

[COMMITTEE PRINT]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2017

JUNE 00, 2016.—Ordered to be printed

Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 0000]

The Committee on Appropriations reports the bill (S. 0000) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

Total obligational authority, fiscal year 2017

Total of bill as reported to the Senate	\$32,100,720,000
Amount of 2016 appropriations	32,225,579,000
Amount of 2017 budget estimate	33,176,164,000
Bill as recommended to Senate compared to—	
2016 appropriations	– 124,859,000
2017 budget estimate	– 1,075,444,000

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SUMMARY OF BILL

For this bill, estimates totaling \$32,100,720,000 in new obligational authority are provided for the programs and activities of the agencies and bureaus of the Department of the Interior, except the Bureau of Reclamation, and the following related agencies:

- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of Agriculture: Forest Service
- Department of Health and Human Services:
 - Indian Health Service
 - National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
 - Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
- Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality
- Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board
- Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation
- Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development
- Smithsonian Institution
- National Gallery of Art
- John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
- Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities:
 - National Endowment for the Arts
 - National Endowment for the Humanities
- Commission of Fine Arts
- National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- National Capital Planning Commission
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission
- Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission

MAJOR CHANGES RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL

This bill includes revisions to the budget estimate for the 2017 fiscal year.

A comparative summary of funding in the bill is shown by agency or principal program in the following table:

(In thousands of dollars)

	Budget estimate	Chairman's recommendation	Chairman's recommendation compared with budget estimate
TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR			
Bureau of Land Management	1,245,185	1,243,528	- 1,657
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	1,562,899	1,496,423	- 66,476
National Park Service	3,101,450	2,913,918	- 187,532
United States Geological Survey	1,168,803	1,068,135	- 100,668
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	80,194	74,616	- 5,578
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	96,337	83,141	- 13,196
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement	157,925	236,845	78,920
Bureau of Indian Affairs	2,933,715	2,854,579	- 79,136
Departmental Offices	646,831	630,169	- 16,662

(in thousands of dollars)

	Budget estimate	Chairman's recommendation	Chairman's recommendation compared with budget estimate
Department-wide Programs	1,248,890	1,507,548	258,658
Total, Title I—Department of the Interior	12,272,229	12,161,902	- 110,327
TITLE II—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY			
Science and Technology	754,184	695,910	- 58,274
Environmental Programs and Management	2,852,893	2,538,545	- 314,348
Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System Fund	7,433	3,674	- 3,759
Office of Inspector General	51,527	41,489	- 10,038
Buildings and Facilities	52,078	38,660	- 13,418
Hazardous Substance Superfund	1,128,989	1,077,784	- 51,205
Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund	94,285	91,296	- 2,989
Inland Oil Spill Program	25,410	18,079	- 7,331
State and Tribal Assistance Grants	3,280,400	3,613,278	332,878
WiFi	20,000	30,000	10,000
Total, Title II—Environmental Protection Agency	8,267,199	8,148,715	- 118,484
TITLE III—RELATED AGENCIES			
Department of Agriculture: Forest Service	5,740,428	5,254,978	- 485,450
Department of Health and Human Services:			
Indian Health Service	5,185,015	4,993,778	- 191,237
National Institutes of Health: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	77,349	77,349	
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry	74,691	74,691	
Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality	3,015	3,000	- 15
Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board	12,436	11,000	- 1,436
Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation	15,431	15,431	
Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development	11,835	15,212	3,377
Smithsonian Institution	922,224	860,243	- 61,981
National Gallery of Art	158,401	155,525	- 2,876
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts	35,260	35,260	
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars	10,400	10,500	100
National Endowment for the Arts	149,849	148,449	- 1,400
National Endowment for the Humanities	149,848	148,442	- 1,406
Commission of Fine Arts	2,762	2,653	- 109
National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs	1,400	2,000	600
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	6,493	6,493	
National Capital Planning Commission	8,099	8,099	
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum	57,000	57,000	
Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission	44,800	1,000	- 43,800
Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission		2,000	2,000
Total, Title III—Related Agencies	12,666,736	11,891,400	+88,760
Grand Total	33,176,164	32,100,720	- 1,075,444

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The following table displays appropriations from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

	Fiscal year 2016 enacted	Budget request (Discretionary)	In this bill
Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$450,000,000	\$475,000,000	\$400,000,000
State and Local Programs	160,800,000	173,501,000	150,806,000
National Park Service State Assistance	110,000,000	110,006,000	110,006,000

	Fiscal year 2016 enacted	Budget request (Discretionary)	In this bill
Coop. Endangered Species Conservation Fund	30,800,000	53,495,000	30,800,000
American Battlefield Protection Act	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Highlands Conservation Act	10,000,000		
Forest Legacy Program	62,347,000	62,347,000	61,049,000
Rescission			- 8,297,000
Federal Land Acquisition	226,853,000	239,152,000	196,442,000
Bureau of Land Management	38,630,000	43,959,000	33,416,000
Fish and Wildlife Service	58,500,000	58,655,000	47,871,000
National Park Service	53,670,000	58,242,000	48,417,000
Forest Service	63,435,000	65,653,000	54,738,000
Department of the Interior Valuation Services	12,618,000	12,643,000	12,000,000

WILDLAND FIRE BUDGETING REFORMS

This bill provides a total of \$3,785,000,000 for wildland fire programs for the Forest Service and Department of the Interior, including a total amount of \$1,643,000,000 for wildland fire suppression activities. The recommendation also includes an important reform proposal that amends the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25) to allow certain wildland fire suppression activities to be funded through a disaster cap adjustment consistent with other natural disasters, as detailed below. This recommendation is a modification of the proposal included in the fiscal year 2017 budget request, and the subject of bipartisan legislation introduced in both the House and the Senate. Legislative language to enact this proposal is included in title V, but under congressional budgeting rules, this bill cannot both create a new cap adjustment to the statutory discretionary spending limits and appropriate funding under that cap. Therefore, no funds are recommended through the disaster cap adjustment. However, should emergency funds be necessary due to a catastrophic fire season, the Committee will revisit the need for emergency funding, as it has in the past.

Historically, budgeting for wildland firefighting is determined by the 10-year average of suppression costs. The proposal continues this practice and only provides access to the cap adjustment when regular fire suppression amounts are exhausted. This, in addition to the \$593,000,000 in additional suppression resources and \$700,000,000 in fire borrowing repayment provided in fiscal year 2016 should allow the agencies to execute their budgets more effectively because the threat of fire borrowing has been reduced. These resources, coupled with the creation of a mechanism to treat wildfires like disasters, lay the foundation to put wildfire spending on a path to sustainability.

This is not a “blank check” for additional spending. To complement the new structure proposed in title V for fire suppression, this bill invests in funding for prevention activities and post-fire rehabilitation, in order to tackle the fire problem from both ends, which can dramatically decrease the suppression costs when fires do occur.

This bill provides a multifaceted approach to combat the increasing cost of fighting wildfire. Without the additional resources made available for Federal wildland fire management within this bill to attack the problem before, during, and after a wildfire event, it is evident that the Federal land management agencies will not get

ahead of the disastrous curve on catastrophic fire, and suppression costs and the economic costs to communities nationwide will continue to rise.

MULTI-AGENCY DIRECTIVES

Wildlife Data Coordination.—The Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service are expected to prioritize continued coordination with other Federal agencies and State wildlife agencies to utilize State fish and wildlife data and analyses as an applicable source to inform land use, land planning, and related natural resource decisions. Federal agencies should not unnecessarily duplicate raw data, but when appropriate, evaluate existing analysis of data prepared by the States and reciprocally, share data with State wildlife managers, to ensure that the most complete data set is available for decision support systems.

Land Grants, Acequias and Community Ditches.—The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture are urged to recognize the traditional use of State-recognized community land grants, acequias, and community ditches in the American Southwest during the land use planning process.

Federal Fire Science Coordination.—The U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior are directed to work with the Office of Science and Technology Policy and other Federal agencies involved in fire science research to establish a Federal Fire Science Coordination Council, chartered by the Fire Executive Council, as recommended by the National Science and Technology Council's Wildland Fire Science and Technology Task Force Final Report from November 2015. The Federal Fire Science Coordination Council is directed to develop a forum for science exchange and communication between the leadership of Federal fire-science producers and users and to establish mechanisms to systematically assess user requirements and priorities for Federal fire science, research, and technology support. Specifically, the Federal Fire Science Coordination Council is directed to use research published by the Joint Fire Science Program and other Federal fire science agencies to develop best practices for wildfire risk management in the Wildland Urban Interface. In order to more reliably protect responders and the public, sustain communities, and conserve the land, the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior shall share these best practices with their partners who manage wildfire risk and suppression in the Wildland Urban Interface, including State, local, and tribal governments and community groups.

Puget Sound Federal Partnership Efforts.—The Committee believes that continued efforts to clean up and restore Puget Sound are an important national economic priority and sustained coordination and sharing of expertise among Federal partners is critical to furthering ongoing restoration efforts. The Committee believes that the Puget Sound Federal Caucus Memorandum of Understanding, signed in 2014, strengthens interagency collaboration. The Committee directs the agencies funded by this bill who are party to the Memorandum to work with their counterparts in the Puget Sound Federal Caucus to renew and strengthen the Memorandum prior to its expiration on March 27, 2017.

White Nose Bat Syndrome.—The Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the United States Geological Survey are to be commended for their respective roles in bat conservation and in the fight against white-nose syndrome in bats. These agencies must continue to play an important role in the implementation of the National Science Strategy on white-nose syndrome. Within the funds provided, these agencies are expected to prioritize research on, and efforts to address, white-nose syndrome in bats and also to work with other Federal, State, and private organizations to implement the North American Bat Monitoring Program.

Multi-Agency Transparency.—The Committee expresses support for increasing transparency within all agencies of the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service and the Environmental Protection Agency. The agencies are encouraged to disclose costs associated with analyses required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

Social Cost of Carbon.—The Administrator of the EPA should not promulgate any regulations in fiscal year 2017 using the May 2013 estimates for the social cost of carbon until a new working group is convened. The working group should include the relevant agencies and affected stakeholders, re-examine the social cost of carbon using the best available science, and revise the estimate using an accurate discount rate and domestic estimate in accordance with Executive Order 12866 and OMB Circular A-4. To increase transparency, the working group should solicit public comments prior to finalizing any updates.

Sportsman/Recreational Access.—The Committee believes increasing access to our public lands is important and provides funding to all four land management agencies, the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Forest Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service, to complete projects that enhance access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities. The Committee expects recreational access projects to be selected based on their role in meeting key recreation needs and the agencies should consider all potential projects rather than limit consideration only to projects included on the fiscal year 2017 Land and Water Conservation Fund discretionary and mandatory lists. The Committee strongly encourages the land management agencies to work with their respective regions, State offices, and/or management units to identify projects not on the submitted lists to ensure other recreational access projects are appropriately considered for funding. Further, the agencies are again directed to include in future budget justifications an explanation of the process and criteria used for allocating funds for recreational access.

Land and Water Conservation.—The Committee's recommendation for fiscal year 2017 represents a \$93,859,000 increase over the Committee's recommendation for fiscal year 2016, a 31 percent increase and a \$50,000,000 decrease from the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The Committee remains concerned about the prioritization of projects and reminds the agencies that properties should have willing sellers, updated market information, and the support of Federal, State, and local officials. The Committee also encourages the agencies to consider geographic distribution, his-

toric sites, wilderness inholdings, and the national trail system when prioritizing projects.

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act Training [ANILCA].—The Department of the Interior and the Forest Service shall conduct annual ANILCA training for all employees with any oversight, regulatory, or managerial duties or responsibilities for the State of Alaska. Additionally, the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service shall conduct annual ANILCA training in a village within a conservation system unit for all land managers stationed within the State of Alaska.

Paper Reduction Efforts.—The Committee is concerned about the millions of taxpayer dollars spent on wasteful printing practices each year and the lack of clear printing policies within each of the agencies. While progress has been made to better utilize the cloud and digitize records, little progress has been made to reform in-house printing practices. The Committee urges each agency funded by this bill to work with the Office of Management and Budget to reduce printing and reproduction by 34 percent and directs each agency to submit a report to the Committee within 60 days of enactment of this act on what steps have been taken to reduce printing volume and costs. The report should specifically identify how much money each agency will be saving.

Transparency of Information.—Federal agencies funded under this act shall clearly state within the text, audio, or video used for advertising or educational purposes, including emails or Internet postings, that the communication is printed, published, or produced and disseminated at U.S. taxpayer expense. The funds used by a Federal agency to carry out this requirement shall be derived from amounts made available to the agency for advertising or other communications regarding the programs and activities of the agency.

Fleet Management Practices.—Agencies shall provide supporting documentation on their methods for determining their optimal fleet inventories and justification for any deviation from GSA's Federal Property Management Regulations. Agency OIGs shall be responsible for doing yearly audits of fleet management practices and be made publicly available.

Invasive Species.—The Committee recognizes the critical importance of early detection and rapid response [EDRR] of invasive species as a strategy to mitigate the threats and impacts of invasive species and expects the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service to prioritize EDRR and control of invasive species that imperil endangered, threatened, or candidate species. In particular, the Committee supports efforts to prioritize EDRR in areas with large populations of invasive species. Within 180 days of the date of enactment of this act, the agencies shall provide the Committee with an report on their efforts to prioritize EDRR as part of their expected program of work for fiscal year 2017, including detail on how the agencies plan to protect specific native species and natural resource values on public lands across the Nation.

Economic Analyses of Grazing on Public Lands.—The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are encouraged to update their respective analysis regarding the economic contributions, both direct and indirect, of livestock grazing on public lands.

Protection of Water Rights.—The Committee believes that neither the Forest Service nor the Bureau of Land Management has the authority to require, as a condition of the issuance, renewal, or extension of any Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management permit, lease, allotment, easement, or other land use and occupancy arrangement, the transfer or relinquishment of any water right, in whole or in part, granted under State law.

Unmanned Aircraft for Wildfire Firefighting and Safety.—The Committee is encouraged by 2015 exercises with Unmanned Aerial Systems supporting wildland fire suppression activities. The Committee recognizes the potential of safely integrating commercial Unmanned Aircraft Systems into wildland firefighting to aid decisionmaking and provide an additional mechanism to ensure the safety of firefighters. The Forest Service and the Department are directed to work with the Federal Aviation Administration Center of Excellence for Unmanned Aerial Systems to evaluate the potential of integrating this additional tool into the firefighting mission, as well as to evaluate additional uses for the technology to improve situational awareness during fire events and deployment of firefighting resources.

REPROGRAMMING GUIDELINES

The Chairman retains the reprogramming guidelines contained in the Statement of Managers accompanying the Conference Report for the Fiscal Year 2016 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (Public Law 114–113).

TITLE I
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
LAND AND WATER RESOURCES
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The Bureau of Land Management [Bureau] manages over 245 million acres of public lands, primarily in 11 Western States and Alaska. The Bureau also has responsibility for 700 million acres of federally owned sub-surface mineral estate. The Bureau is mandated to administer these lands for multiple uses, including recreation, wildlife habitat, mineral and energy production, timber harvesting, and rangeland grazing, while managing natural, cultural, and historical resources.

MANAGEMENT OF LANDS AND RESOURCES

Appropriations, 2016	\$1,072,675,000
Budget estimate, 2017	1,075,545,000
Chairman's recommendation	1,088,470,000

The bill provides a total appropriation of \$1,088,470,000 for the Management of Lands and Resources account. This amount is \$15,795,000 above the enacted level. Program changes to the enacted level are detailed in the following budget activity narratives. Funding levels for each sub-activity can be found in the table that accompanies this statement.

The United States, as an Arctic Nation, has broad interest in the region, which includes meeting security needs, protecting the environment, responsibly managing resources, supporting indigenous communities, promoting scientific research and strengthening international cooperation. The United States assumed chairmanship of the Arctic Council in April of 2015 for a 2-year term. During this period, our Nation has had an opportunity to focus on our status as an Arctic Nation and to work toward making significant progress on policy objectives in the President's 2009 National Security Directive and the 2013 National Strategy for the Arctic Region. In conjunction with and complement to the efforts of the Commission, the Bureau is directed to focus on enhancing economic opportunities for the people who live and work in the region. While the Committee appreciates the diverse mission of the Commission, it believes that focusing on subsistence and improving the lives of the local people through economic development is of the utmost importance.

Land Resources.—The bill provides \$252,721,000 for land resources, an increase of \$2,125,000 above the enacted level. The Committee again rejects the budget request proposal to implement a new grazing administration fee. The funding increase provided for Rangeland Management is to improve the management of the grazing program. Within the funds provided for Rangeland Management, the Committee directs the Bureau to continue to prioritize activities related to Secretarial Order 3336 on Rangeland Fire Prevention, Management and Restoration and managing the spread of invasive plants.

The Bureau is directed to provide information to the Committee within 45 days of enactment of this act detailing efforts resulting from direction contained in the Fiscal Year 2016 Senate Report to find ways to strategically incorporate public and private fire-fighting assets into fighting wildland fire. Within the funds provided for forestry management, the Bureau is directed to spend funds to address overstocked forests and fuels treatments.

Wild Horse and Burro Program.—The Committee recognizes the magnitude of the challenges currently facing the Bureau as it relates to the wild horse and burro program. The Committee also notes that the request for this fiscal year is down despite the Bureau releasing statistics that show that wild horse populations on public rangelands are now 2.5 times greater than in 1971 when the wild horse and burro protection law was passed. With wild horse herd sizes doubling every 4 years and adoption numbers down significantly from the last decade, this program is unsustainable in its current state. While humane care of wild horses and burros is an imperative, damage to the range resulting from overpopulation must be taken seriously and addressed. The Committee is pleased that the Bureau has addressed horse overpopulation in some areas that conflict with sage-grouse habitat health goals and directs the Bureau to continue these efforts. Within the amount provided for wild horse and burro management, the Bureau is directed to continue to implement reforms based on the findings and recommendations outlined in the National Academy of Sciences June 2013 report and to address the severe overpopulation of wild horses on public lands through gathers and innovative and cost-effective long- and short-term holding options and population control methods. Priority should be given to strategies that create cost-savings over time.

The Committee remains concerned about the well-being of animals on the range due to drought conditions and population trends, as well as about the resulting impacts to rangeland and riparian areas. Consequently, the Bureau is directed to accelerate gathers in an effort to strive for appropriate management levels in Herd Management Areas.

Planning 2.0.—The Committee is concerned that changes made by the proposed Planning 2.0 rule will diminish the impact of State and local input on the Bureau's land use planning. The Bureau is expected to work with Governors and local government representatives to address their concerns with the proposed rule.

Vacant Grazing Allotments.—The Committee directs the Bureau to make vacant grazing allotments available to a holder of a grazing permit or lease when lands covered by the holder of the permit or lease are unusable because of drought or wildfire, or other condition beyond the control of the permittee.

Railroad Rights-of-Way.—The Committee notes with concern the broad ramifications of the Bureau's treatment of acceptable uses of railroad rights of way as re-interpreted in the Department's Solicitor's Opinion M-37025, issued on November 4, 2011. The Committee believes the Department should amend its policies to ensure any use of a right-of-way granted pursuant to the General Railroad Right-of-Way Act of 1875 by the railroad holding title to the right of way, or authorized by such railroad, is within the scope of the

railroad's authority to use, or authorize others to use, the right of way received pursuant to the act, if authorization of the use would have been considered under Department policy to be within the scope of a railroad's authority as of the day before the effective date of the Opinion M-37025. In the interim, the Bureau should refrain from engaging in unnecessary and costly new permitting activities for existing uses.

Red Cliffs National Conservation Area.—Regarding Red Cliffs NCA, the Committee directs the Secretary to clarify that nothing in section 1974(h) of Public Law 111-11 prohibits the authorization of the development of utilities, particularly given the importance of potential utility development to the surrounding communities. Additionally, the Bureau is aware of the long-term transportation needs of Washington County and is directed to work cooperatively with the county to address them.

Wildlife and Fisheries.—The bill provides \$112,596,000 for wildlife and fisheries, which is \$10,685,000 above the enacted level. The Committee notes the \$37,000,000 increase for fiscal year 2016 that has been included in the base budget of this account for the purposes of sage-grouse habitat improvement. Of the funds provided, no less than \$45,643,000 is for on-the-ground activities to improve sage-grouse habitat, including removal of conifers, creating fire breaks, seeding, reducing fuels, removing invasive species and post-fire restoration activities. The Bureau should dedicate funding for collaborations with States on the implementation of both State and Federal plans designed to promote sustainable sage-grouse populations. Additionally, the Committee believes that failure by Federal agencies to adequately implement conservation measures on public lands or any other circumstance beyond the control of the agencies should not be considered grounds to review the Endangered Species Act status of any population of the sage-grouse. Additionally, the Committee remains concerned about the scope of the withdrawals associated with sage-grouse and the fact that the acres of potentially impacted essential sage-grouse habitat are dwarfed by the magnitude of the withdrawal. This continues to lead the Committee to question the necessity of the withdrawals because most development would be required to include mitigation activities.

National Seed Strategy.—The Committee acknowledges the successful creation of a National Seed Strategy and, of the funds provided for wildlife management, \$5,000,000 is to begin implementation of the Strategy, which is expected to expand efforts to respond with restoration resources to landscape-scale ecological changes due to drought, invasive species and catastrophic wildfires. The Committee encourages the Department to thoroughly and objectively undertake a comprehensive assessment of seed needs and capacities as the Strategy is implemented. The Committee expects BLM to use the National Seed Strategy in conjunction with other plant conservation activities to build upon programs for seed collection, conservation, procurement and storage, including coordinated efforts with the Department of Agriculture's Plant Material Centers to avoid addition expense and duplication effort.

Recreation Management.—The bill provides \$68,729,000 for recreation management, a decrease of \$732,000 below the enacted

level. Of the funds provided, \$15,264,000 is for wilderness management and \$53,465,000 is for recreation management activities to reflect the direction of the Committee to prioritize recreation management over the creation of lands to be managed as wilderness. Of the funds made available for wilderness, priority shall be given to activities to improve wilderness habitat and adjoining habitat by managing for noxious weed infestations and fuels management. Of the funds provided for recreation management, \$2,000,000 is for activities directly related to units of the National Landscape Conservation System.

Energy and Minerals Management.—The bill provides \$171,747,000 for oil, gas, coal, and other minerals management, an increase of \$5,143,000 above the enacted level. Within the oil and gas programs, funding levels are sufficient to maintain program capacity. The detailed allocation of funding by program is included in the table that accompanies this statement. Of the funds provided to Oil and Gas Management, the budget request is provided for legacy well remediation, for completion of the additional modules associated with Phase II of the AFMSS II database, and for special pay authority. Additionally, \$6,000,000 is provided to maintain capacity for Bureau related expenses associated with oil and gas applications for permits to drill and related use authorizations. The Committee again rejects the creation of a new inspection and enforcement fee, but provides the full \$48,000,000 the Bureau cited as necessary to address deficiencies identified in Government Accountability Office reports to improve production accountability to better ensure proper revenue collection.

The Committee continues to be concerned about the current downward leasing trends on public lands, which have only been exacerbated by current market conditions. The cumulative impact of actions undertaken by the Bureau and the Department have only served to further disincentive conventional resource development on public lands when compared to non-Federal lands. Leasing numbers are at all-time lows, with expected collection of APD fees to be roughly \$15,000,000 less than in 2015. Despite the plummeting leasing numbers, protests are now also on the rise. While the Bureau's final rule regarding hydraulic fracturing has been stayed by the U.S. District Court of Wyoming, a new burdensome proposal on venting and flaring, which is bound to overlap with EPA and State rules, and the proposed \$10 tax per barrel of oil have sent additional signals that the administration is not interested in sustaining a robust oil and gas industry in the United States, particularly on public lands. Additionally, efforts underway to change royalty rates or product valuations at the Department will only further this problem; consequently additional funds for these efforts are not provided.

Prior to the finalization of any actions associated with rulemakings on oil and gas royalty rate review or oil, gas, or coal valuations, the Bureau is directed to provide reports to the Committee with specific modeling detailing the anticipated impacts of increases, decreases, and maintenance of oil and gas royalty rates and coal valuations on expected new leasing on public lands and resulting impacts to the Federal treasury. The Committee acknowledges the role market factors play in forecasting economics associ-

ated development on public lands and directs the agency to take those factors into account when preparing the reports.

The Bureau is directed to provide the Committee with a plan to achieve cost-savings and efficiencies by transitioning to Internet oil and gas leasing within 180 days of enactment.

The Committee admonishes the Bureau for the exceedingly slow manner in which it is complying with direction previously given herein regarding a return to the practice of quarterly disclosures of its oil and gas statistics. The Bureau is also expected to continue the direction related to disclosure and reporting of deferred leasing on lands that have been nominated and are otherwise available for oil and gas activity under resource management plans. The Bureau has been directed to submit, within 60 days of said deferral, a report to the Committee containing an explanation for the deferral.

Legacy Wells.—The Bureau is directed to develop a long-term strategy to fund its responsibility to cleanup legacy wells.

Lease Terminations.—The Committee is aware of the process related to termination and reinstatement of an oil and gas leases on Bureau lands if a payment is not received on or prior to the due date. The Committee understands that no physical or electronic notice is given to lease holders prior to lease expiration or immediately after lease expiration and that leases are automatically terminated. The Committee believes this does not contribute to a good working relationship between lease holders and the Federal Government and, more importantly, creates an expensive and unnecessary burden for the agency when lease payments are erroneously made in an untimely fashion. The cost to issue notice of imminent lease expiration, electronically or physically, will result in a negligible cost compared to the potential requirement to engage in unnecessary compliance activities and evaluations that would not have existed prior to lease expiration. To be clear, the Committee does not believe that lease holders should have no consequences for tardy lease payments. However, automatic lease termination and an overly burdensome reinstatement process are not in the best interest of the Bureau. Consequently, the Bureau and Office of Natural Resources Revenue is required to develop a policy to provide notice of imminent lease expiration to lease holders and revisit whether changes should be made to the current law requiring automatic termination of lease for late payment to reflect a more sensible reinstatement process.

Additionally, the Committee directs any coordinating office created by the Bureau in partnership with other oil and gas related permitting agencies shall closely coordinate with the Fort Berthold tribal authorities.

The Committee continues to reject the proposal to repeal section 224(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Of the funds provided for renewable energy management, the Committee directs the Bureau of focus on the development and deployment of geothermal and hydropower, both of which are clean energy technologies that produce low-cost power.

Secretarial Order 3338.—The Committee notes with dismay Secretarial Order 3338, which places a moratorium on coal leasing activities on Bureau lands. The Committee is not aware of any economic justification for raising leasing and royalty rates on coal. Ad-

ditionally, the Committee questions the need for the moratorium, as neither the GAO nor Inspector General reports on Federal coal leasing suggested the need for a moratorium or for a complete overhaul of the program via a programmatic environmental impact statement. The Mineral Leasing Act requires that any guideline or regulation developed by the Secretary for Federal coal leasing must “ensure the maximum economic recovery of coal.” The Bureau has not presented compelling evidence that there is a tangible, economic case for reviewing coal leasing and royalty rates. And, the Committee is concerned that an increase in the royalty rate will result in reduced bonus payments, and further diminish revenues from coal activities.

Placer Mining Reclamation Activities.—The Bureau is instructed to delay the implementation of recently developed mining reclamation standards for the purpose of working with State officials and local placer miners to establish metrics that are viable, reasonable, and in accordance with the 2016 report language. In the interim, the Bureau is instructed to utilize existing revegetation standards, and approve reclamation where evidence of regrowth exists within 180 days of enactment.

Realty and Ownership Management.—The bill provides \$73,480,000 for public land realty and ownership management activities, an increase of \$228,000 above the enacted level. The Committee expects the Bureau to complete an inventory of contaminated Alaska Native lands in need of remediation, and the Committee continues the direction to the Bureau to coordinate with all responsible Federal agencies to expedite the cleanup process, including the Department of Defense and the Forest Service, so that the lands meet appropriate environmental standards at the earliest possible date.

Resource Protection and Maintenance.—The bill provides \$113,119,000 for resource protection and maintenance, an increase of \$3,941,000 above the enacted level. The additional funds provided are for the Bureau’s geospatial strategy. The Bureau is expected to prioritize marijuana eradication programs.

Red River Land Ownership.—The Bureau is expected to defer any final decision-making regarding land use plans as part of the Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas Resource Management Plan Revision until appropriate surveys have been conducted to determine ownership along the Red River or until a legislative solution is enacted. The Bureau is encouraged to consider recurring recreational events carefully as land use plans are revised or updated.

Transportation and Facilities Maintenance.—The bill provides \$68,143,000 for transportation and facilities maintenance, a decrease of \$2,186,000 below the enacted level, of which \$1,700,000 is for the Department’s Southwest Border Radio Initiative.

Workforce and Organizational Support.—The bill provides \$169,549,000 for workforce organization and support, \$996,000 below the enacted level.

National Landscape Conservation System.—The bill provides \$36,819,000 for major units of the National Landscape Conservation System, equal to the enacted level. Within the funds provided, the Bureau shall prioritize initiating foundational efforts at newly designated national monuments, particularly new monuments des-

ignated in California. That said, the Committee reminds the Bureau that the fiscal restraint required by the budget agreement was in place when new monuments were designated and believes the Bureau should be cognizant of spending constraints when recommending lands for monument designation. Additionally, while monument designations are made at the Presidential level, the Committee reminds the Bureau and the Department of its belief that monument designations should only be made in circumstances where there is robust support at the local, State and Federal level. Further, it is the Committee's belief that when developing a plan for a national monument livestock grazing should continue at historic levels and be considered integral to or inextricably tied to existing and future conditions of the area.

Bureau of Land Management Foundation.—The establishment of a Bureau of Land Management Foundation referred to in title I of the bill shall be a charitable and nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, which shall not be considered an agency or establishment of the United States and consequently shall have no Federal employees. The purpose of the Foundation is to provide an opportunity for the Bureau to address a variety of specific challenges facing the Bureau that could be better addressed with the support of a foundation, including: the reclamation and remediation of legacy wells, abandoned mine land sites, and contaminated native lands; sustainable management of wild horses and burros; expanded scientific understanding of responsible development techniques; voluntary conservation activities; and the proper identification and cataloging of cultural and historical treasures on the public lands. To enable this, the Foundation is established to encourage, accept, and administer private gifts of money and of real and personal property for the benefit of, or in connection with the activities and services of, the Bureau of Land Management; and to undertake and conduct activities that further the purposes for which public lands are administered; and to undertake, conduct, and encourage educational, technical, scientific, and other assistance or activities that support the mission of the Bureau of Land Management.

The Bureau of Land Management Foundation shall consist of a Board having as members no less than six private citizens of the United States appointed by the Secretary of the Interior whose initial terms shall be staggered to assure continuity of administration. Thereafter, the term shall be 6 years, unless a successor is chosen to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was chosen, in which event the successor shall be chosen only for the remainder of that term. The Chairman shall be an elected member of the Board. Membership on the Board shall not be deemed to be an office within the meaning of the statutes of the United States. The Bureau shall submit a report within 30 days of the date of enactment of this act to the Committee outlining specifics of the establishment of the Foundation for concurrence and approval.

Mining Law Administration.—The bill provides \$39,696,000 for mining law administration. This amount is equal to the budget request and the enacted level and is fully offset by collections from mining claims fees.

Rio Grande Instream Flow Study.—In 1968, Congress designated a stretch of the Rio Grande River as one of the America’s first Wild and Scenic Rivers and expanded it in 1994 for a total of 74 miles. The Bureau’s Taos Resource Management Plan calls for initiation of flow studies in all permanent streams within the resource area to establish minimum flows necessary to maintain aquatic habitat. The Committee is concerned that the Bureau has yet to initiate a Rio Grande flow analysis covering the designated scenic, geologic, recreational, fish habitat, and cultural and riparian values and notes that an instream flow study is incredibly important to establish threshold flow values. The Committee urges the Bureau to identify the resources necessary to complete a study. Flow levels are especially important to many small business outfitters that rely on the Rio Grande.

LAND ACQUISITION

Appropriations, 2016	\$38,630,000
Budget estimate, 2017	43,959,000
Chairman’s recommendation	33,416,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$33,416,000 for land acquisition, a decrease of \$5,214,000 below the enacted level, and the Committee provides \$8,000,000 for recreational access as requested. The amount provided within this bill is available for the following distribution of funds and projects requested by the administration:

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

State	Project	Budget estimate	Bill (Discretionary)
MT	Madison River Special Recreation Management Area	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
ID	Henry’s Lake Area of Critical Environmental Concern	50,000	50,000
ID	Salmon River Special Recreation Management Area	700,000	700,000
ID	Thousand Springs Area of Critical Environmental Concern	300,000	300,000
ID	Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve/Oregon National Historic Trail	1,200,000	1,200,000
ID	Sands Desert Habitat Management Area/Teton River	2,750,000	2,750,000
NM	Rio Grande del Norte National Monument	1,250,000	1,250,000
CO	Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area	350,000	350,000
CO	Upper Colorado River Special Recreation Management Area	1,500,000	1,500,000
VA	Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area	1,400,000	1,400,000
MD	Nanjemoy National Resource Management Area	1,600,000	1,600,000
AZ	Agua Fria National Monument	3,300,000	3,300,000
MT	Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail/Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument/Upper Missouri Wild and Scenic River	2,000,000	2,000,000
CA	Dos Palmas Area of Critical Environmental Concern	650,000	650,000
NM	Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument	750,000	750,000
	Other Projects	10,501,000	
	Sportsman/Recreational Access	8,000,000	8,000,000
	Acquisition Management	2,042,000	2,000,000
	Inholdings, Emergencies, and Hardships	1,616,000	1,616,000
	Total, Land Acquisition	43,959,000	33,416,000

OREGON AND CALIFORNIA GRANT LANDS

Appropriations, 2016	\$107,734,000
Budget estimate, 2017	106,985,000
Chairman’s recommendation	102,946,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$102,946,000 for Oregon and California Grant Lands, a decrease of \$4,788,000 below the enacted level. The Committee appreciates the unique and important role of the Oregon and California Grants Lands within the Bureau. The Committee is concerned about the Bureau's ability to generate an adequate and predictable supply of timber and the resulting county revenues in Western Oregon under the agency's proposal to limit sustained yield management to just 20 percent of the forest land. The Committee is concerned that the Bureau's recent management and pending plans are inconsistent with the agency's principal obligation under the Oregon and California Act and believes the agency should reconsider its current direction. Additionally, the Committee is interested in determining whether efficiencies can be achieved within the program. The Bureau shall provide information to the Committee that outlines efficiencies that could be created within the Oregon and California Grants Lands program without diminishing production capacity or compromising core mission requirements, particularly timber harvests within 120 days of enactment.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Appropriations, 2016	\$10,000,000
Budget estimate, 2017	10,000,000
Chairman's recommendation	10,000,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$10,000,000 for range improvements, an amount equal to the enacted level.

SERVICE CHARGES, DEPOSITS, AND FORFEITURES

Appropriations, 2016	\$31,050,000
Offsetting collections	- 31,050,000
Budget estimate, 2017	31,050,000
Offsetting collections	- 31,050,000
Chairman's recommendation	31,050,000
Offsetting collections	31,050,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$31,050,000 for service charges, deposits, and forfeitures. The appropriation is fully offset by the collection of fees to pay for reasonable administrative and other costs.

MISCELLANEOUS TRUST FUNDS

Appropriations, 2016	\$24,000,000
Budget estimate, 2017	24,000,000
Chairman's recommendation	24,000,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$24,000,000 for miscellaneous trust funds, equal to the enacted level.

FISH AND WILDLIFE AND PARKS

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats. The Service manages more than 150 million acres in the National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 563 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas and Marine National Monuments. It also operates 72 national fish hatcheries, 65 fish and wildlife management offices, and 80 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to State fish and wildlife agencies.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Appropriations, 2016	\$1,238,771,000
Budget estimate, 2017	1,309,912,000
Chairman's recommendation	1,249,207,000

The bill provides \$1,249,207,000 for resource management. This amount is \$10,436,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level and \$60,705,000 below the administration's request.

Ecological Services.—\$237,332,000 is provided for Ecological Services activities. Within the ecological services program, funding is provided as follows:

Listing.—\$17,411,000 is provided for endangered species, \$3,104,000 below the fiscal year 2016 level. Consistent with the request, legislative caps for petition processing, for listing activities related to foreign species, and for critical habitat designations have been maintained. The Committee has provided \$1,501,000 for petition activities, \$1,504,000 for listing of foreign species, and \$1,501,000 for critical habitat designations.

Settlement Agreements.—The Committee is concerned that there is not adequate transparency for impacted stakeholders when the Service chooses to enter into a settlement agreement on an endangered species listing petition. This is particularly troubling in the context of multiple species—as happened in the 2011 multispecies litigation settlement agreements. The Committee urges the Service to avoid entering into any multi-species settlement agreement unless the State and local governments where the species are located are a party to that agreement.

Transparency of Data.—The Committee is also concerned about the extent to which underlying data that is used in listing determinations and critical habitat designations is made available to the public. Specifically, the Committee is concerned that there are instances where that data is not made available to the public, including to State and local governments who are directly impacted by these listing decisions. Within 60 days of enactment of this act, the

Committee directs the Service provide a plan to improve transparency of the underlying data it uses to make determinations for species listings and de-listing activities, including the feasibility of publishing all data and materials used in listing determinations on the Internet.

Wildlife Census.—The Committee directs the Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a domestic census of the following exotic U.S. bred wildlife: Red Lechwe, Barasingha, Arabian Oryx, Eld's Deer. The Service shall not limit data used for this census to information gathered from permit applications. In addition to permit applications, the Service should make inquiries of ranchers and others that own these animals. The census final numbers shall be statistically validated using a recognized protocol and compare the Service's census numbers with other estimates that are publicly available. The Service shall provide the report to the Committee upon completion and permitting shall continue uninterrupted for these four species during the census period. Until the census is completed, the Service shall take no rule making actions regarding the four species listed until the Committee has had at least 120 days to review the report.

Planning and Consultation.—The bill provides \$102,966,000 for planning and consultation, \$3,887,000 above the fiscal year 2016 level. Within planning and consultation, an additional \$3,000,000 is provided for Gulf Coast Restoration activities, consistent with the budget request.

Conservation and Restoration.—The bill provides \$32,396,000 for conservation and restoration. This is equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Recovery.—\$84,556,000 is provided for recovery, an increase of \$2,543,000 over the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The Service dedicated \$4,000,000 to initiating and concluding delisting and downlisting rulemakings in fiscal year 2016. The bill provides an increase of \$2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2016 level for such activities. The Service is directed to use the additional resources to focus on delisting and downlisting of species that have met articulated conservation goals. The Service should use funding to propose or finalize rules for species with completed five-year review status reviews that recommend delisting and downlisting. There are at least 49 species that fit into that category.

Within the funds provided, \$2,500,000 is for the State of the Birds program. Additionally, the Service is directed to use \$1,000,000 of the amount provided to reinstate the wolf-livestock loss demonstration program as authorized by Public Law 111-11. States with de-listed wolf populations shall continue to be eligible for funding, provided that those States continue to meet the eligibility criteria contained in Public Law 111-11.

California Condor and Aplomado Falcon.—The Service is directed to prioritize the recovery of the California condor and the aplomado falcon, and provide the necessary funding to enable the longstanding public-private partnership to continue to support the wild population through captive propagation, releases, and management, as the Service and the States work to address the continued environmental threats to the species, including lead.

American Burying Beetle.—The Committee is aware that the Service is currently undertaking a required status review of the American Burying Beetle to determine whether listing as an endangered species is still warranted. Within funds provided, the Service is directed to propose a rule by the end of the fiscal year to delisting or downlist the American Burying Beetle should the status review make a finding that delisting or downlisting is warranted.

Northern Long-Eared Bat.—The Committee is closely following the Service's work on the Northern Long-Eared Bat and notes that white-nose syndrome continues to be the major threat to the species.

North Carolina Red Wolf.—The Committee acknowledges the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission's request that the Service end the Red Wolf recovery program and declare the Red Wolf extinct. The program has failed to meet population goals for the Red Wolf and has impacted North Carolina landowners and the populations of several other native species. The Committee understands that the Service is undertaking a review of the Red Wolf recovery program that is expected to conclude in September 2016. The Committee urges the Service to coordinate closely with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission on decisions related to future of the Red Wolf recovery program.

Subsistence Activities.—The Committee is closely monitoring the Service's efforts to implement an agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation on management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population. The Service should seek the most current science on this matter as it works to implement the agreement. The Committee believes successful management of the population can only occur with the engagement of the Alaska Natives and expects the Service to consult with Alaska Native Organizations on matters related to subsistence, which are culturally important and a primary source of their nutritional needs. The Committee expects the Service to work with Alaska Native organizations and other wildlife management organizations with expertise in subsistence to implement a civil-based, co-management regime.

National Wildlife Refuge System.—\$482,400,000 is provided for the National Wildlife Refuge System, an increase of \$973,000 over the fiscal year 2016 level. Within that amount, an increase of \$1,241,000 has been provided for wildlife and habitat management. Funding for the subsistence program has been provided at the request level, and \$9,726,000 has been provided for invasive species. Additionally, the bill provides \$1,000,000 for the Pacific Marine National Monuments.

Continued Funding Prohibitions.—The Committee directs the Service to continue the directive from fiscal year 2016 that prohibits a caribou hunt on Kagalaska Island and efforts to remove cattle on Chirikof and Wosnesenski Islands in the State of Alaska.

Karluk Lake.—The Committee is extremely disappointed with the Service's January 2016 decision to deny a special use permit to conduct nutrient enrichment in Karluk Lake within the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. The final Environmental Assessment was inadequate and failed to recognize the measurable benefits of ongoing enrichment programs in other areas in the State of Alaska.

While fish populations have recently increased in Karluk Lake, the Environmental Assessment did not adequately consider that nutrient enrichment may have helped fish populations in prior years and is an important tool for future years. The Committee understands that the Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan includes provisions for and outlines means to rehabilitate fish stocks on the Refuge, including lake enrichment. In an effort to look at this issue in a more balanced manner, the Service is directed to move forward with a formal compatibility determination on the Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan for fish rehabilitation and publish a list of approved tools that can be used to accomplish such rehabilitation.

Corolla Wild Horses.—The Corolla Wild Horses are a unique piece of America's history that can be traced back over 400 years to the arrival of Spanish explorers on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Due to economic development in Currituck County, North Carolina, the herd size has diminished resulting in lack of genetic diversity, threatening the entire herd. Because the horses roam on private and some Service land, a management plan is needed between the Service, the State of North Carolina, Currituck County, North Carolina, and the Corolla Wild Horses Fund that allows for the herd size to be grown to no fewer than 110 and no greater than 130 horses, which may be achieved through the introduction of horses from a related herd. The Committee expects this management plan be entered into between the four parties no later than 180 days after enactment of this act and the Committee expects the Corolla Wild Horses Fund to continue to pay all costs associated with managing the Corolla horses.

Conservation and Enforcement.—\$138,624,000 has been provided for Conservation and Enforcement, which is \$1,723,000 above the enacted level in fiscal year 2016.

Within Conservation and Enforcement, the bill includes \$47,755,000 for the migratory bird management program. This includes \$500,000 for aviation management to continue the Service's efforts on aviation safety and training for pilots.

Further, \$75,053,000 is included for law enforcement activities to help combat illegal global wildlife trafficking and for implementation of the Lacey Act. Additionally, the bill includes \$15,816,000 for international affairs, which is equal to the administration's request. Within that funding, \$550,000 is included to support the Arctic Council.

Wildlife Trafficking.—The Service plays a critical role in the ongoing effort to combat the global crisis of wildlife poaching and trafficking, which is driven by demand for high-value illegal wildlife products and facilitated by sophisticated criminal networks profiting from this multi-billion dollar black market industry. Poaching of rhinoceros and elephants has reached unprecedented levels, and illegal trade is undermining the conservation of scores of other species. The Committee continues to support government-wide efforts to combat wildlife trafficking, and recommends funding equal to the President's request for the Service's Office of Law Enforcement and the International Affairs program. These resources will support the Service in continuing to strengthen its forensic capabilities to disrupt smuggling networks, improve collaboration with other

Federal, State, local, and foreign governments, and promote international wildlife conservation.

Shellfish Inspections.—The Committee is very concerned about the Fish and Wildlife Service's recent and unexplained decision to change its interpretation of their longstanding shellfish and non-living fishery products inspection exemption to no longer include non-threatened and non-injurious echinoderm, such as sea urchins and sea cucumbers. This shift has had negative economic effects with no demonstrated benefit. The Committee notes that the general inspection of seafood for import or export is not included in the Service's mandate and directs the Service to reevaluate its interpretation of shellfish to encompass aquatic invertebrates marketed and consumed as seafood.

Fish and Aquatic Conservation.—\$153,880,000 is provided for Fish and Aquatic Conservation, an increase of \$5,624,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Adequate funding is provided to ensure that no fish hatcheries will close in fiscal year 2017.

Within the Fish and Aquatic Conservation program, funding is provided for national fish hatchery system operations, maintenance and equipment, and aquatic habitat and species conservation as follows:

National Fish Hatchery System Operations.—\$53,759,000 is provided for National Fish Hatchery System Operations, equal to the fiscal year 2017 request.

It is recognized that the Service has entered into reimbursable agreements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Department of Interior's Central Utah Project, and the Bonneville Power Administration in order to ensure the continued operation of mitigation hatcheries. So that operations at these hatcheries are not disrupted, future budget requests must ensure that Federal partners have committed to making sufficient funding available to reimburse the Service before the Service proposes to eliminate funding for mitigation hatcheries.

Maintenance and Equipment.—\$22,920,000 is provided for maintenance and equipment expenses related to the National Fish Hatchery System, an increase of \$3,000,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level and equal to the administration's request. A portion of the funding provided for National Fish Hatchery Maintenance and Equipment should be allocated to hatcheries where partner agencies fund mitigation work.

Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation.—\$77,201,000 is provided for aquatic habitat and species conservation, an increase of \$2,283,000 over the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Within aquatic habitat and species conservation, funding is provided as follows:

Habitat Assessment and Restoration.—\$30,220,000 is provided for habitat assessment and restoration activities, an increase of \$1,579,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Within this amount, \$3,000,000 has been provided for work related to implementation of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and related settlement agreements. The Committee also provides \$14,748,000 for the fish passage improvements, \$1,500,000 above the amount provided in fiscal year 2016.

Population Assessment and Cooperative Management.—\$30,821,000 is provided for population assessment and cooperative

management activities, equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Funding is provided for fisheries subsistence.

Aquatic Invasive Species.—\$16,160,000 is provided for aquatic invasive species activities, an increase of \$704,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level and equal to the administration’s request. Within this amount, \$2,038,000 is provided for invasive species prevention.

Asian Carp.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the work conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service to combat the serious threat of Asian Carp to the ecosystem and fisheries of the Great Lakes and provides \$7,900,000 to be used specifically on Asian Carp activities. To prevent and Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes, the Committee recommends the Aquatic Invasive Species program create dedicated funding source to increase the intensity and geographic scope of efforts to combat Asian Carp.

Invasive Species.—The Committee is aware that work is ongoing in several regions to address the threats posed by aquatic invasive species and directs the agency Service to continue to make available competitive grant funding for projects to eliminate these destructive, non-native species, which include Asian carp, quagga-zebra mussels, and variable-leaf watermilfoil. The Committee encourages the Service to support research, monitoring, and mitigation efforts, as well as efforts to disseminate such work, in all regions.

Cooperative Landscape Conservation.—Cooperative landscape conservation is funded at \$11,288,000. This is \$1,000,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Within that amount, \$700,000 is provided for Gulf Coast restoration.

Science Support.—\$14,985,000 is provided for science support. This represents a decrease of \$2,000,000 from fiscal year 2016. Adaptive science is funded at \$9,517,000, of which \$931,000 is for Gulf Coast restoration activities. Service science is funded at \$5,468,000.

Within service science, \$2,500,000 is provided for white nose syndrome research. In addition to these funds, the Service is encouraged to continue dedicating at least \$2,000,000 of funds appropriated for species recovery to white-nose syndrome work. The Service should also continue, along with the United States Geological Survey, to lead and implement the North American Bat Monitoring Program in association with other Federal natural resource management agencies and offices, States, and non-governmental partners.

General Operations.—\$142,957,000 is provided for general operations, a decrease of \$100,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The Director’s office is funded at \$1,699,000.

CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 2016	\$23,687,000
Budget estimate, 2017	23,740,000
Chairman’s recommendation	16,935,000

A total appropriation of \$16,935,000 has been provided for the Construction account. This amount is \$6,752,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The amount provided within the bill is

available for the following distribution of funds and projects requested by the administration:

State	Project	Budget estimate	Chairman's recommendation
OR	Clark R. Bavin National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Lab	2,500	2,500
IL	Crab Orchard NWR	400	400
NM	Valle de Oro NWR	3,063	3,063
VA	Harrison Lake NFH	842	842
VA	Harrison Lake NFH	997	997

LAND ACQUISITION

Appropriations, 2016	\$68,500,000
Budget estimate, 2017	58,655,000
Chairman's recommendation	47,871,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$47,871,000 for land acquisition, an overall decrease of \$20,629,000 below the enacted level and a \$10,629,000 decrease for specific land acquisition projects. The Committee provides \$2,000,000 for a recreational access line for these purposes. The Committee continues to support the work of the Highlands Conservation Act grants to protect and preserve the priority projects in PA, NJ, NY, and CT and expects the Service to include the program in the fiscal year 2018 budget if there are eligible projects. The amount provided within this bill is available for the following distribution of funds and projects requested by the administration:

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

State	Project	Budget estimate	Bill (Discretionary)
HI	Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge	\$6,200,000	\$6,200,000
ND/SD	Dakota Grassland Conservation Area	8,000,000	8,000,000
MT	Red Rocks Lake National Wildlife Refuge	2,000,000	2,000,000
ND/SD	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area	3,000,000	3,000,000
MD	Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	1,200,000	1,200,000
VA	James River National Wildlife Refuge	900,000	900,000
FL	Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area	2,500,000	2,500,000
PA	Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge	2,200,000	2,200,000
AR	Cache River National Wildlife Refuge	1,406,000	1,406,000
	Other Projects	8,478,000	
	Acquisition Management	12,955,000	12,000,000
	Land Protection Planning	465,000	465,000
	Inholdings/Emergencies/Hardships	5,351,000	5,000,000
	Exchanges	1,500,000	1,000,000
	Sportsman/Recreational Access	2,500,000	2,000,000
	Highlands Conservation		
	Total, Land Acquisition	58,655,000	47,871,000

COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

Appropriations, 2016	\$53,495,000
Budget estimate, 2017	53,495,000
Chairman's recommendation	53,495,000

The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund program has been provided \$53,495,000, equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Funds are to be distributed as follows: \$10,508,000 for endangered species conservation grants to States and terri-

tories; \$9,485,000 for habitat conservation planning grants; \$11,162,000 for species recovery land acquisition grants; \$19,638,000 for habitat conservation land acquisition grants; and \$2,702,000 for program administration.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND

Appropriations, 2016	\$13,228,000
Budget estimate, 2017	
Chairman's recommendation	13,228,000

The National Wildlife Refuge Fund has been provided \$13,228,000. This amount is equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND

Appropriations, 2016	\$35,145,000
Budget estimate, 2017	35,145,000
Chairman's recommendation	38,145,000

The North American Wetlands Conservation Fund program has been provided \$38,145,000. This amount is \$3,000,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION FUND

Appropriations, 2016	\$3,910,000
Budget estimate, 2017	3,910,000
Chairman's recommendation	3,910,000

The recommendation for the neotropical migratory bird conservation fund is \$3,910,000 equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

Appropriations, 2016	\$11,061,000
Budget estimate, 2017	11,061,000
Chairman's recommendation	11,061,000

The multinational species conservation fund programs have been provided \$11,061,000, equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Funds are distributed as follows: \$2,582,000 for African elephant conservation; \$3,440,000 for rhinoceros and tiger conservation; \$1,557,000 for Asian elephant conservation; \$1,975,000 for great ape conservation; and \$1,507,000 for marine turtle conservation.

STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS

Appropriations, 2016	\$60,571,000
Budget estimate, 2017	66,981,000
Chairman's recommendation	62,571,000

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program has been provided \$62,571,000. This amount is \$2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The recommended level provides \$53,000,000 for State and tribal apportioned grants; \$4,084,000 for competitive grants for tribes; and \$5,487,000 for competitive grants for States.

Pacific Flyway.—The Committee is concerned about the loss of seasonal wetland habitat along the Pacific Flyway as a result of the drought in California. The Committee encourages the Service to work with private landowners and organizations representing agriculture, conservation science, and waterbird habitat enhancement

to develop critical waterbird conservation programs that provide temporary, seasonal, and working wetland habitat for shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors and other species.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The bill continues several administrative provisions from previous years.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Since the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, the National Park System has grown to encompass 401 sites spanning more than 84 million acres in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Saipan, and the Virgin Islands. The National Park Service, created in 1916, is charged with preserving these sites “unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” The Service and its more than 20,000 employees also contribute to the protection of other historical, cultural and recreational resources through a variety of grant and technical assistance programs.

OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

Appropriations, 2016	\$2,369,596,000
Budget estimate, 2017	2,524,362,000
Chairman’s recommendation	2,405,627,000

The Committee recommends \$2,405,627,000 for the operation of the national park system, an increase of \$36,031,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The National Park Service will celebrate its centennial in fiscal year 2017 and in acknowledgement of this milestone the administration requested significant additional funding for the agency. The Committee strongly supports the work of the Service and its unique mission in not only land management and conservation, but also in interpreting and preserving America’s history and culture. However, given budgetary constraints not all aspects of the request could be accommodated. Program changes are detailed below and in the table that accompanies the Committee report.

Resource Stewardship.—The Committee recommends \$328,071,000 for resource stewardship, an increase of \$31,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level for Everglades Restoration efforts as requested. Within the funds provided, the service shall maintain funding for the National Capital Area Performing Arts program at current levels.

Visitor Services.—The Committee recommends \$251,280,000 for visitor services which is equal to the enacted level.

Facility Operations and Maintenance.—The Committee recommends \$763,487,000 for facility operations and maintenance, an increase of \$25,000,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. These additional funds are part of the proposed Centennial Initiative to address the maintenance backlog and shall be allocated equally between cyclic and repair/rehab maintenance. The Committee notes that this recurring base funding increase is in addition to the \$35,000,000 increase provided for these maintenance efforts in fiscal year 2016.

Park Support.—The Committee recommends \$526,641,000 for park support, an increase of \$11,000,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The increase above the request is to fully fund all new park units and monuments, including requested increases for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, Honouliuli, and Wild and Scenic River Partnerships as well as other critical operating needs. The final allocation of the funds shall be provided to the Committee as part of the Service’s annual operating plan,

which is due 60 days from enactment of this act. Funding for the Roosevelt-Campobello International Park shall be at the level detailed on page 21 of the agency's budget justification entitled "Special Exhibits." The NPS shall continue to follow the direction contained in the statement of managers accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113) concerning the submission of future budget requests for the Roosevelt-Campobello International Park. The recommendation also provides the requested funding levels for the Valles Caldera National Preserve and for the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, formerly the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum, which is now a park service unit.

External Administrative Costs.—The Committee recommends \$180,603,000 for external administrative costs which is equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Ste. Genevieve Special Resource Study.—The Committee is pleased that the National Park Service followed congressional direction and completed the Ste. Genevieve Special Resources Study [SRS], which had been ongoing since 2010. The Committee supports the addition of a new National Park Service unit at Ste. Genevieve, which was recommended in the study. During the comment period on the proposed SRS, residents overwhelmingly voiced support for the addition of Ste. Genevieve as a new unit of the National Park Service. Ste. Genevieve boasts a history older than our nation itself and is unique as the home to the highest concentration of vertical log buildings in the country. The buildings are representative of French colonial architecture and well preserved. It is critical this site has proper recognition for the immense cultural and historical value it provides to the country.

Point Reyes National Seashore.—The Committee notes that multi-generational ranching and dairying is not only important both ecologically and economically for the Point Reyes National Seashore and surrounding community, but also entirely consistent with Congress's intent when it first established the Point Reyes National Seashore. The National Park Service shall, without delay, complete and begin implementing its Ranch Comprehensive Management Plan at the Point Reyes National Seashore in a manner that provides for lease terms of up to 20 years, preserves park resources and supports continued historic beef and dairy ranches in the pastoral zone of the park. Until the date on which new permits or other authorizations are issued pursuant to the Ranch Comprehensive Management Plan, the Secretary shall continue to support and issue authorizations to existing beef and dairy ranches, subject to any terms and conditions the Secretary deems appropriate.

Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park.—The Committee supports requested funding for the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park with the expectation that the Service will continue to make funds available to the local coordinating entity to maintain staffing and capacity to assist in management of the park, as authorized by Public Law 113-291.

Freedom Riders Park.—The Committee believes that Freedom Riders Park, the site of the May 14, 1961 bus burning, associated and adjacent to the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail

is an important national project that will be a place for school groups, tourists and others to reflect and learn about the historic events surrounding the Civil Rights Movement.

Innovative Flood Control Alternatives.—The Committee is concerned that interior flooding behind levee systems could jeopardize public safety, Federal investments, and regional transportation systems due to the dense, urban environment in Washington, DC particularly in the Federal Triangle area of the city. The Committee directs the National Park Service to work collaboratively with the National Capital Planning Commission, the Smithsonian Institution, affected Federal agencies and other stakeholders (to study innovative and sustainable low impact development alternatives to address interior flooding in the Federal Triangle area of Washington, DC.

Nicodemus, Kansas.—Founded in 1877 by newly freed slaves, Nicodemus, Kansas was the first African American community settled west of the Mississippi River. The Nicodemus National Historic Site was designated in 1996 to preserve, protect and interpret the legacy of the community. The Committee is encouraged by discussions between the National Park Service and the Nicodemus Historic Society regarding a new or enhanced cooperative agreement that will increase visitor interaction and transfer greater control of the on-site interpretive services of the Nicodemus National Historic Site to descendants of Nicodemus and local community members. The Committee urges the National Park Service to work in an expedited manner with local community leaders to finalize such agreement. Given that many visitors wish to explore National Park Service sites on the weekend, the Committee also stresses the importance of ensuring that its normal operating hours include being open on Saturdays and Sundays.

Bottled Water Ban.—The Park Service issued a Policy Memorandum on December 14, 2011 (11-03) that requires parks to educate visitors about the importance of recycling and reducing waste. In addition, the memorandum provides NPS park supervisors the option of eliminating the sale of disposable plastic water bottles as a measure to accomplish the goal of reducing waste. To date, 22 NPS units have eliminated the sale of bottled water, 13 in the Intermountain Region, 2 in the Midwest Region, 1 in the National Capital Region, and 6 in the Southeast Region. The Committee believes that this is a misguided policy that makes little sense from an environmental or health perspective. For example, the policy bans the sale of water but still permits the sale of other options to park visitors like soda, juice, and other sugary drinks in plastic bottles. Moreover, independent groups have reviewed the agency policy and found the Service does not even collect the data to determine whether the policy has any impact on reducing waste. The Committee expects the agency to withdraw this policy administratively—that is the quickest, easiest solution to resolve this issue. However, the Committee is aware of legislative efforts in the House to overturn the policy via statute and certainly will consider this option if the Service is unwilling to reverse course on its own.

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PRESERVATION

Appropriations, 2016	\$62,632,000
Budget estimate, 2017	54,392,000
Chairman's recommendation	62,638,000

The Committee recommends \$62,638,000 for national recreation and preservation programs, an increase of \$6,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Natural Programs.—The Committee recommends \$13,581,000 for natural programs. As requested, a total of \$2,020,000 is included for the Chesapeake Gateways and Trails program.

Heritage Partnership Programs.—The Committee recommends \$19,821,000 for heritage partnership programs, which is equal to the enacted level. This level of funding provides \$18,839,000 for grants to national heritage areas and \$982,000 to administer the program.

In order to provide stable funding sources for all areas, the bill provides funding for longstanding areas at fiscal year 2016 funding levels; provides a total of \$300,000 to national heritage areas with recently approved management plans, known as tier 2 areas; and provides \$150,000 to each tier 1 area that has been authorized and is still in the process of having its management plan approved. The Service is directed to refrain from further funding reallocations. The Committee notes that the Service has not provided the requested report detailing funding alternatives for the national heritage area program as provided by Public Law 114–113.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

Appropriations, 2016	\$65,410,000
Budget estimate, 2017	87,410,000
Chairman's recommendation	67,910,000

The Committee recommends \$67,910,000 for the historic preservation fund, an increase of \$2,500,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

The Committee recommendation provides \$47,925,000 for grants-in-aid to States and territories a \$1 million increase above the enacted level and \$9,985,000 for grants-in-aid to tribes, which is equal to the enacted level for both programs.

The Committee has provided an additional \$1,500,000 above the enacted level in support of the Civil Rights in America portion of the Centennial Initiative for a total of \$10,000,000. These funds are available to protect and preserve the history and sites associated with the Civil Rights Movement, with priority given to projects focused on the near-decade of the Movement from August 1955 to July 1963 that have not received appropriate attention to date.

CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 2016	\$192,937,000
Budget estimate, 2017	252,038,000
Chairman's recommendation	217,320,000

The bill includes \$217,320,000 for construction requirements for the national park system, which is \$24,383,000 above the enacted level. These recurring base funds are provided in addition to the \$55,000,000 increase that was provided by the Committee in fiscal

year 2016 and are in support of the Centennial Initiative, particularly addressing deferred maintenance needs nationwide. An additional \$700,000 above the request has been included for renewable energy projects at National Park System units.

The following table details the line item construction activity for specific projects requested by the administration.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CONSTRUCTION

State	Project	Budget request	Chairman's recommendation
DC	National Mall, replace Lincoln Memorial Roof	\$2,210,000	\$2,210,000
NY	Gateway NRA, replace electrical infrastructure	9,144,000	9,144,000
DC	White House, replace/rehab utilities	17,160,000	17,160,000
AK	Wrangell St. Elias NP, repair Kennecott Mine structures	4,658,000	4,658,000
GA	Ocmulgee National Monument, roof repairs	2,006,000	2,006,000
WA	Mt. Rainier NP, Paradise Inn rehabilitation	13,211,000	13,211,000
MA	Lowell NHP, Boot Cotton Mills Museum rehab/fire and safety	4,601,000	4,601,000
PR	San Juan NHS, Santa Elena/San Agustin Bastions rehab	1,947,000	1,947,000
WY	Yellowstone NP, Mammoth Hotel seismic retrofit	16,126,000	16,126,000
DC	National Mall, replace George Washington screening facility	9,456,000	9,456,000
SD	Jewel Cave NM, structural upgrades	6,797,000	6,797,000
CA	Yosemite NP, El Portal sewer rehabilitation	13,929,000	13,929,000
NY	Gateway NRA, structural demolition Floyd Bennett Field	1,597,000	1,597,000
MD	C&O Canal NHP, canal structure repairs	7,770,000	7,770,000
AL	Selma to Montgomery NHT, Selma interpretive center	2,080,000	2,080,000
DC	National Mall, water conveyance rehab	7,604,000	7,604,000
VA	Shenandoah NP, water system repairs	2,003,000	2,003,000
NE	Scotts Bluff NM, visitor center rehabilitation	3,080,000	3,080,000
SD	Mt. Rushmore NM, stabilization and rehabilitation	2,089,000	2,089,000
MO	Ozark National Scenic Riverways, replace utilities	2,033,000	2,033,000
AZ	Grand Canyon NP, North Rim water distribution system	10,458,000	10,458,000
	Other requested projects	13,385,000	
	Total	153,344,000	136,276,000

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

(RESCISSION)

Appropriations, 2016	-\$28,000,000
Budget estimate, 2017	-30,000,000
Chairman's recommendation	-28,000,000

The bill includes a rescission of \$28,000,000 in annual contract authority provided by 16 U.S.C. 460l-10a. This authority has not been used in recent years and there are no plans to use it in fiscal year 2017.

LAND ACQUISITION AND STATE ASSISTANCE

Appropriations, 2016	\$173,670,000
Budget estimate, 2017	178,248,000
Chairman's recommendation	168,423,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$168,423,000 for land acquisition and State assistance, a decrease of \$5,247,000 over the fiscal year 2016 enacted level of which \$58,417,000 is for land acquisition and \$110,006,000 is for State assistance. The Committee provides \$2,000,000 for a recreational access activity for the Park Service as requested. The Committee is aware of efforts by non-Federal agencies in helping the Federal Government leverage funds in order to maximize funding for the management and acquisition of lands for

the Ice Age, North Country, and New England Scenic Trails. The funding provided by the Committee for recreation access may be available to acquire land to close gaps in the National Scenic Trails. The Committee urges the Service to consider geographic distribution to ensure investments for the trail system are reflected in project prioritization. The amount provided within this bill is available for the following distribution of funds and projects requested by the administration:

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

State	Project	Budget estimate	Bill (Discretionary)
WY	Grand Teton National Park	\$22,500,000	\$22,500,000
HI	Hawaii Volcanoes National Park	6,000,000	6,000,000
ID	Nez Perce National Historical Park	400,000	400,000
AL	Little River Canyon National Preserve	516,500	517,000
	Other Projects	7,897,500	
	Acquisition Management	10,000,000	9,000,000
	Emergencies, Hardships, Relocations and Deficiencies	3,928,000	3,000,000
	Inholdings, Exchanges, Donations	5,000,000	5,000,000
	American Battlefield Protection Grant Program	10,000,000	10,000,000
	Sportsman/Recreational Access	2,000,000	2,000,000
	Total, Land Acquisition	68,242,000	58,417,000
	State Assistance Grants, Discretionary	94,000,000	94,000,000
	State Assistance Grants, Competitive	12,000,000	12,000,000
	Administrative Expenses	4,006,000	4,006,000
	Total, State Assistance	110,006,000	110,006,000
	Total, Land Acquisition and State Assistance	178,248,000	168,423,000

CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE

Appropriations, 2016	\$15,000,000
Budget estimate, 2017	35,000,000
Chairman's recommendation	20,000,000

The recommendation includes \$20,000,000, \$5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2016 level for the Centennial Challenge program. This funding will be used to continue a program begun under Public Law 110-161 that provides dedicated Federal funding to leverage partnerships for signature projects and programs for the national park system, including critical infrastructure investments. The Committee expects that these funds will be used primarily as an additional tool for the Service to address its backlog maintenance issues. These funds shall be used to complement increases provided in the Operations of the National Park Service appropriation to enhance the visitor experience and better protect cultural and natural resources at national park system units as part of the Service's 2017 centennial celebration. While a 1-to-1 matching requirement is required by law for projects to qualify for these funds, the Service is urged to give preference to projects that demonstrate additional leveraging capacity from its partners.

ENERGY AND MINERALS

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Established in 1879, the U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] serves as the Earth and natural science research bureau for the Department of the Interior and is the only integrated natural resources research bureau in the Federal Government. USGS conducts research, monitoring, and assessments to contribute to understanding America's lands, water, and biological resources. Its research and data products support the Department's resource and land management needs and also provide the water, biological, energy, and mineral resources information needed by other Federal, State, tribal, and local government agencies to guide planning, management, and regulatory programs. More than 9,000 scientists, technicians, and support staff of the USGS are located in nearly 400 offices in every State and in several foreign countries throughout the world. The USGS leverages its resources and expertise in partnership with more than 2,000 agencies of Federal, State, local, and tribal governments; the academic community; nongovernmental organizations; and the private sector.

SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH

Appropriations, 2016	\$1,062,000,000
Budget estimate, 2017	1,168,803,000
Chairman's recommendation	1,068,135,000

The bill provides \$1,068,135,000 for the U.S. Geological Survey, an increase of \$6,135,000 over the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. General program reductions that accompany these changes are detailed in the table included at the end of the report. While the USGS appears to be adapting to new demands by expanding its research capacity in program areas such as Ecosystems and Climate and Land Use Change, the Committee wants to ensure that the agency is taking a balanced approach towards implementing its program areas. The Committee directs the Survey to report back within 180 days on what new studies and projects over \$500,000 that have been initiated within the last 1–3 fiscal years under the various program areas.

Ecosystems.—The bill provides \$157,541,000 for Ecosystems programs, which is a decrease of \$2,691,000 over the 2016 enacted level. Within the wildlife program, an additional \$250,000 is provided to continue White Nose Syndrome studies and the funds appropriated shall continue to help lead, and implement the North American Bat Monitoring Program in association with other Federal natural resource management agencies and offices, States, and non-governmental partners. The Committee also provides an additional \$250,000 for the invasive species program to combat invasive species of national concern. The Committee expects the base funding of \$5,620,000 to continue to be used to address Asian Carp issues in the Great Lakes and Upper Mississippi River.

The Committee is aware of the work the Survey is performing in critical landscapes such as the Arctic, Puget Sound, California Bay Delta, Great Lakes, Columbia River, and the Chesapeake Bay, and encourages this work to continue. The Committee also appreciates

the research that USGS is conducting regarding the Columbia River's flow regimes and understands the value of such research in light of the Columbia River Treaty. The Committee urges such flow regime research to be conducted in partnership with academic partners that have an advanced-technology observation and prediction system in this Estuary.

Climate and Land Use Change.—The bill provides \$140,475,000 for the Climate and Land Use Change program, an increase of \$500,000 for Arctic research. Program adjustments have been made to the sub-activities to provide an increase of \$15,400,000 for the Landsat system to stay on track with the NASA Landsat operation and plan. The Committee is aware of the Survey's obligations to deliver the ground system for Landsat 9 on time while maintaining support functions for other program areas; therefore, the Committee directs the Survey to provide a spending plan in 60 days after enactment of this act on how to meet these obligations under the current funding levels for the Climate and Land Use Change sub-activity.

Energy, Minerals and Environmental Health.—The bill provides \$94,511,000 for Energy, Minerals, and Environmental Health programs, equal to the current year fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The Committee acknowledges the high quality of research that USGS performs for all the relevant DOI agencies, but is concerned that some scientific activities are reaching into non-traditional program areas at a rapid pace while not devoting enough resources to program areas such as mineral resources.

The Committee does not accept the proposed decrease of \$1,500,000 for geophysical and remote sensing activities, and provides an additional \$1,550,000 for these activities. Geologic and geophysical mapping and the understanding they provide are the basis for resource discovery and without them the mineral potential is largely unknown, therefore, the Committee not only rejects the proposal to end these activities, but expects this work to continue in areas surrounding the Kugruk fault zone. It is the Committee's expectation this funding will be used for geologic needs and encourages the Survey to work collaboratively with State geological surveys to focus resources toward completing the core task of geologic mapping where there are regions of the country that have high quality mineral and energy resources that remain unmapped at a useable scale. The Committee also expects a portion of this funding to be used to consult with State geological surveys to update and conduct new evaluations of oil and gas resources in low-permeability reservoirs. The Committee accepts the proposed decrease of \$1,550,000 for the toxic substances hydrology program.

The Committee is concerned about our Nation's dependence on foreign minerals. The Survey is directed to report back to the Committee within 1 year on the extent the Survey has surveyed the U.S. domestic mineral base. This report should include projections and gaps in knowledge in resource assessments in order to gain a better understanding of the needs to strengthen mineral security. The report should also include what commodities the Survey determines to be strategic or critical minerals.

Natural Hazards.—The bill includes \$142,339,000 for Natural Hazards programs, an increase of \$3,326,000 above the current fis-

cal year 2016 enacted level. Within the Earthquake Hazards program, the Committee continues to support the early earthquake warning event characterization activity and provides \$1,000,000 to the base level of \$8,200,000 for an earthquake early warning prototype. The Committee is concerned about the lack of knowledge and real time instrumentation available for the Cascadia subduction zone and the continued development of a system for the Cascadia will help prepare for and mitigate the negative human and economic impacts in the region in the event of a major event.

Earthquakes have enormous potential to cause catastrophic casualties, damage, economic loss, and disruption. Many remote and urbanized areas across the country, including in the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, and California, are at particular risk of significant damage should a significant earthquake hit. The Committee understands the National Science Foundation [NSF] has supported temporary seismometer deployments across the United States for the EarthScope USArray project and that once the project is complete in a specific area the seismometers may then be available for regional networks, States, and other entities to adopt after the project concludes. The Committee is aware the Survey is in the process of working on the cost benefit proposal and spending plan for adoption of seismic stations as directed by the Committee in Public Law 114–113. As the Survey continues to complete this work, the Committee expects the Survey to include an implementation plan for the adoption of future seismic stations. The Committee provides an additional \$500,000 for the USGS Earthquake Program to fund the purchase or maintenance of domestic and international seismic stations.

In 2000, Congress authorized the Advanced National Seismic System to “establish and maintain an advanced infrastructure for seismic monitoring throughout the United States that operates with high performance standards . . .”. The Committee is concerned, that after a decade and half later, not all 50 States meet the baseline earthquake detection and monitoring standards set by this program; therefore, the Committee provides \$1,000,000 for the Earthquake Program to work with regional seismic networks to meet the ANSS earthquake detection standards by leveraging data from active USArray Transportable Array stations.

The Committee is encouraged by the work to restore monitoring networks on high-threat volcanoes and the Committee expects the \$1,000,000 provided in fiscal year 2016 for the Volcano Hazards Program [VHP] and the additional \$1,000,000 increase provided in this bill will be used to continue deferred network maintenance of volcano hazard monitoring stations for the highest risk volcanoes which includes a plan for upgrading the telemetry at the networks from analog to digital, and replacing analog seismometers with new, more sensitive, digital seismometers. The Committee is concerned several monitors within the VHP are not in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission [FCC] regulations and therefore directs the Survey to report back to the Committee within 60 days with a funding plan that includes how many stations are out of compliance and the cost of bringing the stations into compliance.

The Committee remains concerned that systems and equipment used to monitor, detect, and warn the public of volcanic and seismic hazards, including lahars and earthquakes on high-threat volcanoes, are outdated and inadequate to address the substantial risks posed by those natural hazards. The Survey is directed to report back to the Committee within 1 year the agency's plan to repair, upgrade, and expand monitoring, detection, and warning systems and equipment on high-threat volcanoes.

Water Resources.—The bill includes \$211,187,000 for Water Resources, an increase of \$500,000 above the current year enacted level. Program increases include \$2,000,000 for groundwater resource studies within the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain, \$700,000 for streamflow information and streamgages, and \$500,000 for the groundwater network. The Committee also includes \$300,000 to re-establish the streamgage on the Unuk River for water quality testing and monitoring given the lack of quality data available for study in the watershed. The Committee directs the Survey to enter into a formal partnership with local tribes and other Federal agencies as necessary in the area to develop a water quality strategy for the area's transboundary rivers.

The Water Resources Research Act remains at the enacted fiscal year level of \$6,500,000.

Core Science Systems.—The bill includes \$116,050,000 for Core Science Systems, an increase of \$4,500,000 from the current year enacted level. Program increases include \$2,000,000 for 3D elevation: National enhancement and \$2,500,000 for the Alaska mapping program. The National Geologic Cooperative Mapping program is funded at \$24,397,000 with \$24,299,000 provided for Science Synthesis, Analysis and Research Program.

Science Support.—The bill includes \$105,611,000 for Science Support programs, an amount equal to the enacted level.

Facilities.—The bill includes \$100,421,000 for facilities, deferred maintenance and capital improvement, which is equal to the current year enacted level.

The Committee supports the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center and its important in detecting novel pathogens and emerging infectious diseases, developing rapid diagnostic tests, conducting disease surveillance, and designing vaccines used to control these diseases. The current location of the center provides critical collaboration opportunities that enhances the work conducted at NWHC. The Committee is aware of preliminary agency plans regarding the future of NWHC. No final decision on possible relocation of the center shall be made this fiscal year. Within 90 days of enactment the Committee requests a report on how USGS future budget planning will support the infrastructure needs at NWHC.

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is responsible for resource evaluation, environmental review, leasing activities, and lease management for the Nation's offshore energy and minerals resources.

OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Appropriations, 2016	\$170,857,000
Budget estimate, 2017	175,138,000
Chairman's recommendation	169,560,000

The bill provides \$169,560,000 for the Ocean Energy Management account, \$1,297,000 below the enacted level. This amount will be partially offset with the collection of offsetting rental receipts and cost recovery fees totaling \$94,944,000.

Renewable Energy.—The bill provides \$23,887,000 for renewable energy activities, a decrease of \$391,000 below the enacted level as detailed in the request. The Bureau should continue to work with the Department of Energy to identify and permit a national offshore wind test site and to exchange information with the Department and the coastal States about the development of new technology related to the structural material, environmental, and design safety criteria, as well as design and performance standards, of transitional depth and floating wind turbines. The Bureau is also expected to continue working with coastal States and other stakeholders to study new wind energy areas, including in shallow, transitional, and deep (over 200 feet) waters.

Conventional Energy.—The bill provides \$58,963,000 for conventional energy activities, a decrease of \$906,000 below the enacted level. The Committee concurs with the agency proposed reductions. The Bureau is reminded to continue to provide quarterly reports on the status of exploration and development plans to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations as required under the approval of the reorganization of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement.

Environmental Assessment.—The bill provides \$68,045,000 for environmental assessment activities, equal to the enacted level.

Executive Direction.—The bill provides \$18,665,000 for executive direction of the Bureau, including the Office of the Director, equal to the enacted level.

Other.—The Committee recognizes the critical need to inventory sources of sand in Federal waters and strongly supports the Bureau's work on these efforts, particularly through the Atlantic Sand Assessment Project. The Bureau should continue to support and expand these efforts, particularly in the Northeast, and work with affected coastal States to assess the feasibility of resource extraction and reduce conflicts with other activities, including commercial fishing.

The Committee rejects the Administration's proposal to divert outer continental shelf [OCS] oil and gas revenues from Gulf of Mexico coastal communities to their Coastal Climate Resilience Program. The Committee finds this proposal to be in direct contradiction to current law, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-432). Since 2006, Gulf of Mexico OCS rev-

enues have served a necessary purpose for coastal conservation, restoration, and hurricane protection. The Committee believes the Administration's proposed action would force Gulf States to shoulder the full responsibility for environment and infrastructure costs resulting from energy production and spontaneous meteorological events. In future requests, the Administration should prioritize activities like the Coastal Climate Resilience Program either within current discretionary spending caps or find acceptable offsets that do not take away from important critical existing needs.

Offshore Wind Energy Development.—North Carolina beaches and historic lighthouses attract tourists from all over the world, and any hindrance of the viewshed from shore could greatly impact tourist revenue to the State and local economy. Consequently, the Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management shall not issue wind leases offshore that would allow wind turbines to be constructed or located less than 24 nautical miles from the State of North Carolina shoreline.

BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is responsible for regulating and enforcing safety, environmental, and conservation compliance during the development of the Nation's ocean energy and mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, and oil spill research.

OFFSHORE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

Appropriations, 2016	\$189,772,000
Budget estimate, 2017	189,968,000
Chairman's recommendation	189,772,000

The bill provides \$189,772,000 for the Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement account, commensurate with the enacted level. This amount will be partially offset with the collection of offsetting rental receipts, cost recovery fees, and inspection fees, totaling \$96,530,000.

Operations, Safety and Regulation.—The bill provides \$144,954,000 for operations, safety, and regulation activities, equal to the enacted level.

Administrative Operations.—The bill provides \$18,268,000 for administrative operations equal to the enacted level.

Executive Direction.—The bill provides \$18,236,000 for executive direction of the Bureau, including the Office of the Director equal to the enacted level.

The Committee has taken a rescission of \$25,000,000 from this account given the unusually high level of unobligated balances. This will have no impact on the safety functions performed by the agency.

Other.—The Committee continues to be concerned about the current downward leasing trends on the Outer Continental Shelf. The Committee believes this trend will have a negative impact on future production and royalties and continues to have an immediate negative impact upon bonus bids and rentals.

The cumulative impact of rule-makings and proposed guidance by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management [BOEM] and the Bu-

reau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement [BSEE] and lack of outreach and communication with the regulated community has created uncertainty and a lack of interest for some entities to do business in the United States. The Committee notes the Central Gulf of Mexico recently held lease sales that generated some of the lowest revenues in history, including during times when commodity prices were lower.

The Committee recognizes while the Government has talented engineers and geologists within its ranks, the Committee understands that the private sector also has many talented individuals with many years of experience. The Committee strongly urges a more cooperative working relationship between the bureaus and the regulated community. The Well-Control Rule was the most technically complex OCS regulation ever promulgated. The Committee believes BSEE should have had a better process in place that could have led to better results for industry, the regulating agencies, and the environment.

The Committee recognizes that the offshore energy industry is now regulated by multiple bureaus. This has created a scenario where the same entities are responding to multiple Government agencies at the same time and occasionally seeking the same information. The Committee directs BOEM and BSEE to provide the Committee with a joint report demonstrating the two agencies are coordinating future rule-makings and ensuring the timing is such that new rule-making or proposed guidance comment periods do not overlap with the exceptions of emergencies.

The Committee is concerned that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and its agents, may be utilizing inappropriate tactics towards oil and gas operators, lessees and third parties with respect to the acquisition of privately owned helicopter fuel in the Gulf of Mexico. The Committee strongly believes that privately owned fuel should only be acquired with the explicit approval of its owners. In the event the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement continues to access and use fuel owned by third parties without their explicit, full approval, the Committee directs the Department of the Interior to provide an official legal opinion that identifies the direct, specific legal and regulatory authority that BSEE cites as authorizing the acquisition of privately owned helicopter fuel without consent of the owner. The legal opinion shall be provided to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act.

OIL SPILL RESEARCH

Appropriations, 2016	\$14,899,000
Budget estimate, 2017	14,899,000
Chairman's recommendation	14,899,000

The bill provides \$14,899,000 for oil spill research, as requested and equal to the enacted level.

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement [OSMRE] was established in 1977 to oversee and carry out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act [SMCRA] in concert with States and Indian tribes. OSMRE's primary objectives are to ensure coal mining activities are conducted in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining, ensure the land is properly reclaimed, and mitigate effects of past mining by reclaiming abandoned coal mines. OSMRE addresses its mission with a mix of grants to States and tribes to carry out their own regulatory and reclamation programs, and the administration of OSMRE's regulatory and reclamation programs. The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act Amendments of 2006 (Public Law 109-432) revised the mine reclamation fee distribution mechanism beginning in fiscal year 2008. State and tribal reclamation grants are now provided under mandatory appropriations instead of through this bill.

REGULATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Appropriations, 2016	\$123,353,000
Budget estimate, 2017	127,650,000
Chairman's recommendation	119,811,000

The bill provides a total appropriation of \$119,811,000 for Regulation and Technology, \$3,542,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Since fiscal year 2011, the administration has proposed to reduce grants to State programs. This proposal has been rejected by the full Congress each year and is once again rejected this year. The bill funds regulatory grants at \$68,590,000, which is equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Program development and maintenance is funded at \$2,764,000, a reduction of \$2,000,000. Additionally, State program evaluation is funded at \$7,616,000.

Stream Buffer.—The Committee is disappointed with OSMRE's efforts to implement the directives contained in the fiscal year 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act. The Committee does not believe that OSMRE fully implemented the directive in the manner the act required. As such, the bill includes language that prohibits OSMRE from moving forward with the Stream Buffer Zone rule in fiscal year 2017.

Approximate Original Contours.—The Committee understands that OSMRE has taken aggressive actions against States with primacy under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 [SMCRA] for alleged violations of policies and regulations pertaining to the standards in SMCRA that require land be restored to the approximately original contour. The Committee is concerned that OSMRE has lost multiple enforcement actions on the merits, but continues to appeal those enforcement actions at potentially high costs to both the Federal Government and the small businesses that have been targeted. In fiscal year 2017, the Committee urges OSMRE to conclude enforcement actions in the most expeditious manner possible. Further, within 60 days of enactment, the Committee directs OSMRE to provide a report with details of all enforcement actions initiated by OSMRE to ensure compliance with

SMCRA’s approximate original contour requirements since 2007. The report should include the outcomes of enforcement actions that have concluded and the status of enforcement actions that continue to be appealed.

ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND

Appropriations, 2015	\$117,303,000
Budget estimate, 2016	30,375,000
Chairman’s recommendation	117,134,000

The bill provides a total appropriation of \$117,134,000 for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, \$169,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Of the funds provided, \$27,134,000 shall be derived from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund consistent with the fiscal year 2016 appropriation, and \$90,000,000 shall be derived from the General Fund.

The Committee provides a total of \$90,000,000 for grants to States for the reclamation of abandoned mine lands in conjunction with economic and community development and reuse goals. States shall use these funds to accelerate the remediation of AML sites with economic and community development end uses in mind. In doing so, the Committee envisions a collaborative partnership between the State AML programs and their respective State and local economic and community development programs that will explore ways to return legacy coal sites to productive reuse. The Committee notes that these grants are provided from the General Fund and are therefore separate from the estimated \$174,000,000 in mandatory payments from the Abandoned Mine Land fund in fiscal year 2017.

Assistance to Impacted States.—Consistent with fiscal year 2016 implementation, \$75,000,000 shall be provided to the three Appalachian States with the largest unfunded needs for the reclamation of Priority 1 and Priority 2 sites as delineated in the Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System. State AML programs, in consultation with State economic and community development authorities, shall develop a list of eligible AML projects in Appalachian counties that have a nexus to economic and community development, and select qualifying AML projects that have the potential to create long-term economic benefits. State AML programs should consider whether a model similar to the Appalachian Regional Commission grants process could streamline project selection, and whether an inter-agency agreement or other contracting mechanisms could streamline program implementation. Eligible grant recipients are limited to State and local governmental entities who may subcontract project-related activities as appropriate.

Further, the Committee believes that an incremental approach is warranted to better understand programmatic impacts of proposing criteria changes to the underlying law. Each State presents unique opportunities and the Committee believes more States can contribute to the success of the pilot. As such, the Committee provides \$15,000,000 for the next three Appalachian States with the largest unfunded needs for the reclamation of Priority 1 and Priority 2 sites as delineated in the Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System. The \$15,000,000 shall be divided equally among the next three States. Eligible grant recipients for the \$15,000,000 are also lim-

ited to State and local governmental entities who may subcontract project-related activities as appropriate. The Committee expects that the efforts of all six States under this pilot program will inform future policy discussions, possibly under a reauthorization of SMCRA, which the Committee supports.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

The Bureau of Indian Affairs [BIA] was founded in 1824 to uphold a Government-to-government relationship between the Federal Government and tribal entities. The Federal Government retains trust responsibility for individual Indians and tribes as a result of formal treaties and agreements with Native Americans.

The Bureau provides services directly or through contracts, grants, or compacts to a population of 1.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives who are members of 566 federally recognized Indian tribes in the lower 48 States and Alaska. Programs administered by the BIA and tribes include an education system for almost 48,000 elementary and secondary students; 28 tribal colleges, universities and post secondary schools; social services; natural resource management on 56 million acres of trust land; economic development; law enforcement; administration of tribal courts; implementation of land and water claim settlements; replacement and repair of schools; repair and maintenance of roads and bridges; and repair of structural deficiencies on high hazard dams.

OPERATION OF INDIAN PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2016	\$2,267,924,000
Budget estimate, 2017	2,395,786,000
Chairman's recommendation	2,326,339,000

The bill provides a total of \$2,326,339,000 for the Operations of Indian Programs account, an increase of \$58,415,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Fixed costs and internal transfers for BIA have been included throughout the core programs of the agencies.

Tribal Government.—The bill provides \$308,686,000 for tribal government programs, an increase of \$7,169,000 over the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The recommendation supports \$4,645,000 for small and needy tribes. This increase in funding will enable all small and needy tribes to receive the maximum base level provided by the Bureau to run tribal governments. The recommendation supports \$464,000 for new tribes and notes the challenge of reconciling the timing of the tribal recognition process with the annual budget formulation process. If additional tribes are recognized during fiscal year 2017 beyond those contemplated in the budget request, the Bureau is urged to support their capacity building efforts to the extent feasible. The Committee also provides an increase of \$3,614,000 for road maintenance. The Committee is concerned about the future funding of the Road Maintenance account and the backlog for deferred maintenance of roads in Indian Country; therefore, the Committee directs the Bureau to report back to the Committee in 60 days of enactment of this act on how the Bureau plans to allocate the funds provided in the bill.

Human Services.—The bill includes \$159,161,000 for human services programs, an increase of \$12,157,000 above the enacted level. Program increases include \$7,164,000 for Social Services, \$3,305,000 for the Indian Child Welfare Act, and \$1,687,000 for the

Housing Program in order to expand and continue the Tiwahe initiative. The Committee recommends increasing funds for Tiwahe as a way to strengthen tribal communities in Indian country by leveraging programs and resources; however, it is important to measure program effectiveness as the initiative continues and grows. The Committee directs the Bureau to report back in 90 days of enactment of this act on the performance measures being used to monitor and track the initiative's effectiveness in Indian country.

Trust—Natural Resources Management.—The recommendation includes \$201,992,000 for trust and natural resources programs, an increase of \$10,146,000 above the enacted level. Within this amount, \$39,661,000 is provided for rights protection implementation programs, an increase of \$2,023,000 above the enacted level; \$12,905,000 for irrigation operations and maintenance, an increase of \$1,507,000 above the enacted level; \$54,155,000 for forestry thinning activities, an increase of \$2,241,000 above the enacted level; and \$16,203,000 for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, an increase of \$2,557,000. The Committee recommends an increase of \$2,000,000 for the Tribal Management/Development Program for Alaska subsistence programs as requested, which includes consideration of funding for the Ahtna Subsistence Cooperative Management Project as referenced in the budget submission.

Within the increases provided for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, the Committee recommends \$545,000 for substantially producing tribal hatcheries in BIA's Northwest Region currently not receiving BIA hatchery operations funding. Also within the amounts provided, the Committee expects the Bureau to make \$300,000 available for tribal trust fishery resources, and \$1,700,000 for fish hatchery operations and maintenance programs.

The Committee directs the Bureau to enter into a formal partnership with local tribes and the United States Geological Survey to help develop a water quality strategy for transboundary rivers including the Unuk River.

The Committee also recognizes that many tribes west of the Mississippi River tend to have reservations that are larger in terms of land mass than those east of the Mississippi River and face challenges including drought. However, the Committee expects that tribes across the country who have resource challenges receive appropriate funding.

Trust-Real Estate Services.—The bill includes \$123,092,000, for trust-real estate services programs, a decrease of \$4,394,000 from the enacted level. The Committee accepts the proposed reduction of \$6,893,000, as requested. The decrease eliminates funding for economic development that supported the Klamath River Basin Agreement which is not required in fiscal year 2017. The Committee does include \$1,500,000 to support tribes' capacity to engage in settlement negotiations and implementation related to water rights and tribal trust fishery resources in the Klamath Basin. The Committee also includes an increase of \$400,000 for the Alaska Native programs which includes the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act [ANSCA] Historical Places and Cemetery Sites program that certifies claims for historical places and cultural sites.

Education.—The bill includes \$874,159,000 for educational programs, an increase of \$21,792,000 above the enacted level. Program

increases include: \$8,396,000 for ISEP formula funds to support a level of \$400,233,000; \$2,019,000 for the education program enhancements to support a level of \$14,201,000; \$2,039,000 for early child and family development to support a level of \$17,659,000; \$2,059,000 for tribal grant support costs to support a level of \$75,335,000; \$1,603,000 for student transportation to support a level of \$54,745,000; \$3,121,000 for facilities maintenance to support a level of \$66,219,000; \$3,156,000 for facilities operation to support a level of \$59,043,000. Program increases for post-secondary programs include \$2,127,000 for Haskell and SIPI to support a level of \$22,117,000; \$503,000 for Tribal Technical Colleges to support a level of \$7,414,000; and \$2,000,000 for education information technology to support a level of \$10,283,000.

The administration is commended for its continued focus on tribal education programs, including efforts to improve collaboration between the Departments of the Interior and Education and to implement Executive Order 13592 to improve educational outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native students. It is noted the administration is currently in the process of making much needed reforms to the Bureau of Indian Education [BIE] to improve the quality of education offered to address the performance gap of students educated at BIE-funded schools. The first phase of the reform effort was approved in 2015; however, the Bureau has not provided sufficient information to the Committee on the progress of implementing the first phase of reform nor has the Bureau provided sufficient information on the second phase of reform. The Committee is fully supportive of efforts to reform the Bureau in order to improve the quality of education and services provided to schools funded by the Bureau, particularly with respect to facilities maintenance and improvement needs. However, the Committee is very concerned that the Bureau continues to struggle to provide basic detail about proposed organizational and budgetary changes associated with the administration's reform efforts, including significant increases proposed in the request. As a result, funding increases proposed for the education program management activity have been withheld until the Bureau can better justify its request.

The Committee is concerned that the Bureau has been unable to provide sufficient detail regarding how the education program enhancements funds will be allocated in fiscal year 2017. The Committee is also concerned that the Bureau has failed to fully account for the proposed costs of its new Education Resource Centers, which are now partially funded. Within 30 days of enactment of this act, the Bureau is directed to provide to the Committee a report that includes: (1) a detailed allocation of the activities funded through the education program enhancement program for fiscal year 2015, 2016 and 2017; and (2) a line-item budget for the Bureau's Education Resource Centers for fiscal year 2016 and 2017, including all sources of funding they are expected to receive.

The Committee remains concerned the Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, which includes the Bureau of Indian Education [BIE], and the Bureau of Indian Affairs [BIA] has not addressed the findings or implemented 11 of 13 recommendations in the Government Accountability Office [GAO] reports (GAO-13-774, GAO-14-121, and GAO-16-313). These reports outline systemic

problems with management and the safety condition of BIE schools, such as lack of oversight over school spending and facilities, including construction, operation, maintenance, basic repair, and safety upgrades needed to improve the condition of schools that serve Indian Country. The Committee stands ready to work with the administration on the appropriate steps forward and directs the Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs to report back within 30 days of enactment of this act on the progress made towards implementing the GAO recommendations.

The Committee fully supports broadening access to Native language and culture programs, which have been linked to higher academic achievement for Native youth. The Committee is pleased to see that the proposed increase for the ISEP program is expected to enhance access to Native language and culture programs in BIE-funded schools and directs the Bureau to report within 60 days of enactment that details how the increases provided in this bill will be used to support these programs.

The Committee remains concerned about the distribution methodology of the Johnson O'Malley assistance grants and requests the Bureau report back to the Committee within 30 days of enactment of this act on the status of updating the JOM counts and the methodology used to determine the new counts.

The Committee strongly supports the work that tribal colleges and universities do to provide high quality, affordable higher education opportunities to Native students. The Committee's recommendation provides the requested \$2,000,000 increase above the enacted level for the operations of Haskell and SIPI universities and supports the requested levels for Tribal Technical Colleges and postsecondary programs. The Committees provided sufficient funding to forward fund the Tribal Technical Colleges in fiscal year 2016 and continues to believe there should be parity in the way that all tribal colleges receive assistance and are funded. The Committee encourages the Bureau to look for ways to forward fund Haskell and SIPI in future budget requests so that all tribal colleges are on the same funding schedule.

The Committee also recognizes that many tribal colleges have significant unfunded needs and directs the Bureau to work with tribal leaders and other stakeholders to develop a consistent methodology for determining tribal college operating needs to inform future budget requests. The Committee expects the methodology to address operating and infrastructure needs including classrooms and housing.

The administration's emphasis on education must be complemented by efforts to improve interagency coordination for the multiplicity of programs that affect the wellbeing of Native children. In addition to education, these include healthcare, social service, child welfare and juvenile justice programs. The Committee encourages the Bureau to work with other relevant Federal, State, local, and tribal organizations to begin the process of identifying ways to make programs more effective in serving Native Children.

The Committee understands the importance of bringing broadband to reservations and villages and includes an additional \$2,000,000 in this bill to partially fund this effort. The Committee directs the Agency to report back within 90 days of enactment of

this act on a scalable plan to increase bandwidth in schools, procure computers, and software.

Within the funding provided for the Early Childhood and Family Development Program, the Bureau shall not reduce funding for currently operating Family and Child Education programs. The Bureau, working with the Indian Health Service as appropriate, is also urged to consider integrating school-based preventative health services such as dental care into elementary schools in order to improve health outcomes of tribal students.

The Committee recognizes the importance Alaska Native boarding schools play in the education and development of Alaska Native youth. The Committee encourages and recommends the Bureau take steps to ensure these schools receive sufficient support that allows them to help students effectively transition to post-secondary and career options.

Public Safety and Justice.—The bill includes \$386,921,000 for public safety and justice programs, an increase of \$9,498,000 above the enacted level. The program increases support a level of \$203,191,000 for criminal investigations and police services, \$96,507,000 for detention and corrections, \$16,245,000 for tribal justice support, and \$30,753,000 for tribal courts.

The Committee does not accept the proposed \$8,206,000 decrease for tribal justice support and restores this amount to ensure \$10,000,000 remains available to address the needs of Public Law 83–280 States. The Committee remains concerned about the tribal courts needs as identified in the Indian Law and Order Commission's November 2013 report which notes Federal investment in tribal justice for Public Law 83–280 States has been more limited than elsewhere in Indian Country. The Committee expects the Bureau to work with Indian tribes and tribal organizations to consider options that promote, sustain, design, or pilot tribal court systems for tribal communities subject to full or partial State jurisdiction under Public Law 83–280. As part of this process, the Bureau should conduct meaningful consultations with tribes and tribal organizations and the Committee expects the Bureau to have extensive communication with tribes on how this funding may result in a strategic plan identifying the funding and technical infrastructure needs for these States.

The Committee is also aware the Bureau has not submitted reports required by the Tribal Law and Order Act, Public Law 111–211. Providing this information would help ensure tribal governments are receiving funding levels for public safety and justice programs based on need; therefore, the Committee strongly encourages the Bureau submit this annual report.

Community and Economic Development.—The bill provides \$41,844,000 for community and economic development programs, an increase of \$1,225,000 above the enacted level. Program increases included \$1,059,000 for the job placement and training program and \$151,000 for minerals and mining program. The Committee is concerned the Bureau has not maintained sufficient digital records for the oil and gas programs and understands the Bureau has developed a National Indian Oil and Gas Evaluation Management System [NIOGEMS] which has been distributed to some tribes and regional offices. The Committee instructs the Bureau to

report back within 120 days of enactment of this act on the cost to further expand this system to more reservations and offices. The Committee is also concerned about the status of the new Energy Service Center which is supposed to help facilitate energy development in Indian Country. The Committee directs the Bureau to report back in 120 days of enactment of this act on the progress of opening this office and outline any obstacles that may delay the opening of the Center.

Executive Direction and Administrative Services.—The bill includes \$230,484,000 for executive direction and administrative services, an increase of \$822,000 above the enacted level.

The Committee is concerned that the Bureau’s budget does not adequately fund operating costs for treaty fishing sites on the Columbia River that were authorized to be set aside by Congress by Public Law 79–14 and title IV of Public Law 100–581 to allow tribes access to fishing locations in lieu of traditional fishing grounds that were compromised by dams. The Bureau is directed to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and affected tribes and provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations within 60 days of enactment of this act that details the amounts needed to fully fund operating and law enforcement needs at such sites. The Bureau is also urged to incorporate any unfunded needs identified by the requested report in future budget requests.

Rights of Way.—The Committee is aware that the Bureau’s process for maintaining rights-of-way records has long been a problem and encourages the Bureau to develop a plan to update and digitize its inventory of records and to make the records publicly available in a commonly used mapping format. The Committee is concerned that some records have been lost and the Bureau often struggles to provide documentation to tribes and other stakeholders in a timely fashion. The lack of access to current records creates bureaucratic roadblocks that too often disrupt projects on Indian land and create unnecessary conflict. Updating and digitizing rights-of-way documents and making them available on a public database will ensure that the BIA is fulfilling its responsibility to tribes and will help ensure that projects are completed in a more timely and cost-effective manner.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS

Appropriations, 2016	\$277,000,000
Budget estimate, 2017	278,000,000
Chairman’s recommendation	278,000,000

Contract Support Costs.—The Committee has continued language from fiscal year 2016 establishing an indefinite appropriation for contract support costs estimated to be \$278,000,000, which is an increase of \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2016 level. The Committee believes fully funding these costs will ensure that tribes have the necessary resources they need to deliver program services efficiently and effectively. The Committee also modified the language to delete a provision that contradicted certain provisions of the Indian Self Determination Act.

CONSTRUCTION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2016	\$193,973,000
Budget estimate, 2017	197,017,000
Chairman's recommendation	192,017,000

The bill includes a total appropriation of \$192,017,000 for the Construction account. This amount is a decrease of \$1,956,000 below the enacted level. The decrease is attributed to the one time funding amount of \$5,000,000 provided in fiscal year 2016 as outlined in the joint explanatory statement accompanied by Public Law 114-113. The Committee understands many schools are in need of repair, improvement, and upgrades in order to bring schools into good condition. The Committee stands ready to work with the administration and tribes to develop a comprehensive strategy that provides safe, functional, and accessible facilities for schools. The Committee directs the Bureau to report back within 90 days of enactment of this act on the progress the Bureau has made towards implementing a long-term facilities plan similar to the Department of Defense [DOD] process in 2009 as encouraged in the joint explanatory statement accompanied by Public Law 114-113. Details of the recommendation are contained in the table that accompanies this statement.

INDIAN LAND AND WATER CLAIMS SETTLEMENTS AND MISCELLANEOUS PAYMENTS TO INDIANS

Appropriations, 2016	\$49,475,000
Budget estimate, 2017	55,155,000.
Chairman's recommendation	49,475,000

The bill provides a total appropriation of \$49,475,000 for the Indian Land and Water Claim Settlements account which is equal to the enacted level. The Committee appreciates the importance of settling the numerous land and water settlements and directs the Department to submit a spending plan to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act for how it plans to allocate the funds provided by the bill for the specific settlements detailed in the budget request.

INDIAN GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2016	\$7,748,000
Budget estimate, 2017	7,757,000
Chairman's recommendation	8,748,000

The bill includes a total appropriation of \$8,748,000 for the Indian Guaranteed Loan account. This amount is an increase of \$1,000,000 above the enacted level. The total loan principal provided is not to exceed \$119,907,851.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS

Appropriations, 2016	\$721,769,000
Budget estimate, 2017	278,376,000
Chairman's recommendation	265,000,000

The bill includes a total appropriation of \$265,000,000 for the Office of the Secretary account. This amount is \$456,769,000 below the enacted level. The large reduction is explained by moving PILT to a separate appropriation.

Leadership and Administration.—The recommendation includes an appropriation of \$121,885,000 for the leadership and administration activity, \$1,000,000 below the enacted level. Within leadership and administration programs, the Committee has provided the amounts requested for community development programs.

The Committee is deeply concerned with the direction of the Office of the Secretary and its role in implementing policies which have led to the erosion of programs that generate royalties to the Treasury. The unnecessary Federal coal leasing moratorium will have a highly significant impact upon revenues that would otherwise accrue to the Treasury. In addition, oil and gas leasing is at an all-time low, a trajectory that began long before the presence of low commodity prices. The Department has been delegated duties and responsibilities beyond those relating to its conservation mission. Congress has provided no direction to cease or fundamentally alter activities or authorities under the Mineral Leasing Act and it is the duty of the Secretary to follow the direction of Congress in faithfully administering these programs, unless otherwise directed by Congress.

The Committee is also concerned about raising royalty rates at a time of weak interest in Federal resources, a weak interest that results, at least is significant measure, due to policies hostile to development on Federal lands. The Committee directs the Secretary not to raise royalty rates until such time as the Secretary can formally report to the Committee and justify, using economic data, how the raising of royalty rates will lead to greater interest in Federal resources that belong to the taxpayer and how higher rates will ultimately result in a better return on the taxpayer's resources.

As noted above, the Committee continues to be concerned about Secretarial Order 3338 which placed a moratorium on coal leasing until the completion of a new Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. The Committee believes the Secretarial order will have significant consequences for States that share in mineral revenues through the Mineral Leasing Act. These State budgets often rely upon a steady stream of revenues from Federal minerals within the individual State borders. The Committee believes the impact of this decision will have lasting negative consequences for the States and the U.S. Treasury.

Management Services.—The bill provides an appropriation of \$21,365,000 for the management services activity, equal to the enacted level.

Natural Resources Revenue.—The bill includes an appropriation of \$121,750,000 for the natural resources revenue activity, \$3,769,000 below the enacted level.

The Committee is concerned with the Office of Natural Resources Revenue's [ONRR] coal valuation rule. The Committee is concerned on a number of fronts. It appears this rule is meant to solve problems of royalty evasion or underpayment that both the Government Accountability Office and the Department's Office of Inspector General found are not industry wide. In the Committee's opinion, ONRR would be better served enforcing actions on violators instead of promulgating new regulations that potentially harm an entire industry. The Committee is also concerned about ONRR's interest under the rule to "exercise considerable discretion". The Committee notes that an excessive amount of agency discretion, including the adjustment of royalty rates could lead to abuse. The Committee directs ONRR to brief the Committee on the rule and how it will use its discretion within 90 days of enactment.

Lease Terminations.—The Office of Natural Resources Revenue is directed to work with the Bureau of Land Management on the direction regarding Lease Terminations found in the report language relating to the Bureau of Land Management.

The Committee understands that if the proposed funding levels are maintained for at least one additional year the Office of Navajo and Hopi Relocation [OHNIR] may close in 2018. The Committee directs the Secretary, in consultation with the Office of Navajo and Hopi Relocation [OHNIR], to report back to the Committee within 90 days detailing the functions of the OHNIR that could be transferred to the Department of Interior. It is the Committee's expectation this report include any costs associated with a potential transfer and any costs to maintain ongoing activities of the OHNIR. This report should also include a legal analysis examining whether any potential office closure would require enacting legislation to transfer or maintain any identified functions to another agency or organization.

INSULAR AFFAIRS

The Office of Insular Affairs [OIA] was established on August 4, 1995, through Secretarial Order No. 3191, which also abolished the former Office of Territorial and International Affairs. OIA has administrative responsibility for coordinating Federal policy in the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands [CNMI], and oversight of Federal programs and funds in the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia [FSM], the Republic of the Marshall Islands [RMI], and the Republic of Palau.

Following the expiration of the first Compact of Free Association in 2003, a new Compact of Free Association was negotiated between the United States and the states of FSM and RMI. Under the Compact, the status of free association recognizes each Freely Associated State as a sovereign state with the capacity to conduct foreign affairs consistent with the terms of the Compact. The Compact places full responsibility for defense with the United States. The Compact also provides grant funds and Federal program assistance, principally through the Department of the Interior.

ASSISTANCE TO TERRITORIES

Appropriations, 2016	\$86,976,000
Budget estimate, 2017	99,399,000
Chairman's recommendation	93,870,000

The bill includes \$93,870,000 for assistance to territories, \$6,894,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Within these amounts, the bill includes a total of \$3,000,000 to continue discretionary grants to mitigate the impact of Compact-related migration on affected jurisdictions, as authorized by section 104(e) of Public Law 108-188. This amount is equal to the fiscal year 2016 level. As in previous years, the Department shall allocate these grants in conjunction with other currently authorized mandatory grants in order to help offset educational costs incurred by these jurisdictions. The recommendation also includes a total of \$3,000,000 for brown tree snake removal activities.

The bill recognizes that the Office of Insular Affairs' most impactful spending is through projects to improve education, drinking water, sanitation, health, safety, transportation, reliability of power, improving availability of technology, including through fiber optics, and economic opportunity and sustainability. The agreement directs these funds to be awarded accordingly and does not provide funding for new initiatives proposed in the budget request. Additionally, the Office of Insular Affairs is directed to continue to award non-competitive technical assistance funds to support investments in civic education programs for Insular Area students.

The Office is directed to coordinate with the Forest Service and other applicable entities to prepare a report on activities to implement the Regional Biosecurity Plan for Micronesia and Hawaii within 180 days of enactment. The report shall include an update of Department of the Interior and Forest Service accomplishments in implementation of the RBP in the previous fiscal year. The report shall also include the agencies' planned activities for further implementation of the RBP.

American Samoa Operations Grants/American Samoa Construction.—The bill provides \$22,752,000 for grants to American Samoa, equal to the enacted level.

CNMI/Covenant Grants.—The recommendation includes \$27,720,000 for covenant grants, equal to the enacted level.

COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION

Appropriations, 2016	\$16,465,000
Budget estimate, 2017	3,318,000
Chairman's recommendation	16,465,000

The bill includes \$16,465,000 for Compact of Free Association programs, equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Within the funds provided, the Committee has provided \$500,000 for Enewetak support, in agreement with the request.

Language has been included in the title I general provisions section to extend the eligibility for the Republic of Palau to receive Federal aid until a new Compact of Free Association is enacted by Congress.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2016	\$65,800,000
Budget estimate, 2017	69,448,000
Chairman's recommendation	65,758,000

The bill provides a total appropriation of \$65,758,000 for the Office of the Solicitor, \$42,000 below the enacted level.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2016	\$50,047,000
Budget estimate, 2017	55,911,000
Chairman's recommendation	50,047,000

The bill provides a total appropriation of \$50,047,000 for the Office of Inspector General, equal to the enacted level.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS

The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians holds responsibility for approximately 56 million acres of land, with more than 10 million acres belonging to individual Indians and 46 million acres held in trust for Indian tribes.

FEDERAL TRUST PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2016	\$139,029,000
Budget estimate, 2017	140,379,000
Chairman's recommendation	139,029,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$139,029,000 for the "Federal Trust Programs" account, equal to the fiscal year 2016 level. The recommendation includes a total appropriation of \$19,632,000 for historical accounting activities.

DEPARTMENT-WIDE PROGRAMS

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The Department's Wildland Fire Management account funds fire prevention, readiness, suppression, and rehabilitation activities performed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service.

Appropriations, 2016 ¹	\$993,745,000
Budget estimate, 2017 ²	1,114,624,000
Chairman's recommendation	942,671,000

¹ Includes \$177,000,000 appropriated under the FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Account.

² Includes \$290,000,000 for suppression designated as disaster pursuant to pending congressional action.

The bill provides a total appropriation of \$942,671,000 for wildland fire management, a decrease of \$171,953,000 below the enacted level. The decrease is a reflection of a one-time increase of \$85,000,000 in fiscal year 2016. This bill includes a proposal for a permanent fix to end fire borrowing and make wildfire budgeting sustainable. Funding levels for each subactivity can be found in the table at the end of this statement and in the following budget activity narrative.

Fire Operations.—The bill provides \$727,784,000 for wildfire preparedness and suppression, an increase of \$112,426,000 above the enacted level. This amount includes \$332,784,000 for preparedness and \$395,000,000 for fire suppression operations.

Other Operations.—The bill provides \$214,887,000 for other wildland fire management operations, an increase of \$13,500,000 above the enacted level. This includes \$180,000,000 for hazardous fuels reduction, \$20,470,000 for burned area rehabilitation, \$8,427,000 for fire facilities, and \$5,990,000 for joint fire science. Within the amount provided for hazardous fuels reduction, \$20,000,000 is available for resilient landscape activities.

The Committee notes the importance of proactive actions that protect communities and habitat from catastrophic wildfire. For example, a fire break was created by a partnership between the State of Alaska, Fish and Wildlife Service, and private landowners in the Kenai Peninsula of Alaska as a preventative measure prior to the start of the Funny River Fire. This fire break prevented a destructive fire from needlessly destroying homes and threatening lives. Within the additional funds provided for hazardous fuels management, the Department should increase efforts to partner with other Federal and non-Federal entities to proactively prevent and fight wildfire.

CENTRAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FUND

Appropriations, 2016	\$10,010,000
Budget estimate, 2017	13,513,000
Chairman's recommendation	10,010,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$10,010,000 for the Central Hazardous Materials Fund, equal to the enacted level.

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FUND

Appropriations, 2016	\$7,767,000
Budget estimate, 2017	9,229,000
Chairman's recommendation	7,767,000

The bill provides a total appropriation of \$7,767,000 for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Fund, an amount equal to the enacted level. The detailed allocation of funding by activity is included in the table at the end of this explanatory report.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

Appropriations, 2016	\$67,100,000
Budget estimate, 2017	111,524,000
Chairman's recommendation	67,100,000

The bill provides a total appropriation of \$67,100,000 for the Working Capital Fund. This amount is equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

Appropriations, 2016	\$452,000,000
Budget estimate, 2017	480,000,000
Chairman's recommendation	480,000,000

The bill provides a total appropriation of \$480,000,000 for Payments in Lieu of Taxes [PILT]. This amount is \$28,000,000 above the enacted level and sufficient to fully fund estimated payments for the fiscal year. A separate appropriation has been established to fund PILT outside of the Office of the Secretary.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Title I of the bill includes "General Provisions, Department of the Interior", which are various legislative provisions affecting the Department. Several of these provisions have been carried in previous years and others are newly proposed this year. The provisions are:

SEC. 101. Provides secretarial authority for the intra-bureau transfer of program funds for expenditures in cases of emergency when all other emergency funds are exhausted.

SEC. 102. Provides for the department-wide expenditure or transfer of funds by the Secretary in the event of actual or potential emergencies including forest fires, range fires, earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, storms, oil spills, grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks, and surface mine reclamation emergencies.

SEC. 103. Provides for use of appropriated funds by the Secretary for contracts, rental cars and aircraft, certain library memberships, and certain telephone expenses.

SEC. 104. Provides for the transfer of unobligated balances from the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians for expenditure or transfer for Indian trust management activities.

SEC. 105. Permits the redistribution of tribal priority allocation and tribal base funds to alleviate funding inequities.

SEC. 106. Authorizes the acquisition of lands for the purpose of operating and maintaining facilities that support visitors to Ellis, Governors, and Liberty Islands.

SEC. 107. Authorizes Outer Continental Shelf inspection fees to be collected by the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 108. Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to continue the reorganization of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement.

SEC. 109. Provides the Secretary of the Interior with authority to enter into multi-year cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations for long-term care of wild horses and burros.

SEC. 110. Provides for the humane transfer of excess wild horses.

SEC. 111. Prohibits funds from being used to list the lesser prairie-chicken as a threatened or endangered species.

SEC. 112. Addresses the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's responsibilities for mass marking of salmonid stocks.

SEC. 113. Continues prohibition on Secretarial Order No. 3310.

SEC. 114. Allows the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education to more efficiently and effectively perform reimbursable work.

SEC. 115. Addresses the issuance of rules for sage-grouse.

SEC. 116. Extends authorization for certain payments to the Republic of Palau for fiscal year 2017.

SEC. 117. Prohibits funds from being used to implement a Fish and Wildlife Service regulation.

SEC. 118. Extends a provision limiting funding for any proposal to approve specified rights-of-way or similar authorizations on the

Mojave National Preserve or lands managed by the Needles Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

SEC. 119. Requires reissuance of final rules regarding the gray wolf.

SEC. 120. Provides authority for the Department of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations designated under the Older Americans Act.

SEC. 121. Funding prohibition for the Office of Surface Mining.

SEC. 122. Authorizes land exchange between the State of Alaska and the Department of the Interior for the purpose of construction of a one-lane, life-saving road from King Cove to Cold Bay, Alaska.

SEC. 123. Boundary Adjustment, Natchez National Historical Park.

SEC. 124. Renames "Olympic Wilderness" in the Olympic National Park after Daniel J. Evans. Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Olympic Wilderness shall be deemed to be a reference to the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

SEC. 125. Special resource study to preserve Civil Rights sites.

TITLE II
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] was created through Executive Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, designed to consolidate certain Federal Government environmental activities into a single agency. The plan was submitted by the President to the Congress on July 8, 1970, and the EPA was established as an independent agency in the executive branch on December 2, 1970, by consolidating 15 components from 5 departments and independent agencies.

A description of EPA's pollution control programs by media follows:

Air.—The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 authorize a national program of air pollution research, regulation, prevention, and enforcement activities.

Water Quality.—The Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, provides the framework for protection of the Nation's surface waters. The law recognizes that it is the primary responsibility of the States to prevent, reduce, and eliminate water pollution. The States determine the desired uses for their waters, set standards, identify current uses and, where uses are being impaired or threatened, develop plans for the protection or restoration of the designated use. They implement the plans through control programs such as permitting and enforcement, construction of municipal waste water treatment works, and nonpoint source control practices. The act also regulates discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands.

Drinking Water.—The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended in 1996, charges EPA with the responsibility of implementing a program to assure that the Nation's public drinking water supplies are free of contamination that may pose a human health risk, and to protect and prevent the endangerment of ground water resources which serve as drinking water supplies.

Hazardous Waste.—The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 [RCRA] mandated EPA to develop a regulatory program to protect human health and the environment from improper hazardous waste disposal practices. The RCRA Program manages hazardous wastes from generation through disposal.

EPA's responsibilities and authorities to manage hazardous waste were greatly expanded under the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984. Not only did the regulated universe of wastes and facilities dealing with hazardous waste increase significantly, but past mismanagement practices, in particular prior releases at inactive hazardous and solid waste management units, were to be identified and corrective action taken. The 1984 amendments also authorized a regulatory and implementation program directed to owners and operators of underground storage tanks.

The Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest Establishment Act of 2012 amended subtitle C of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to establish an electronic means of tracking wastes subject to RCRA regu-

lation. Appropriations to the Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest Fund support development, operation, maintenance, and upgrading of the hazardous waste electronic manifest system.

Pesticides.—The objective of the pesticide program is to protect the public health and the environment from unreasonable risks while permitting the use of necessary pest control approaches. This objective is pursued by EPA under the Food Quality Protection Act, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and the Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2012 through three principal means: (1) review of existing and new pesticide products; (2) enforcement of pesticide use rules; and (3) research and development to reinforce the ability to evaluate the risks and benefits of pesticides.

Radiation.—The radiation program's major emphasis is to minimize the exposure of persons to ionizing radiation, whether from naturally occurring sources, from medical or industrial applications, nuclear power sources, or weapons development.

Toxic Substances.—The Toxic Substances Control Act establishes a program to stimulate the development of adequate data on the effects of chemical substances on health and the environment, and institute control action for those chemicals which present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment. The act's coverage affects more than 60,000 chemicals currently in commerce, and all new chemicals.

Multimedia.—Multimedia activities are designed to support programs where the problems, tools, and results are cross media and must be integrated to effect results. This integrated program encompasses the EPA's research, enforcement, and abatement activities.

Superfund.—The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 established a national program to protect public health and the environment from the threats posed by inactive hazardous waste sites and uncontrolled spills of hazardous substances. The original statute was amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986. Under these authorities, EPA manages a hazardous waste site clean-up program including emergency response and long-term remediation.

Brownfields.—The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 as amended by the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002 establishes a national program to assess, cleanup, and provide support to States, tribes, local communities, and other stakeholders to work together to develop Brownfields.

Leaking Underground Storage Tanks.—The Leaking Underground Storage Tank [LUST] Program addresses petroleum releases from federally regulated underground storage tanks. It was created in 1986 when Congress amended subtitle I of the Solid Waste Disposal Act. EPA implements the LUST response program primarily through cooperative agreements with the States. In 2005, the Energy Policy Act expanded eligible uses of the Trust Fund to include certain leak prevention activities.

Inland Oil Spill.—The Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended by section 4202 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, estab-

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lished a national program to help prepare for, and respond to, any oil spill affecting the inland waters of the United States.

June 13, 2016 (11:21 a.m.)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Appropriations, 2016	\$734,648,000
Budget estimate, 2017	754,184,000
Chairman's recommendation	695,910,000

The bill provides \$695,910,000 for science and technology activities with an additional \$15,496,000 to be paid from Hazardous Substance Superfund to fund ongoing research activities authorized by the Comprehensive Environmental, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended. This amount is \$38,738,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. A detailed allocation of funding by program is included in the table that accompanies this report. Additional changes to the request are detailed below

Clean Air and Climate.—\$104,886,000 is provided for clean air and climate activities. This amount is \$11,655,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Indoor Air and Radiation.—\$5,997,000 is provided for indoor air and radiation activities. This amount is equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The proposed elimination of radon activities has been rejected.

Homeland Security.—\$36,765,000 is provided for homeland security activities. This amount is a decrease of \$358,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Pesticides Licensing.—\$5,289,000 is provided for pesticide program activities. This amount is a decrease of \$738,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Research: National Priorities.—The bill provides \$5,000,000, which shall be used for extramural research grants, independent of the Science to Achieve Results [STAR] grant program, to fund high-priority water quality and availability research by not-for-profit organizations who often partner with the Agency. Funds shall be awarded competitively with priority given to partners proposing research of national scope and who provide a 25-percent match. The Agency is directed to allocate funds to grantees within 180 days of enactment of this act.

Research: Air, Climate, and Energy.—\$82,715,000 is provided for the air, climate, and energy research program. This amount is a decrease of \$9,191,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The funding requested to engage in additional research related to hydraulic fracturing is not provided.

Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources.—\$106,275,000 is provided for safe and sustainable water resources research. This amount is \$1,177,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The Committee notes that the Agency has indicated that it will complete its assessment related to hydraulic fracturing in 2016. The assessment was first requested in 2010 and it is the Committee's view that the Agency has spent substantial time and resources on this topic. As such, no additional funding for hydraulic fracturing research is provided.

Research: Sustainable Communities.—\$134,327,000 has been provided for research activities for sustainable communities. This amount is \$5,648,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Research: Chemical Safety and Sustainability.—\$126,058,000 is provided for the chemical safety and sustainability program. This

amount is a reduction of \$872,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Within the funds provided, \$1,000,000 shall be used to contract with the National Academy of Sciences [NAS] to conduct the peer review of the revised draft IRIS assessment of formaldehyde. The review shall ensure that all recommendations and concerns raised in the April 2011 report of the NAS are fully addressed in the revised draft assessment.

Additional Guidance.—The Committee has provided the following additional guidance with respect to funding provided under this account.

Computational Toxicology.—The Committee supports the Agency's computational toxicology research activities to advance the next generation of risk assessment methods to enable integration of tiered toxicity evaluation strategies, advanced high throughput molecular biological assays and computational methods with exposure information to support risk-based decisions for privatization and screening. The Committee directs the Agency's National Center for Computational Toxicology [NCCT] to develop data use guidance for ToxCast and other computational data which describes appropriate methods for data analyses, determining true positives from artifacts and non-specific responses, and for establishing scientific confidence, including limitations, in the use of results for specific applications, including limitations, in the use of results for specific applications, including those by EPA programs and offices. This guidance shall be subjected to public review and comment and independent scientific peer review prior to finalization.

The Committee directs NCCT to lead in developing applications of new computational approaches in risk assessment. These programs will be critical to informing implementation of an enhanced Toxic Substances Control Act [TSCA] chemical assessment program. Both NCCT and the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics [OPPT] shall assign one FTE to collaborate on evaluation and demonstration of confidence in such methods for specific applications by OPPT, in particular the TSCA work plan program. An interim progress report shall be submitted no later than February 2, 2017.

Enhanced Aquifer Use.—The Committee notes ground water levels are continuing to decline across the Nation from decades of aquifer use. Augmenting drinking water supplies through artificial or enhanced recharge into aquifers represents a cost-effective way of increasing the availability of water and to address seasonal scarcity. Enhanced Aquifer Recharge [EAR] also represents a key practice for the management and restoration of ecosystems. EAR may involve the use or injection of treated drinking water, treated wastewater or collected storm water. However the most promising systems have focused on the use of surface water diversion during high flow periods. The Committee further notes that in much of the West, the availability of new allocations of surface waters is severely limited or non-existent. Ground water supplies in many areas are stressed by over use and decreasing natural recharge. While conservation and recovery are key water resource management tools, EAR represents a significant approach to creating new water supplies. The conversion of storm-flow, during times of ex-

cess supply, to base-flow and ground water based drinking water supplies, for times of high demand, provides a new resource management approach for the Nation's water needs. The Committee urges the Agency to coordinate with the United States Geological Survey to support research efforts designed to establish a best practices approach for EAR.

Integrated Risk Information System.—The Committee is aware of efforts by the Agency to implement the 2011 National Academy of Science's [NAS] Chapter 7 and 2014 NAS report recommendations for the Integrated Risk Information System [IRIS] but remains concerned that the recommendations have not been fully implemented. In published appendices that accompany final IRIS assessments, EPA has detailed some of the Agency's deficiencies in meeting the NAS high-priority reforms. The Committee directs the Agency to convene an interagency working group to be Co-Chaired with the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs and to include relevant executive branch stakeholders to review compliance with the NAS recommendations in IRIS assessments issued since the 2014 NAS report. The working group shall focus specifically on transition from the use of single point estimates of hazard and exposure to presenting more complete information on the distribution of estimated hazards, exposures, and/or risks, including central tendency values; on processes for evaluating study quality, relevance, and risk of bias; the use of a transparent and reproducible weight-of-evidence process for applying scientific findings; the selection of an adverse outcome; and the use of default linear low-dose extrapolation and other default modeling approaches to hazard determinations. The Committee directs the Agency to issue a report to the Committees of Appropriations of the House and Senate on the findings of the working group and the implementation plans of its findings within 180 days of enactment of this act. The working group report shall also include a timetable for EPA's full implementation of the NAS recommendations for all IRIS assessments issued since the 2014 NAS report.

Nanomaterials Research.—The Committee notes the increased capabilities that the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] has developed to study environment, health, and safety of nanomaterials [nanoEHS] within FDA's Jefferson Laboratory Campus, including the National Center for Toxicological Research, and its consolidated headquarters at White Oak, Maryland. The FDA can and should be more involved in nanoEHS research with other agencies, particularly in activities involving human health. Out of the amounts appropriated, the Administrator shall seek to involve the FDA in nanoEHS research to the maximum extent possible, including participation in EPA funded research.

Public Access to Research.—In February 2013, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President issued guidelines on increasing public access to the results of federally funded scientific research. Given the importance of research funded by EPA, the Agency is encouraged to comply expeditiously.

Risk Assessment Methods.—For all draft or final EPA risk assessments that will be issued in fiscal year 2017, the Agency is directed to provide clear criteria for judging the quality of all key studies

and to provide a description of how all evidence will be integrated, based on the strengths and weaknesses.

Response to Public Comments.—The Administrator shall ensure that each Science Advisory Board [SAB] review panel makes certain that all reports to EPA include a written summary responding to substantive public comments received by the panel during the SAB review process.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT

Appropriations, 2016	\$2,613,679,000
Budget estimate, 2017	2,852,893,000
Chairman's recommendation	2,538,545,000

The bill provides \$2,538,545,000 for environmental programs and management activities. This amount is a decrease of \$75,134,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. A detailed allocation of funding by program is included in the table that accompanies this report. Additional changes to the request are detailed below.

Brownfields.—\$25,593,000 has been provided for the Brownfields program. This amount is equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Clean Air and Climate.—\$245,797,000 has been provided for clean air and climate programs. This amount is a decrease of \$27,311,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The Committee notes that the Clean Power Plan has been stayed by the United States Supreme Court.

Enforcement.—The bill provides \$216,573,000 for enforcement, \$24,064,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Environmental Protection: National Priorities.—The bill provides \$15,000,000 for a competitive grant program to provide technical assistance for improved water quality or safe drinking water to rural and urban communities or individual private well owners. The Agency is directed to provide \$13,500,000 for grants to qualified not-for-profit organizations, including organizations authorized by section 1442(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-1(e)(8)), for the sole purpose of providing on-site training technical assistance for water systems in rural or urban communities. The Agency is also directed to provide \$1,500,000 for grants to qualified not-for-profit organizations for technical assistance for individual private well owners. The Agency shall require each grantee to provide a minimum 10 percent match, including in-kind contributions. The Agency is directed to allocate funds to grantees within 180 days of enactment.

Geographic Programs.—The bill provides \$435,410,000 for Geographic Programs, an increase of \$7,673,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Funding levels for the specific geographic programs are as follows:

- \$300,000,000 for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.
- \$73,000,000 for the Chesapeake Bay program.
- \$4,819,000 for the San Francisco Bay program.
- \$28,000,000 for the Puget Sound program.
- \$1,399,000 for the South Florida program.
- \$5,940,000 for the Long Island Sound program.
- \$11,000,000 for the Gulf of Mexico program.
- \$4,399,000 for the Lake Champlain program.
- \$5,000,000 for the Southern New England Estuaries program.
- \$948,000 for the Lake Pontchartrain program.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.—A long-term goal of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative [GLRI] articulated in the GLRI Plan calls for land use, recreation and economic activities that are managed to ensure that nearshore aquatic, wetland and upland habitats will sustain the health and function of natural commu-

nities. The Committee is aware that Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the region are working on site-specific land-use and economic development projects with local communities bordering the Great Lakes that can help advance this effort. The Agency is encouraged to work with these groups to advance this long-term goal as they allocate funding under the GLRI.

Additionally, the Committee urges the Environmental Protection Agency and Great Lakes Interagency Taskforce to provide continued attention and resources towards building the capacity of on-the-ground partners, including States and tribes, as ongoing partners in the stewardship of the Great Lakes. The Committee recognizes the importance of tribal self-governance and encourages the EPA to work with tribal governments and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to develop a proposal for the creation of a distinct GLRI tribal program through which GLRI funds would be provided to allow tribes the flexibility to develop the programs that are of the highest priorities to their communities, and which fulfill the spirit of self-determination, meet treaty obligations, and carry out Federal trust responsibilities.

Chesapeake Bay.—The Committee recommends \$73,000,000 for the Chesapeake Bay program. From within the amount provided, \$6,000,000 is for nutrient and sediment removal grants and \$6,000,000 is for small watershed grants to control polluted runoff from urban, suburban and agricultural lands.

Indoor Air and Radiation.—\$2,272,000 has been provided for indoor air and radiation activities, equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The proposed elimination of the radon program has been rejected.

Information Exchange.—\$118,305,000 has been provided for information exchange programs. This amount is a decrease of \$8,234,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Within that amount, the environmental education program is funded at \$4,351,000. Additional funding is as follows: Executive Management and Operations is funded at \$42,019,000, including \$4,000,000 for the Office of Public Affairs.

Legal/Science/Regulatory/Economic Review.—The recommendation provides \$100,272,000, a reduction of \$11,142,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Funding for the Civil Rights/Title VI compliance program is not less than the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Operations and Administration.—\$482,751,000 is provided for operations and administration.

Pesticides Licensing.—\$107,896,000 is provided for pesticides licensing activities, an increase of \$5,534,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.—The recommendation provides \$104,887,000, equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Toxics Risk Review and Prevention.—\$89,298,000 is provided for toxics risk review and prevention activities, equal to the fiscal year 2016 level for all program projects with the exception of the endocrine disruptor program project, which is reduced by \$3,224,000 as requested in the budget. Within funding provided to the Agency, EPA is required to maintain funding for the Chemical Risk Review

and Reduction program project at not less than the fiscal year 2014 level.

Water: Ecosystems.—\$48,256,000 has been provided for water ecosystem programs, an increase of \$468,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Within the amount provided, \$27,191,000 has been provided for National Estuary Program grants as authorized by section 320 of the Clean Water Act. This amount is an increase of \$468,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level and is sufficient to provide each of the 28 national estuaries in the program with a grant of at least \$600,000.

Water: Human Health Protection.—\$98,507,000 has been provided for water-related human health protection activities equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The proposed elimination of the beach program has been rejected and funding is restored to the fiscal year 2016 level.

Water Quality Protection.—\$191,191,000 has been provided for water quality protection. This is \$19,226,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Within that amount, \$3,000,000 has been provided for a pilot project to assist communities successfully implement plans under EPA's Integrated Planning Initiative. The Committee notes that the Agency's rule to redefine navigable waters has been stayed by the Courts.

Additional Guidance.—The Committee has provided the following additional guidance with respect to funding provided under this account.

Anti-Deficiency Act Violations.—On December 14, 2015, the Government Accountability Office [GAO] concluded that the Agency violated existing prohibitions against publicity or propaganda and grassroots lobbying contained in prior appropriations acts in association with its advocacy related to the Waters of the United States Rulemaking. Because the Agency expended funds in violation of these prohibitions, the GAO concluded that the Agency violated the Antideficiency Act. In addition to the reporting requirements that are required as a result of the Antideficiency Act violation, the Agency is directed to coordinate with the Office of Management and Budget to ensure that GAO's findings are disseminated to communications office throughout the Government.

Carbon Emissions From Biomass.—The Committee notes that "forest management activities" referred to in section 414 includes activities to increase yield after stand establishment, and activities to maintain or enhance forest health including fuel, pest infestation, and disease treatments. Forest management activities maintain or increase forest carbon stocks over time.

Combined Sewer Overflow.—The Committee supports the Agency's mission to improve water quality and protect the Great Lakes, the drinking water source for millions of Americans. This Committee notes that many communities around the entire Great Lakes Basin have made great strides to update wastewater infrastructures since the Agency's last report to Congress on Combined Sewer Overflows in the Lake Michigan Basin, as directed by Congress in H.R. Rep. No. 108-674 at 101 (September 9, 2004). Despite the progress made, the Committee remains concerned that billions of gallons of untreated water and contaminants from a variety of

sources, including combined sewage overflows from wastewater treatment facilities, are dumped into the Great Lakes every year.

The Committee directs the EPA to report to Congress, within 60 days, the plan and timeline for the implementation of immediate public notice requirements for treatment works dumping sewage into the Great Lakes as required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016. Specifically, the requirements should allow for immediate notice via a widely accessed medium such as local newspaper or television programming for each community affected by a discharge as well as enable a region wide and transparent database allowing for an accurate assessment of the cause of sewer overflows, where these overflows are occurring, the total annual volume, as well as, the average historic volume at the locations where these overflows occur. The Agency should also outline what steps are being taken to work with States and local stakeholders to quickly notify the public about the volume and state of the treatment of the discharge, the date and time of the discharge, expected duration, and the location of the discharge to the maximum level of specificity practicable.

Coal Combustion Residuals.—The Committee believes that coal combustion residuals [CCRs] are an important resource for the Nation's economy. In 2014, over 60 million tons of CCRs were used in road and bridge construction, saving taxpayers billions. CCRs must continue to be beneficially used. At the same time, they must also be responsibly stored under a Federal regulatory framework that provides effective oversight at the State level. The Committee is concerned the final rule on CCRs issued on April 17, 2015 relies solely on citizen-suits for enforcement instead of providing the regulatory guidance and oversight necessary to ensure the proper management of CCRs. Within 120 days of the date of enactment, the Committee directs the Administrator to provide a report on the effectiveness of self-implementing Federal CCR regulations enforced solely through citizen suits versus the effectiveness of implementation of a Federal CCR rule through a State-implemented permit program authorized by EPA.

Corn Rootworm.—The United State Department of Agriculture estimates that damage caused by the corn rootworm costs farmers \$1 billion annually in yield losses and treatment expenses. The Committee understands that the Agency has been reviewing a new mode of action to control corn rootworm for a number of years, and recently completed a preliminary step. As growers need additional modes of action to most effectively deal with this pest, the Committee notes its strong interest in a timely completion of the registration for this new mode of action.

Ecolabels for Federal Procurement.—Multiple forest certification programs have been recognized throughout the Federal Government as supporting the use of sustainable products in building construction and other uses. The Committee urges EPA to add additional forest certification standards that have been recognized by other Federal programs, including USDA's BioPreferred Program, to its Interim Recommendations under Executive Order 13693. The Committee urges EPA to report back on progress on implementation of the Committee's recommendation within 60 days of enactment.

Glyphosate Reregistration.—The Committee is aware that the Agency is currently in the process of reviewing the registration for glyphosate, which is a very important crop protection tool for America's farmers. Furthermore, glyphosate has been used for decades and, when properly applied, has been found to present a low risk to humans and wildlife by regulatory bodies around the world, including Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, and by the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues. The Committee urges the Agency to complete its reregistration of glyphosate expeditiously.

Grant Guidelines.—The Committee is extremely concerned about reports that an Agency grant was used to support an anti-agriculture advocacy campaign. The campaign, funded in part by Federal funding, included billboards and a Web site that explicitly accused the agriculture industry as being a primary polluter of local waterways and urged increased regulation of agriculture. The use of Federal funds for such advocacy is inappropriate and may be in violation of Federal lobbying prohibitions. In response to this, the Agency must ensure there is sufficient oversight and training in place to avoid similar misuse of grant funds in the future. To achieve this goal, within 90 days of enactment, the Agency is directed to update its grant policies, training, and guidelines to ensure Federal funds are not used in this manner, including an update of the mechanism by which the Agency tracks the use of its grants, and to provide the Committee with a copy of its updated grant policies, training, and guidelines.

Fuel Standards.—The Committee supports efforts to reduce pollution from marine vessels that may be harmful to human health and coastal environments. While that is the case, the Committee is concerned the mandate for fuel with a sulfur content of 0.1% in the North American Emission Control Area is having a disproportionately negative impact on vessels which have engines that generate less than 32,000 horsepower. This impact may cause some shippers to shift from marine based transport to less efficient, higher emitting modes. In an effort to avoid negative environmental consequences and modal shifting, the Committee directs the Agency to consider exempting vessels with engines that generate less than 32,000 horsepower and operate more than 50 miles from the coastline. Within 180 days of enactment of this act, the Agency should provide the Committee with a report detailing their decision.

Interagency Consultations.—Several provisions of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act [FIFRA] require the Agency and the United States Department of Agriculture [USDA] to coordinate activities related the products regulated under the law. USDA has a robust history of collecting and analyzing data related to agricultural economics and the environmental impacts of farming tools and practices, including crop protection and pest management. However, there have been recent instances in which the USDA has not been consulted or informed of key regulatory actions and decisions by the EPA as prescribed by FIFRA. In two of these cases USDA has publicly commented on their exclusion from the process. Consequently, the Committee directs the Administrator of the EPA to consult with the Secretary of the Department of Agri-

culture on economic analyses, rules and other regulatory actions that impact products currently approved under FIFRA.

Lead Test Kit.—In 2008, EPA adopted the Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting rule which included criteria by which the Agency could certify a test kit that contractors could use onsite to comply with the rule. The Committee is concerned that 8 years later, no kit has been developed that meets these standards. The Committee is concerned that this action is not adequate and is concerned that progress is not being made to identify a solution to this issue. If no solution is reached by the end of the fiscal year, EPA should reopen the rule and determine whether it is possible to include an opt-out provision until a test kit is certified that can comply with the rule.

Methane.—The Committee is concerned about the Agency's efforts to regulate methane from existing petroleum and gas sources. Over the past decade, the United States added more than 86,000 new petroleum and natural wells, during which methane emissions from petroleum and natural gas systems fell by 11 percent. Based on the data suggesting that methane emissions are declining, the Committee believes that States are adequately regulating methane emissions.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards.—The Committee remains concerned about potentially overlapping implementation schedules related to the 2008 and 2015 standards for ground-level ozone. Because the Agency did not publish implementing regulations for the 2008 standard of 75 parts per billion [ppb] until February 2015 and then revised the standard to 70 ppb in October 2015, States now face the prospect of implementing two national ambient air quality standards for ozone simultaneously. Based on Agency data, the Committee expects a number of counties to be in non-attainment with both the 2008 standard and the 2015 standard. Additionally, Agency data suggests that a number of marginal non-attainment counties will meet the 2015 standard by 2025 due to other air regulations. In an effort to find the most sensible path to reduce ground level ozone, some flexibility must be granted to States that face the burden of implementing these potentially overlapping standards. Within 90 days of the date of enactment of this act, the Agency is directed to provide the Committee with a report examining the potential for administrative options to enable States to enter into cooperative agreements with the Agency that provide regulatory relief and meaningfully clean up the air.

Pesticide Registration Improvement Act.—The Committee appreciates the work of the Agency and its partners to implement a sensible registration service fee system for applications for pesticide registration. The Committee urges the Agency to ensure that its review of applications complies with the predictable evaluation process and specific decision review periods contemplated in the legislation to the maximum extent possible.

Additionally, the Committee is aware that there are approximately \$10,300,000 in maintenance fees paid by registrants in prior years under 7 U.S.C. 136a-1 that are currently unavailable for obligation. The Committees note that the underlying authorization provides the Agency with the authority to make those fees available when appropriated dollars exceed the statutory maximum

collection of \$27,800,000. The Committee urges the Agency to dedicate appropriated resources, to the extent practicable, toward reducing the maintenance fee backlog without harming other aspects of the program and asks the Agency to provide the Committee with a detailed plan to show how the Agency intends to make available the previously collected maintenance fees in this and future fiscal years.

Rural Heating Costs.—Many rural Alaskan villages depend primarily on diesel-run generators to provide their homes and businesses with electricity, and fuel oil to generate heat. Diesel must be shipped on barges or delivered by airplane. The Committee is concerned that some rural Alaskan villages are facing significantly increased costs of home heating because of the Agency's requirement for Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel [ULSD]. In addition to increased cost, the Committee is aware that some villages experience as much as 50 percent loss of efficiency. Given that these villages are remote and using traditional diesel could have a limited impact on air quality, the Committee directs the Agency to determine whether there is an exemption available from the requirement to use ULSD in these villages.

Small Refinery Relief.—Congress directed the Agency, in consultation with the Department of Energy [DOE], to grant hardship relief to small refineries if compliance with the Renewable Fuel Standard [RFS] would impose a disproportionate economic hardship. In response to several recent petitions, the Agency determined that compliance with the RFS would have a disproportionate economic impact on a small refinery, but denied hardship relief because the small refinery remained profitable notwithstanding the disproportionate economic impact. This is inconsistent with congressional intent because the statute does not contemplate that a small refinery would only be able to obtain an exemption by showing that the RFS program threatens its viability. Congress explicitly authorized the Agency to grant small refinery hardship relief to ensure that small refineries remain both competitive and profitable. In the intensely competitive transportation fuels market, small entities cannot remain competitive and profitable if they face disproportionate structural or economic metrics such as limitations on access to capital, lack of other business lines, disproportionate production of diesel fuel, or other site specific factors identified in DOE's original 2011 Small Refinery Exemption Study prepared for Congress.

When making decisions about small refinery exemptions under the RFS program, the Agency is directed to follow DOE's recommendations which are to be based on the original 2011 Small Refinery Exemption Study prepared for Congress and the conference report to division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016. Should the Administrator disagree with a waiver recommendation from the Secretary of Energy, either to approve or deny, the Agency shall provide a report to the Committee on Appropriations and to the Secretary of Energy that explains the Agency position. Such report shall be provided 10 days prior to issuing a decision on a waiver petition.

Significant New Alternatives Policy ("SNAP") Program.—The Committee is concerned that the Agency has proposed to change

the listing status of certain substitutes used in domestic and commercial refrigeration and foam-blowing sectors pursuant to the SNAP program. This proposal comes less than 1 year after the publication of a first round of restrictions that are being implemented over the next several years. The current proposal, coupled with the mandates from last year's rulemaking, will greatly impact the compliance and transition costs faced by companies and industries as they work to implement and comply with two sets of regulations in relatively short amounts of time given the complexity of transitioning to new materials. These transition and compliance costs and tasks include: research and development activities, conducting risk assessments of replacement materials, designing, testing and building new manufacturing units and capabilities, developing and implementing safety and training programs and ensuring certifications and building codes compliance. In addition, as the Committee previously noted with the first round of regulations, there are also potential timeframe conflicts with the Department of Energy's energy conservation standards. With respect to foam applications, the Committee is aware that the proposal provides an exception for certain military, space and aeronautic foam applications until 2025. The Committee believes that a similar exception should also be allowed for other businesses in order to ensure a level playing field. Since the Agency's proposal is not being driven by any statutory deadline, the Committee encourages the Agency to take into account all reasonable transition costs, parallel efforts at the international level, industry and non-governmental organization recommendations, and compliance concerns, including ensuring that a maximum amount of time is provided for an efficient and smooth status transition and that avoids or limits, to the maximum extent possible, the costs and transition issues noted above.

Toxic Substances Control Act Modernization.—The Committee notes that legislation to modernize the Toxic Substances Control Act [TSCA] was recently approved by both the Senate and the House of Representatives. This bill includes language that will enable the EPA to collect and spend new fees to conduct additional chemical reviews, consistent with TSCA modernization legislation. Those fees are expected to be \$25,000,000 per year once the program is fully implemented. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that in fiscal year 2017, fee collections will begin several months after the beginning of the fiscal year and will total \$4,000,000. This bill also includes language ensuring that new fee collections will supplement, not supplant, appropriated resources for these activities.

Uranium.—This Committee is extremely concerned with the Agency's rulemaking regarding health and environmental protection standards for uranium and thorium mill tailings (Part 192). The Committee is concerned the Agency has failed to justify this rulemaking or consult with State regulators or the industry that will be regulated by this rule. The Agency acknowledges it is not aware of a single example of groundwater contamination caused by an in-situ uranium recovery project. The Committee encourages EPA to withdraw this rulemaking and instead work with State regulators, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the uranium re-

covery industry to collect sufficient data to determine if any updates are needed to the existing generally applicable standards.

Weed Resistance.—The Committee is aware of American farmers’ need for additional tools to combat weed resistance. The Committee notes that on March 31, 2016, the Agency opened the public comment period for the registration for new uses of dicamba in conjunction with soybean and cotton products already in the market. That period was extended for another thirty days on May 1. The Committee encourages the Agency to finalize the registration by the end of this summer incorporating the concerns of farmers and applicators in order to facilitate timely corresponding State registrations, which will enable farmers to have the full flexibility of weed control options for the 2017 growing season.

Wood Stoves.—EPA’s final rule entitled “Standards of Performance for New Residential Wood Heaters, New Residential Hydronic Heaters and Forced-Air Furnaces” published at 80 Fed. Reg. 13672 (March 16, 2015) will hold manufacturers to new emissions standards for particulate matter [PM] in 2020. The Committee is concerned that the observed variance for the best current methods of measuring PM emission from new residential wood stoves may be too great for the test to reliably confirm compliance with the Step II, 2020 standard. The Administrator shall report to the Committee in 180 days with steps the EPA is taking to develop, and confirm, precise and repeatable testing methodologies, and on progress by the industry to implement reliable product testing with the 2020 standard in mind, and how the EPA will act if reliable tests cannot be developed and deployed with sufficient time for the industry to design, demonstrate, market and manufacture compliant product lines in advance of the Step II emissions limits set to take place in 2020.

HAZARDOUS WASTE ELECTRIC MANIFEST SYSTEM FUND

Appropriations, 2016	\$3,674,000
Budget estimate, 2017	7,433,000
Chairman’s recommendation	3,674,000

The bill provides \$3,674,000 for the Hazardous Waste Electric Manifest System Fund. This amount is equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 2016	\$41,489,000
Budget estimate, 2017	51,527,000
Chairman's recommendation	41,489,000

The bill provides \$41,489,000 for the Office of Inspector General. This amount is equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. A detailed allocation of funding is included in the table that accompanies this report.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2016	\$42,317,000
Budget estimate, 2017	52,078,000
Chairman's recommendation	38,660,000

The bill provides \$38,660,000 for buildings and facilities programs. This amount is a reduction of \$3,657,000 from the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SUPERFUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2016	\$1,088,769,000
Budget estimate, 2017	1,128,989,000
Chairman's recommendation	1,077,784,000

The bill provides \$1,077,784,000 for Superfund programs. This amount is a decrease of \$10,985,000 below above the enacted level. A detailed allocation of funding by program is included in the table that accompanies this report. Additional changes to the request are detailed below.

Homeland Security.—\$32,589,000 is provided for homeland security activities, a reduction of \$3,773,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Research: Sustainable Communities.—\$11,463,000 is provided for the sustainable and healthy communities program, a reduction of \$2,569,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Superfund Cleanup.—\$711,067,000 is provided for Superfund cleanup activities, equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The Agency is directed to factor community acceptance into its Superfund remedial cleanup remedy selection process and, when supported by a community, consider remedial cleanup remedies that provide green space as part of a remedial action that is protective of human health and the environment.

Additional Guidance.—The Committee has provided the following additional guidance with respect to funding provided under this account:

Animas River Spill.—The Committee is still concerned with ensuring that an adequate long-term water quality monitoring program is in place for the States and tribes affected following the Gold King Mine Spill into the Animas River that impacted Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and the Navajo Nation. The Committee recognizes the investments made by the EPA in fiscal year 2016 and believes that EPA should continue to work using available and previously obligated funds to continue this effort in fiscal year 2017

and beyond. The Committee directs the EPA to work in consultation with affected States and Tribes on this effort.

In addition, the Committee expects the EPA to process all State, tribal, and local requests for reimbursements for costs incurred in an expeditious manner. For cooperative agreements providing reimbursement for past costs, the Committee directs EPA to only require a close out report indicating the funds were reimbursed to the requesting entity based on the documented justification received. No further Agency reporting requirements are needed. Within 30 days of enactment, EPA shall provide the Committee with a written report outlining all State, local, and Tribal reimbursement requests and their status as granted, denied, or pending, with an explanation of the source of funds and any reasons for denial or pending requests.

Finally, the Committee directs the EPA, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, to ensure that the process for making determinations under the Federal Torts Claims Act is conducted and completed in a timely manner.

Financial Assurance.—The Committee remains concerned that the Agency is engaged in a rulemaking to require potentially duplicative financial assurance requirements for hardrock mining under the Superfund statute and has included bill language to prohibit funding for this matter moving forward. The Committee has directed the Agency to engage in a comprehensive market capacity study prior to publishing its draft rule that is expected to be released early in fiscal year 2017. Based on information provided by the Agency, the Committee is concerned that the Agency is not engaging in as comprehensive a study as was directed because the Agency is relying primarily on existing data. Because the Agency insists this rulemaking is not duplicative of other financial assurance requirements, it seeks to reason that the financial products that are required do not currently exist and therefore, a sole reliance on existing data is unwarranted and may not provide the full picture contemplated for a comprehensive study. Therefore, the Committee directs the agency to include projections and potential future market adaptations in the market capacity study before it is submitted to the Congress.

Recycling.—The Committee finds that, in order to increase recycling, it is necessary to clarify that recyclables (i.e., metals, paper, plastic, glass, rubber, and textiles) should not be regulated as “waste” but rather as valuable commodities with significant economic and environmental benefits. Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act [RCRA], the Agency has the statutory authority to regulate the management and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste. Regulatory uncertainty around whether and when a substance becomes a solid waste subject to RCRA’s regulatory and compliance schemes is the central challenge facing the recycling industry. The Committee acknowledges the process established by the Agency in its January 2015 Definition of Solid Waste rule to ensure that certain scrap materials are legitimately recycled. The Committee notes that qualifying scrap materials which are handled in accordance with the rule are not solid waste, but are instead commodity-grade materials.

Sediment Guidance.—The Committee is aware that the Government Accountability Office is auditing the Agency’s cleanup of contaminated sediment sites under the Superfund program as a result of concern in Congress that the Agency is not following its own 2005 Contaminated Sediment Guidance. The Fiscal Year 2016 Interior, Environment Conference Report directed EPA to complete within 90 days of enactment a report on the Agency’s compliance with the Contaminated Sediment Guidance, especially with regard to the integration of Contaminated Sediment Technical Advisory Committee and National Remedy Review Board recommendations into final remedies selected, as well as the use of adaptive management policies in these remedies for sites currently undergoing investigation or where remedies have been selected in the last 5 years. The Committee directs the Agency to submit a report on its implementation of the GAO recommendations within 90 days of enactment.

LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK TRUST FUND

Appropriations, 2016	\$91,941,000
Budget estimate, 2017	94,285,000
Chairman’s recommendation	91,296,000

The bill provides \$91,296,000 for leaking underground storage tank trust fund activities. This amount is \$645,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. A detailed allocation of funding by program is included in the table that accompanies this statement.

INLAND OIL SPILL PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2016	\$18,209,000
Budget estimate, 2017	25,410,000
Chairman’s recommendation	18,079,000

The bill provides \$18,079,000 for inland oil spill programs. This amount is a decrease of \$130,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. A detailed allocation of funding by program is included in the table that accompanies this statement.

STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Appropriations, 2016	\$3,518,161,000
Budget estimate, 2017	3,280,400,000
Chairman’s recommendation	3,613,278,000

The bill provides \$3,613,278,000 for State and tribal assistance grants. This amount is \$95,117,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. A detailed allocation of funding by program is included in the table that accompanies this statement. Additional changes to the request are detailed below.

Infrastructure Assistance.—\$2,400,500,000 has been provided for infrastructure assistance. The amount provided includes \$1,350,000,000 for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund [CWSRF] program and \$1,020,500,000 for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund [DWSRF] program. The funding provided is \$378,500,000 more than was requested by the administration in fiscal year 2017. The Committee directs the Agency to continue implementing the American Iron and Steel provision in the same manner as it has done in fiscal year 2016.

Targeted Airshed Grant.—\$20,000,000 has been provided for Targeted Airshed Grants. These grants shall be distributed on a competitive basis to nonattainment areas that EPA determines are ranked as the top five most polluted areas relative to annual ozone or particulate matter 2.5 standards as well as the top five areas based on the 24-hour particulate matter 2.5 standard where the design values exceed the 35 µg/m³ standard. To determine these areas, the Agency shall use the most recent design values calculated from validated air quality data. The Committee notes that these funds are available for emission reduction activities deemed necessary for compliance with national ambient air quality standards and included in a State Implementation Plan submitted to EPA. Not later than the end of fiscal year 2017, EPA should provide a report to the Committee on Appropriations that includes a table showing how fiscal year 2016 funds were allocated. The table should also include grant recipients and metrics for anticipated or actual results.

Categorical Grants.—For categorical grants to States and other environmental partners for the implementation of delegated programs, the bill provides \$1,087,778,000. The Committee continues to reject the elimination of the Radon program and the Beaches Protection program and funding is provided at fiscal year 2016 enacted levels for both programs.

Categorical Grant: Multipurpose Grants.—The multipurpose grant program was intended to distribute grants to States in a manner that gave States flexibility to work on each individual State's high priority environmental activities. The Agency chose to implement the multipurpose grant program in a manner that was not flexible and aligns more directly with the Agency's priorities. Given that such is the case, the Committee has not continued funding for the multipurpose grant program.

Categorical Grant: Nonpoint Source (Sec. 319).—The Committee has provided \$184,915,000 in Nonpoint Source grants, a \$20,000,000 increase above the fiscal year 2016 level. The Committee expects the Agency to examine the allocation formula to ensure that resources are being spent in areas with the most pressing need.

Categorical Grant: Public Water System Supervision.—The bill provides \$109,700,000 for Public Water System Supervision grants. This is an increase of \$7,737,000 above the fiscal year 2016 level.

Categorical Grant State and Tribal Air Quality Management.—The Committee disagrees with the Agency's implementation of the directive from fiscal year 2016 to update the formula for State and Tribal Air Quality Management Grants. The Committee directs the Agency to hold all States and regions harmless in fiscal year 2017 by allocating funds in the exact same manner as fiscal year 2016. The Agency has indicated that it may further update the formula to consider additional factors. Should the Agency update the formula, the Committee directs the Agency to provide the new formula and funding estimates.

Further, the Committee notes that internal transportation systems can make a significant impact on improving air quality by reducing traffic congestion and vehicle emissions. The Committee directs the EPA to seek opportunities to support the planning and

development of such systems via grants and technical assistance, as appropriate, as a component of broader efforts to improve air quality.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2016	
Budget estimate, 2017	\$20,000,000
Chairman's recommendation	30,000,000

The bill provides \$30,000,000 for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program [WIFIA], which is \$10,000,000 above the administration's request. The Committee believes this level of funding will allow for a minimum of \$250,000,000 in loans to help improve water infrastructure. The WIFIA program is intended to supplement the State Revolving Funds and help reduce the tremendous water infrastructure challenges facing the Nation. A detailed allocation of funding by program is included in the table that accompanies this statement.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER AND RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

The bill continues several administrative provisions from previous years.

TITLE III
RELATED AGENCIES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

The U.S. Forest Service, a bureau of the Department of Agriculture, manages 193 million acres in 44 States and territories. In addition, the Service maintains a system of research stations and experimental forests and ranges throughout the country. The Agency also provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners, States, and communities to help sustain the Nation's urban and rural forests.

FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

Appropriations, 2016	\$291,000,000
Budget estimate, 2017	291,982,000
Chairman's recommendation	280,000,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$280,000,000 for forest and rangeland research. This amount is \$11,000,000 below the enacted level.

Forest Inventory and Analysis.—The bill provides \$77,000,000 for forest inventory and analysis, \$2,000,000 above the enacted level.

Research and Development Programs.—The bill provides \$203,000,000 for base research activities. The Committee recognizes the role of the forests products sector in the U.S. economy and supports work at the Forest Products Laboratory to research the use of wood building materials in the domestic construction industry; and wood-based material usage such as fiber-based productions, cellulose nanomaterials, chemical feed stocks, and bioenergy. Because demand is expected to increase substantially for wood as a sustainable raw material and for associated technical expertise in the design of timber, wood and wood products in architecture and engineering, and other sustainable, renewable, and recyclable material and products, the Committee directs the Forest Products Laboratory to support work conducted at Land Grant Universities intended to accelerate the growth of the domestic finished wood products industry.

The Forest Products Laboratory, which conducts innovative wood and fiber utilization research that contributes to conservation and forest resource productivity, is provided \$27,000,000 to advance ongoing work and collaborative partnerships that will optimize the research for the commercialization of high value, high volume biomass uses while helping eliminate hazardous fuels in our Nation's forests. Of the funds provided to the Forest Products Laboratory, no less than \$2,000,000 is to leverage investments in research and technology development, creating new and expanded markets for wood products to help ensure forests are healthy, sustainable and more resilient to disturbances. Additionally, the Committee directs the Forest Products Laboratory to collaborate with University partners to advance cost-effective biomass uses.

Ceratocystis Disease.—The Committee notes the Forest Service’s report “Risk and pathway assessment for the introduction of exotic insects and pathogens that could affect Hawai’i’s native forests” and directs the Forest Service to work with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the States of Hawai’i and Florida to develop recommended actions based on the findings of the report to respond to the emergence of *Ceratocystis* disease in Hawai’i and Florida.

Within the Research and Development program, the Committee recognizes the Water, Air & Soil Program’s potential to advance environmental monitoring technologies and methods. The Committee urges the Forest Service to advance partnerships between this program and other Federal agencies to explore alternative and innovative testing systems for toxins, pollutants, and other environmental contaminants such as analyzing moss to detect heavy metal deposition.

STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

Appropriations, 2016	\$237,023,000
Budget estimate, 2017	234,004,000
Chairman’s recommendation	220,831,000

The bill provides a total appropriation of \$220,831,000 for State and private forestry programs, a decrease of \$16,192,000 below the enacted level. Program changes to the enacted level are detailed in the following budget activity narratives and funding levels for each subactivity can also be found in the table at the end of this report.

Landscape Scale Restoration [LSR].—The bill provides an appropriation of \$14,000,000 for landscape scale restoration, an amount equal to the enacted level. The Committee recommends that all funding allocated be awarded competitively to States for the purpose of conducting collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes and managing forest resources that are at risk of catastrophic wildfire, invasive species, insect infestations and disease, and any other threats that degrade the vitality of forest ecosystems. The Committee believes LSR investments should be used exclusively for projects that are outcome driven to encourage active forest management on cross-boundary priority forest landscapes, to actively restore and protect forests from natural threats and wildfire, and to advance active forest management priorities identified in statewide forest assessment and resource strategies. Additionally, Committee urges the Forest Service to work with the Department of the Interior to increase cross-boundary collaboration through the Hazardous Fuels Program, particularly with State Foresters and private sector organizations, in efforts to reduce hazardous fuels in high fire risk landscapes and to prioritize projects that work across ownership boundaries in landscapes, particularly those areas identified as priorities in State Forest Action Plans. For greater transparency and accountability, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee a report within 180 days on the status of development, execution, and administration of selected projects; accounting of program funding expenditures; and specific accomplishments that have resulted from landscape-scale restoration

projects funded through this appropriation and projects funded since the inception of the LSR budget line item.

Forest Health Management.—The bill provides \$92,060,000 for forest health management activities, an amount \$7,540,000 below the enacted level. This includes \$51,382,000 for activities on Federal lands and \$40,678,000 on cooperative lands.

Cooperative Forestry.—The bill provides \$98,474,000 for cooperative forestry activities, a decrease of \$16,949,000 below the enacted level. This includes \$19,036,000 for forest stewardship, \$3,000,000 for community forest and open space conservation, and \$23,686,000 for urban and community forestry.

Forest Legacy.—The bill provides \$61,049,000 for the forest legacy program, a decrease of \$1,298,000 below the enacted level. The Committee includes a rescission of \$8,297,000 in Forest Legacy funds. This funding rescission is from cost savings of some projects and funds returned from failed or partially failed projects. The amount provided within this bill is available for the following distribution of funds and projects requested by the administration:

State	Project	Budget estimate	Bill (Discretionary)
GA	Altamaha River—Sansavilla Project	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
MT	Whitefish Lake Watershed Project	7,000,000	7,000,000
OR	East Moraine Willowa Lake	900,000	900,000
FL	Silver Springs Watershed	3,500,000	3,500,000
WA	South Puget Sound	6,318,000	6,318,000
HI	Ho'omaui	2,000,000	2,000,000
SC	Gold Branch	2,030,000	2,030,000
FL	Wolfe Creek Forest	2,800,000	2,800,000
TN	Karst Forest at Grassy Cove	1,350,000	1,350,000
UT	Zion-Simon Gulch	2,500,000	2,500,000
NC	East Fork of French Broad Headwaters Phase IV	4,000,000	4,000,000
NH	Beebe River uplands	2,600,000	2,600,000
FM	Yela Valley Watershed	565,000	565,000
MA	West Quabbin Woodlands	2,895,000	2,895,000
MO	Eleven Point Forest	2,000,000	2,000,000
HI	Helemano Wilderness Area	2,000,000	2,000,000
VA	New River Headwaters	1,320,000	1,320,000
NM	Brazos Cliff	3,480,000	3,480,000
AL	Coastal Headwaters Forest	3,000,000	3,000,000
	Other Projects	689,000	
	Administration	6,400,000	5,791,000
	Subtotal, Forest Legacy Program		61,049,000
	Rescission of funds from failed or partially failed projects		— 8,297,000
	Total, Forest Legacy Program	62,347,000	52,752,000

International Forestry.—The bill provides \$8,000,000 for international forestry activities, an amount equal to the enacted level.

The Committee recognizes that the Wild Salmon Center has successfully competed for grants through the International Forestry and other programs. Forest Service specialists with expertise in fisheries, habitat restoration, protected area management, community engagement, and other topics contribute to the Wild Salmon Center's three basic strategies for wild salmon conservation: protect important habitat, promote sustainable fisheries, and empower local communities to advocate for the health of their own watersheds. These efforts also draw from examples and experiences of

community-based watershed councils in the U.S. Pacific Northwest, a multi-stakeholder initiative to improve watershed health and conservation. For the last 10 years, the U.S. Forest Service and Wild Salmon Center have worked together to build a community of invested stakeholders to protect wild salmon and safeguard food security and economic stability for communities across the Pacific Rim.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

Appropriations, 2016	\$1,509,364,000
Budget estimate, 2017	1,500,996,000
Chairman's recommendation	1,519,672,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$1,519,672,000 for national forest system operations, an increase of \$10,308,000 above the enacted level. Program changes to the enacted level are detailed in the following budget activity narratives and funding levels for each subactivity can also be found in the table at the end of this statement.

Land Management Planning, Inventory and Monitoring.—The bill provides \$32,930,000 for Land Management Planning and \$147,998,000 for Inventory and Monitoring, a decrease of \$4,608,000 and equal to the enacted level, respectively. The Committee continues to reject the proposal to consolidate these two line items.

Grazing Management.—The bill provides \$56,856,000 for grazing management programs, equal to the enacted level. The Committee again rejects the proposed new grazing fees.

The Committees directs the Forest Service to make vacant grazing allotments available to a holder of a grazing permit or lease when lands covered by the holder of the permit or lease are unusable because of drought or wildfire. The Committee recognizes the importance of grazing on Forest Service lands not only because of its economic impacts and ability to be used as management tool, but also for its role in the heritage of the Western States.

Forest Products.—The bill provides \$369,805,000 for forest products, \$10,000,000 above the enacted level. The Committee directs the Forest Service to report program outputs from the Forest Products line item by counting only commercial products, including sawlogs, pulpwood, commercial biomass, and commercial firewood. Personal use firewood should be reported separately and should not be used to calculate program costs or efficiencies.

The Committee notes that over the last 10 years the timber supply in Region 10 has been constrained to less than 10 percent of the allowable sale quantity in the current land management plan. As a result, numerous mills have closed. The Committee reproves the Forest Service for not previously following this directive. In an effort to restore confidence in the timber supply and foster and allow investment in new facilities, the Forest Service pledged to prepare and offer four 10-year timber sales each with a volume of 150–200 million board feet; however, the agency converted the first two timber sales to smaller stewardship projects, which neither restored confidence or allowed investment in new facilities. The Committee directs the Forest Service to prepare and offer, within 2 years, the four 10-year timber sales as promised.

Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness.—The bill provides \$264,595,000 for recreation, heritage, and wilderness, \$2,876,000 above the enacted level. The Committee appreciates that the Forest Service has initiated a comprehensive review of its permitting system in order to improve and facilitate access to Federal lands. The Committee is concerned that the permitting process for recreational activities varies widely across regions and from forest-to-forest, and

is concerned that the Forest Service does not have a functioning online permitting system. The Forest Service is directed to increase transparency and consistency in their permitting processes and provide a report to the Committee within 120 days regarding a plan to address these concerns and any legislative or administrative changes that must be made to improve the process for citizens to access their public lands.

Additional funds are included for recreation programs within the Forest Service. The Forest Service is directed to increase the pace and scale of evaluation of special-use permits, particularly in Region 10, as a means by which access to public lands and economic activity can be increased in national forest communities.

Vegetation and Watershed Management.—The bill provides \$188,716,000 for vegetation and watershed management activities, which is \$4,000,000 above the enacted level. The Committee expresses concern with the pace and scale of the Forest Service's use of the authorities granted by section 8204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to perform critically needed treatments of insect and disease infested trees on National Forests. The Committee expects the Forest Service to fully and promptly implement this authority. Additionally, the Service is directed to include in the fiscal year 2018 budget submission specific information regarding geographic locations where the Service intends to take advantage of this authority.

Wildlife and Fish Habitat Management.—The bill provides \$138,466,000 for wildlife and fish habitat management, \$2,000,000 below the enacted level.

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund.—The bill provides \$40,000,000 for collaborative forest landscape restoration projects.

Minerals and Geology Management.—The bill provides \$81,923,000 for minerals and geology management, \$5,500,000 above the enacted level. Of the funds provided, \$5,500,000 is for the remediation of Forest Service liabilities on orphan mine sites pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980.

Law Enforcement.—The bill provides \$124,653,000 for law enforcement activities, \$2,000,000 below the enacted level. Of the funds provided, up to \$13,000,000 is for marijuana eradication activities.

Integrated Resource Restoration [IRR].—The Committee notes with interest that the Forest Service did not include a proposal in the request for expansion of the IRR program and continues to have concerns relating to transparency and execution of congressional priorities as it relates to IRR.

Tongass National Forest.—The Committee remains opposed to the Forest Service's implementation strategy in Region 10 with respect to the timber program and its ability to preserve a viable timber industry. The Committee notes that in order to preserve a viable timber industry, the Forest Service must provide a reliable supply of economically viable timber from the national forest system that includes both old growth and young growth. The Committee expects the Forest Service to meet the requirements of section 705(a) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 539d(a)) and directs to Forest Service to submit a report to

the Committee within 60 days outlining how the transition plan to-date has meet the requirements of the above referenced law, as well as how the Forest Service intends to comply with the above referenced law moving forward. Additionally, the Committee re-proves the Forest Service for ignoring the direction to make available funds previously set-aside for activities related to the proposed Transition Framework for assistance in Region 10 to conduct a comprehensive inventory of young growth to include the stand-level field work on young growth, recommended by the Tongass Advisory Committee, to ground-proof and refine inventory and growth data and improve inventory accuracy. The Forest Service's insistence on ignoring this direction, as well as other direction regarding the offering of timber sales in Region 10, is unacceptable to the Committee. Given all of these factors, no funds are provided for the Forest Service to issue a Record of Decision for any Forest Plan Amendments to the 2008 Tongass Land Management Plan that includes transition to young growth management.

Bighorn Sheep.—The Committee directs the Service to complete Risk of Contact analyses using the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' occupied bighorn habitat maps, telemetry data, and recent bighorn observations. The Service is further directed to transparently and promptly share findings with other Federal land management agencies, State and local governments, State wildlife agencies, and State and Federal animal health professionals, including the Agricultural Research Service, permittees, and stakeholders. The Committee directs the Forest Service to engage the Agricultural Research Service and the aforementioned cooperating agencies and participants to ensure the best professional scientific understanding of where and if disease transmission occurs, and the degree of that risk, before making further management decisions that impact permittees. The Forest Service is further directed, if warranted, to use this base of information to swiftly identify and implement actions to resolve high-risk of disease transmission allotments, including if agreeable to the permittee, the relocation of domestic sheep to lower-risk allotments, with minimal disruption and displacement of permittees. The Forest Service is directed to provide bi-annual briefings to the Committee on its progress and adherence to the directives contained herein. Additionally, the Forest Service is directed to make vacant grazing lots available to a holder of a grazing permit or lease when lands covered by the holder of the permit or lease are unusable because of drought, wildfire, or agency action beyond the permittee's control.

Gila Headwaters.—The Forest Service is expected to consider the Wild and Scenic River qualities, as defined by the Wild and Scenic River Act, of the headwaters of the Gila River as part of the ongoing Forest Plan Revision on the Gila National Forest in New Mexico. The headwaters of the Gila River originates in America's first designated wilderness area and supports a rich forest ecosystem including distinct native fish species.

Stewardship Contracting.—The Committee understands a rule-making is underway for a Small Business Timber Set Aside for Stewardship Contracting and expects the process to be completed expeditiously.

Good Neighbor Authority.—The Committee directs the Forest Service, to the greatest extent possible, to make the Federal and State Cooperative Watershed Restoration and Protection authority (as amended by section 417, division G, of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113–76; 128 Stat. 341)) widely available for treatment of insect infested trees, reduction of hazardous fuels, and other activities, including for removal of timber.

The Committee supports efforts of the Forest Service to foster and facilitate partnerships with collaborative groups working to increase the pace, scale, and quality of forest restoration in all forest types, grasslands and unique habitats managed by the Forest Service and on adjacent lands. Coordination should occur between divisions within the agency to facilitate and implement partnership agreements.

The Forest Service is directed to provide a report to the Committee regarding their spending and strategies related to wild horses and burros management on national forest lands.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2016	\$364,164,000
Budget estimate, 2017	343,280,000
Chairman's recommendation	355,674,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$355,674,000 for capital improvement and maintenance programs, a decrease of \$8,490,000 below the enacted level. As in previous years, this amount is offset with a \$16,000,000 scoring credit related to the Roads and Trails Fund.

Facilities.—The bill provides \$69,600,000, including \$55,369,000 for maintenance and \$14,231,000 for construction, a total decrease of \$1,790,000 below the enacted level. The Committee finds that repairs, maintenance and upgrades are needed for the smokejumper bases operated by the Forest Service. The Forest Service should seek to address the backlog of repairs, maintenance and needed upgrades of its smokejumper bases in order to help keep bases in operational status.

Roads.—The bill provides \$179,094,000, including \$150,454,000 for maintenance and \$28,640,000 for construction, a total increase of \$7,000,000 above the enacted level.

Trails.—The bill provides \$74,830,000, including \$69,777,000 for maintenance and \$5,053,000 for construction, \$2,700,000 below the enacted level.

Deferred Maintenance.—The bill provides \$3,150,000 for deferred maintenance, an amount equal to the enacted level.

Legacy Road and Trail Remediation.—The bill provides \$29,000,000 for the legacy road initiative, a decrease of \$11,000,000 below the enacted level. The Forest Service is expected to allocate this funding in a manner proportionate to the distribution of roads in need of attention across the system and to direct funds to regions most in need of road remediation.

LAND ACQUISITION

Appropriations, 2016	\$63,435,000
Budget estimate, 2017	65,653,000
Chairman's recommendation	54,738,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$54,738,000 for land acquisition. This amount is a decrease of \$8,697,000 below the enacted level.

The Committee has provided \$5,000,000 for recreational access and the Forest Service is directed to prioritize recreational access projects that significantly enhance access to existing public lands that have inadequate access for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities. The Committee remains concerned about the prioritization of projects and the ability to allocate funds once appropriated. The Committee strongly encourages the Agency to quickly close projects once funds have been made available and a willing seller has been identified, a appraisal has been completed, and a purchase contract has been agreed to.

The amount provided within this bill is available for the following distribution of funds and projects requested by the administration:

State	Project	Budget estimate	Bill (Discretionary)
ID	CLP: High Divide (Sawtooth National Recreation Area)	\$2,800,000	\$2,800,000
ID	CLP: High Divide (Caribou-Targee)	330,000	330,000
WY	Greater Yellowstone Are (Bridger-Teton)	2,850,000	2,850,000
CA	Sierra Nevada Checkerboard (El Dorado/Tahoe)	1,200,000	1,200,000
CA	CLP: National Trails (Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail)	4,905,000	4,905,000
MN	Minnesota North Woods	3,500,000	3,500,000
FL	CLP: Florida/Georgia Longleaf Pine Initiative	3,850,000	3,850,000
MT	Swan Valley	4,000,000	4,000,000
IN	Hoosiers Upland Natural Treasures	1,600,000	1,600,000
AK	Admiralty Island National Monument Cube Cove	4,000,000	4,000,000
VA	CLP: Southern Blue Ridge	2,280,000	2,280,000
TN	CLP: Southern Blue Ridge	3,400,000	3,400,000
NC	CLP: Southern Blue Ridge	1,850,000	1,850,000
NC	North Carolina Threatened Treasures	360,000	360,000
SC	South Carolina Coastal Legacy	1,600,000	1,600,000
	Other Projects	11,178,000	
	Acquisition Management	8,500,000	7,200,000
	Cash Equalization	750,000	700,000
	Critical Inholdings/Wilderness	2,000,000	3,313,000
	Sportsman/Recreational Access	4,700,000	5,000,000
	Total, Land Acquisition	65,653,000	54,738,000

ACQUISITION OF LANDS FOR NATIONAL FORESTS, SPECIAL ACTS

Appropriations, 2016	\$950,000
Budget estimate, 2017	950,000
Chairman's recommendation	950,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$950,000, which is equal to the enacted level. These funds are derived from receipts at certain forests.

ACQUISITION OF LANDS TO COMPLETE LAND EXCHANGES

Appropriations, 2016	\$216,000
Budget estimate, 2017	216,000
Chairman's recommendation	216,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$216,000, which is equal to the enacted level. This amount is derived from funds deposited by State, county, and municipal governments or public school authorities pursuant to the act of December 4, 1967, as amended (16 U.S.C. 484a).

RANGE BETTERMENT FUND

Appropriations, 2016	\$2,320,000
Budget estimate, 2017	2,320,000
Chairman's recommendation	2,320,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$2,320,000, which is equal to the request. This amount is for range rehabilitation, protection, and improvement, and is derived from fees received for livestock grazing on national forests pursuant to section 401(b)(1) of Public Law 94-579, as amended.

GIFTS, DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS FOR FOREST AND RANGELAND
RESEARCH

Appropriations, 2016	\$45,000
Budget estimate, 2017	45,000
Chairman's recommendation	45,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$45,000, which is equal to the budget request. This amount is derived from the fund established under 16 U.S.C. 1643(b).

MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL FOREST LANDS FOR SUBSISTENCE USES

Appropriations, 2016	\$2,500,000
Budget estimate, 2017	2,441,000
Chairman's recommendation	2,500,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$2,500,000, equal to the enacted level. This account provides for carrying out the Forest Service's responsibilities for subsistence under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2016 ¹	\$3,909,329,000
Budget estimate, 2017 ²	3,515,541,000
Chairman's recommendation	2,842,329,000

¹ Includes \$823,000,000 appropriated under the FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Account and \$700,000,000 in fire borrowing repayment.

² Includes \$864,096,000 for suppression designated as disaster pursuant to pending congressional action.

The bill provides a total appropriation of \$2,842,329,000 for wildland fire management, a decrease of \$367,000,000 below the enacted level. The decrease is a reflection of a one-time increase of \$508,000,000 in fiscal year 2016. This year's bill includes a proposal for a permanent fix to end fire borrowing and make wildfire budgeting sustainable. Funding levels for each subactivity can also be found in the table at the end of this statement. Of the funds provided, \$2,000,000 is for the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes to continue to enhance the Forest Service's capacity to execute science-based forest restoration treatments to reduce the risk of wildfires and improve the health of dry forest ecosystems.

Fire Operations.—The bill provides \$2,330,620,000 for wildfire preparedness and suppression operations, \$437,000,000 above the enacted level. This amount includes \$1,082,620,000 for preparedness and \$1,248,000,000 for suppression.

Other Operations.—The bill provides \$511,709,000 for other wildland fire management operations, an increase of \$19,000,000 above the enacted level. The bill provides \$390,000,000 for hazardous fuels reduction, of which up to \$15,000,000 may be used for biomass utilization grants. The Forest Service is encouraged to use biomass utilization grant funds for the development of bioenergy and bio-based products, such as nanotechnology, that will expand commercial markets for low value wood to facilitate increased removal of biomass beyond traditional fuels treatment. Investing in the research and development of advanced woody biomass uses will help reduce excessive hazardous fuels on our Nation's forestlands

while creating new economic markets and opportunity for taxpayers.

The bill also provides \$19,795,000 for fire plan research and development, \$6,914,000 for joint fire science, \$80,000,000 for State fire assistance, and \$15,000,000 for volunteer fire assistance.

The Committee urges the Forest Service to increase cross-boundary collaboration through their hazardous fuels programs, including with State Foresters and private sector organizations, in efforts to reduce hazardous fuels in high fire risk landscapes and to prioritize projects that work across ownership boundaries in landscapes, particularly those areas identified as priorities in State Forest Action Plans. The Committee notes the importance of proactive actions that protect communities and habitat from catastrophic wildfire.

Fire Suppression Aviation.—The Committee acknowledges the importance of ensuring all necessary resources are on hand to fight the wildfires that ravage the Nation's forests, and understands how critical private industry is in these efforts. The Committee also recognizes the investment of the Forest Service in developing the Next Generation Large Air Tanker Modernization Strategy and the need to ensure a sufficient number of available aircraft and the proper mix of Federal and private equipment to adequately respond to the needs of the agencies fighting wildfires. Due to Congressional action, the Forest Service has begun to take possession of seven, Government-owned C-130H aircraft, as well as to pursue the acquisition of new aircraft with funding provided in fiscal year 2015. The Forest Service is directed to provide a report to the Committee, prior to requesting additional acquisition of air tankers, providing evidence of cost-savings expected to result from the acquisition of Federal aircraft. This evaluation should include not only costs charged to the Forest Service, but costs charged to other agencies so the Committee has an accurate accounting of the actual cost of Federal ownership compared with utilization of private contractors. The Committee also recognizes the importance of scoopers in fighting wildland fire and encourages the Service to continue to utilize scoper contracts, as appropriate.

Wildland Fire Science Partnership.—The Committee appreciates the work of the Wildland Fire Science Partnership and expects funds within joint fire science to be used to study current wildland firefighting operations and the safety and health impacts of such operations on wildland firefighters.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The bill continues several administrative provisions from previous years.

There continues to be a need to improve transparency and communication between the Forest Service and the Committee. To accomplish this, the Forest Service is directed to work with the Committee on a budget restructure proposal with the goal of improving methods by which spending can be reported by congressional priority, as well as by region, State, and forest.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

The Indian Health Service [IHS] is the agency within the Department of Health and Human Services that has responsibility for providing Federal health services to approximately 2.2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. The provision of health services to tribes grew out of the special relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes that was established in 1787, based on article I, section 8 of the Constitution, and given form and substance by numerous treaties, laws, Supreme Court decisions, and Executive orders that followed. Most notable among these is the Snyder Act of 1921, which provides the basic authority for most Indian health services provided by the Federal Government to Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

IHS services are provided directly and through tribally contracted and operated programs in over 600 healthcare facilities located throughout the United States, primarily in rural and isolated areas. Healthcare is also purchased from more than 9,000 private providers annually. The Federal system consists of 28 hospitals, 61 health centers, and 34 health stations. Through Public Law 93-638, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Act, tribes and tribal organizations compact and contract health programs to manage 17 hospitals, 249 health centers and 70 health stations. In addition, grants to 34 nonprofit urban Indian health organizations provide a variety of health and referral services.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES

Appropriations, 2016	\$3,566,387,000
Budget estimate, 2017	3,815,109,000
Chairman's recommendation	3,650,171,000

The Committee recommends \$3,650,171,000 for clinical services programs of the Indian Health Service. This is an increase of \$83,784,000 above the enacted level. Changes to the enacted level are detailed below and in the table accompanying this report.

While the Committee must live within statutory budget constraints, it has fully funded the programmatic budget request for high priority programs designed to address some of the most difficult issues facing Indian Country such as suicide and alcohol and substance abuse.

Accordingly, the Committee has provided increases above the enacted level in the services account including \$4,000,000 for the Domestic Violence Prevention Program, and \$16,800,000 for the alcohol and substance abuse program to focus on tribal youth and the incorporation of more holistic healthcare models to improve outcomes. The Service is directed to allocate \$2,000,000 of the increase provided for the alcohol and substance abuse program to fund essential detoxification and related services provided by the Service's public and private partners to IHS beneficiaries.

The Committee has fully funded the programmatic request for mental health programs of \$25,000,000 which includes \$3,600,000 for the Zero Suicide Initiative and \$21,400,000 for the Behavioral

Health Integration Initiative to better integrate treatment programs for mental health and substance abuse problems.

The Committee has also provided \$29,587,000 for staffing of newly opened health facilities and \$9,000,000 for tribal clinic leases, particularly Village Built Clinics, for a total of \$11,000,000. Other important increases include \$1,000,000 for the Urban Health program and \$1,000,000 for the Indian Health Professions program which is equal to the request.

Funds for the staffing of new facilities are provided solely to support facilities on the Health Care Facilities Construction Priority System and Joint Venture construction projects that have opened in fiscal year 2016 or will open in fiscal year 2017. None of these funds may be allocated to a facility until such facility has achieved beneficial occupancy status.

The Committee notes that the Service's budget request included \$20,000,000 for a Health Information Technology Initiative. However, the Committee was recently informed that the agency was allocated \$60,000,000 of Nonrecurring Expenses Fund resources from the Department of Health and Human Services some of which is available for IT programs.

Other.—The Committee is aware that the community of Gallup, New Mexico, has long faced a crisis of alcohol-related deaths of tribal members, including deaths of 24 individuals over the past 2 years, many of which were linked to exposure. These deaths underscore the urgent need for substance abuse treatment, residential services and detoxification services, particularly those provided by the nonprofit Na' Nizhoozhi Center, also known as the Gallup Detox Center, which has a longstanding relationship with the Service and serves members of multiple tribes. Over the past several years, however, the Center has lost access to critical funding sources, resulting in reduced services and the threat of the facility's closure. Given the public health risk involved, the Committee believes that it is essential that this facility remain open to provide its life-saving services to the community and expects the Service to continue its partnership with the Center and to work with the Center and other Federal, State, local, and tribal partners to develop a sustainable model for the Center to enhance its clinical capacity.

Dental Care Alternatives.—The Committee is concerned that tooth decay in Indian Country has reached epidemic proportions and notes that preschool children of American Indian and Alaska Natives have the highest level of tooth decay of any population group in the United States. The Committee understands that the geographic isolation of tribal health facilities makes it difficult to attract dentists to serve as providers and believes that one alternative to improve access to dental care is to allow volunteer dentists to treat patients. However, the Committee has heard reports that delays in getting approved healthcare providers credentialed to work at tribal or Indian Health Service facilities have resulted in candidates abandoning their efforts to volunteer because they could not be processed in a timely fashion. To address this problem, the Committee urges the Service to explore establishing a centralized credentialing system to encompass volunteer providers. The Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have centralized credentialing systems and the Committee believes that the Service

should consult with those Departments, as well as private sector credential verification organizations and state dental associations, and work to establish a pilot project to test the feasibility of a centralized credentialing system.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS

Appropriations, 2016	\$717,970,000
Budget estimate, 2017	800,000,000
Chairman's recommendation	800,000,000

The Committee has continued language from fiscal year 2016 establishing an indefinite appropriation for contract support costs estimated to be \$800,000,000, which is an increase of \$82,030,000 above the fiscal year 2016 level. The Committee has modified the language to delete a provision that contradicted certain provisions of the Indian Self Determination Act.

INDIAN HEALTH FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2016	\$523,232,000
Budget estimate, 2017	569,906,000
Chairman's recommendation	543,607,000

INDIAN HEALTH FACILITIES

The Committee recommends \$543,607,000 for health facilities operations of the Indian Health Service. This amount is \$20,375,000 above the enacted level. Increases above the enacted level include \$3,395,000 for the staffing of new facilities; \$3,367,000 for facilities maintenance and improvement, equal to the request; \$3,613,000 for sanitation facilities construction, equal to the request; and \$10,000,000 for healthcare facilities construction for the small ambulatory clinic program. The Committee notes that this is the first funding for the small ambulatory program since 2008. This program is another critical tool for addressing facilities maintenance and construction backlogs throughout the Nation. The Committee encourages the Service to give strong consideration to utilizing these new resources to assist with infrastructure improvements at remote sites such as Gambell and Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska.

The Committee directs the Service to work with the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium to formulate options for facilities upgrades and ultimately a replacement facility at Mt. Edgecombe in Sitka. The plan shall be submitted to the Committee within 180 days of enactment of this act.

The stipulations included in the "Indian Health Services" account regarding the allocation of funds for the staffing of new facilities pertain to the funds in this account as well. Within 60 days of enactment of this act, the Service shall submit a spending plan to the Committee that details the project-level distribution of funds provided for healthcare facilities construction.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, an agency within the National Institutes of Health, was authorized in section 311(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, to conduct multidisciplinary research and training activities associated with the Nation's Hazardous Substance Superfund program, and in section 126(g) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1968, to conduct training and education of workers who are or may be engaged in activities related to hazardous waste removal or containment or emergency response.

Appropriations, 2016	\$77,349,000
Budget estimate, 2017	77,349,000
Chairman's recommendation	77,349,000

The bill provides \$77,349,000 for the operations of the "National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences" account. This amount is equal to the budget request and the enacted level.

AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry [ATSDR], an agency of the Public Health Service, was created in section 104(i) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980. The ATSDR's primary mission is to conduct surveys and screening programs to determine relationships between exposure to toxic substances and illness. Other activities include the maintenance and annual update of a list of hazardous substances most commonly found at Superfund sites, the preparation of toxicological profiles on each such hazardous substance, consultations on health issues relating to exposure to hazardous or toxic substances, and the development and implementation of certain research activities related to ATSDR's mission.

TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Appropriations, 2016	\$74,691,000
Budget estimate, 2017	74,691,000
Chairman's recommendation	74,691,000

The bill provides a total appropriation of \$74,691,000 for the operations of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry account. This amount is equal to the budget request and the enacted level.

Birth Cohort Study.—Continued funding for the ATSDR supports the birth cohort study on the Navajo Nation. The Committee supports the continuation of this study to better understand the relationship between uranium exposures, birth outcomes, and early developmental delays on the Navajo Nation.

OTHER RELATED AGENCIES

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

The Council on Environmental Quality [CEQ] and the Office of Environmental Quality [OEQ] were established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 [NEPA] and the Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970, respectively. The Council serves as a source of environmental expertise and policy analysis for the White House, Executive Office of the President, and other Federal agencies. CEQ promulgates regulations binding on all Federal agencies to implement the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and resolves interagency environmental disputes informally and through issuance of findings and recommendations.

Appropriations, 2016	\$3,000,000
Budget estimate, 2017	3,015,000
Chairman's recommendation	3,000,000

The bill provides \$3,000,000 for the operations of the Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality account. This amount is equal to the enacted level.

CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

The Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board was authorized by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 to investigate accidental releases of certain chemicals substances that result in, or may cause, serious injury, death, substantial property damage, or serious adverse effects on human health. It became operational in fiscal year 1998.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2016	\$11,000,000
Budget estimate, 2017	12,436,000
Chairman's recommendation	11,000,000

The bill provides \$11,000,000 for salaries and expenses of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board. This amount is equal to the enacted level.

The Committee remains focused on internal activities at the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board. A report from the Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency investigated the Board and found that a "lack of internal guidance and implementation of controls puts the CSB's \$11,000,000 budget at risk." The Committee is encouraged by efforts at the Board under the new Chair's leadership to remedy these issues, but remains concerned that more must be done to restore credibility to an agency with the important responsibility of investigating industrial chemical accidents. Given the scope of internal issues still requiring resolution and pending investigations that require completion, the Committee encourages CSB to focus the resources allocated on these critical tasks.

The Inspector General report indicated that the CSB does not have internal guidance over its annual budget process. The Committee directs the CSB to develop such guidance and provide it to the Committee within 90 days of passage of this act.

The Committee also notes that this year's budget request included funding for CSB to organize an annual symposium or forum on innovations in chemical safety. Although attendance at conferences on chemical safety can be useful for CSB staff, industry stakeholders, and other interested parties, the Committee notes that a number of similar meetings related to chemical safety already take place on an annual basis and questions the utility of another federally funded event. The Committee directs the CSB to provide further justification for this expenditure prior to expending any resources for this purpose.

The Committee is aware of CSB's announcement of a study on land use and facility siting. The Committee is concerned about the scope of such a study and the necessity of the Board devoting Federal resources to land use issues that are historically the province of state and local jurisdiction. The Committee directs CSB to provide a report detailing the intended scope of and justification for the study prior to expending any funds for this purpose.

The Committee notes that this year's budget request includes funding for safety video production. The Committee has heard concerns that certain videos produced by the CSB have encouraged members of the public to lobby Members of Congress and state legislatures on pending or future Federal or State legislation. The Board is reminded of the prohibition against this type of advocacy and expects strict adherence to the prohibition.

OFFICE OF NAVAJO AND HOPI INDIAN RELOCATION

The Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation was established by Public Law 93-531. The Office is charged with planning and conducting relocation activities associated with the settlement of land disputes between the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe.

The Committee directs the Office of Navajo and Hopi Relocation [OHNIR], in consultation with the Secretary of Interior, to report back to the Committee within 90 days detailing the functions of the OHNIR that could be transferred to the Department of Interior. It is the Committee's expectation this report include any costs associated with a potential transfer and any costs to maintain ongoing activities of the OHNIR. This report should also include a legal analysis examining whether any potential office closure would require enacting legislation to transfer or maintain any identified functions to another agency or organization.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2016	\$15,000,000
Budget estimate, 2017	15,431,000
Chairman's recommendation	15,431,000

The bill provides \$15,431,000 for the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, an increase of \$431,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE AND
ARTS DEVELOPMENT

The Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development [IAIA] was originally founded in 1962 as a Bureau of Indian Affairs [BIA] high school. The Institute was moved out of the BIA in 1988 to become a federally chartered 4-year college governed by a board of trustees appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate. Its mission is to serve as the national center of research, training, language, and scholarship for Native Americans and Alaska Natives through the dedicated study, creative application, preservation, and care of Native cultures and arts. In addition to its academic programs, the IAIA houses the National Collection of Contemporary Indian Art and carries the designation as the National Repository for Native Languages. The IAIA's operations are funded by direct Federal support and a diversified private sector approach to foundations, corporations, tribes, and individual donors.

PAYMENT TO THE INSTITUTE

Appropriations, 2016	\$11,619,000
Budget estimate, 2017	11,835,000
Chairman's recommendation	15,212,000

The recommendation provides \$15,212,000 for the Institute of American Indian Arts, an increase of \$3,377,000 above the request and \$3,593,000 above the enacted level. The increase above the request shall be used to complete the Institute's transition to forward funding during fiscal year 2017 rather than to phasing in forward funding over multiple years as proposed by the administration. Amounts provided for fiscal year 2017 shall be supplemented by \$2,000,000 in prior-year carryover funds, for a total operating level of \$9,835,000. Requested increases for fixed costs and academic program requirements are included within the Committee's recommendation.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Congress established the Smithsonian Institution in 1846 to administer a large bequest left to the United States by James Smithson, an English scientist, for the purpose of establishing in Washington, DC, an institution “. . . for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.” The act establishing the Smithsonian provided for the administration of the trust, independent of the Government itself, by a Board of Regents and a Secretary, who were given broad discretion in the use of these funds. The board was to be composed of both private citizens and members of all three branches of the Federal Government in order to ensure “the wise and faithful use” of the Institution’s funds. The trust funds were permanently loaned to the U.S. Treasury to be maintained in a separate account, with the interest from that money used for the operation of the Institution. Construction of the Smithsonian Castle was completed in 1855 and collections that the Government had accepted on behalf of the Institution were moved into the building. Today, the Smithsonian Institution is the world’s largest museum and research complex, housing approximately 144 million objects and specimens, and receiving an estimated 25 million visitors annually.

Its facilities include 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoo, and nine research facilities—most located in or near Washington, DC, with others in Massachusetts, New York, Florida, Arizona, Hawaii, and the Republic of Panama. The Smithsonian’s growth continues as construction proceeds on the National Museum of African American History and Culture, authorized by Congress in 2003 and scheduled to open to the public in 2016.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2016	\$696,045,000
Budget estimate, 2017	759,224,000
Chairman’s recommendation	718,059,000

The bill provides \$718,059,000 for salaries and expenses of the Smithsonian Institution. This amount is an increase of \$22,014,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. Unless otherwise provided, increases above the fiscal year 2016 level account for fixed costs for the Institution’s programs. In fiscal year 2016, the Institution reprogrammed \$1,500,000 from the Collections Care Preservation Fund within the Institution-wide Programs to support staffing needed to provide for the Smithsonian’s collections. The recommendation includes the annualized costs to maintain the collections staffing hired in fiscal year 2016 by the Institution to support multiple museums.

The Committee understands the role the Institution has played as a source of learning and inspiration, and appreciates the challenges the Institution must overcome to keep the museums open and available to the public. The Committee also understand the importance of collaboration and partnerships and strongly encourages areas, such as the National Zoological Park, to work with external sources to provide support in pathological research, services, and training to provide support to augment the existing needs of the National Zoo.

The Committee provides a total of \$294,323,000 for Facilities Services, of which \$76,327,000 is for Facilities Maintenance and \$217,996,000 is for Facilities Operations, Security and Support. Increases of \$1,600,000 for the Facilities Maintenance and \$3,900,000 for the Facilities Operations have been included for facilities, operations, and maintenance, respectively, to fund necessary expenses required for the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in 2016.

The creation of a Museum of the American Latino within the Smithsonian Institution at some future date continues to be a strongly supported priority. Until such time, the Smithsonian Latino Center, which was formed in 1997 with the goal of promoting the inclusion of Latino contributions in the Institution's exhibitions, collections and public outreach programs, should continue this important work. In accordance with the recommendations provided to Congress and the President of the United States in the May 2011 report by the National Museum of the American Latino Commission (created by Public Law 110-229), the Committee urges collaboration between the Smithsonian and appropriate Federal and local organizations to increase Latino programming, exhibitions, collections, and outreach at the Institution. The Committee expects that within the funds provided for program support and outreach, the Institution will be able to increase support for this effort. The Committee is also aware the Asian Pacific American Center is examining ways in which it could expand its outreach, both within the Institution and beyond the National Mall. The Committee continues to encourage the Institution to find ways to share the contributions Asian Americans have contributed to the American experience.

The subcommittee recognizes that the Smithsonian must raise private funds to supplement its Federal funding. The subcommittee wishes to ensure, however, that revenue-producing activities do not detract from the core mission or the reputation of the Smithsonian. The subcommittee directs the Smithsonian to review and report with 90 days of enactment of this act on how it balances the need to produce revenue through the activities of Smithsonian Enterprises with the pursuit of its core mission and with protection of its reputation.

FACILITIES CAPITAL

Appropriations, 2016	\$144,198,000
Budget estimate, 2017	163,000,000
Chairman's recommendation	142,184,000

The bill includes \$142,184,000 for the Smithsonian Institution's Facilities Capital program, \$2,014,000 below the current year enacted level. Within these funds, \$71,884,000 is provided for revitalizations efforts, \$20,300,000 for planning and design efforts, and \$50,000,000 is provided for construction.

The Committee understands the Institution is in the process of a multi-year, multi-phase renovation project for the National Air and Space Museum, including the necessary replacement of the building's facade. The Committee has included the \$50 million, as requested, to support the construction of a storage facility at Udvar-Hazy to facilitate the upcoming renovation. The Committee

recognizes the museum is a popular stop for visitors and it is important to ensure the public has access to the collection of artifacts; however, the Committee is also concerned the estimated half a billion dollar cost for the museum's renovations will limit the ability to modernize and make repairs to other facilities. Therefore, the Committee directs the Smithsonian to report back to the Committee within 90 days from enactment of this act regarding total estimated project costs, phasing opportunities, and construction timelines, as well as potential partnership funding options and building technologies or design features that could be integrated during the construction of the project to lower the estimated costs. The report shall also detail the Institution's plans to maintain the public's access to the National Air and Space Museum's important collections during the construction of the project.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

The National Gallery of Art was created in 1937 by a joint resolution of Congress accepting Andrew W. Mellon's gift to the Nation of his art collection. The generosity of the Mellon family also provided the funds to construct the Gallery's two landmark buildings, the West Building, designed by Alexander Pope and completed in 1941, and the East Building, designed by I.M. Pei and completed in 1978. In 1999, an outdoor sculpture garden was created with funding from the Cafritz Foundation. Today, these two buildings and the Sculpture Garden form a museum complex that houses one of the world's premier art collections. Since the Gallery's founding, Federal funds have been appropriated to ensure the operation, maintenance, protection, and care of its collection. Private contributions are used by the Gallery for art acquisition and conservation, scholarly and scientific research, exhibitions, and educational outreach programs.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2016	\$124,988,000
Budget estimate, 2017	135,801,000
Chairman's recommendation	132,961,000

The bill provides \$132,961,000 for salaries and expenses of the National Gallery of Art. This amount is \$7,973,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The distribution of funds among the Gallery's various activities is displayed in the table that accompanies this report.

REPAIR, RESTORATION, AND RENOVATION OF BUILDINGS

Appropriations, 2016	\$22,564,000
Budget estimate, 2017	22,600,000
Chairman's recommendation	22,564,000

The bill provides \$22,564,000 for major repairs, restoration and renovation of the Gallery's buildings. This amount is equal to the enacted level.

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Originally established in 1958 as the National Cultural Center, an independently administered bureau of the Smithsonian Institution, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts was designated as a living memorial to President Kennedy in 1964. The Kennedy Center building was constructed with a combination of private contributions, Federal matching funds and long-term revenue bonds held by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Since 1972, Congress has provided funds for the operations and repair of the presidential monument, initially through the National Park Service and since 1995 to the Kennedy Center Board of Trustees. Approximately 87 percent of the Center's total annual operating budget is derived from nonappropriated funds such as ticket sales, auxiliary income, investment income and private contributions that support performing arts programming and administrative activities.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Appropriations, 2016	\$21,660,000
Budget estimate, 2017	22,260,000
Chairman's recommendation	22,260,000

The bill provides \$22,269,000 for the operations and maintenance of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the same amount as the administration's fiscal year 2017 request.

CAPITAL REPAIR AND RESTORATION

Appropriations, 2016	\$14,740,000
Budget estimate, 2017	13,000,000
Chairman's recommendation	13,000,000

The bill provides \$13,000,000 for the Kennedy Center's capital repair and restoration program, equal to the administration's request.

WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars is the living national memorial to President Wilson established by Congress in 1968 and headquartered in Washington, DC. Its mission is to commemorate the ideals and concerns of the former president by providing a link between the world of ideas and the world of policy; and by fostering research, study, discussion, and collaboration among a full spectrum of individuals concerned with policy and scholarship in national and world affairs. The Woodrow Wilson Center is a nonpartisan institution that is supported by a combination of public and private funds.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2016	\$10,500,000
Budget estimate, 2017	10,400,000
Chairman's recommendation	10,500,000

The bill provides \$10,500,000 for salaries and expenses of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the same amount as the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Established in 1965 as an independent agency of the Federal Government, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is the official arts organization of the United States Government. As the largest annual funder of the arts in the United States, the NEA has helped to create regional theater, opera, ballet, symphony orchestras, museums and other arts organizations that Americans now enjoy. Since its founding, the National Endowment for the Arts has awarded more than 120,000 grants that have brought the arts to Americans in communities both large and small. The NEA, through its competitive, peer-reviewed grants process, uses the majority of its annual operating funds to award grants to nonprofit organizations for arts education, arts outreach, artistic excellence and partnership agreements. In addition to those activities, State and

jurisdictional arts agencies are awarded 40 percent of the Endowment's funds.

GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2016	\$147,949,000
Budget estimate, 2017	149,849,000
Chairman's recommendation	148,449,000

The bill provides \$148,449,000 for grants and administration of the National Endowment for the Arts, \$500,000 above the fiscal year enacted level. The NEA is to be commended for the work it has done through its Healing Arts Partnerships with Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Fort Belvoir Community Hospital to incorporate arts therapy into the treatment plans of active-duty military patients and their families. The Committee understands the NEA is working to expand this successful program to additional locations and supports this expansion to help service members and their families in their recovery, reintegration, or transition to civilian life. The Committee also encourages State arts agencies to explore how they can contribute to expanding arts programs for service members and their families at the local level. The distribution of funds among the agency's various activities is displayed in the table that accompanies this statement.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

The National Endowment for the Humanities [NEH] was established by the 1965 National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act as an independent Federal agency of the United States Government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. Today, it is the largest funder of humanities programs in the Nation. NEH's long-standing tradition of a peer-reviewed competitive grant process is designed to ensure that the most meritorious projects are funded. Typically, NEH grants are used to support cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television and radio, and individual scholars. The NEH, through its State-Federal partnership, also provides grants to State humanities councils in all 50 States and the 6 territories.

GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2016	\$147,942,000
Budget estimate, 2017	149,848,000
Chairman's recommendation	148,442,000

The bill provides \$148,442,000 for grants and administration of the National Endowment for the Humanities, \$500,000 above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The Committee understands the NEH has continued two components of the popular "We the People" initiative grant opportunities, the National Digital Newspapers Program [NDNP] and the Landmarks of American History and Culture workshops. The Committee encourages NEH to continue providing support to projects that focus on our Nation's history and culture. The distribution of funds among the agency's various activities is displayed in the table that accompanies this statement.

The distribution of funds among the agency's various activities is displayed in the table that accompanies this statement.

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

The Commission of Fine Arts was established in 1910 to fill the need for a permanent agency whose members would be qualified to make available to the Government expert opinion on questions of art and architecture. The Commission's mission, as design proposals are brought before it, is to safeguard and improve the appearance and symbolic significance of the city as a capital. The Commission provides knowledgeable advice on matters pertaining to architecture, landscape architecture, sculpture, painting, and the decorative arts to all branches and departments of the Federal and District of Columbia governments when such matters affect the National Capital. The Commission also must approve of the site and design of all commemorative works and memorials erected in the District. The Commission advises on the design of circulating and commemorative coinage and must approve the siting and design for national memorials, both in the United States and on foreign soil, in accordance with the American Battle Monuments Act and the Commemorative Works Act.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2016	\$2,653,000
Budget estimate, 2017	2,762,000
Chairman's recommendation	2,653,000

The bill provides \$2,653,000 for salaries and expenses of the Commission of Fine Arts, equal to the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

NATIONAL CAPITAL ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program was established by Public Law 99-190 to provide grants for general operating support to District of Columbia nonprofit arts and other cultural organizations. In fiscal year 1988, administrative responsibility for the program was transferred from the National Endowment for the Humanities to the Commission of Fine Arts. Currently, this program helps support more than 20 nationally renowned organizations in the Nation's Capital by providing funding for operating expenses, jobs, exhibits, and performances that might not have been possible otherwise.

Appropriations, 2016	\$2,000,000
Budget estimate, 2017	1,400,000
Chairman's recommendation	2,000,000

The bill provides \$2,000,000, the same amount as the fiscal year 2016 appropriation, to continue support for the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program administered by the Commission of Fine Arts. The Committee has not received the report as required by Public Law 114-113 detailing the potential impacts to arts and cultural affairs organizations who have previously received funding; therefore the bill does not include the requested bill language addressing limitations on grant recipients. The Com-

mittee expects the program to submit this report and encourages its timely completion.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 established the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as an independent Federal agency. The Council's mission is to promote the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our Nation's historic resources, and advise the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. It also provides a forum for discussion of Federal activities, programs, and policies that affect historic properties. One of the principal responsibilities of the Council is to implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which requires that the Council be given an opportunity to comment on the impacts of projects or actions undertaken by other Federal agencies on sites or structures eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Appropriations, 2016	\$6,080,000
Budget estimate, 2017	6,493,000
Chairman's recommendation	6,493,000

The bill provides \$6,493,000 for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an increase of \$413,000 above the enacted level.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The National Capital Planning Commission [NCPC] was established in 1924 as a park planning agency. Two years later, the agency's role was expanded to include more comprehensive planning. The National Capital Planning Act of 1952 designated the NCPC as the central planning agency for the Federal Government in the National Capital Region. Today, major functions and responsibilities of the NCPC include comprehensive and coordinated planning for the Nation's Capital; an annual assessment of all proposed Federal capital improvements in the national capital region; the review of proposed Federal development projects; and representation of the Federal interest in local and regional planning initiatives.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2016	\$8,348,000
Budget estimate, 2017	8,099,000
Chairman's recommendation	8,099,000

The bill provides \$8,099,000 for salaries and expenses of the National Capital Planning Commission, \$249,000 below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum was created by Congress in 1980 through Public Law 96-388 with the mandate to operate and maintain a permanent living memorial museum to the victims of the Holocaust; provide appropriate ways for the Nation to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust through the annual national civic observances known as the Days of Remembrance; and carry out the recommendations of the President's Commission

on the Holocaust. The building that houses the museum was constructed with private funds and opened to the public in 1993. Since that time, the museum has attracted four to five times the number of expected visitors and has been highly successful in its fund-raising efforts. With private contributions comprising nearly 50 percent of its annual operating budget, the Holocaust Memorial Museum serves as a model for the public-private partnership.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Appropriations, 2016	\$54,000,000
Budget estimate, 2017	57,000,000
Chairman's recommendation	57,000,000

The bill provides \$57,000,000 for operations of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, \$3,000,000 above the enacted level.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2016	\$1,000,000
Budget estimate, 2017	1,800,000
Chairman's recommendation	1,000,000

The bill provides \$1,000,000 for salaries and expenses of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, equal to the enacted level.

CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 2016	
Budget estimate, 2017	\$43,000,000
Chairman's recommendation	

No funds have been provided in the "Capital Construction" account for the memorial. However, language has been included in the bill under title IV, General Provisions, that extends the memorial's site authority to September 30, 2017. The current authority expires in September 2016.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2016	
Budget estimate, 2017	
Chairman's recommendation	\$2,000,000

The bill includes \$2,000,000 to establish the new Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, as authorized by title VII of this act. The Commission shall plan, execute and coordinate programs and activities in honor of the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guaranteed women the right to vote.

TITLE IV
GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Title IV of the bill includes the following general provisions:

SEC. 401. Provides that appropriations available in the bill shall not be used to produce literature or otherwise promote public support of a legislative proposal or regulation on which action is not complete or for publicity or propaganda purposes in support of administration policies except to the executive branch or Congress.

SEC. 402. Continues a provision providing for annual appropriations unless expressly provided otherwise in this act.

SEC. 403. Continues a provision providing restrictions on departmental assessments unless approved by the Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 404. Retains the mining patent moratorium carried in previous years.

SEC. 405. Continues a provision regarding the payment of contract support costs.

SEC. 406. Provides that only certain amounts provided in this act may be used to fund contract support costs.

SEC. 407. Continues a provision providing that the Secretary of Agriculture shall not be considered in violation of certain provisions of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act solely because more than 15 years have passed without revision of a forest plan, provided that the Secretary is working in good faith to complete the plan revision within available funds.

SEC. 408. Prohibits oil, natural gas, and mining-related activities within current national monument boundaries, except where such activities are allowed under the presidential proclamation establishing the monument.

SEC. 409. Restricts funding appropriated for acquisition of land or interests in land from being used for declarations of taking or complaints in condemnation.

SEC. 410. Addresses timber sales involving Alaska western red and yellow cedar.

SEC. 411. Prohibits modifying definition of waters under the jurisdiction of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

SEC. 412. Restricts awards of no-bid contracts.

SEC. 413. Requires the public disclosure of certain reports.

SEC. 414. Provision related to carbon emissions from forest biomass.

SEC. 415. Continues a provision which delineates the grant guidelines for the National Endowment for the Arts.

SEC. 416. Continues a provision which delineates the program priorities for the National Endowment for the Arts.

SEC. 417. Prohibits expansion of certain regulations under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

SEC. 418. Retains certain reporting requirements regarding the status of appropriations balances.

SEC. 419. Continues a provision on reporting on the use of climate change funds.

SEC. 420. Continues prohibition of any rules that would require the regulation of emissions from livestock.

SEC. 421. Continues prohibition on EPA using funds to implement a mandatory greenhouse gas reporting system for manure management systems.

SEC. 422. Modification of authorities for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission.

SEC. 423. Continues prohibition on regulation of fishing tackle and ammunition under the Toxic Substances Control Act.

SEC. 424. Continues provision regarding grazing permits on Forest Service lands

SEC. 425. Extends existing authority to collect recreation fees for 1 year.

SEC. 426. Stewardship Contracting technical correction.

SEC. 427. Continues standards for the use of American iron and steel for certain infrastructure projects.

SEC. 428. John F. Kennedy Center 1 year reauthorization.

SEC. 429. Technical corrections to Good Neighbor Authority.

SEC. 430. Boundary adjustment to Bob Marshall Wilderness.

SEC. 431. Prohibits denial of timely access of records to Inspectors General.

TITLE V

WILDFIRE DISASTER FUNDING

Title V of the bill includes language to create a new cap adjustment to the statutory discretionary spending limits for wildland fire suppression activities, to combat the most severe, complex, and threatening fires, and to serve as a contingency reserve. This mechanism is critically needed to provide certainty for the Federal agencies tasked with preventing and responding to the increasing incidence of catastrophic wildfires throughout the country. In addition, the language requires specific reporting and cost containment by the agencies utilizing this new cap adjustment. Further explanation can be found in the front matter of this statement. The language in title V is a modification of the proposal included in the fiscal year 2017 budget request, which is also the subject matter of bipartisan legislation introduced in both the House and the Senate.

TITLE VI

ALASKA LAND USE COUNCIL ACT

Title VI establishes a revised and modernized Alaska Land Use Council [ALUC]. The original ALUC was established in title 12 of the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act [ANILCA]. The ALUC sunset in 1990, but the current relationship between the State of Alaska, residents of Alaska, and the Federal land management agencies make it clear that a constructive venue at which to discuss land and resource management issues and to facilitate enhanced coordination and cooperation is necessary. The purpose of the new ALUC is to improve coordination, efficiency, and cooperation among Federal, State, and Alaska Native Corporation and Tribal land managers in addressing land and resource issues in order to fulfill the intent of Congress to balance social, economic, and environmental considerations as required by ANILCA.

TITLE VII

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Title VII of the bill authorizes a new Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission to commemorate the events that led to women gaining the right to vote, including the passage and ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment.

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 7, RULE XVI OF THE
STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Rule XVI, paragraph 7 requires that every report on a general appropriation bill filed by the Committee must identify each recommended amendment which proposes an item of appropriation which is not made to carry out the provisions of an existing law, a treaty stipulation, or an act or resolution previously passed by the Senate during that session.

Those items are as follows:

- Sums provided to the Bureau of Land Management for management of lands and resources, land acquisition, construction and maintenance, and loans to States.
- Sums provided to the Bureau of Land Management to inventory, manage, and improve rangelands for domestic livestock grazing pursuant to Public Law 95-514, the Public Rangeland Improvement Act of 1978.
- \$ _____ for the endangered species program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Sums provided to the Fish and Wildlife service for coastal wetlands planning, protection, and restoration.
- Sums provided for the Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Fund, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pursuant to the Fisheries Act of 1995.
- Sums provided to the Fish and Wildlife Service for the conservation and protection of marine mammals pursuant to Public Law 103-238, the Marine Mammal Protection Act Amendments of 1994.
- Sums provided for Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration grants.
- Sums provided to the Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to the Klamath River Basin Fishery Resources Restoration Act; Fisheries Restoration Irrigation Mitigation Act; and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act.
- Sums provided to the U.S. Geological Survey for the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program.
- Sums provided to the Bureau of Indian Affairs pursuant to The Tribal Colleges or Universities Assistance Act of 1978; The Indian Tribal Justice Act; Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Act; and The No Child Left Behind Act.
- \$ _____ for the Hazardous Substance Superfund.
- \$ _____ for State and tribal assistance grants: Alaska Native Villages.
- \$ _____ for State and tribal assistance grants: Clean Water SRF.
- \$ _____ for State and tribal assistance grants: Drinking Water SRF.
- Sums provided pursuant to the Clean Air Act, Radon Abatement Act, Clean Water Act, BEACH Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Solid Waste Disposal Act [RCRA], Toxic Substances Control Act, Pollution Prevention Act, and the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act.

- \$———— for matching funds for projects of the National Forest Foundation, U.S. Forest Service.
- \$———— for the National Endowment for the Arts.
- \$———— for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 7(c), RULE XXVI OF THE
STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE**

Pursuant to paragraph 7(c) of rule XXVI, on June 00, 2016, the Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill (S. 0000) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, provided, that the bill be subject to amendment and that the bill be consistent with its budget allocation, by a recorded vote of 00-00, a quorum being present. The vote was as follows:

Yeas

Nays

**COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 12, RULE XXVI OF THE
STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE**

Paragraph 12 of rule XXVI requires that Committee reports on a bill or joint resolution repealing or amending any statute or part of any statute include "(a) the text of the statute or part thereof which is proposed to be repealed; and (b) a comparative print of that part of the bill or joint resolution making the amendment and of the statute or part thereof proposed to be amended, showing by stricken-through type and italics, parallel columns, or other appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions which would be made by the bill or joint resolution if enacted in the form recommended by the committee."

In compliance with this rule, the following changes in existing law proposed to be made by the bill are shown as follows: existing law to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets; new matter is printed in italic; and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman.

BUDGETARY IMPACT OF BILL

PREPARED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PURSUANT TO SEC. 308(a), PUBLIC LAW 93-344, AS AMENDED

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority		Outlays	
	Committee allocation	Amount in bill	Committee allocation	Amount in bill
Comparison of amounts in the bill with the subcommittee allocation for 2017: Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies:				
Mandatory				
Discretionary				
Security				
Nonsecurity				
Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism				
Projections of outlays associated with the recommendation:				
2017				
2018				
2019				
2020 and future years				
Financial assistance to State and local governments for 2017				

¹ Includes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

² Excludes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

NA: Not applicable.

NOTE.—Consistent with the funding recommended in the bill as an emergency requirement and in accordance with section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the BBEDCA of 1985, the Committee anticipates that the Budget Committee will provide a revised 302(a) allocation for the Committee on Appropriations reflecting an upward adjustment of \$_____ in budget authority plus associated outlays.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017
 (In thousands of dollars)

Item	2016 appropriation	Budget estimate	Chairman's recommendation	Chairman's recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2016 appropriation	Budget estimate
TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Management of Lands and Resources					
Land Resources: Soil, water and air management					

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June 13, 2016 (11:21 a.m.)