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104th Congress, 1st Session – – – – – – – – – – – – – – House Document 104–27

MAKING AVAILABLE EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

HIS REQUEST TO MAKE AVAILABLE EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING $150,000,000 IN BUDGET AUTHORITY FOR THE FOREST SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND TO DESIGNATE THESE AMOUNTS AS EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 251(b)(2)(D)(i) OF THE BALANCED BUDGET AND EMERGENCY DEFICIT CONTROL ACT OF 1985, AS AMENDED, PURSUANT TO 31 U.S.C. 1107

FEBRUARY 6, 1995.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed

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THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, February 6, 1995.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

SIR: In accordance with provisions of P.L. 103–332, the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 1995, I am transmitting a request to make available appropriations totaling $150,000,000 in budget authority for the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture.

The previously appropriated funds to be made available are for the Forest Service's emergency wildland firefighting program. As a result of the significantly higher-than-average number of fires and acres burned in FY 1994, funds appropriated to the Forest Service in FY 1994 for fire suppression, together with existing balances, were not sufficient to cover the expenses incurred during that fiscal year.

I designate the amount made available in accordance with P.L. 103–332 as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

Also included is an FY 1996 budget amendment to the request for the Environmental Protection Agency's Water Infrastructure Financing/State Revolving Fund account.

The details of these actions are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with her comments and observations.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

Enclosure.

Estimate No. 3
104th Congress, 1st Session

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

February 6, 1995

The President

The White House

Submitted for your consideration is a request to make available emergency wildland firefighting appropriations totaling $150 million for the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. Your approval of this request would make available contingent emergency funds appropriated in the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 1995. These funds would be used to pay for the costs of wildland fire suppression efforts of the Forest Service incurred in FY 1994.

The FY 1994 fire season required significantly higher-than-average fire suppression and mobilization activities. In FY 1994, 14,426 fires burned 1,479,735 acres of National Forest Land, compared to the five-year average of 10,839 fires and 355,727 acres burned. This is four times more acreage burned than the five-year average.

Consequently, funds appropriated in FY 1994 to the Forest Service for fire suppression and existing balances were not sufficient to cover the expenses incurred in FY 1994. In accordance with 16 U.S.C. 556d, funds were advanced by the Department of Agriculture from its Cooperative Work Trust Fund to prevent interruption of ongoing firefighting efforts. The proposed $150 million emergency release is needed to reimburse this fund.

P.L. 103-332, the FY 1995 Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, provided $250 million to the Forest Service in contingent emergency funding for wildland firefighting. These funds are available provided: (1) that you notify Congress of your designation of these funds as an emergency requirement; and (2) that the amounts appropriated to the Forest Service for FY 1995 for wildland fire emergencies (but not designated as emergency requirements) have been at least equal to the most recent 10-year historical average. Since in FY 1995 $226 million was appropriated to the Forest Service to fight wildland fires, an amount equal to the 10-year average (FY 1984-1993), your declaration of the $150 million requested as an emergency requirement will make the funding available. No further congressional action will be required.

I recommend that you designate the $150 million requested to be made available in accordance with provisions of P.L. 103-332 as an emergency funding requirement in accordance with section 251(b)(2)(D)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

Also included is an FY 1996 budget amendment for the Environmental Protection Agency to fund water infrastructure improvements in New Orleans, Louisiana, and in Bristol County, Massachusetts.

I have carefully reviewed these proposals and am satisfied that they are necessary at this time. Therefore, I join the Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency in recommending that you approve these requests by signing the enclosed letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Alice M. Rivlin
Director

Enclosures

EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS: AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED MADE AVAILABLE BY THE PRESIDENT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Emergency Forest Service
Firefighting Fund..... $150,000,000

Public Law 103-332, the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 1995, provided $250 million in contingent emergency funding for the Emergency Forest Service Firefighting Fund. The use of these funds is contingent upon: (1) Presidential notification to the Congress of his designation of this funding as an emergency requirement; and (2) amounts appropriated in FY 1995 to this account for fire emergencies (but not designated as emergency requirements) being at least equal to the most recent 10-year average. In FY 1995, $226 million was appropriated to this account, an amount equal to the 10-year average. To date, none of these FY 1995 emergency funds have been released.

This $150 million will enable the Forest Service to cover the costs of wildland fire suppression efforts in FY 1994. Due to higher-than-average firefighting costs, funds appropriated in FY 1994 for this essential program and existing balances were not sufficient to cover the expenses incurred.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1996 Budget Appendix Page		1996 Request Pending	1996 Proposed Amendment	1996 Revised Request
873	Water Infrastructure Financing/State Revolving Funds	---	Language	---

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "$1,600,000,000" and substitute "$1,587,000,000"; and after "Alaska Native Villages;", insert: "$10,000,000 for grants for water infrastructure improvements in New Orleans, Louisiana; $3,000,000 for grants for water infrastructure improvements in Bristol County, Massachusetts;".)

This amendment funds high-priority water infrastructure improvements in the city of New Orleans, Louisiana, and in Bristol County, Massachusetts. This amendment would not affect outlays.