



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Tom Udall  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

AUG 29 2017

Dear Ranking Member Udall:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service is projecting that it will not have sufficient funding for the remainder of fiscal year 2017. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 115-31), provides that any appropriations or funds available to the Forest Service may be transferred to the Wildland Fire Management appropriation for forest firefighting due to severe burning conditions.

The Act requires I notify you that all fire suppression funds appropriated under the headings "Wildland Fire Management" and "FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund" will be obligated within 30 days. Current projections indicate these funds will be obligated within 30 days.

For your information, I am enclosing the funding strategy the Forest Service will use to cover the expected deficit. The fire transfer strategy identifies specific accounts and amounts of up to \$300 million. The funding includes discretionary and mandatory account balances. It also assumes certain available balances that can be transferred from the Wildland Fire Management account of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Forest Service will use "real-time" spending information and only transfer amounts necessary to cover fire suppression activities through the end of the fiscal year.

If you have any further questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095. A similar letter is being sent to Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue".

Sonny Perdue  
Secretary

Enclosure



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Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
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Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Dear Madam Chairwoman:

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