



OFFICE OF SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI FACT SHEET

FY 2008 INTERIOR-ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATIONS

Key Points:

- **The New Direction Congress is determined to reverse years of neglect of our environmental and conservation priorities. Indeed, since 2001, the funding for EPA has fallen by 29 percent in real terms and funding for the Interior Department has fallen by 16 percent. This bill is a beginning in reversing that decline – providing a 4.3 percent increase over FY 2007.**
- **The Congress is committed to taking our country in a new direction – working in a bipartisan manner to ensure that our air and water are clean, our hazardous waste sites are cleaned up, and our national treasures – including our national parks, national wildlife refuges, and national forests – are protected and preserved.**
- **The bill makes climate change research a key priority. It boosts federal investment in climate change research at EPA and the Interior Department by 53 percent and, in response to the Supreme Court’s landmark decision in April, compels the EPA to begin developing a process for regulating greenhouse gases.**
- **The bill meets two key commitments of the new Democratic-led Congress: it has complete transparency on its earmarks and 2) it also cuts the amount for earmarks in the bill in half.**

Today, the House will consider H.R. 2643, FY 2008 Interior and the Environment Appropriations. This bill provides \$27.6 billion in discretionary spending for environmental and conservation programs in FY 2008, which is \$1.2 billion over FY 2007 and \$1.9 billion over the President’s request. Following are highlights of some of the bill’s provisions.

Some Key EPA Programs

Overall EPA Funding. Since 2001, under a Republican-controlled Congress, funding for EPA has been cut by 29 percent in inflation-adjusted terms. This bill is a beginning in reversing that decline. It provides \$8.1 billion for EPA, \$361 million (4.7 percent) above FY 2007 and \$887 million (12.3 percent) above the President’s request, which would have slashed the agency by more than half a billion dollars.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The bill rejects the President’s proposed 37 percent cut in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and instead provides \$1.1 billion for the fund, \$41 million over FY 2007. This funding will work to improve the quality of drinking water throughout the country and begin to address cuts made in the program since 2004. Since it was created in 1987, this fund has been the primary source of federal funding for clean water funding.

Sewer and Water Grants. The bill provides \$140 million for sewer and water grants to local communities, a program that had been eliminated by the GOP-controlled Congress last year – despite the fact that it is highly valued by many local communities across the country.

Superfund. The bill provides \$1.27 billion for the Superfund hazardous waste clean-up program, which is \$17 million above FY 2007 and \$27 million above the President's request.

Brownfields. The bill provides \$100 million, 12 percent above FY 2007 and the President's request, for evaluation and cleanup of "brownfields," former industrial and commercial sites, turning them from problem properties to productive community use. It also provides \$50 million in grants to states to administer Brownfield programs.

Environmental Justice. The bill provides \$7 million, \$2.3 million (or 48 percent) above FY 2007 and \$3.8 million (or 83 percent) above the President's request, for environmental justice programs, which protect the health and welfare of low-income and minority communities from environmental toxins related to industrial pollution.

Some Key Interior Department & Other Conservation Programs

National Parks. The bill makes improving our national parks a key priority. It provides \$2.5 billion for the national parks, \$212 million (9 percent) above FY 2007 and \$148 million (6 percent) over the President's request – the first step in a 10-year program to upgrade our parks in time for the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016. Much of this additional funding is for improving national parks operations to help ensure that visitors to our national parks will experience, for the first time in years, improved levels of services. For example, the additional funding will support 3,000 badly needed new seasonal employees and 590 new year-round staff.

National Wildlife Refuges. The bill provides \$451 million for National Wildlife Refuges – an increase of 14 percent above FY 2007. This will reverse the current staffing shortfall problems in our refuges which have lost almost 600 staff since 2004.

Forest Service. The bill rejects the President's proposed cut in basic (non-fire) Forest Service funding of 10 percent – providing a 4 percent increase instead. This maintains important research, cooperative forestry, and land management programs, and also includes \$65 million for a new Legacy Road and Trail Remediation program to repair damaged roads.

Wildfire Programs. The bill provides \$2.9 billion for wildfire preparedness and suppression programs, which is an increase of \$201 million above FY 2007. As we see in the media every day, this year's fire season is shaping up to be one of the worst. The funds in this bill are the minimum necessary for the wildfire program.

Climate Change

Increase in Climate Change Research. The bill boosts federal investment in basic research on climate change at EPA and the Interior Department by 53 percent above FY 2007 and 55 percent above the President's request. These research efforts range from studies by the U.S. Geological Survey on changes to ecosystems caused by global warming to studies by EPA on the effects of carbon sequestration on the ecosystem and public health.

Developing A Framework for Regulating Greenhouse Gases. The Supreme Court ruled in April that EPA has the authority to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. In response, the bill compels the EPA to begin developing a process for regulating greenhouse gases. It does not mandate the form of these new regulations or set a specific deadline for producing the regulations. But it does state that the

process must begin in earnest in 2008 – requiring EPA to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking on the issue by July 1, 2008.

Climate Change Commission. The bill establishes a two-year Commission on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, which will deal for the first time with the scientific issues related to how the U.S. adapts to the reality of climate change. \$5 million will be used to support the Commission's activities and the remaining \$45 million will be distributed by the Commission to science agencies across the federal government to begin to implement the commission's recommendations.

Sense of Congress Provisions on Reality of Climate Change. The bill also contains Sense of Congress provisions that recognize in statute that climate change is a reality, that human activity contributes to it in significant ways, and that this country must take actions to address this serious problem.

Energy Star. The bill provides \$52 million for Energy Star, 9 percent above FY 2007 and 14 percent above the President's request. Energy Star is a program that evaluates and promotes products for energy efficiency to help Americans make informed energy choices. EPA estimates that Energy Star saved Americans \$12 billion in energy costs in 2005.

Earmarks

Providing Full Transparency for Earmarks. This Democratic-led Congress is delivering on its promises: providing full transparency for all earmarks. A supplemental report, H.Rept. 110-187, Part 2, has been filed on this bill, which, for each earmark, lists the recipient, the sponsor, and the dollar figure. Of the 319 earmarks in the bill, 228 were requested by lawmakers and 93 by President Bush. Furthermore, each sponsor has filed a certification that the sponsor and the sponsor's spouse have no financial interest in the earmark.

Cutting the Amount for Earmarks in Half. The Democratic-led Congress is also delivering on a second promise: for each appropriations bill, cutting the amount for earmarks in half. This bill includes \$119 million in House earmarks; the Senate bill will also include \$119 million in earmarks – bringing the total to \$238 million. This is one-half the \$476 million in earmarks that were included in the FY 2006 Interior-Environment bill under the Republican-controlled Congress. (For FY 2007, the Democratic-led Congress in February adopted a Continuing Resolution that eliminated earmarks for this year.)

Other Key Provisions

Moratoria on Offshore Drilling. The bill maintains longstanding moratoria on energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf that have been included in the bill since the mid-1980s.

BIA/Indian Health Service. The bill includes \$2.3 billion, \$39 million above FY 2007 and \$118 million above the President's request, for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). It also includes \$3.4 billion, \$204 million above FY 2007 and \$114 million above the President's request, for the Indian Health Service.

National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities. The bill provides \$160 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, which is 28 percent above FY 2007 and 25 percent above the President's request. It also provides \$160 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities, which is 13 percent above FY 2007 and 13 percent above the President's request. These increases are to help these programs recover from deep cuts over the last decade.