public Law 95-0987, \$27,303,000, to be derived from receipts of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That pursuant to Public Law 97-09365, the Department of the Interior is authorized to use up to 20 percent from the recovery of the delinquent debt owed to the United States Government to pay for contracts to collect these debts: *Provided further*, That funds made available under title IV of Public Law 95-0987 may be used for any required non-Federal share of the cost of projects funded by the Federal Government for the purpose of environmental restoration related to treatment or abatement of acid mine drainage from abandoned mines: *Provided further*, That such projects must be consistent with the purposes and priorities of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act: *Provided further*, That amounts provided under

this heading may be used for the travel and per diem expenses of State and tribal personnel attending Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement sponsored training.

In addition, \$30,000,000, to remain available until expended, for grants to States for reclamation of abandoned mine lands and other related activities in accordance with the terms and conditions in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That such additional amount shall be used for economic and community development in conjunction with the priorities in section 403(a) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1233(a)): *Provided further*, That such additional amount shall be distributed in equal amounts to the 3 Appalachian States with the greatest amount of unfunded needs to meet the priorities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of such section: *Provided further*, That such additional amount shall be allocated to States within 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. YOHO

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 25, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$29,904,000)”.

Page 132, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$29,904,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Chairman, after speaking with Chairman CALVERT and Chairman ROGERS with help on future amendments, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRIFFITH

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 26, line 7, strike “3” and insert “6”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chairman, expanding the number of Appalachian States eligible for this program from three to six will allow additional States, including Virginia, to be able to participate. The committee and the subcommittee came up with a great idea. I just want to make sure it is expanded so that more States can benefit.

The Kentucky Coal Association was in this week for a press conference, and one of their members said to me at that time that the sickness that has been in Kentucky is now spreading to Virginia, and they are absolutely right.

In 1 year’s time, my district has lost hundreds of coal mine jobs due to this

administration’s burdensome regulations on the coal industry; but it is not just the coal mine jobs. Many more jobs in related industries have also been lost.

With those jobs, jobs in things as diverse as the hardware store, the Long John Silver’s—you name it—are being lost throughout the coal country of Appalachian Virginia.

The downturn of the coal industry in my district has led to many economic difficulties for many of my constituents and the local governments. I believe it is critical that we work to find ways to provide assistance throughout all of the Appalachian coal country, and my amendment would go part of the way to helping restore some economic vitality to my district.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, the committee, as the gentleman knows, has included this as a pilot program to test in a few States how community and economic redevelopment can combine in conjunction with reclamation of abandoned mine lands.

These funds will be provided to States with the largest unfunded needs to date. If you expand that to include six States, this pilot then starts to look more like a program, and that is not the committee’s intent. The committee believes that the lessons learned from this pilot will inform changes, both pros and cons, under the reauthorization of the underlying law.

I want to work with the gentleman in the future as this pilot moves forward. When we have more information, we can potentially, next year, reexamine this.

I would ask the gentleman if he would withdraw the amendment. I would certainly be happy to work with him in the future. I know the full committee chairman is certainly in the interest of him to address the needs of his constituents. We are certainly sympathetic to that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chairman, I certainly have no quarrel with the committee or the committee chairman or the subcommittee chairman.

I think this is a great pilot project, which was why I thought it was a brilliant idea, which is why I wanted to at least put this on the table.

It is not my habit to offer and then withdraw. Sometimes, you lose; and I understand that is probably the case. I did want to put it on the table, and I do appreciate the gentleman’s kind remarks.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I would just reluctantly oppose this amendment at this time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH).

The amendment was rejected.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

OPERATION OF INDIAN PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the operation of Indian programs, as authorized by law, including the Snyder Act of November 2, 1921 (25 U.S.C. 13), the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.), the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2001–2019), and the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), \$2,505,670,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, except as otherwise provided herein; of which not to exceed \$8,500 may be for official reception and representation expenses; of which not to exceed \$74,809,000 shall be for welfare assistance payments: *Provided*, That in cases of designated Federal disasters, the Secretary may exceed such cap, from the amounts provided herein, to provide for disaster relief to Indian communities affected by the disaster: *Provided further*, That federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal organizations of federally recognized Indian tribes may use their tribal priority allocations for unmet welfare assistance costs: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$619,827,000 for school operations costs of Bureau-funded schools and other education programs shall become available on July 1, 2016, and shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$48,785,000 shall remain available until expended for housing improvement, road maintenance, attorney fees, litigation support, land records improvement, and the Navajo-Hopi Settlement Program: *Provided further*, That any forestry funds allocated to a federally recognized tribe which remain unobligated as of September 30, 2017, may be transferred during fiscal year 2018 to an Indian forest land assistance account established for the benefit of the holder of the funds within the holder’s trust fund account: *Provided further*, That any such unobligated balances not so transferred shall expire on September 30, 2018: *Provided further*, That in order to enhance the safety of Bureau field employees, the Bureau may use funds to purchase uniforms or other identifying articles of clothing for personnel: *Provided further*, That \$272,000,000 shall be for payments to Indian tribes and tribal organizations for contract support costs associated with contracts, grants, self-governance compacts, or annual funding agreements between the Bureau and an Indian tribe or tribal organization pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) prior to or during fiscal year 2016, and shall remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$50,304,000)”.

Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$61,304,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer a straightforward amendment to ensure local schools within the Bureau of Indian Education have the resources necessary to provide gainful education in quality facilities at a level on par with their peers in other non-Bureau funded schools.

This amendment is also offered and supported by a bipartisan group of my colleagues, including Representatives Cramer, Rokita, Noem, Kirkpatrick, and Sinema.

Our amendment redirects funds from administrative accounts within the EPA to the Operation of Indian Programs account with the intent of those funds going to the BIE and evenly allocated between the education construction, replacement facilities construction account and the elementary and secondary programs, facilities operations account.

Currently, more than one-third of Bureau-funded facilities are in substandard or poor condition. A sizable volume of research, including investigations by the Government Accountability Office, have established a direct correlation between facility conditions and poor student outcomes within the BIE.

The United States Government has trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and Indian education. This amendment supports the trust responsibility by helping to provide high-quality education in an environment that is safe, healthy, and conducive for learning.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment. I thank the supporters of the amendment, and I thank the chairman and ranking member for their great work on this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I know there is no doubt that Indian Country, especially Indian education, is a nonpartisan priority of this entire subcommittee. We are committed to building upon the bipartisan work of former subcommittee chairmen MIKE SIMPSON, Jim Moran, Norm Dicks, and certainly Ranking Member BETTY MCCOLLUM.

We all agree that there are great needs in Indian Country, especially in education. In fact, we were in Arizona recently at both the Navajo and Hopi reservations and saw firsthand the need for education in this country.

Although I am proud of what we have done for Indian Country in this bill, that said, I understand where the gentleman is coming from. I recognize there is so much more to do on Indian education that can and should be done.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from California and the ranking member for their help.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA), my friend.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. GOSAR, Mr. CALVERT, and Ms. MCCOLLUM for their help in all this.

This amendment, which I support, would fund the BIE to the administration's fiscal year 2016 request, but unlike that request, it is paid for and adheres to our budget cap.

This year, as the chairman of the Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee, I have had the opportunity to visit several BIE schools in Arizona and Minnesota.

During these visits, I have seen firsthand the challenges that the BIE faces. These challenges consist of crumbling school buildings, inadequate technology and Internet connectivity, transportation issues, and inconsistent management.

These are all serious challenges, and they are all well documented by my official visits, by committee hearings—such as those being done by Mr. CALVERT's subcommittee and mine—by GAO reports, and by the media.

This increase in funds will help address the identified challenges by providing the resources needed to improve the academic achievement and increase the graduation rates of Native American students that attend BIE schools. This is the goal of all of us for Native American children.

Mr. Chairman, I look at this as a bipartisan issue and appreciate my colleagues' support of Mr. GOSAR's amendment.

Mr. GOSAR. I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their support and my colleague from Indiana for speaking on behalf of this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### CONSTRUCTION

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For construction, repair, improvement, and maintenance of irrigation and power systems, buildings, utilities, and other facilities, including architectural and engineering services by contract; acquisition of lands, and interests in lands; and preparation of lands for farming, and for construction of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project pursuant to Public Law 87-483, \$187,620,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts as may be available for the construction of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project may be transferred to the Bureau of Reclamation: *Provided further*, That not to exceed 6 percent of contract authority available to the Bureau of Indian Affairs from the Federal Highway Trust Fund may be used to cover the road program management costs of the Bureau: *Provided further*, That any funds provided for the Safety of Dams program pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 13 shall be made available on a nonreimbursable basis: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2016, in implementing new construction, replacement facilities construction, or facili-

ties improvement and repair project grants in excess of \$100,000 that are provided to grant schools under Public Law 100-297, the Secretary of the Interior shall use the Administrative and Audit Requirements and Cost Principles for Assistance Programs contained in 43 CFR part 12 as the regulatory requirements: *Provided further*, That such grants shall not be subject to section 12.61 of 43 CFR; the Secretary and the grantee shall negotiate and determine a schedule of payments for the work to be performed: *Provided further*, That in considering grant applications, the Secretary shall consider whether such grantee would be deficient in assuring that the construction projects conform to applicable building standards and codes and Federal, tribal, or State health and safety standards as required by 25 U.S.C. 2005(b), with respect to organizational and financial management capabilities: *Provided further*, That if the Secretary declines a grant application, the Secretary shall follow the requirements contained in 25 U.S.C. 2504(f): *Provided further*, That any disputes between the Secretary and any grantee concerning a grant shall be subject to the disputes provision in 25 U.S.C. 2507(e): *Provided further*, That in order to ensure timely completion of construction projects, the Secretary may assume control of a project and all funds related to the project, if, within 18 months of the date of enactment of this Act, any grantee receiving funds appropriated in this Act or in any prior Act, has not completed the planning and design phase of the project and commenced construction: *Provided further*, That this appropriation may be reimbursed from the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians appropriation for the appropriate share of construction costs for space expansion needed in agency offices to meet trust reform implementation.

#### INDIAN LAND AND WATER CLAIM SETTLEMENTS AND MISCELLANEOUS PAYMENTS TO INDIANS

For payments and necessary administrative expenses for implementation of Indian land and water claim settlements pursuant to Public Laws 99-264, 100-580, 101-618, 111-11, and 111-291, and for implementation of other land and water rights settlements, \$65,412,000, to remain available until expended.

#### INDIAN GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of guaranteed loans and insured loans, \$7,731,000, of which \$1,045,000 is for administrative expenses, as authorized by the Indian Financing Act of 1974: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed or insured, not to exceed \$100,496,183.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The Bureau of Indian Affairs may carry out the operation of Indian programs by direct expenditure, contracts, cooperative agreements, compacts, and grants, either directly or in cooperation with States and other organizations.

Notwithstanding 25 U.S.C. 15, the Bureau of Indian Affairs may contract for services in support of the management, operation, and maintenance of the Power Division of the San Carlos Irrigation Project.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for central office oversight and Executive Direction and Administrative Services (except executive direction and administrative services funding for Tribal Priority Allocations, regional offices, and facilities operations and maintenance) shall be available for contracts, grants, compacts, or

cooperative agreements with the Bureau of Indian Affairs under the provisions of the Indian Self-Determination Act or the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-413).

In the event any tribe returns appropriations made available by this Act to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, this action shall not diminish the Federal Government's trust responsibility to that tribe, or the government-to-government relationship between the United States and that tribe, or that tribe's ability to access future appropriations.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Bureau of Indian Education, other than the amounts provided herein for assistance to public schools under 25 U.S.C. 452 et seq., shall be available to support the operation of any elementary or secondary school in the State of Alaska.

No funds available to the Bureau of Indian Education shall be used to support expanded grades for any school or dormitory beyond the grade structure in place or approved by the Secretary of the Interior at each school in the Bureau of Indian Education school system as of October 1, 1995, except that the Secretary of the Interior may waive this prohibition to support expansion of up to one additional grade when the Secretary determines such waiver is needed to support accomplishment of the mission of the Bureau of Indian Education. Appropriations made available in this or any prior Act for schools funded by the Bureau shall be available, in accordance with the Bureau's funding formula, only to the schools in the Bureau school system as of September 1, 1996, and to any school or school program that was reinstated in fiscal year 2012. Funds made available under this Act may not be used to establish a charter school at a Bureau-funded school (as that term is defined in section 1141 of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2021)), except that a charter school that is in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act and that has operated at a Bureau-funded school before September 1, 1999, may continue to operate during that period, but only if the charter school pays to the Bureau a pro rata share of funds to reimburse the Bureau for the use of the real and personal property (including buses and vans), the funds of the charter school are kept separate and apart from Bureau funds, and the Bureau does not assume any obligation for charter school programs of the State in which the school is located if the charter school loses such funding. Employees of Bureau-funded schools sharing a campus with a charter school and performing functions related to the charter school's operation and employees of a charter school shall not be treated as Federal employees for purposes of chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 113 of title I of appendix C of Public Law 106-113, if in fiscal year 2003 or 2004 a grantee received indirect and administrative costs pursuant to a distribution formula based on section 5(f) of Public Law 101-301, the Secretary shall continue to distribute indirect and administrative cost funds to such grantee using the section 5(f) distribution formula.

Funds available under this Act may not be used to establish satellite locations of schools in the Bureau school system as of September 1, 1996, except that the Secretary may waive this prohibition in order for an Indian tribe to provide language and cultural immersion educational programs for non-public schools located within the jurisdictional area of the tribal government which exclusively serve tribal members, do not include grades beyond those currently served at the existing Bureau-funded school, pro-

vide an educational environment with educator presence and academic facilities comparable to the Bureau-funded school, comply with all applicable Tribal, Federal, or State health and safety standards, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, and demonstrate the benefits of establishing operations at a satellite location in lieu of incurring extraordinary costs, such as for transportation or other impacts to students such as those caused by busing students extended distances: *Provided*, That no funds available under this Act may be used to fund operations, maintenance, rehabilitation, construction or other facilities-related costs for such assets that are not owned by the Bureau: *Provided further*, That the term "satellite school" means a school location physically separated from the existing Bureau school by more than 50 miles but that forms part of the existing school in all other respects: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used by the Secretary to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule entitled "Federal Acknowledgment of American Indian Tribes" published by the Department of the Interior in the Federal Register on May 29, 2014 (79 Fed. Reg. 30766 et seq.).

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for management of the Department of the Interior, including the collection and disbursement of royalties, fees, and other mineral revenue proceeds, and for grants and cooperative agreements, as authorized by law, \$717,279,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017; of which not to exceed \$15,000 may be for official reception and representation expenses; and of which up to \$1,000,000 shall be available for workers compensation payments and unemployment compensation payments associated with the orderly closure of the United States Bureau of Mines; and of which \$8,128,000 for the Office of Valuation Services is to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and shall remain available until expended; and of which \$38,300,000 shall remain available until expended for the purpose of mineral revenue management activities: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, \$15,000 under this heading shall be available for refunds of overpayments in connection with certain Indian leases in which the Secretary concurred with the claimed refund due, to pay amounts owed to Indian allottees or tribes, or to correct prior unrecoverable erroneous payments.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SABLAN

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 36, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

Page 38, line 6, after each of the first and second dollar amounts, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Chairman, my amendment increases funding for territorial assistance initiatives managed by the Interior Department.

The assistance benefits the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-

lands, which I represent, but also the United States territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands, as well as America's allies in the Pacific, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

□ 1530

The assistance will continue our commitment to help all of these areas to develop economically and become more self-sufficient.

Mr. Chairman, much remains to reach these goals. The 2010 Census revealed that poverty levels in the islands remain three to five times the national average, and median income in the Northern Marianas is only \$20,000 compared to \$53,000 nationwide.

The most recent gross domestic product data for the islands, reported by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, found that in the Virgin Islands, real GDP declined 5.4 percent in 2013 and declined 2.4 percent in American Samoa. In contrast, the real GDP for the United States, excluding the territories, increased 2.2 percent in 2013. So we have a lot of catching up to do.

Interior has been very responsible in recent years, focusing technical assistance funds in a way that really will help our areas develop economically. I am thinking in particular of the Empowering Insular Communities program, which is helping us move imported fuels—that are costly and take money out of our economies—to greater use of locally available energy sources.

I am thinking about the Insular Areas: Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms Initiative, just like the preceding amendment. This program found that only 38 percent of insular schools are in acceptable condition and identified specifically those schools where there are safety hazards for students. The ABC Initiative is systematically upgrading that infrastructure so our children have schools that are conducive to learning and are safe. Developing those human resources is the surest way to raise our economy. We need to give Interior the resources to continue—and finish—that initiative.

The additional \$5 million my amendment provides can be used for these or any of the other territorial assistance programs, such as the Coral Reef Initiative, brown tree snake control, or compact impact to areas negatively affected by United States immigration policies.

Mr. Chairman, all of these programs are works in progress. We should provide more funding for them, and technical assistance funding should remain focused on programs that the Department has already begun and invested in. I appreciate the past support for the program and, even in these challenging fiscal times, I urge your support for increased funding for assistance to territories for fiscal year 2016.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant opposition to the gentleman's amendment. I want the gentleman to know that I understand that the territories would benefit greatly from additional funding. We funded the assistance to territories at the FY15-enacted levels. We level-funded that because we know that the money is needed, and we know that we have responsibilities in the territories. However, the offset right now, we have cut back that particular operation considerably, so I would oppose that offset. But I would be more than happy to work with the gentleman as we move this process along, along with the ranking member, to see if we can't get additional funds as we move this process along.

Mr. Chairman, I certainly appreciate the gentleman's intent, but we would have to reluctantly oppose this amendment at this time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate very much the chairman's offer to work with me because I will look him up and work with him and his subcommittee. But let me just make a small point here of what this technical assistance money means to us.

The States are eligible for thousands of Federal programs that help States do one thing or another, from social to educational to infrastructure projects. For the territories, there are only 700-some programs where the territories are eligible. So there is a difference.

So this small pot of technical assistance money is a program that provides grants to help the territories pick themselves up and wipe off the dust. It is just a small amount of money. Five million goes a long way, Mr. Chairman, when it is fixing the schools that the Army Corps has already identified. I understand there are 1,500 school buildings, and 62 percent of them are not safe, and only 38 percent are declared safe. So just like we do for the Bureau of Indian Education, we are also asking that we increase this money.

So I will also work with the chair, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I oppose the amendment, and I yield back balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further pro-

ceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands will be postponed.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the fact that the chairman is looking towards working more for putting dollars into Indian education, as Mr. GOSAR's amendment did, and the bipartisan way in which this bill has been proceeding forward, and I yield to the chairman.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I am more than happy to work with the young lady to get additional funding for Indian education at any time in the future, and we can continue to work together to do that.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, I also appreciate the Parliamentarian's patience and the majority's patience while we get another copy of the amendment presented to the body for consideration. I thank everyone for their courtesy.

Mr. Chairman, Minnesota is a great State, and we would like to have the gentleman from California there so the gentleman can see our great lakes and our great water.

I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, could the gentlewoman please ship some of that water to California?

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Reclaiming my time and my water, we would love to have the gentleman there, and when the water is very hard, it freezes, and then the gentleman can try ice fishing, which is a great sport.

Mr. Chair, I think the amendment is coming to the desk. Once more, I thank you very much for your patience, and I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. CASTOR OF  
FLORIDA

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 36, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,913,000)".

Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,913,000)".

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentlewoman's motion.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentlewoman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the House's consideration.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to restore brownfields funding to fiscal year 2015 levels and to

make the point that when we help redevelop contaminated properties, we generate a large return on investments that lift our communities back home.

My amendment increases EPA's Environmental Programs and Management account by a modest \$1.9 million to be offset by the same amount from the Office of the Secretary. Even with this modest boost, the proposed bill on the floor, unfortunately, would remain \$4 million below the budget request.

Mr. Chairman, when a contaminated property achieves a brownfields designation and a grant, local communities and businesses can clean up the property and put the property back into use. This type of economic redevelopment is key to our neighborhoods and communities, rural or urban. It increases property values and creates jobs with just a little bit of seed money from the EPA through brownfields.

A 2014 study concluded that cleaning up brownfields leads to nearby residential property value increases of 4.9 to 11 percent. Another 2007 study found that an average of 10 jobs are created for every acre of brownfields redevelopment. And based on historical data, we know that \$1 of the EPA's brownfields funding leverages between \$17 and \$18 in other public and private financing.

Mr. Chairman, I have witnessed great success in brownfields redevelopment back home in the Tampa Bay area. For example, when the existence of the Old Mercy Hospital in Midtown St. Petersburg was in jeopardy due to environmental contamination on the site, the city of St. Petersburg and the EPA stepped in to turn the Old Mercy Hospital into a flourishing community health center. The project created 80 jobs, saved existing jobs, created new jobs, and it stands now as the Johnnie Ruth Clarke Community Health Center, which is the linchpin to Midtown St. Petersburg community redevelopment efforts.

Similarly, in Tampa, the Tampa Family Health Centers have redeveloped a number of brownfields sites, including one on the site of a closed car dealership, that have had a very positive impact beyond the health care of thousands and thousands of my neighbors in a severely underserved area. It is one of the primary examples of the growing healthfields initiative which targets redevelopment through brownfields to help improve access to health services for our neighbors.

Mr. Chairman, the return on investment is so great across America. The Congress must invest much more in our communities, and brownfields redevelopment is simply smart policy, especially in places where these resources are scarce. It is also a critical part of EPA's environmental justice efforts and its Environmental Justice 2020 Action Agenda framework. When the EPA released its Environmental Justice 2020 framework, I convened local community leaders across the Tampa Bay area to solicit their opinions, and brownfields redevelopment was at the top of their list.



Mr. Chairman, we can do better here, and I hope as the appropriations process goes on we will find ways to help communities redevelop with this small seed money through the brownfields initiative.

I would like to thank Chairman CALVERT and Ranking Member MCCOLLUM. I urge my colleagues to support the Castor amendment to revitalize our communities back home, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I wish the gentlewoman was able to share this amendment with both the majority and the minority in the committee where we could have reviewed it. But saying that, I still must oppose the amendment because of the offset.

Mr. Chairman, the offset obviously would take money from the Secretary and move it over to the EPA, and at this time we have used the Secretary's Office tremendously as an offset already, and I am afraid that this may start affecting other programs within the Department of the Interior. So I would have to oppose this amendment.

The gentlewoman's amendment won't increase the cleanup of a brownfields site, it will only pay for salaries over at the EPA, and I believe that we don't need to do any more for the EPA than has already been done.

So with that, Mr. Chairman, I oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, this is an important account to beef up. Remember, we are under the sequester caps, and then we are \$4 million under the budget request even with this amendment.

Now, the Secretary's Office is the best place to go for an offset. The Secretary's account is \$452 million above fiscal year 2015 levels and \$389 million above the budget request.

□ 1545

I would put to you that it would be a better investment for our communities back home to allow them this little seed money, this little matching money, to redevelop properties, rather than fund the bureaucracy at the EPA.

I urge approval of the Castor amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

For fiscal year 2016, up to \$400,000 of the payments authorized by the Act of October 20, 1976 (31 U.S.C. 6901-6907) may be retained for administrative expenses of the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Program: *Provided*, That no payment shall be made pursuant to that Act to otherwise eligible units of local government if the computed amount of the payment is less than \$100: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may reduce the payment authorized by 31 U.S.C. 6901-6907 for an individual county by the amount necessary to correct prior year overpayments to that county: *Provided further*, That the amount needed to correct a prior year underpayment to an individual county shall be paid from any reductions for overpayments to other counties and the amount necessary to cover any remaining underpayment is hereby appropriated and shall be paid to individual counties: *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available by this title for "Office of the Secretary—Departmental Operations", \$452,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary of the Interior for an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for payments in lieu of taxes under chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code.

#### INSULAR AFFAIRS

##### ASSISTANCE TO TERRITORIES

For expenses necessary for assistance to territories under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior and other jurisdictions identified in section 104(e) of Public Law 108-188, \$85,976,000, of which: (1) \$76,528,000 shall remain available until expended for territorial assistance, including general technical assistance, maintenance assistance, disaster assistance, coral reef initiative activities, and brown tree snake control and research; grants to the judiciary in American Samoa for compensation and expenses, as authorized by law (48 U.S.C. 1661(c)); grants to the Government of American Samoa, in addition to current local revenues, for construction and support of governmental functions; grants to the Government of the Virgin Islands as authorized by law; grants to the Government of Guam, as authorized by law; and grants to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands as authorized by law (Public Law 94-241; 90 Stat. 272); and (2) \$9,448,000 shall be available until September 30, 2017, for salaries and expenses of the Office of Insular Affairs: *Provided*, That all financial transactions of the territorial and local governments herein provided for, including such transactions of all agencies or instrumentalities established or used by such governments, may be audited by the Government Accountability Office, at its discretion, in accordance with chapter 35 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That Northern Mariana Islands Covenant grant funding shall be provided according to those terms of the Agreement of the Special Representatives on Future United States Financial Assistance for the Northern Mariana Islands approved by Public Law 104-134: *Provided further*, That the funds for the program of operations and maintenance improvement are appropriated to institutionalize routine

operations and maintenance improvement of capital infrastructure with territorial participation and cost sharing to be determined by the Secretary based on the grantee's commitment to timely maintenance of its capital assets: *Provided further*, That any appropriation for disaster assistance under this heading in this Act or previous appropriations Acts may be used as non-Federal matching funds for the purpose of hazard mitigation grants provided pursuant to section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c).

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 2822.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 38, line 6, after the second dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$13,684,000) (increased by \$13,684,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Chairman, as one of the five Members of Congress representing America's offshore territories and as the Representative from the U.S. Virgin Islands, I am disappointed to see the underfunding made to the FY16 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Aside from the underfunding to environmental protection programs that protect important natural resources and, among a myriad of things, assures Americans have access to clean water, the cuts to this bill come largely at the expense of America's island territories.

The Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Marianas have been a part of this great Nation for more than a century. Since then, this country has augmented the support to critical areas of activity by the respective local governments in these territories.

This is done, largely in part, through the Interior's territorial assistance activity, in which this bill proposes to underfund by \$13,684,000.

Mr. Chairman, this is unacceptable. Funding through Interior's territorial assistance activity go toward many important functions in these territories, like capital improvement projects. These capital improvement projects, CIP, funds address a variety of infrastructure needs in the U.S. territories, including critical infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, wastewater, and solid waste systems.

For example, funding through CIP helped the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority complete the repair of a severely deteriorated force main water line that threatened to leak in nearby ocean water.

Improvements to critical infrastructure not only benefit the current population of these territories and the businesses that invest in those communities, but lay the groundwork to attract new investment to the territories, which promotes economic development and self-sufficiency.

An example of the importance of this funding to the territories is highlighted in the fiscal year '16 budget request, in which my home district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, proposes to use approximately \$2 million to address health and safety deferred maintenance items that have been identified in Interior's insular assessment of buildings and classrooms initiative. This is imperative, as our schools are not structurally sound or conducive to the healthy learning environment.

Many of the schools in the Virgin Islands are overrun with mold and have severe structural deficiencies, some of which are over a half a century old.

The St. Croix Central High School had to close its doors last year because of noxious odors that made teachers and students sick. This recurring incident began midway through the 2013 school year and forced the entire student body of more than 1,000 students to join a similarly populated high school in double session for the remainder of the school year.

This coming fall, the Virgin Islands government will again close schools on the island of St. Croix, but this time, students from three schools will be relocated to other schools for at least an entire school year, maybe longer, while the local government works to repair the severely decrepit buildings that house those young people.

Mr. Chairman, there hasn't been a school built in the U.S. Virgin Islands in the last two decades. The children in my home district, as well as in the other five territories, deserve better and need the assistance afforded through this funding.

A breakdown of CIP expenditures in 2014 underscores how important this funding is to not only students in our territories, but also to our senior citizens as well. Construction or repair to schools and hospitals account for nearly half the total amount of CIP expenditures last year.

In St. Croix, our hospital is without an adequate mental health facility, as well as St. Thomas, and there are few assisted living facilities and a growing population of aging citizens.

The U.S. Virgin Islands also proposes to use \$1 million in 2016 CIP funding for structural renovations and equipment upgrades at a variety of public libraries on the islands of St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John. These repairs and upgrades will help provide a safe, secure, and comfortable location for citizens to use library archives and public resources.

Mr. Chairman, the people living in America's island territories are citizens of this great Nation, the same as people living in Alaska, Hawaii, and

the 48 contiguous States. We are constitutionally entitled to fair and equal representation and full inclusion by this House, as well as by this government.

I look forward to continuing to work on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, I want to also point out that unlike the States, the Virgin Islands and the other territories are not part of the formula grants that the other locations have. We do not receive the same funding for grants, programs that provide technical assistance, jobs, or infrastructure.

In fact, today, with the announcement of the Supreme Court, while we are thankful for the rest of the United States, with the Affordable Care Act, we are not included in it to the full extent the other States are.

I am asking, Mr. Chairman, at this time, that this body, as well as this Congress and, in fact, the Federal Government, look to the Virgin Islands and look to including us and all of the territories in full inclusion.

Mr. Chairman, at this time, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION

For grants and necessary expenses, \$3,318,000, to remain available until expended, as provided for in sections 221(a)(2) and 233 of the Compact of Free Association for the Republic of Palau; and section 221(a)(2) of the Compacts of Free Association for the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, as authorized by Public Law 99-658 and Public Law 108-188.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

At the request of the Governor of Guam, the Secretary may transfer discretionary funds or mandatory funds provided under section 104(e) of Public Law 108-188 and Public Law 104-134, that are allocated for Guam, to the Secretary of Agriculture for the subsidy cost of direct or guaranteed loans, plus not to exceed three percent of the amount of the subsidy transferred for the cost of loan administration, for the purposes authorized by the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 and section 306(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act for construction and repair projects in Guam, and such funds shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That such loans or loan guarantees may be made without regard to the population of the area, credit elsewhere requirements, and restrictions on the types of eligible entities under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 and section 306(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: *Provided further*, That any funds transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be in addition to funds otherwise made available to make or guarantee loans under such authorities.

#### OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Solicitor, \$65,142,000.

#### OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, \$50,047,000.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 41, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

On page 102, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,500,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentlewoman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me thank the chair and the ranking member of this appropriations process for the Interior and Environment for their indulgence and their understanding of how much a part of the lives of Americans this legislation is from my amendment dealing with the culture and history of this Nation to that of clean water, clean air, our Federal parks, our forestry. This is a vital piece of the livelihood and the life of America.

Among other agencies that the legislation funds is the Smithsonian Institution, which operates our national museums, including the Air and Space Museum, the Museum of African Art, the American Art Museum, and the National Portrait Gallery. It also operates the national treasure, the National Zoo.

My amendment is simple. It sends a very important message from the Congress of the United States to infuse into the people cultural and appreciation for the respect and holding of wild animals, for the forests, for the number of assets that we should hold very dear, and it increases the Smithsonian Institution by \$1.5 million.

Mr. Chairman, the Smithsonian's outreach programs bring scholars in art, history, and science out of the Nation's attic and into their own backyard. Each year, millions of Americans visit the Smithsonian.

In order to fill the Smithsonian's mission, the increase and diffusion of knowledge, the Smithsonian seeks to serve on an even greater audience by bringing it to the communities, to the people who otherwise would be deprived, or the institutions that would otherwise be deprived of this kind of cultural exchange.

This money is not a lot of money, but it is an important statement for those who seek to be connected to the cultural history of America.

The Smithsonian's outreach program serves millions of Americans, thousands of communities, and hundreds of institutions in all 50 States through

loans of objects, traveling exhibitions, and sharing of educational resources.

Smithsonian outreach programs work in close cooperation with Smithsonian museums and research centers, as well as with 144 affiliate institutions, and others across the Nation. Smithsonian outreach activities support community-based cultural and educational organizations.

It reaches out to African Americans, Asian Americans, Latino Americans, Native Americans, new Americans, and all Americans from kindergarten to college to our senior citizens.

What can we do to help this outreach expand? We can provide this simple amendment of \$1.5 million to create more mobile museums talking about the extensive history that we have. These mobile museums then connect with our museums that we have.

The African American Museum in Houston is one of those that needs the bridge that the Smithsonian has. It is a museum that has reached prominence, but not the ability to reach a lot of people. This is an opportunity to boost the Smithsonian in order to ensure that we have that kind of outreach.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant opposition to the gentleman's amendment only because of the offset.

The offset that we are talking about is taking money of the inspector general's office, which is our auditors, and we desperately need auditors in the Federal Government. We, as appropriators, are very reluctant to cut the inspector general's office in general.

I want to work with the gentleman. I recognize her passion to make sure that the good work that the Smithsonian does gets out to the general community throughout the United States. I am a big supporter of the Smithsonian. We have level-funded the Smithsonian Institution this year. Obviously, we are operating under difficult budget constraints.

We certainly support what the gentleman wants to do; we just don't support the offset in which she wants to do it with.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CALVERT. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I think we have had an opportunity to be on the floor together over the years. Thank you so very much. I want to thank the ranking member and the leadership on the committee.

My question would be—obviously, this appropriations process is a bill here in the House and then there is conference—what would be the immediate strategy of working with you on this goal that we both would have?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. CALVERT. We will continue to work with the gentlewoman as this process moves forward and with the ranking member, Ms. MCCOLLUM.

Who knows, there may be something that happens between A and B, and we may have some additional resources, who knows; but we will certainly work with you to find out if we do.

I know that if we can help the Smithsonian Institution out, it is really at the top of our list.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman.

Let me, first of all, thank the ranking member for all the hard work that has been done and the chairman. It is a passion for reaching out and touching museums like the Houston African American Museum that has, as its curator, an excellent leader in John Guess.

I would say to museums like that to allow me to take up the chairman and the ranking member's leadership and begin to look for what may be an extra opportunity to infuse dollars to get the culture of America to reach out to all over.

With that, in the spirit of collaboration and collegiality, I am going to at this time withdraw in a friendly manner the Jackson Lee amendment with a very hopeful commitment to be able to help museums like the Houston African American Museum and many others that really benefit from this connection.

□ 1600

Mr. CALVERT. I thank the gentleman for her generosity, and I will continue to work with her as this process moves forward.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 1½ minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me just say, in concluding, there are many things that this bill does. I am hoping that we will rid ourselves of sequester to let it do more, and one of the things would be this outreach that brings us together as a Nation in a positive way.

I cannot say good accolades about Houston museums in general, the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, the Houston African American Museum that has a great purpose, and other museums that I hope we can address the Smithsonian's outreach capability.

Mr. Chair, thank you for this opportunity to be in support of my amendment to H.R. 2822, the "Interior and Environment Appropriations Act of 2016."

Let me also thank Chairman CALVERT and Ranking Member MCCOLLUM for their leadership in shepherding this bill to the floor.

Among other agencies, this legislation funds the Smithsonian Institution, which operates our national museums, including the Air and Space Museum; the Museum of African Art; the Museum of the American Indian; and the National Portrait Gallery.

The Smithsonian also operates another national treasure: the National Zoo.

Mr. Chair, my amendment is simple but it sends a very important message from the Congress of the United States.

The Jackson Lee Amendment provides that increases funding for the Smithsonian Institution by \$1.5 million to fund outreach programs administered by the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. Chair, the Smithsonian's outreach programs bring Smithsonian scholars in art, history and science out of "the nation's attic" and into their own backyard.

Each year, millions of Americans visit the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

But in order to fulfill the Smithsonian's mission, "the increase and diffusion of knowledge," the Smithsonian seeks to serve an even greater audience by bringing the Smithsonian to enclaves of communities who otherwise would be deprived of the vast amount of cultural history offered by the Smithsonian.

The Smithsonian's outreach programs serve millions of Americans, thousands of communities, and hundreds of institutions in all 50 states, through loans of objects, traveling exhibitions, and sharing of educational resources via publications, lectures and presentations, training programs, and websites.

Smithsonian outreach programs work in close cooperation with Smithsonian museums and research centers, as well as with 144 affiliate institutions and others across the nation.

The Smithsonian's outreach activities support community-based cultural and educational organizations around the country.

They ensure a vital, recurring, and high-impact Smithsonian presence in all 50 states through the provision of traveling exhibitions and a network of affiliations.

Smithsonian outreach programs increase connections between the Institution and targeted audiences (African American, Asian American, Latino, Native American, and new American) and provide kindergarten through college-age museum education and outreach opportunities.

These outreach programs enhance K–12 science education programs, facilitate the Smithsonian's scholarly interactions with students and scholars at universities, museums, and other research institutions; and disseminate results related to the research and collections strengths of the Institution.

The programs that provide the critical mass of Smithsonian outreach activity are:

1. the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES);
2. the Smithsonian Affiliations, the Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies (SCEMS);
3. National Science Resources Center (NSRC);
4. the Smithsonian Institution Press (SIP);
5. the Office of Fellowships (OF); and
6. the Smithsonian Associates (TSA), which receives no federal funding.

To achieve the goal of increasing public engagement, SITES directs some of its federal resources to develop Smithsonian Across America: A Celebration of National Pride.

This "mobile museum," which will feature Smithsonian artifacts from the most iconic (presidential portraits, historic American flags, Civil War records, astronaut uniforms, etc.) to the simplest items of everyday life (family quilts, prairie schoolhouse furnishings, historic lunch boxes, multilingual store front and street

signs, etc.), has been a long-standing organizational priority of the Smithsonian.

SITES “mobile museum” is the only traveling exhibit format able to guarantee audience growth and expanded geographic distribution during sustained periods of economic retrenchment, but also because it is imperative for the many exhibitors nationwide who are struggling financially yet eager to participate in Smithsonian outreach.

For communities still struggling to fully recover from the economic downturn, the ability of museums to present temporary exhibitions, the “mobile museum” promises to answer an ever-growing demand for Smithsonian shows in the field.

A single, conventional SITES exhibit can reach a maximum of 12 locations over a two- to three-year period.

In contrast, a “mobile museum” exhibit can visit up to three venues per week in the course of only one year, at no cost to the host institution or community.

The net result is an increase by 150 in the number of outreach locations to which SITES shows can travel annually.

And in addition to its flexibility in making short-term stops in cities and towns from coast-to-coast, a “mobile museum” has the advantage of being able to frequent the very locations where people live, work, and take part in leisure time activities.

By establishing an exhibit presence in settings like these, SITES will not only increase its annual visitor participation by 1 million, but also advance a key Smithsonian performance objective: to develop exhibit approaches that address diverse audiences, including population groups not always affiliated with mainstream cultural institutions.

SITES also will be the public exhibitions’ face of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, as that new Museum comes online.

Providing national access to projects that will introduce the American public to the Museum’s mission, SITES in FY 2008 will tour such stirring exhibitions as NASA ART: 50 Years of Exploration; 381 Days: The Montgomery Bus Boycott Story; Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes; The Way We Worked: Photographs from the National Archives; and More Than Words: Illustrated Letters from the Smithsonian’s Archives of American Art.

To meet the growing demand among smaller community and ethnic museums for an exhibition celebrating the Latino experience, SITES provided a scaled-down version of the National Museum of American History’s 4,000-square-foot exhibition about legendary entertainer Celia Cruz.

Two 1,500-square-foot exhibitions, one about Crow Indian history and the other on basket traditions, will give Smithsonian visitors beyond Washington a taste of the Institution’s critically acclaimed National Museum of the American Indian.

Two more exhibits, “In Plane View” and “Earth from Space,” provided visitors an opportunity to experience the Smithsonian’s recently opened, expansive National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center.

For almost 30 years, The Smithsonian Associates—the highly regarded educational arm of the Smithsonian Institution—has arranged Scholars in the Schools programs.

Through this tremendously successful and well-received educational outreach program,

the Smithsonian shares its staff—hundreds of experts in art, history and science—with the national community at a local level.

The mission of Smithsonian Affiliations is to build a strong national network of museums and educational organizations in order to establish active and engaging relationships with communities throughout the country.

There are currently 138 affiliates located in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Panama.

By working with museums of diverse subject areas and scholarly disciplines, both emerging and well-established, Smithsonian Affiliations is building partnerships through which audiences and visitors everywhere will be able to share in the great wealth of the Smithsonian while building capacity and expertise in local communities.

The National Science Resources Center (NSRC) strives to increase the number of ethnically diverse students participating in effective science programs based on NSRC products and services.

The Center develops and implements a national outreach strategy that will increase the number of school districts (currently more than 800) that are implementing NSRC K–8 programs.

The NSRC is striving to further enhance its program activity with a newly developed scientific outreach program introducing communities and school districts to science through literacy initiatives.

In addition, through the building of the multi-cultural Alliance Initiative, the Smithsonian’s outreach programs seek to develop new approaches to enable the public to gain access to Smithsonian collections, research, education, and public programs that reflect the diversity of the American people, including underserved audiences of ethnic populations and persons with disabilities.

For all these reasons, Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment and thank Chairman Dicks and Ranking Member TIAHRT for their courtesies, consideration, and very fine work in putting together this excellent legislation.

I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment at this time and begin to work the process to provide funding to the Smithsonian for that purpose.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR  
AMERICAN INDIANS  
FEDERAL TRUST PROGRAMS  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the operation of trust programs for Indians by direct expenditure, contracts, cooperative agreements, compacts, and grants, \$139,029,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$22,120,000 from this or any other Act, may be available for historical accounting: *Provided*, That funds for trust management improvements and litigation support may, as needed, be transferred to or merged with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education, “Operation of Indian Programs” account; the Office of the Solicitor, “Salaries and Expenses” account; and the Office of the Secretary, “Departmental Operations” account: *Provided further*, That funds made

available through contracts or grants obligated during fiscal year 2016, as authorized by the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.), shall remain available until expended by the contractor or grantee: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to provide a quarterly statement of performance for any Indian trust account that has not had activity for at least 15 months and has a balance of \$15 or less: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall issue an annual account statement and maintain a record of any such accounts and shall permit the balance in each such account to be withdrawn upon the express written request of the account holder: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$50,000 is available for the Secretary to make payments to correct administrative errors of either disbursements from or deposits to Individual Indian Money or Tribal accounts after September 30, 2002: *Provided further*, That erroneous payments that are recovered shall be credited to and remain available in this account for this purpose: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall not be required to reconcile Special Deposit Accounts with a balance of less than \$500 unless the Office of the Special Trustee receives proof of ownership from a Special Deposit Accounts claimant.

DEPARTMENT-WIDE PROGRAMS  
WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for fire preparedness, fire suppression operations, fire science and research, emergency rehabilitation, hazardous fuels management activities, and rural fire assistance by the Department of the Interior, \$804,795,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$6,127,000 shall be for the renovation or construction of fire facilities: *Provided*, That such funds are also available for repayment of advances to other appropriation accounts from which funds were previously transferred for such purposes: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided \$164,000,000 is for hazardous fuels management activities: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided \$18,035,000 is for burned area rehabilitation: *Provided further*, That persons hired pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 1469 may be furnished subsistence and lodging without cost from funds available from this appropriation: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 42 U.S.C. 1856d, sums received by a bureau or office of the Department of the Interior for fire protection rendered pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1856 et seq., protection of United States property, may be credited to the appropriation from which funds were expended to provide that protection, and are available without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That using the amounts designated under this title of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior may enter into procurement contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements, for hazardous fuels management and resilient landscapes activities, and for training and monitoring associated with such hazardous fuels management and resilient landscapes activities on Federal land, or on adjacent non-Federal land for activities that benefit resources on Federal land: *Provided further*, That the costs of implementing any cooperative agreement between the Federal Government and any non-Federal entity may be shared, as mutually agreed on by the affected parties: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding requirements of the Competition in Contracting Act, the Secretary, for purposes of hazardous fuels management and resilient landscapes activities, may obtain maximum practicable competition among: (1) local private, nonprofit, or cooperative entities; (2) Youth Conservation Corps crews, Public Lands Corps (Public

Law 109-154), or related partnerships with State, local, or nonprofit youth groups; (3) small or micro-businesses; or (4) other entities that will hire or train locally a significant percentage, defined as 50 percent or more, of the project workforce to complete such contracts: *Provided further*, That in implementing this section, the Secretary shall develop written guidance to field units to ensure accountability and consistent application of the authorities provided herein: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be used to reimburse the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for the costs of carrying out their responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to consult and conference, as required by section 7 of such Act, in connection with wildland fire management activities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior may use wildland fire appropriations to enter into leases of real property with local governments, at or below fair market value, to construct capitalized improvements for fire facilities on such leased properties, including but not limited to fire guard stations, retardant stations, and other initial attack and fire support facilities, and to make advance payments for any such lease or for construction activity associated with the lease: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize the transfer of funds appropriated for wildland fire management, in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$50,000,000, between the Departments when such transfers would facilitate and expedite wildland fire management programs and projects: *Provided further*, That funds provided for wildfire suppression shall be available for support of Federal emergency response actions: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for assistance to or through the Department of State in connection with forest and rangeland research, technical information, and assistance in foreign countries, and, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, shall be available to support forestry, wildland fire management, and related natural resource activities outside the United States and its territories and possessions, including technical assistance, education and training, and cooperation with United States and international organizations.

**FLAME WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION RESERVE FUND  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)**

For necessary expenses for large fire suppression operations of the Department of the Interior and as a reserve fund for suppression and Federal emergency response activities, \$92,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts are only available for transfer to the "Wildland Fire Management" account following a declaration by the Secretary in accordance with section 502 of the FLAME Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a).

**CENTRAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FUND**

For necessary expenses of the Department of the Interior and any of its component offices and bureaus for the response action, including associated activities, performed pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), \$10,010,000, to remain available until expended.

**NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION**

**NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FUND**

To conduct natural resource damage assessment, restoration activities, and onshore oil spill preparedness by the Department of the Interior necessary to carry out the provi-

sions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), and Public Law 101-337 (16 U.S.C. 1911 et seq.), \$7,689,000, to remain available until expended.

**WORKING CAPITAL FUND**

For the operation and maintenance of a departmental financial and business management system, information technology improvements of general benefit to the Department, and the consolidation of facilities and operations throughout the Department, \$56,529,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated in this Act or any other Act may be used to establish reserves in the Working Capital Fund account other than for accrued annual leave and depreciation of equipment without prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may assess reasonable charges to State, local and tribal government employees for training services provided by the National Indian Program Training Center, other than training related to Public Law 93-638: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may lease or otherwise provide space and related facilities, equipment or professional services of the National Indian Program Training Center to State, local and tribal government employees or persons or organizations engaged in cultural, educational, or recreational activities (as defined in section 3306(a) of title 40, United States Code) at the prevailing rate for similar space, facilities, equipment, or services in the vicinity of the National Indian Program Training Center: *Provided further*, That all funds received pursuant to the two preceding provisos shall be credited to this account, shall be available until expended, and shall be used by the Secretary for necessary expenses of the National Indian Program Training Center: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may enter into grants and cooperative agreements to support the Office of Natural Resource Revenue's collection and disbursement of royalties, fees, and other mineral revenue proceeds, as authorized by law.

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION**

There is hereby authorized for acquisition from available resources within the Working Capital Fund, aircraft which may be obtained by donation, purchase or through available excess surplus property: *Provided*, That existing aircraft being replaced may be sold, with proceeds derived or trade-in value used to offset the purchase price for the replacement aircraft.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

**EMERGENCY TRANSFER AUTHORITY—INTRA-BUREAU**

SEC. 101. Appropriations made in this title shall be available for expenditure or transfer (within each bureau or office), with the approval of the Secretary, for the emergency reconstruction, replacement, or repair of aircraft, buildings, utilities, or other facilities or equipment damaged or destroyed by fire, flood, storm, or other unavoidable causes: *Provided*, That no funds shall be made available under this authority until funds specifically made available to the Department of the Interior for emergencies shall have been exhausted: *Provided further*, That all funds used pursuant to this section must be replenished by a supplemental appropriation, which must be requested as promptly as possible.

**EMERGENCY TRANSFER AUTHORITY—  
DEPARTMENT-WIDE**

SEC. 102. The Secretary may authorize the expenditure or transfer of any no year appropriation in this title, in addition to the amounts included in the budget programs of the several agencies, for the suppression or emergency prevention of wildland fires on or threatening lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior; for the emergency rehabilitation of burned-over lands under its jurisdiction; for emergency actions related to potential or actual earthquakes, floods, volcanoes, storms, or other unavoidable causes; for contingency planning subsequent to actual oil spills; for response and natural resource damage assessment activities related to actual oil spills or releases of hazardous substances into the environment; for the prevention, suppression, and control of actual or potential grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary, pursuant to the authority in section 417(b) of Public Law 106-224 (7 U.S.C. 7117(b)); for emergency reclamation projects under section 410 of Public Law 95-87; and shall transfer, from any no year funds available to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, such funds as may be necessary to permit assumption of regulatory authority in the event a primacy State is not carrying out the regulatory provisions of the Surface Mining Act: *Provided*, That appropriations made in this title for wildland fire operations shall be available for the payment of obligations incurred during the preceding fiscal year, and for reimbursement to other Federal agencies for destruction of vehicles, aircraft, or other equipment in connection with their use for wildland fire operations, such reimbursement to be credited to appropriations currently available at the time of receipt thereof: *Provided further*, That for wildland fire operations, no funds shall be made available under this authority until the Secretary determines that funds appropriated for "wildland fire operations" and "FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund" shall be exhausted within 30 days: *Provided further*, That all funds used pursuant to this section must be replenished by a supplemental appropriation, which must be requested as promptly as possible: *Provided further*, That such replenishment funds shall be used to reimburse, on a pro rata basis, accounts from which emergency funds were transferred.

**AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS**

SEC. 103. Appropriations made to the Department of the Interior in this title shall be available for services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, when authorized by the Secretary, in total amount not to exceed \$500,000; purchase and replacement of motor vehicles, including specially equipped law enforcement vehicles; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; hire of passenger motor vehicles; purchase of reprints; payment for telephone service in private residences in the field, when authorized under regulations approved by the Secretary; and the payment of dues, when authorized by the Secretary, for library membership in societies or associations which issue publications to members only or at a price to members lower than to subscribers who are not members.

**AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS, INDIAN TRUST MANAGEMENT**

SEC. 104. Appropriations made in this Act under the headings Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education, and Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians and any unobligated balances from prior appropriations Acts made under the same headings shall be available for expenditure or

transfer for Indian trust management and reform activities. Total funding for historical accounting activities shall not exceed amounts specifically designated in this Act for such purpose.

REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

SEC. 105. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to redistribute any Tribal Priority Allocation funds, including tribal base funds, to alleviate tribal funding inequities by transferring funds to address identified, unmet needs, dual enrollment, overlapping service areas or inaccurate distribution methodologies. No tribe shall receive a reduction in Tribal Priority Allocation funds of more than 10 percent in fiscal year 2016. Under circumstances of dual enrollment, overlapping service areas or inaccurate distribution methodologies, the 10 percent limitation does not apply.

ELLIS, GOVERNORS, AND LIBERTY ISLANDS

SEC. 106. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire lands, waters, or interests therein including the use of all or part of any pier, dock, or landing within the State of New York and the State of New Jersey, for the purpose of operating and maintaining facilities in the support of transportation and accommodation of visitors to Ellis, Governors, and Liberty Islands, and of other program and administrative activities, by donation or with appropriated funds, including franchise fees (and other monetary consideration), or by exchange; and the Secretary is authorized to negotiate and enter into leases, subleases, concession contracts or other agreements for the use of such facilities on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may determine reasonable.

OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF INSPECTION FEES

SEC. 107. (a) In fiscal year 2016, the Secretary shall collect a nonrefundable inspection fee, which shall be deposited in the "Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement" account, from the designated operator for facilities subject to inspection under 43 U.S.C. 1348(c).

(b) Annual fees shall be collected for facilities that are above the waterline, excluding drilling rigs, and are in place at the start of the fiscal year. Fees for fiscal year 2016 shall be:

(1) \$10,500 for facilities with no wells, but with processing equipment or gathering lines;

(2) \$17,000 for facilities with 1 to 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells; and

(3) \$31,500 for facilities with more than 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells.

(c) Fees for drilling rigs shall be assessed for all inspections completed in fiscal year 2016. Fees for fiscal year 2016 shall be:

(1) \$30,500 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of 500 feet or more; and

(2) \$16,700 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of less than 500 feet.

(d) The Secretary shall bill designated operators under subsection (b) within 60 days, with payment required within 30 days of billing. The Secretary shall bill designated operators under subsection (c) within 30 days of the end of the month in which the inspection occurred, with payment required within 30 days of billing.

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT, REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT REORGANIZATION

SEC. 108. The Secretary of the Interior, in order to implement a reorganization of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, may transfer funds among and between the successor offices and

bureaus affected by the reorganization only in conformance with the reprogramming guidelines described in the report accompanying this Act.

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS FOR WILD HORSE AND BURRO HOLDING FACILITIES

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior may enter into multiyear cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations and other appropriate entities, and may enter into multiyear contracts in accordance with the provisions of section 3903 of title 41, United States Code (except that the 5-year term restriction in subsection (a) shall not apply), for the long-term care and maintenance of excess wild free roaming horses and burros by such organizations or entities on private land. Such cooperative agreements and contracts may not exceed 10 years, subject to renewal at the discretion of the Secretary.

MASS MARKING OF SALMONIDS

SEC. 110. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall, in carrying out its responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species of salmon, implement a system of mass marking of salmonid stocks, intended for harvest, that are released from federally operated or federally financed hatcheries including but not limited to fish releases of coho, chinook, and steelhead species. Marked fish must have a visible mark that can be readily identified by commercial and recreational fishers.

EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

SEC. 111. Section 122(a)(1) of division E of Public Law 112-74 (125 Stat. 1013) is amended by striking "fiscal years 2012 through 2016" and inserting "fiscal year 2012 and each fiscal year thereafter".

WILD LANDS FUNDING PROHIBITION

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this Act or any other Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce Secretarial Order No. 3310 issued by the Secretary of the Interior on December 22, 2010.

BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION OPERATED SCHOOLS

SEC. 113. Section 115(d) of division E of Public Law 112-74 (25 U.S.C. 2000 note) is amended by striking "2017" and inserting "2027".

VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS

SEC. 114. Section 102301(d) of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking "\$3,500,000" and inserting "\$7,000,000".

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS WITH INDIAN AFFAIRS

SEC. 115. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2016, in carrying out work involving cooperation with State, local, and tribal governments or any political subdivision thereof, Indian Affairs may record obligations against accounts receivable from any such entities, except that total obligations at the end of the fiscal year shall not exceed total budgetary resources available at the end of the fiscal year.

HERITAGE AREAS

SEC. 116. (a) Section 157(h)(1) of title I of Public Law 106-291 (16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended by striking "\$11,000,000" and inserting "\$13,000,000".

(b) Division II of Public Law 104-333 (16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended—

(1) in sections 409(a), 508(a), and 812(a) by striking "\$15,000,000" and inserting "\$17,000,000"; and

(2) in sections 208, 310, and 607 by striking "2015" and inserting "2017".

SAGE-GROUSE

SEC. 117. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used by the

Secretary of the Interior to write or issue pursuant to section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533)—

(1) a proposed rule for greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*);

(2) a proposed rule for the Columbia basin distinct population segment of greater sage-grouse.

OFFSHORE PAY AUTHORITY EXTENSION

SEC. 118. Section 117 of division G of Public Law 113-76 is amended by striking "and 2015" and inserting "through 2017".

ONSHORE PAY AUTHORITY EXTENSION

SEC. 119. Section 123 of division G of Public Law 113-76 is amended by striking "and 2015" and inserting "through 2017".

IVORY

SEC. 120. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to draft, prepare, implement, or enforce any new or revised regulation or order that—

(1) prohibits or restricts, within the United States, the possession, sale, delivery, receipt, shipment, or transportation of ivory that has been lawfully imported into the United States;

(2) changes any means of determining, including any applicable presumptions concerning, when ivory has been lawfully imported; or

(3) prohibits or restricts the importation of ivory that was lawfully importable into the United States as of February 1, 2014.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA

Mr. GRIJALVA. I have an amendment at the desk, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. BISHOP of Michigan). The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Beginning at page 59, line 9, strike section 120.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, last week, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service destroyed a 1-ton stockpile of illegal elephant ivory. Most of it was seized up from a Philadelphia antique dealer named Victor Gordon.

For at least 9 years, Gordon imported and sold ivory from freshly killed African elephants in violation of U.S. law and the laws of the countries where the elephants were poached and the ivory stolen.

How did he get away with this for so long? The ivory was doctored so that it looked old enough to pass through a loophole in the enforcement of the African Elephant Conservation Act, a law that was passed in 1989 to end the commercial import and export of ivory.

While a ton of ivory was confiscated, there is no way to know how much Gordon had sold during the previous decade or where it is now. All we know for certain is all of it was illegal, all of it is nearly impossible to distinguish from antique ivory, and anyone who bought it from Gordon, resells it, or buys it from a new owner is contributing to the ongoing slaughter of elephants and the criminal trafficking of ivory that supports organized crime and terrorism.

This has got to stop. How many more Victor Gordons are out there? The amount is a question that can't be answered. The amount of ivory seized from his shop represents 100 elephants, roughly the same number killed every day in Africa.

The photo we wanted to enlarge was a photo of an Africa elephant that had been killed and its head decapitated and the ivory butchered out of its head. Upon review, it was decided that it was too graphic and disturbing for the Chamber and for the floor, and we didn't bring that one.

While much of this poaching is fueled by demand for ivory in Asia, a significant black market exists in the United States, as evidenced by the Gordon case and similar State level investigations in New York City and elsewhere.

The only way—and I repeat—the only way to keep U.S. citizens from being involved, whether knowingly or unknowingly, in this elephant poaching and trafficking crisis is to close the enforcement loopholes and eliminate the commercial import, export, and trade of Africa elephant ivory in this country.

That is precisely what the Obama administration is trying to do by proposing new rules to limit ivory trade in the United States. Instead of assisting in this important cause, House Republicans have slipped a rider into the appropriations bill to kill the new rule before it is even finalized.

My amendment would remove this rider. Ending the commercial ivory trade does not mean taking away people's musical instruments, as some have said, ivory-handled pistols, or family heirlooms. Museum collections, scientific specimens, and sport-hunted trophies will also be allowed to move freely. Further, items containing very small amounts of ivory can be bought and sold.

Profiteering off elephant parts will no longer be allowed, nor should it be. As long as ivory has monetary value, people will kill elephants to get it. Eliminating value will eliminate demand and that will reduce wildlife poaching and trafficking.

I understand the administration's proposed ivory rule is due out very shortly, and in the interest of giving everyone a chance to review that rule, I will withdraw this amendment today.

However, I will not hesitate to return with a similar amendment later if that is what it takes to remove this damaging rider from the bill.

I ask, Mr. Chairman, unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### REISSUANCE OF FINAL RULES

SEC. 121. Before the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior

shall reissue the final rule published on December 28, 2011 (76 Fed. Reg. 81666 et seq.) and the final rule published on September 10, 2012 (77 Fed. Reg. 55530 et seq.), without regard to any other provision of statute or regulation that applies to issuance of such rules. Such reissuances (including this section) shall not be subject to judicial review.

#### NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

SEC. 122. Before the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall amend the interim rule pertaining to the northern long-eared bat published by the Department of the Interior in the Federal Register on April 2, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 17974 et seq.), only in such a way that—

(1) take incidental to any activity conducted in accordance with the habitat conservation measures identified at pages 18024 to 18205 of volume 80 of the Federal Register (April 2, 2015), as applicable, is not prohibited; and

(2) the public comment period for such interim rule is reopened for not less than 90 days.

#### ECHINODERMS

SEC. 123. Section 14.21(a)(1) of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, is amended by inserting “, including echinoderms commonly known as sea urchins and sea cucumbers,” after “products”.

#### TITLE II—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

For science and technology, including research and development activities, which shall include research and development activities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; necessary expenses for personnel and related costs and travel expenses; procurement of laboratory equipment and supplies; and other operating expenses in support of research and development, \$704,918,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That of the funds included under this heading, \$7,100,000 shall be for Research: National Priorities as specified in the report accompanying this Act.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LANGEVIN

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 61, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,625,000)”.

Page 62, lines 8 and 13, after each dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Rhode Island and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This amendment, which I am offering with my good friends, Mr. KEATING and Mr. CICILLINE, will provide \$1 million to the southern New England estuaries geographic program. This program was funded at \$5 million last year and has been incredibly successful at leveraging resources, bringing stakeholders together, and increasing efficiencies.

Estuaries are essential for healthy coastal ecosystems. They provide benefits of great economic and ecologic sig-

nificance, including vital nesting and feeding habitats for aquatic plants and animals; yet they are increasingly affected by impacts of human activity along our coasts. These funds will be used to continue efforts to protect and restore our coasts and estuaries, which are critical for our environment and our economy.

The southern New England estuaries geographic program supports projects and science to restore the health of southeastern New England's estuaries watersheds and coastal waters and ensure access now and in the future to resilient, self-sustaining ecosystems and associated populations of our fish and shellfish.

I would like to take a moment to say that the account that we are reallocating from, EPA science and technology, is also critically important. While we would have liked to offer an amendment increasing the southern New England estuary geographic program to its full funding amount of \$5 million, there were neither sufficient nor appropriate offsets in this bill to do so.

Mr. Chair, I hope that as our appropriators go to conference with the Senate, they are able to restore the full funding amount of \$5 million for this important program.

I would also like to thank Congressman KEATING, along with Congressman CICILLINE, for being tremendous partners in ensuring that our southern New England estuaries are restored and stay healthy for generations to come.

I would like to thank Chairman CALVERT, Ranking Member MCCOLLUM, and their staffs who worked on this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support the funding for the southern New England estuary geographic program.

I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), my good friend and colleague, to speak on the amendment.

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Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague and friend for yielding.

I also would like to express my gratitude to Mr. KEATING, who unfortunately could not be with us today, for his hard work on this important issue, and I thank my colleague from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) for his elegant words.

Mr. Chairman, the estuaries in Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island and Buzzards Bay in Massachusetts face significant environmental challenges, many shared by estuaries across the country. These challenges include rivers and streams that are disconnected from the landscape, the loss of critical wetlands, the impacts of centuries of urbanization and development, and aging infrastructure.

Southern New England estuaries are especially threatened by these challenges. Yet despite the harm that we know is being done to our estuaries, southern New England was the only geographic region in this bill which saw

all of its estuary funding eliminated. While some geographic regions were underfunded compared to fiscal year 2016 requests, most requests for geographic regions were either met or, in some cases, increased. Inexplicably, it was only southern New England that was singled out for complete elimination of funding for the next fiscal year.

This amendment would restore a modest \$1 million funding for southern New England estuaries program, as Congressman LANGEVIN said. Then, at conference, we hope that full funding is restored.

The southern New England watershed has experienced more than 400 years of ecological degradation, which is further exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Rivers and waterways have become disconnected from the watershed, which has led to the absorption of nitrogen and other pollutants from sources such as septic systems, treatment plants, and storm water runoff.

The funding provided to these geographic programs allows for essential collaboration between Federal entities, nonprofit and academic institutions, and other private entities to formulate innovative solutions and to produce new technologies to create cleaner and clearer waterways. For example, in fiscal year 2014, more than \$65,000 in grants was awarded to the Narragansett Bay watershed. This funded projects run by Save the Bay in my district, including an education and awareness project for residents and businesses on Aquidneck Island as well as a partnership program involving the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council to facilitate site visits to more than 200 shoreline rights-of-way to determine any needed levels of improvement to public access.

Programs like these have proven to be effective. In fact, the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program was awarded a 2015 Environmental Merit Award from EPA New England for outstanding contributions on behalf of southern New England's public health and natural environment. These collaborative efforts throughout the southern New England region with continued funding will help to support projects to protect ecological habitats, foster self-sustaining ecosystems, and protect wildlife. Federal collaboration and investment is essential to helping local communities apply for and receive funding.

I thank my colleague from Rhode Island and my colleague from Massachusetts for the great work they have done on this issue.

I urge passage of this amendment by all of my colleagues.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition, but I don't oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CALVERT. I would be happy to work with the gentlemen, and I would urge acceptance of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his support of the amendment as well as my colleague and Mr. KEATING. As I said, this is such an important amendment. It includes important funding for protecting our ecosystems.

I urge passage of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT

For environmental programs and management, including necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for personnel and related costs and travel expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; purchase of reprints; library memberships in societies or associations which issue publications to members only or at a price to members lower than to subscribers who are not members; administrative costs of the brownfields program under the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002; and not to exceed \$9,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$2,472,289,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That of the funds included under this heading, \$12,700,000 shall be for Environmental Protection: National Priorities as specified in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided further*, That of the funds included under this heading, \$403,523,000 shall be for Geographic Programs specified in the report accompanying this Act.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,212,000) (increased by \$2,212,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman CALVERT and his staff for working with me on this amendment. It simply seeks to decrease and then increase by the same amount within the \$2.5 billion appropriation for the environmental programs and management account within the Environmental Protection Agency. More specifically, my amendment seeks to remove and then reapply \$2.2 million from that account.

The intent behind my amendment is simple. It is to put the House on record of supporting a final funding amount of \$27,310,000 for the National Estuary Program and coastal waterways.

Currently, the report accompanying this bill calls for \$25,098,000 for the Na-

tional Estuary Program and coastal waterways, which is \$2,212,000 below both the Senate's proposed appropriations level and the President's request for fiscal year 2016. Hence, the amount specified in my amendment.

The National Estuary Program and coastal waterways subaccount within the EPA does important work, including work in my State, especially on the Atlantic Coast. It addresses ocean acidification, seeks to remove coastal watersheds, furthers the National Estuary Program's restoration goals, and assists in the implementation of the very important Gulf of Mexico hypoxia action plan.

Mr. Chairman, there is an area, a large area called the dead zone off of Louisiana that literally stinks. It has no fish. It has no recreational opportunities. It has no fishing. It is, in fact, a scar on the face of the Earth. Part of the funding for this program is used to try to overcome the hypoxia situation that has arisen off the coast of Louisiana that threatens to spread not only to Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi, but also to the coast of my State of Florida, eventually, if we do nothing about it.

The estuarine regions of the United States comprise just 12 percent of land area of the United States, but they contain 43 percent of the U.S. population and provide 49 percent of all U.S. economic output. The economic value of coastal recreation alone in the United States—beach going, fishing, bird watching, snorkeling, diving, and so on—has conservatively been estimated by NOAA to be between \$20 billion and \$60 billion annually.

Clearly, the \$2.2 million increase in funding for the National Estuary Program and coastal waterways that I am seeking will result in dramatic returns for the American economy, an enhanced quality of life for the American people, and eliminate that scar on the face of planet Earth that exists off the coast of Louisiana and should never be allowed to spread.

Mr. Chairman, I know that you support this amendment, and I am thankful for your support. With that in mind, I will stop talking before I lose your support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MOONEY OF WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

Page 62, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from West Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.



The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to the fiscal year 2016 Interior Appropriations bill that will help strengthen transparency and oversight at the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA. My amendment simply provides \$1 million in additional funding for the Office of Inspector General at the EPA.

I thank Chairman KEN CALVERT for working with me on this amendment.

Under the current administration, the EPA has waged an all-out war on jobs in the beautiful Second District of West Virginia and on communities across America. With this backdrop, I think it is absolutely critical that we strengthen oversight and transparency at the EPA. Taxpayers deserve to know what is going on behind the curtain.

The Office of the Inspector General plays a critical oversight role within the EPA. It is the independent office that works diligently to root out waste, fraud, and abuse. For example, a May 28, 2015, report found that two separate EPA employees were viewing pornography at work for up to 6 hours a day, and they were paid in the neighborhood of \$120,000 a year while doing it.

The same report found that Renee Page, who at the time was Director of the EPA's Office of Administration, allegedly sold jewelry and weight loss pills out of her office. But she didn't stop there with her abuses. She hired not one, not two, but 17 family members and friends for paid internships at the EPA.

These are just two examples of the incredible abuses of public trust and of taxpayer dollars that occur at the EPA. Without rigorous oversight from the inspector general, these abuses might never have been exposed.

My amendment provides additional oversight funding without increasing the budgetary impact of the fiscal year 2016 Interior Appropriations bill. We pull the money from the Office of Public Affairs, which is the office responsible for promoting the administration's radical environmental agenda, and use it instead for oversight.

I would encourage my colleagues today to cast their vote in favor of my amendment.

Mr. CALVERT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to support this amendment. I appreciate the gentleman's bringing it up, and I encourage everyone to adopt it.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MOONEY OF WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

Page 132, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from West Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would strike \$2 million in funding from the Environmental Protection Agency Office of Policy and transfer those funds to the deficit reduction account.

The Office of Policy is located within the EPA Office of the Administrator and is the primary policy arm for the Agency, or what I have been calling the regulatory nerve center. The funding for this office directly supports this administration's radical regulatory agenda that is putting an alarming number of my constituents out of work, and they are not shy about it.

The head of the EPA's Office of Policy, Joel Beauvais, on October 13, 2014, boasted to a group of New York University law students that his office "coordinates the process through which all of the EPA's rules are developed, including the clean power plan."

Well, the so-called clean power plan is projected to increase energy costs by as much as \$479 billion over the next 15 years. For my constituents in the beautiful Second District of West Virginia, that means an average electricity price increase of 12 percent. This is something we cannot afford. Yesterday, on the floor of this Chamber, we passed the ratepayer protection plan, which will stop the clean power plan, but the Office of Policy is coordinating more than just the clean power plan. The EPA issues about 150 new regulations each year, and this office is right at the center.

Another rule that deserves attention is the EPA's proposed ozone standard. The National Association of Manufacturers found that this new regulation could reduce the United States' GDP by \$207 billion to \$360 billion annually, leading to 2.9 million fewer jobs between now and 2040.

It is clear that the EPA, under this administration, will continue to promote their radical environmental agenda through an enormous number of rules and regulations. We have to slow this process, and that is why I propose this amendment to cut the Office of Policy funding by \$2 million. I would encourage my colleagues today to cast their vote in favor of my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1630

Ms. MCCOLLUM. The gentleman's amendment would cut \$2 million from the Office of Policy and Program and put the savings into the so-called spending reduction account. If enacted, this would cut an already barebones bill that is plagued by policy riders and further erode our environment.

I am concerned that this cut could have great influence on what the policy division does in its relationship in working with States and divisions within States, community assistance, and its research division.

I would also point out to my colleagues that the spending reduction account has never been enacted into law in the 4 years it has been proposed, so there really isn't an account I know of that has been authorized where this fund could go.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment and to keep the Office of Policy able to do its work that impacts on our States and local community.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. I agree with the gentleman's amendment. I would urge its adoption.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. TIPTON

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$20,000,000)".

Page 79, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$20,000,000)".

Page 80, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$20,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Colorado and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank Chairman CALVERT and Ranking Member MCCOLLUM for their collaborative efforts in putting together this bill that carefully and thoughtfully allocates limited resources in order to conserve and restore our Nation's precious natural resources.

As you know, States across the Nation, especially those in the West, face widespread drought and deteriorating forest health conditions, all of which increase the risk of catastrophic wildfires and the tragic loss of life and property.

Furthermore, these forest health conditions and the wildfires wreak havoc on species habitat; recreational economies; critical infrastructure; and clean, abundant water supplies.

In 2014, the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior agencies spent over \$1.5 million in fire suppression costs to combat fires on more than \$3.5 million acres of private, State, and Federal lands.

These suppression costs will only continue to rise if we do not appropriately address the critical issues of wildfire preparation, including hazardous fuel management activities.

For far too long, we have been addressing the problem after the fact. That course of action has led to decades of declining healthy forests and a staggering increase in the occurrence of catastrophic wildfires, putting people, communities, and ecosystems at risk.

In fiscal year 2015, Congress provided a \$75 million increase for hazardous fuels management. I applaud Chairman CALVERT and my colleagues for spearheading these efforts, but we can do more.

Today, I am offering a simple amendment that will bolster the wildfire management system account on the National Forest System lands by \$20 million, allowing the Forest Service to be able to expand ongoing work on hazardous fuels reduction and fire mitigation projects.

Quite simply, the cost of proactive healthy forest management is far less than the cost of wildfire suppression and cleaning up devastating aftermaths.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

At this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE), a cosponsor of this legislation.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman from Colorado bringing this amendment.

In the West, we are finding that our States are being burned up. They are burned up because the forests are simply full of fuel that has not been cut or logged for the last 20, 30 years. These are internal decisions that were created by an inappropriate listing of the spotted owl, declaring that timber reduction was the reason the spotted owl was going extinct.

A couple of years ago, the Fish and Wildlife Service reversed that, saying: Oops, logging had nothing to do with it.

It doesn't matter. Now, the damage is done. Our forests are chock-full of fuels. It has been extraordinarily dry through the West. Small sparks set off tremendous blazes. The wind always blows in the West. We find these raging while fires that weren't in existence 30, 40, and 50 years ago because nature was pretty well in harmony.

The idea of the gentleman is simply to put more money into the fuels reduction account. That is a common-

sense solution that will save us in the West, save our valuable resources, save our valuable forests, and it will make sense for the country.

I support the amendment and would urge its adoption.

Mr. TIPTON. I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the chairman.

Mr. CALVERT. I certainly agree with you. We need to improve the condition of our national forests. My home of California, as you know, is going through an exceptional drought. Colorado is just not sending enough water down the Colorado River, so you need to help us out a little bit.

This hazardous fuel issue is a huge issue in my area. As you know, we have the blight issue that is just killing trees because we have too many trees in the forests, and it has weakened the forests.

This is a good amendment, and I certainly urge its adoption.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, while I certainly appreciate the challenges that so many Western States are facing right now with the drought and very frightening wildfires, I need to oppose this.

Unlike most programs in H.R. 2822, especially within the Forest Service, the base hazardous fuels program received a \$10 million increase above the FY 2015 enacted level.

There is a reduction in H.R. 2822 to the biomass grant portion of the hazardous fuels program, but I see nothing in this amendment that addresses that cut.

We would all like to see increases in funding for many programs funded by the bill. Chairman CALVERT has certainly been a strong advocate for a robust wildland fire program, including hazardous fuels. Coming from the fire-prone State of California, as he just mentioned, he knows as well as anyone that our fire programs needs support, and he has funded that accordingly.

To provide what would be a record level of funding for hazardous fuels, the sponsor of this amendment would cut an additional \$20 million from the EPA, which is why I feel it is important to oppose this amendment.

This bill already severely cuts the EPA's main operating account by \$141.4 million, or 5 percent. I strongly oppose an amendment that takes more money from the already starved EPA. The very air we breathe and the water we drink are endangered by the funding and policy decisions made in this bill, and their consequences will be negatively felt in communities across this Nation.

I know cutting EPA is an easy target for many of my colleagues across the aisle, but I want to make sure that my

colleagues understand what this amendment would cut if it was adopted.

This account funds programs that are important to both sides of the aisle, including permitting for construction projects across the country, toxics risk prevention, the cleanup of toxic waste sites, pesticide licensing, and radiation prevention.

EPA's work goes beyond the political talking point of scary regulations and is necessary to keep vulnerable populations safe from environmental disasters. It is beyond reason, frankly, to cut the very Federal employees that have ably responded to the disasters such as the BP oil spill and the coal ash spill in Kingston, Tennessee, in 2008.

I do not support gutting the EPA further, and I oppose this amendment. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, the current Environmental Protection Agency likes to applaud itself that it is a champion of clean air and clean water. For those of us who live in the West, this is not a political talking point. This is reality.

If you care about clean air, think about the carbon that is emitted from wildfires. Think about the devastation to the wildlife habitat as our forests burn. Think about clean water as ash is washed down through the ravines into very narrow watersheds where we have endangered species residing as well.

I would submit, Mr. Chairman, that we actually put action through our words in terms of being proactive and in terms of addressing forest health. If you care about clean water, if you care about endangered species, if you care about clean air, this is an opportunity to actually allow us to be able to move the ball forward, to be able to address what the Environmental Protection Agency says it is about—that is clean air, clean water.

This amendment will help achieve that goal, and encourage my colleagues to adopt it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$40,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

#### BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities of, or for use by, the Environmental Protection Agency, \$34,467,000, to remain available until expended.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SUPERFUND  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), including sections 111(c)(3), (c)(5), (c)(6), and (e)(4) (42 U.S.C. 9611) \$1,088,769,000, to remain available until expended, consisting of such sums as are available in the Trust Fund on September 30, 2015, as authorized by section 517(a) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) and up to \$1,088,769,000 as a payment from general revenues to the Hazardous Substance Superfund for purposes as authorized by section 517(b) of SARA: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be allocated to other Federal agencies in accordance with section 111(a) of CERCLA: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$8,459,000 shall be paid to the "Office of Inspector General" appropriation to remain available until September 30, 2017, and \$16,217,000 shall be paid to the "Science and Technology" appropriation to remain available until September 30, 2017.

LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK TRUST  
FUND PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out leaking underground storage tank cleanup activities authorized by subtitle I of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, \$91,941,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$66,572,000 shall be for carrying out leaking underground storage tank cleanup activities authorized by section 9003(h) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act; \$25,369,000 shall be for carrying out the other provisions of the Solid Waste Disposal Act specified in section 9508(c) of the Internal Revenue Code: *Provided*, That the Administrator is authorized to use appropriations made available under this heading to implement section 9013 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to provide financial assistance to federally recognized Indian tribes for the development and implementation of programs to manage underground storage tanks.

INLAND OIL SPILL PROGRAMS

For expenses necessary to carry out the Environmental Protection Agency's responsibilities under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, \$17,944,000, to be derived from the Oil Spill Liability trust fund, to remain available until expended.

STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For environmental programs and infrastructure assistance, including capitalization grants for State revolving funds and performance partnership grants, \$2,979,829,000, to remain available until expended, of which—

(1) \$1,018,000,000 shall be for making capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act; and of which \$757,000,000 shall be for making capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act: *Provided*, That for fiscal year 2016, funds made available under this title to each State for Clean Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants and for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants may, at the discretion of each State, be used for projects to address green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements, or other environmentally innovative activities: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 603(d)(7) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the limitation on the amounts in a State water pollution control revolving fund that may be used by a State to administer the fund shall not apply to amounts included

as principal in loans made by such fund in fiscal year 2016 and prior years where such amounts represent costs of administering the fund to the extent that such amounts are or were deemed reasonable by the Administrator, accounted for separately from other assets in the fund, and used for eligible purposes of the fund, including administration: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2016, notwithstanding the limitation on amounts in section 518(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, up to a total of 2 percent of the funds appropriated, or \$30,000,000, whichever is greater, and notwithstanding the limitation on amounts in section 1452(i) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, up to a total of 2 percent of the funds appropriated, or \$20,000,000, whichever is greater, for State Revolving Funds under such Acts may be reserved by the Administrator for grants under section 518(c) and section 1452(i) of such Acts: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2016, notwithstanding the amounts specified in section 205(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, up to 1.5 percent of the aggregate funds appropriated for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program under the Act less any sums reserved under section 518(c) of the Act, may be reserved by the Administrator for grants made under title II of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act for American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and United States Virgin Islands: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2016, notwithstanding the limitations on amounts specified in section 1452(j) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, up to 1.5 percent of the funds appropriated for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs under the Safe Drinking Water Act may be reserved by the Administrator for grants made under section 1452(j) of the Safe Drinking Water Act: *Provided further*, That 10 percent of the funds made available under this title to each State for Clean Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants and 20 percent of the funds made available under this title to each State for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants shall be used by the State to provide additional subsidy to eligible recipients in the form of forgiveness of principal, negative interest loans, or grants (or any combination of these), and shall be so used by the State only where such funds are provided as initial financing for an eligible recipient or to buy, refinance, or restructure the debt obligations of eligible recipients only where such debt was incurred on or after the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) \$5,000,000 shall be for architectural, engineering, planning, design, construction and related activities in connection with the construction of high priority water and wastewater facilities in the area of the United States-Mexico Border, after consultation with the appropriate border commission: *Provided*, That no funds provided by this appropriations Act to address the water, wastewater and other critical infrastructure needs of the colonias in the United States along the United States-Mexico border shall be made available to a county or municipal government unless that government has established an enforceable local ordinance, or other zoning rule, which prevents in that jurisdiction the development or construction of any additional colonia areas, or the development within an existing colonia the construction of any new home, business, or other structure which lacks water, wastewater, or other necessary infrastructure;

(3) \$10,000,000 shall be for grants to the State of Alaska to address drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs of rural and Alaska Native Villages: *Provided*, That of these funds: (A) the State of Alaska shall provide a match of 25 percent; (B) no more

than 5 percent of the funds may be used for administrative and overhead expenses; and (C) the State of Alaska shall make awards consistent with the Statewide priority list established in conjunction with the Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for all water, sewer, waste disposal, and similar projects carried out by the State of Alaska that are funded under section 221 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1301) or the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.) which shall allocate not less than 25 percent of the funds provided for projects in regional hub communities;

(4) \$75,000,000 shall be to carry out section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), including grants, inter-agency agreements, and associated program support costs: *Provided*, That not more than 25 percent of the amount appropriated to carry out section 104(k) of CERCLA shall be used for site characterization, assessment, and remediation of facilities described in section 101(39)(D)(ii)(II) of CERCLA;

(5) \$50,000,000 shall be for grants under title VII, subtitle G of the Energy Policy Act of 2005;

(6) \$20,000,000 shall be for targeted airshed grants in accordance with the terms and conditions of the report accompanying this Act; and

(7) \$1,044,829,000 shall be for grants, including associated program support costs, to States, federally recognized tribes, interstate agencies, tribal consortia, and air pollution control agencies for multi-media or single media pollution prevention, control and abatement and related activities, including activities pursuant to the provisions set forth under this heading in Public Law 104-134, and for making grants under section 103 of the Clean Air Act for particulate matter monitoring and data collection activities subject to terms and conditions specified by the Administrator, of which: \$47,745,000 shall be for carrying out section 128 of CERCLA; \$9,646,000 shall be for Environmental Information Exchange Network grants, including associated program support costs; \$1,498,000 shall be for grants to States under section 2007(f)(2) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, which shall be in addition to funds appropriated under the heading "Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program" to carry out the provisions of the Solid Waste Disposal Act specified in section 9508(c) of the Internal Revenue Code other than section 9003(h) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act; \$17,848,000 of the funds available for grants under section 106 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act shall be for State participation in national- and State-level statistical surveys of water resources and enhancements to State monitoring programs.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCNERNEY

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 65, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$861,000,000)".

Page 65, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$432,000,000)".

Page 65, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$429,000,000)".

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from California and a

Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, although I had planned to withdraw my amendment, I feel it is important to discuss the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and the benefits these funds provide to our Nation.

Droughts are becoming more severe, which is putting an incredible strain on our water supply in California, and in my district, where we are experiencing a historic drought for the last 4 years. We have to manage our available water in smart and efficient ways.

We lose an estimated 7 billion gallons of water a day from leaking pipes, with some cities losing as much as 30 percent of their water. At the same time, these cracks expose the water supply to an increasing number of waterborne diseases and contaminants. This means utilities face considerable challenges as they try to provide both adequate and safe drinking water to families and businesses.

Upgrading our infrastructure would save trillions of gallons of water a year and make our water safer to drink, but the best part is that, according to the American Water Works Association, there are already enough shovel-ready water projects around the United States that would create work for more than 400,000 Americans, including almost 90,000 direct construction jobs. These are jobs that would be welcomed with open arms in our towns and cities across the United States.

Our Nation's water infrastructure is in desperate need of repair. According to an infrastructure needs survey by the EPA, nearly \$335 billion worth of repairs, upgrades, and replacements are needed by water systems in the next 20 years to continue providing safe drinking water and protecting public health. Almost \$300 billion is needed to repair and replace wastewater and storm water pipes and treatment plants.

Furthermore, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies and the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies estimate that utilities will need to spend \$448 billion to \$944 billion by 2050 just to deal with climate change impacts.

Considering the significant water infrastructure needs our country is facing, the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds have never been more important.

□ 1645

These funds help finance projects that handle and treat domestic sewage and storm water and deliver drinking water to homes and businesses. These infrastructure investments also create jobs and have a positive impact on the economy well beyond the amount spent.

Unfortunately, the bill proposes significant—and I want to repeat that—significant reductions to drinking

water SFRs and over a \$400 million cut in the Clean Water Act sewage treatment SFRs.

The Nation's water infrastructure needs already exceed the available funding, and cutting the revolving funds by this much means that a greater number of deserving community projects will not be able to get done. This approach will only imperil our infrastructure and our healthy communities that it helps foster.

Congress should commit to providing the necessary funding to maintain and upgrade our Nation's ailing water infrastructure and make sure that the green infrastructure is a critical part of that process.

My State of California is doing its best to cope with a severe and ongoing drought, and Congress must do its best to fund and support the needed infrastructure and water quality enhancements that preserve our precious water resources and create a sustainable system.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 68, strike lines 1 and 2 and insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That an entity shall not be an eligible recipient for a grant under this paragraph unless the entity has experienced at least 15 percent population loss since 1970, as measured by data from the 2010 decennial census and has experienced prolonged population, income, and employment loss resulting in substantial levels of housing vacancy and abandonment and such housing vacancies and abandonments are concentrated in more than one neighborhood or geographic area within a jurisdiction or jurisdictions.”

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Michigan and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, my hometown of Flint, Michigan, has endured decades of job loss and population loss through the slow, painful erosion of our manufacturing base. Previous trade deals, population shifts, bad land use management, and trade deals like NAFTA, for example, have accelerated the job losses in my hometown.

That has had the effect of reducing local revenues, creating lower housing prices, less local services, and less investments in things that matter the most, like infrastructure, including our

own water system. To reinvest in those places costs money that the cities don't have.

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund was specifically designed to assist communities with maintaining and improving water infrastructure. This fund provides critical support to ensure safe, clean drinking water is available in our communities.

Many of us represent communities, however, that have outstanding loans issued under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund from prior to 2009, and those loan funds are ineligible for certain types of help because of the timing of those loans.

In Flint, our current water system loses over a third of the treated water due to decades-old delivery systems before it even reaches the faucets in homes and businesses. This city has relied on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to improve this system, but the challenge and the cost is immense.

The cost is even more daunting when the city is working to pull itself out of an economic downturn that has lasted not just a few years, but has lasted decades.

So we should, as Congress, give these communities the tools that they need to build bridges and roads, to fix their aging water systems, and bring, most importantly, economic development. My amendment would be an important step to doing this.

First, it would allow current revolving loan funds to be used to provide loan forgiveness to cities that have outstanding loans, regardless of the date of the incurrence of that loan. Prior to 2009, those loans are not eligible for loan forgiveness. Loans incurred after 2009 are actually eligible for forgiveness. So the first option, we would like to see those pre-2009 loans eligible for forgiveness.

Second, the option to use new funds to provide loan forgiveness on prior loans is limited because these cities have had—this amendment would limit that loan forgiveness to cities that have had significant financial problems due to population loss, cities that have had a population loss of more than 15 percent since 1970 and also have a high rate of abandoned and vacant buildings—basically, the cities that are in no position right now to finance improvements to their system just because of the level of abandonment, the level of population loss, and the revenue loss associated with it.

Allowing financially distressed cities like Flint to have loans forgiven will bring some stability to these communities and allow them to better serve their residents.

So I ask for support for this amendment to help communities across the country, like Flint, the backbone of the American economy in the 20th century, so that they can again become leaders in the 21st century.

If we don't re-invest in those places and find ways to do that, we are going

to have a difficult time having them join the economy in a way that really makes a difference for the people who live there.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

## POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

“An amendment in a general appropriations bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.”

The amendment requires a determination.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, other than to say that I will continue to press every opportunity I have to find a way to help these communities.

I understand the gentleman's point of order, and I will continue to work with him and any other Member of this body that will help me find a path forward to help communities like this community of Flint that is really struggling to deliver clean water to its residents.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair is prepared to rule. The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring new determinations, such as levels of population loss and housing vacancy.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER AND RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For fiscal year 2016, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 6303(1) and 6305(1), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in carrying out the Agency's function to implement directly Federal environmental programs required or authorized by law in the absence of an acceptable tribal program, may award cooperative agreements to federally recognized Indian tribes or Intertribal consortia, if authorized by their member tribes, to assist the Administrator in implementing Federal environmental programs for Indian tribes required or authorized by law, except that no such cooperative agreements may be awarded from funds designated for State financial assistance agreements.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency is authorized to collect and obligate pesticide registration service fees in accordance with section 33 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w-8).

Notwithstanding section 33(d)(2) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 U.S.C. 136w-8(d)(2)), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may assess fees

under section 33 of FIFRA (7 U.S.C. 136w-8) for fiscal year 2016.

The Administrator is authorized to transfer up to \$300,000,000 of the funds appropriated for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative under the heading “Environmental Programs and Management” to the head of any Federal department or agency, with the concurrence of such head, to carry out activities that would support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement programs, projects, or activities; to enter into an inter-agency agreement with the head of such Federal department or agency to carry out these activities; and to make grants to governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, institutions, and individuals for planning, research, monitoring, outreach, and implementation in furtherance of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

The Science and Technology, Environmental Programs and Management, Office of Inspector General, Hazardous Substance Superfund, and Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program Accounts, are available for the construction, alteration, repair, rehabilitation, and renovation of facilities provided that the cost does not exceed \$150,000 per project.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall base agency policies and actions regarding air emissions from forest biomass including, but not limited to, air emissions from facilities that combust forest biomass for energy, on the principle that forest biomass emissions do not increase overall carbon dioxide accumulations in the atmosphere when USDA Forest Inventory and Analysis data show that forest carbon stocks in the U.S. are stable or increasing on a national scale, or when forest biomass is derived from mill residuals, harvest residuals or forest management activities. Such policies and actions shall not pre-empt existing authorities of States to determine how to utilize biomass as a renewable energy source and shall not inhibit States' authority to apply the same policies to forest biomass as other renewable fuels in implementing Federal law.

## AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BEYER

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 73, strike lines 8 through 23.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chair, my amendment would correct the assertion in this bill that all forest biomass is carbon neutral. The assertion is simply scientifically inaccurate.

In 2012, EPA's Scientific Advisory Board directly challenged the claim that all forest biomass is carbon neutral, explaining that while some types of carbon biomass may indeed be, it is inappropriate to assume that all types of forest biomass are carbon neutral. This misperception could have serious consequences for wildlife habitat and for our ability to combat climate change in the coming years. In fact, numerous studies have underscored that using some types of forest bio-

mass, particularly slow-growing trees, can actually increase atmospheric carbon for many decades.

The New York Times this Tuesday mentioned a study commissioned by the State of Massachusetts that indicated that the climate impacts of burning wood were worse than those for coal for 45 years and worse than that for natural gas for 90 years.

To know what types of biomass are truly low-carbon, scientists need to actually assess them, and treating all forest biomass as carbon neutral is risky. The Energy Information Administration has found that this will lead to a boom in the use of forest and other biomass for energy.

While this sounds like a good idea on the surface, the resulting logging would have dire consequences for climate mitigation and wildlife habitat. It would also drive up the price of pulpwood and other lower grades of wood for wood-product industries.

In my State of Virginia, local environmental organizations are concerned that if biomass is treated as carbon neutral, it would encourage Dominion Virginia Power to burn wood from forests to meet its emission reduction obligations. Dominion has already converted three of its existing coal plants to run on biomass fuel and has a hybrid energy center that can burn up to 20 percent biomass for fuel.

I share the concern of these local groups that Virginia will become known as a State that harvests forests to reduce its dependence on coal, rather than developing renewable technologies that clearly reduce emissions, such as solar and wind. More broadly, I worry about the precedent that this will set for forest management policy in the U.S. and around the world.

We have already seen that under the European Emissions Trading System, where biomass has a zero emissions rating, European companies have invested billions to convert coal plants to plants that can burn wood pellets, leading to an incredible demand for wood. Earlier this month, The Washington Post reported that Europe's climate policies have led to more U.S. trees being cut down as wood pellets are being exported to meet the demand for wood fuel.

More than two dozen pellet factories have been constructed in the southeastern U.S. over the past decade, along with special port facilities in Virginia and Georgia to ship the wood to Europe. Demand for wood in Europe is so robust that wood pellet exports from the U.S. nearly doubled from 2012 to 2013 and are expected to nearly double again this year.

We should not create artificial demand to meet scientifically unsubstantiated goals. It is critical that we make sure that the accounting used to estimate net biogenic emissions is scientifically accurate before we implement policies that might add carbon pollution rather than reduce it.

Mr. Chair, I will withdraw this amendment, but I do so urging my colleagues to support policies that are scientifically accurate, and to realize that not all forest biomass is carbon neutral, and that the EPA should take that into consideration.

I look forward to working with the chairman and the ranking member to more appropriately consider biomass.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MOOLENAAR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

Of the unobligated balances available for "State and Tribal Assistance Grants" account, \$8,000,000 are permanently rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For fiscal year 2016, and notwithstanding section 518(f) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1377(f)), the Administrator is authorized to use the amounts appropriated for any fiscal year under section 319 of the Act to make grants to federally recognized Indian tribes pursuant to sections 319(h) and 518(e) of that Act.

TITLE III—RELATED AGENCIES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

For necessary expenses of forest and rangeland research as authorized by law, \$277,507,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, \$70,000,000 is for the forest inventory and analysis program.

STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

For necessary expenses of cooperating with and providing technical and financial assistance to States, territories, possessions, and others, and for forest health management, including treatments of pests, pathogens, and invasive or noxious plants and for restoring and rehabilitating forests damaged by pests or invasive plants, cooperative forestry, and education and land conservation activities and conducting an international program as authorized, \$220,665,000, to remain available until expended, as authorized by law; of which \$50,660,000 is to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, for management, protection, improvement, and utilization of the National Forest System, \$1,490,093,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, \$40,000,000 shall be deposited in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund for ecological restoration treatments as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 7303(f): *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, \$355,000,000 shall be for forest products: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, up to \$81,941,000 is for the Integrated Resource Restoration pilot program for Region 1, Region 3 and Region 4: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided for forest products, up to \$65,560,000 may be transferred to support the Integrated Resource Restoration pilot program in the pre-

ceding proviso: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture may transfer to the Secretary of the Interior any unobligated funds appropriated in a previous fiscal year for operation of the Valles Caldera National Preserve.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BENISHEK

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 75, line 14, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

Page 76, line 8, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Michigan and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 2822, the fiscal year 2016 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Mr. Chairman, my district covers nearly half the State of Michigan and includes three Federal forests. These forests are a major vacation destination for people, not only in my district, but in districts of Members all across the country.

Yet, sadly, many of our constituents arrive to the Federal forests of northern Michigan to find that the road to their favorite fishing spot or hiking trail or ORV path has been arbitrarily closed by the Forest Service, with no warning and no input from the local community.

Mr. Chairman, the last thing that people want to do when they travel to the woods of northern Michigan with their families is to learn about the obscure policies of the U.S. Forest Service, a Federal agency that treats the forests like their personal property instead of a public resource for everyone to enjoy.

□ 1700

Activities like hunting, snowmobiling, fishing, and hiking all depend on access to these forests. And it is important to note that the outdoor economy contributes over \$5.5 billion and 194,000 jobs to Michigan, most of which are in my district.

My amendment is an opportunity to demonstrate to the Forest Service that their focus should be on making our forests more open and accessible to the American people. In practice, the amendment would reduce spending from the National Forest System vegetation and watershed program by \$2 million and transfer those funds into the capital improvement and maintenance fund.

Now, you might ask yourself, What does that have to do with opening forest roads?

Well, I will tell you.

According to the Forest Service, when work is necessary to open a road

for access, they use the capital improvement and maintenance fund. If the Forest Service is working to close a road to appease environmentalists who don't want anyone to visit the forest, they use the vegetation and watershed line item.

My amendment is simple. It gives more dollars to the Forest Service to keep roads open rather than closed. In addition, the CBO says that this change would save taxpayers \$1 million for fiscal year 2016.

Mr. Chairman, today I am standing up on behalf of my constituents in my district who want to use their forests responsibly, who want to teach their kids and grandkids how to hunt, fish, and snowmobile. They want to enjoy nature. Furthermore, I am standing up today for the small businesses that employ families throughout the outdoor economy.

For example, I recently visited Extreme Power Sports in Gaylord, where they sell a variety of all-terrain vehicles, sleds, and safety gear. This small business sells ATVs and sleds to users all over the country who come to enjoy the trails and forests in our State and beyond.

In addition to businesses like Extreme Power Sports, the hotels and restaurants around northern Michigan are supported by those who come to visit our forests year-round.

Healthy, accessible forests are important for our way of life in northern Michigan and across the United States. All of our constituents deserve improved access to the forests, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BENISHEK. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman for raising these concerns about how the Forest Service is managing its roads and trails in Michigan. I will tell you that the same concerns exist around the country, in Idaho as well as other States, too.

Chairman CALVERT and the committee would be happy to work with you on this issue as the Interior bill moves through the process.

If there is no objection, we would be willing to accept the amendment.

Mr. BENISHEK. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROUZER) having assumed the chair, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H. R. 2822) making appropriations for the Department of

the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

**PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 19) providing for recess of the Senate from June 25, 2015, until July 7, 2015, and adjournment of the House from June 25, 2015, until July 7, 2015.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

**S. CON. RES. 19**

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, June 25, 2015, through Friday, July 3, 2015, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12:00 noon on Tuesday, July 7, 2015, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Thursday, June 25, 2015, through Friday, July 3, 2015, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 2015, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.*

**SEC. 2.** (a) The Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, after concurrence with the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the Senate adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the Senate shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

**SEC. 3.** (a) The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reserving my right to object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I express my deep disappointment that the House will adjourn without having concluded its business.

Charter authority for the Export-Import Bank is set to expire this coming Tuesday should Congress fail to reauthorize it, which apparently we are

going to fail to do. Shutting down the Bank puts at risk tens of thousands of jobs at American businesses whose exports are supported by the Bank's financing mechanisms.

Everybody knows that a bill to reauthorize the Bank has the votes to pass in this House. Everybody has known that the charter authority to back up loans by those who would buy goods from American workers expires at the end of this month. The Speaker of this House has said that jobs will be lost shortly after we fail to do this act, which we apparently are going to fail to do.

It is the will of the House and ought to be reflected by a vote of the House that this charter be renewed. And once we send it down the hall, such a bill will pass the Senate. Who said so? Senator ROY BLUNT, who used to be the majority whip and majority leader and minority whip in this House.

Before leaving to go home to our districts, we ought to reauthorize the Bank and provide certainty, Mr. Speaker, to businesses and their workers who depend on it to level the playing field against foreign competitors.

There are 85 such banks located in 60 countries with whom we compete. This will diminish, at least for a short time, our ability to compete in international markets. That will cost, as Speaker BOEHNER has said, jobs in the short term.

At the same time, I want to say that my friend from Mississippi, Representative THOMPSON, noticed a resolution that was referred to the Committee on House Administration today. Mr. Speaker, I believe that that resolution deserves to be considered in the committee without delay, and I hope it will be.

In the aftermath of the horrific and racially motivated murders of nine innocent people in Charleston last week, Americans across the country are taking a long overdue, critical look at the practice of allowing confederate symbols of hatred, slavery, and segregation to remain on prominent display in our public places. There is no public space more visible and more important than this United States Capitol Building.

Mr. THOMPSON's resolution would authorize the Speaker to remove Mississippi's flag—the only one to include the battle flag of the Confederacy—from the Capitol complex until such time as the State of Mississippi selects a new flag, free from a legacy of bigotry, exclusion, and racism.

I hope that Mississippians will move swiftly to design a new flag that more accurately reflects their pride in diversity, tolerance, and equality.

There is no reason why any Member or staffer, especially those whose ancestors suffered the horrors of slavery and segregation, should have to see that symbol in the temple to liberty that is our Capitol.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that the House is adjourning without having completed its task for the June

work period and without having shown the American people that Congress can do what it has been sent to do: support job growth, promote justice, and achieve results for those it serves.

Mr. Speaker, if I thought continuing my objection would lead to the swift enactment today or tomorrow of the Export-Import Bank, I would object. I do not believe that that would be the result; and, therefore, I will shortly withdraw my objection, but with a plea to the majority party that they bring to the floor very shortly after we return the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank and that the Committee on House Administration give prompt consideration to the resolution of the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

I withdraw my reservation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation is withdrawn.

Without objection, the concurrent resolution is concurred in.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**PATRIOT WEEK**

(Mr. BISHOP of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, with our 239th Independence Day around the corner, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing what makes our Nation the greatest country in the world by celebrating Patriot Week later this year.

In 2009, while I served in the Michigan Senate, we became the first legislative body to recognize Patriot Week. Since then, five States and countless private organizations have participated in celebrating our Founders and other great Americans who furthered the cause of liberty.

Patriot Week pays tribute to influential Americans, from George Washington to Martin Luther King, Jr.; it celebrates our values, from equal protection under the law to limited government; and it remembers our most important events, from the passage of the Constitution in 1787 to the ratification of the 19th Amendment, to many other events that collectively define our country.

Mr. Speaker, my resolution recognizes how each of these events has advanced the principles we hold in the highest regard and encourages our schools, our government agencies, States, and private employers to participate as well as take time to remember and learn about these events that are so important to our history.

Patriot Week begins by remembering those who died in the attacks of September 11, 2001, and those who sacrificed to save others. It ends on September 17 by celebrating Constitution Day and honoring those who risked everything to establish this Republic, for which we all have the privilege of serving.