



APPROPRIATIONS

CHAIRMAN TOM COLE *Tom Cole*

July 22, 2024

Congresswoman Lauren Boebert
1713 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC

Dear Congresswoman Boebert,

This letter includes important information for you as we prepare to vote on H.R. 8998, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2025. Attached you will find two documents with information about the bill.

The first document lists your requests that are included in H.R. 8998. As a reminder, it is rare that everything included in the House bill makes it into the final bill, but Chairman Cole and I will continue to fight for your priorities as this measure moves through the process.

The second document is a detailed summary of the bill. As you can see, the bill promotes U.S. energy independence, limits the Biden Administration's regulatory agenda, and protects access to our public lands – all while reining in unnecessary spending. Republican Members of the Appropriations Committee unanimously supported this bill during committee markups.

I urge Republicans to stick together and vote “YES” on this appropriations bill. Speaking in one clear voice as a Republican Conference puts us in the best position for House and Senate negotiations on a final bill. Please feel free to contact me directly or reach out to the subcommittee clerk, Kristin Clarkson, at (202) 225-3081 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Mike Simpson
Chairman
Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies Subcommittee



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Congresswoman Lauren Boebert (CO-03)

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

1. \$1 million for Project 7 Water Authority for Water Supply Project.
2. \$750,000 for the Town of New Caste for Sewer Line Replacement.
3. \$303,196 for the Town of De Beque for Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project.
4. \$750,000 for Pueblo County for Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement.
5. \$750,000 for the Town of Sanford for Water Facilities Improvement Project.
6. Bill language reinstating a rule to delist the gray wolf.
7. Report language regarding U.S. Forest Service efforts to address invasive species.
8. Fully funds the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program authorization, estimated at \$600 million for Fiscal Year 2025.
9. \$16.51 million for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Irrigation Operations and Maintenance programs.
10. \$43.91 million for the U.S. Geological Survey 3D Elevation Program.
11. \$14.43 million for the National Landslide Hazards Program at the U.S. Geological Survey.
12. Bill language prohibiting prohibits the Secretary from writing or issuing a proposed or final rule for greater sage-grouse or any distinct population segment; or to implement any threatened species or endangered species status of the greater sage-grouse or any distinct population segment.
13. Bill language prohibiting funding for the Council on Environmental Quality's notice of interim guidance titled "National Environmental Policy Act Guidance on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change. "
14. Bill language requiring the Secretary of the Interior to reissue the final rule titled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Population of Grizzly Bears From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife."
15. Report language regarding Public Availability of Data—Bureau of Land Management Expression of Interest Fees.



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16. \$35 million for Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Protection: National Priorities rural water technical assistance grants.
17. \$25.5 million for Environmental Protection Agency Technical Assistance for Wastewater Treatment Works rural clean water technical assistance grants.
18. \$2.5 million for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wolf Livestock Loss Demonstration program.



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INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

The Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act provides a total discretionary allocation of \$38.478 billion, which is \$72 million (0.2%) below the Fiscal Year 2024 enacted level and \$4.407 billion (10%) below the President's Budget Request. The bill also rescinds \$55 million of Department of the Interior funding for the Presidio Trust provided by the Inflation Reduction Act.

The bill fully funds the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program and prioritizes funding for Tribes and Wildland Fire Management, including permanently addressing wildland firefighter pay. In addition, the bill provides a \$2.75 billion fire suppression cap adjustment as authorized.

The bill meets the programmatic needs while rightsizing agency funding levels, including a \$1.79 billion (20%) reduction to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Strengthens our national security and promotes domestic energy production by:
 - Requiring the Secretary of the Interior to:
 - Resume quarterly onshore oil and gas lease sales.
 - Issue 5-year offshore oil and gas leasing programs on time.
 - Conduct lease sales in the Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area, the Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area, and the Alaska region.
 - Conduct Lease Sale 262.
 - Prohibiting funds to cancel oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.
 - Expanding access to critical minerals by blocking certain Bureau of Land Management withdrawals in Minnesota and reinstating mineral leases in the Superior National Forest.
 - Prohibiting the EPA from imposing the methane fee on oil and gas producers created by the Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act.
 - Ensuring ancillary mining activities, including exploration operations and construction of a mine access road, are permitted with or without the discovery of a valuable mineral deposit.
- Prioritizes funding for public safety and critical programs by:
 - Providing \$2.81 billion (+14.5%) for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, including \$746 million for Public Safety and Justice programs, which is 34% above the FY24 enacted level.
 - Providing \$1.47 billion for the Bureau of Indian Education (+7.5%), including \$271 million for Education Construction, which is 15% above the FY24 enacted level.



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- Providing \$8.56 billion for the Indian Health Service (+23%) along with \$5.98 billion in advance appropriations for FY26.
- Fully funding PILT estimated to be \$600 million, which is \$85 million above the FY24 enacted level.
- Providing \$3.6 billion, which is \$177 million above the FY24 enacted level, for wildfire activities and permanently addressing wildland firefighter pay and capacity, without using irresponsible budget gimmicks requested by the Administration.
- Reins in the Biden Administration's job-killing regulatory agenda by:
 - Ensuring chemical and pesticide manufacturers are not overburdened with requirements that would drive business overseas and threaten American competitiveness.
 - Blocking EPA's car regulations on light, medium, and heavy-duty vehicles.
 - Prohibiting the EPA from allowing California to require that new small off-road engines, such as lawn care equipment, be zero-emission.
 - Limiting abuse of the Endangered Species Act regarding species such as the sage-grouse, the gray wolf, the lesser-prairie chicken, and the dunes sagebrush lizard.
 - Addressing the harmful impacts of the Cottonwood decision to improve forest management.
 - Blocking the Administration's NEPA rules that give agencies broad leeway to incorporate climate change in permitting, allow preferential treatment for some projects over others, and include social cost of carbon in permit evaluations.
 - Prohibiting funds for the EPA's Clean Power Plan 2.0 and regulatory overreach regarding ozone emissions, particulate matter, and steam electric power plants.
- Protects access to our public lands by:
 - Blocking restrictions on hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting on federal lands.
 - Stopping the Bureau of Land Management's Conservation and Landscape Health rule to ensure continued access to public lands for grazing, recreation, and energy development.
 - Prohibiting multiple U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rulings used to weaponize the Endangered Species Act against land users and energy producers.
 - Blocking a regulation that would make it harder for Americans to use traditional ammunition and fishing tackle.
 - Prohibiting restrictions on where standard lead ammunition and fishing tackle can be used on certain federal lands or waters unless conditions are met.
 - Stopping the Administration's 30x30 initiative to ensure access to federal lands for mineral exploration and development.
- Focuses the Executive Branch on its core responsibilities by:
 - Reducing funding for the EPA by 20%.
 - Eliminating all discretionary funding for the Presidio Trust and rescinding \$55 million provided to the Presidio through the Inflation Reduction Act.
 - Reducing funding for the Council on Environmental Quality to the authorized level of \$1 million.



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- Blocking funds for the American Climate Corps, Climate Justice Alliance, and ecogrief counseling.
- Rejecting eight of the Administration's climate change executive orders.
- Prohibiting agencies from using the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC) in cost-benefit analyses and blocking the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases.
- Supports American values and principles by:
 - Prohibiting the use of funds to promote or advance critical race theory.
 - Prohibiting implementation of the Biden Administration's executive orders on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).
 - Prohibiting funds for COVID-19 mask or vaccine mandates.
 - Prohibiting funds for the National Park Service to provide housing to an alien without lawful status.
 - Ensuring only approved flags are flown over agency facilities.
 - Prohibiting funds for moral conviction discriminatory action.

DETAILED FUNDING SUMMARY

Department of the Interior

Provides \$14.68 billion for the Department of the Interior, which is \$52.1 million below the FY24 enacted level and \$1.49 billion below the President's Budget Request.

- **Bureau of Land Management:** Provides \$1.26 billion for the Bureau of Land Management, which is \$115.6 million (8.4%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$208.2 million below the President's Budget Request.
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:** Provides \$1.58 billion for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is \$144.4 million (8.4%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$307.8 million below the President's Budget Request.
- **National Park Service:** Provides \$3.12 billion for the National Park Service, which is \$209.8 million (6.3%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$461 million below the President's Budget Request.
- **U.S. Geological Survey:** Provides \$1.37 billion for the U.S. Geological Survey, which is \$81.1 million (5.6%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$203.9 million below the President's Budget Request.
- **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:** Provides \$144.06 million for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, which is \$11.1 million (7%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$43 million below the President's Budget Request.



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- **Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement:** Provides \$156.43 million for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, which is an increase of \$2 million (1%) above the FY24 enacted level and \$25.2 million below the President's Budget Request.
- **Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund:** Provides \$168 million for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, which is \$5.7 million (3%) above the FY24 enacted level and \$7.6 million below the President's Budget Request.
- **Bureau of Indian Affairs:** Provides \$2.81 billion for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which is \$356.07 million (14.5%) above the FY24 enacted level and \$7.83 million below the President's Budget Request.
- **Bureau of Indian Education:** Provides \$1.47 billion for the Bureau of Indian Education, which is \$102.74 million (7.5%) above the FY24 enacted level and \$51.84 million below the President's Budget Request.
- **Office of the Secretary:** Provides \$102.29 million for the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, which is \$45.1 million (31%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$55.6 million below the President's Budget Request.
- **Wildland Fire Management:** Provides \$1.56 billion for Wildland Fire Management, which is \$91.6 million (6.3%) above the FY24 enacted level and \$84.4 million below the President's Budget Request.
 - Includes \$360 million for fire suppression cap adjustment as authorized.

Environmental Protection Agency

Provides \$7.37 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency, which is \$1.79 billion (20%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$3.62 billion below the President's Budget Request.

- **Science and Technology:** Provides \$522.5 million for Science and Technology, which is \$235.6 million (31%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$487.5 million below the President's Budget Request.
- **Environmental Programs and Management:** Provides \$2.25 billion for Environmental Programs and Management, which is \$927.58 million (29%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$2.16 billion below the President's Budget Request.
 - Maintains most geographic programs at the FY24 enacted level.



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- **Hazardous Substance Superfund:** Provides \$661.17 million for the Hazardous Substance Superfund (in addition to fee receipts), which is \$123.47 million (23.1%) above the FY24 enacted level and equal to the President's Budget Request.
 - Increases funding above the FY24 enacted level due to the lower anticipated receipts in FY25.
- **State and Tribal Assistance Grants:** Provides \$3.68 billion for State and Tribal Assistance Grants, which is \$738.7 million (17%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$847.8 million below the President's Budget Request, which is in addition to funding already provided by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for FY25.

U.S. Forest Service

Provides \$8.43 billion for the U.S. Forest Service, which is \$53.3 million above the FY24 enacted level and \$492.8 million below the President's Budget Request.

- \$3.63 billion for the U.S. Forest Service (non-fire accounts), which is \$131.8 million (3.5%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$350 million below the President's Budget Request.
- \$2.41 billion for the U.S. Forest Service, Wildland Fire Management, which is \$95.1 million (4%) above the FY24 discretionary level and \$142.7 million below the President's Budget Request.
- Includes a fire suppression cap adjustment of \$2.39 billion as authorized.

Department of Health and Human Services

- **Indian Health Service:** Provides \$8.56 billion for FY25, including the prior year advance, for the Indian Health Service, which is an increase of \$1.6 billion (23%) above the comparable FY24 level and \$529.4 million below the President's Budget Request.
 - Provides \$5.98 billion in FY26 advanced appropriations.
- **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry:** Provides \$76 million for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, which is \$5.6 million (7%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$9 million below the President's Budget Request.
- **National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences:** Provides \$75 million for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, which is \$4.7 million (6%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$8 million below the President's Budget Request.
- **Council on Environmental Quality:** Provides \$1 million for the Council on Environmental Quality, which is \$3.63 million (78%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$3.68 million below the President's Budget Request.



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John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Provides \$38 million for the Kennedy Center, which is \$6.93 million (15%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$7.73 million below the President's Budget Request.

National Gallery of Art

Provides \$188.32 million for the National Gallery of Art, which is \$20.9 million (10%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$27.1 million below the President's Budget Request.

National Endowment for the Arts

Provides \$203.9 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, which is \$3.11 million (2%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$6.21 million below the President's Budget Request.

National Endowment for the Humanities

Provides \$203.9 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities, which is \$3.11 million (2%) below the FY24 enacted level.

Smithsonian Institution

Provides \$959.72 million for the Smithsonian Institution, which is \$130.79 million (12%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$200.49 million below the President's Budget Request.

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

Provides \$65.23 million for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, which is equal to the FY24 enacted level and \$8.8 million below the President's Budget Request.

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Provides \$12 million for the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, which is \$3 million (15%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$2.1 million below the President's Budget Request.

Presidio Trust

Eliminated funding for the Presidio Trust, which is \$90 million (100%) below the FY24 enacted level and \$45 million below the President's Budget Request.



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Community Project Funding

Includes \$1.033 billion in Community Project Funding for 895 water infrastructure projects requested by 285 Members.