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

JUNE 16, 2016.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany S. 3068]

The Committee on Appropriations reports the bill (S. 3068) 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	\$32,762,011,000
Amount of 2016 appropriations	32,925,579,000
Amount of 2017 budget estimate	33,176,164,000
Bill as recommended to Senate compared to—	
2016 appropriations	– 163,568,000
2017 budget estimate	– 414,153,000

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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 scooper 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