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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

CONTENTS

	Page
Summary of Bill	4
Major Changes Recommended in the Bill	4
Reprogramming Guidelines	10
Title I:	
Department of the Interior:	
Land and Water Resources: Bureau of Land Management	12
Fish and Wildlife and Parks:	
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	21
National Park Service	29
Energy and Minerals:	
U.S. Geological Survey	35
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	39
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	41
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement	42
Indian Affairs: Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education .	44
Departmental Offices:	
Office of the Secretary	51
Insular Affairs	53
Office of the Solicitor	54
Office of Inspector General	54
Office of Special Trustee for American Indians	55
Department-wide Programs:	
Wildland Fire Management	55
Central Hazardous Materials Fund	56
Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration	56
Working Capital Fund	56
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	56
General Provisions: Department of the Interior	57
Title II:	
Environmental Protection Agency:	
Program Description	59
Science and Technology	61
Environmental Programs and Management	64
Office of Inspector General	73
Buildings and Facilities	73
Hazardous Substance Superfund	73
Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund	75
Inland Oil Spill Program	76
State and Tribal Assistance Grants	76
Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program	77
Administrative Provisions	77
Title III:	
Related Agencies:	
Department of Agriculture: Forest Service	78
Administrative Provisions	88
Department of Health and Human Services:	
Indian Health Service	88
Contract Support Costs	90
National Institutes of Health	91
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry	92
Other Related Agencies:	
Executive Office of the President	92
Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality	92

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