

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the President has disparaged budget gimmicks and declared “a return to honest budgeting.” Yet his plan then goes on to claim \$1.5 billion in war “savings” that are nothing more than an illusion, just the kind of gimmick he has disparaged.

The President’s budget claims \$1.6 trillion in “savings” and \$1.5 trillion in “deficit reduction” by claiming the already determined drawdown in troops as a reduction in spending. Put another way, the administration budget assumes an elevated path of war spending that was never going to be followed, and then claims savings through a reduction that was going to occur anyway.

This war games budget gimmick ends up representing three-quarter of their so-called savings.

The President isn’t making any attempt to reduce spending. He has constructed an unrealistically high future spending projection, and then claimed as savings the difference between this fictional budget world and reality.

We need to get spending under control, not budget gimmicks.

HONORING MRS. MYRTIS DENSON MAYO

(Mr. CHILDERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHILDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of America’s most exceptional women. Today is indeed a grand day in Prentiss County, Mississippi, because today, Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Myrtis Denson Mayo and all who love her are celebrating 102 years of a life well-lived, one who has sewn every garment she has ever worn. A rich life rewarded by 6 children, 19 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and 20 great-great-grandchildren. Her extraordinary life is one of a great faith in God, with a love and appreciation for all mankind.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor this humble and gentle lady and commend her on her 102nd birthday, and further, I am proud to be one of the thousands of people positively influenced by my wife’s grandmother, Mrs. Myrtis Denson Mayo.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT CONGRESS TO PUT ITS FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. After years of runaway spending at the Federal level, the American people want this Congress to put our fiscal house in order. Instead, President Barack Obama has brought forward the most fiscally irresponsible budget in American history. The President’s budget spends too much, borrows too much, and taxes too much, and the American people know it.

The American people don’t want more spending, more government, and

more bailouts. They don’t want to see this President’s budget result in, as CBO projected, nearly \$1 trillion in annual deficits for the next 10 years.

The President’s budget would actually double the national debt in just 6 years, and even worse, the President’s budget pays for all this spending with higher taxes on virtually every American, small business, and a light-switch tax that would raise utility rates for every American household by more than \$3,000.

Today, Republicans will continue to offer better solutions, unveiling today a blueprint for recovery that’s built on fiscal discipline, growth, and reform.

Let the debate begin.

FEDERAL LAND ASSISTANCE, MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISRAEL). Pursuant to House Resolution 281 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1404.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1404) to authorize a supplemental funding source for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities on Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy, and for other purposes, with Mr. PASTOR of Arizona (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, all time for general debate had expired.

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

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1404

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act” or “FLAME Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Flame Fund for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities.
- Sec. 3. Cohesive wildland fire management strategy.
- Sec. 4. Review of certain wildfires to evaluate cost containment in wildland fire suppression activities.
- Sec. 5. Reducing risk of wildfires in fire-ready communities.

SEC. 2. FLAME FUND FOR CATASTROPHIC EMERGENCY WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land” means the following:

(A) Public lands, as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

(B) Units of the National Park System.

(C) Refuges of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

(D) Lands held in trust by the United States for the benefit of Indian tribes or individual Indians.

(E) Lands in the National Forest System, as defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

(2) FLAME FUND.—The term “Flame Fund” means the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Fund established by this section.

(3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Secretary concerned” means—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to Federal land described in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of paragraph (1); and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System land.

(4) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries” means the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, acting jointly.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT AND AVAILABILITY OF FLAME FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Fund.

(2) CONTENTS.—The Flame Fund shall consist of the following amounts:

(A) Amounts appropriated to the Flame Fund pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (c).

(B) Amounts transferred to the Flame Fund pursuant to subsection (d).

(3) AVAILABILITY.—Subject to subsection (e), amounts in the Flame Fund shall be available to the Secretaries to pay the costs of catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities that are separate from amounts annually appropriated to the Secretaries for the predicted annual workload for wildland fire suppression activities, based on analyses of historical workloads and anticipated increased workloads due to changing environmental or demographic conditions.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Flame Fund such amounts as may be necessary to carry out this section. It is the intent of Congress that the amount appropriated to the Flame Fund for fiscal year 2010 and each fiscal year thereafter should be not less than the average amount expended by the Secretaries for emergency wildland fire suppression activities over the five fiscal years preceding that fiscal year.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DESIGNATION OF FLAME FUND APPROPRIATIONS AS EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the amounts appropriated to the Flame Fund should be designated as amounts necessary to meet emergency needs; and

(B) the new budget authority and outlays resulting therefrom should not count for the purposes of titles III and IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(3) NOTICE OF INSUFFICIENT FUNDS.—The Secretaries shall notify the congressional committees specified in subsection (h)(2) whenever only an estimated two months worth of funding remains in the Flame Fund.

(d) TRANSFER OF EXCESS WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION AMOUNTS INTO FLAME FUND.—