

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

Website address: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

FY 2014 Omnibus – Interior & Environment Appropriations

Legislation will provide funds to fight wildfires, promote domestic energy production, and keep national parks open, while scaling back EPA's regulatory overreach

The Interior and Environment portion of the Omnibus prioritizes funding to address the nation's most important public lands issues, including fighting and preventing wildfires and maintaining our vast natural resources. Domestic energy production is also prioritized – with additional funding for onshore and offshore energy and minerals management, and by preventing the Administration from imposing new fees on the energy industry. Overall, the legislation provides \$30.1 billion for Interior and Environment programs, \$231 million over the fiscal year 2013 enacted level.

The bill also includes several policy provisions to help rein in regulatory overreach that costs jobs and hinders economic growth, including provisions that prohibit the EPA from unnecessarily tying up businesses and industries in harmful, bureaucratic red tape.

Wildfire Fighting and Prevention – In total, the bill provides \$3.9 billion for wildfire fighting and prevention programs within the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service. This level will fully address wildland fire operations for the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service at the 10-year average level, and fully reimburse the agencies for all fire-borrowing in fiscal year 2013. In addition, the bill provides \$452 million for hazardous fuels reduction activities, which is \$150 million above the President's budget request.

Domestic Energy Production – The bill helps to encourage domestic energy production to further the nation's goal of energy independence and to reduce energy costs for consumers. For example, the legislation:

- Rejects Administration and Senate proposals to impose new fees on onshore oil and gas producers;
- Rejects a Senate proposal to increase review periods of Outer Continental Shelf leases, which could slow energy production and increase costs;
- Provides \$150 million for the Office of Surface Mining, including \$69 million in state grants to allow states to implement their programs without increasing fees on the mining industry;
- Allows higher rates of pay for petroleum engineers and technicians to encourage hiring and increase the speed of permits processing.

National Park Service (NPS) – The bill provides \$2.6 billion for the National Park Service, an increase of \$28.5 million over the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. This will allow every national park to remain open and operational throughout fiscal year 2014 without the threat of closure or employee furloughs, and provide for the hiring of seasonal employees.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – The bill provides \$8.2 billion for the EPA, which is \$143 million below the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. Overall, EPA funding has been reduced by \$2.1 billion – or 20.4% – since Republicans gained control of the House in 2010. Within the EPA, the bill:

- Rejects a request by the President for \$72 million for EPA regulatory programs, including \$31 million for EPA climate regulatory programs, \$18 million for EPA’s regulatory development office, and \$23 million for EPA water regulatory programs;
- Provides \$2.35 billion in grants to states for local drinking water and sewer construction projects through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds;
- Funds the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative at \$300 million – the full requested level.

The agreement also includes several policy provisions to rein in the EPA and prevent unnecessary over-regulation of American businesses and industries that kill jobs and slow economic growth. Some of these include:

- A provision to exempt livestock producers from overly burdensome EPA greenhouse gas regulations;
- A provision requiring the Administration to report to Congress on federal agency obligations and expenditures on climate change programs;
- A provision requiring the EPA to resolve differences with states and industry on regional haze issues; and
- A provision to enhance congressional oversight of EPA’s review of mining permits.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – The BLM is funded at \$1.1 billion – \$7 million above the fiscal year 2013 enacted level – to provide for the effective stewardship of the nation’s vast public lands. The legislation also seeks to protect American ranchers from unnecessary red tape and increased costs that would harm their livelihoods, including:

- Blocking Administration and Senate proposals to charge \$6.5 million in new grazing fees on BLM and Forest Service lands;
- Extending the authority to renew grazing permits administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service;
- Allowing the trailing of livestock across public lands during fiscal years 2014 and 2015; and
- Providing \$79 million for Range Management, a \$3 million increase above the FY13 post-sequester level, to reduce the backlog of grazing permit applications.

U.S. Forest Service – The bill provides \$5.5 billion for the Forest Service – which includes increases in funding for wildfire fighting and management. The legislation also includes a provision to require the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service to report on actions to preserve and improve access to public lands for hunting, fishing, shooting, and other recreational activities.

American Indian and Alaska Native Programs –The bill helps to meet the nation’s treaty obligations to American Indians and Alaska Natives by providing funding for health care, law enforcement, and education. The legislation funds the Indian Health Service at \$4.3 billion – \$78 million above the fiscal year 2013 enacted level – and the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Education at \$2.5 billion – \$18 million above the fiscal year 2013 enacted level.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – The FWS is funded at \$1.4 billion, \$32 million below the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. Within the total, the bill provides: \$1 million to compensate ranchers for

livestock killed by wolves; \$2 million to stop the spread of invasive Quagga and Zebra mussels in the West; \$3.5 million to stop the spread of Asian carp into the Great Lakes; and \$15 million for a conservation program to prevent greater sage-grouse from becoming an Endangered Species. The legislation also continues funding for effective state wildlife grant programs and includes a provision to ensure national fish hatcheries remain open.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) – PILT has been a mandatory program under the jurisdiction of authorizing committees since fiscal year 2008. The Committee has been provided assurances that PILT payments for fiscal year 2014 will be addressed expeditiously by the appropriate authorizing committees of jurisdiction in the House and Senate.

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