

104th Congress, 2d Session - - - - - House Document 104-256

MAKING AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

HIS REQUEST TO MAKE AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING \$51,200,000 IN BUDGET AUTHORITY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, AND TO DESIGNATE THE AMOUNTS MADE AVAILABLE 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, PURSUANT TO 31 U.S.C. 1107



SEPTEMBER 4, 1996.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed

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WASHINGTON : 1996

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, DC, August 29, 1996.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR: In accordance with provisions of P.L. 102-381, the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 1993, I hereby make available appropriations totaling \$51,200,000 in budget authority to the Department of the Interior. These funds will be used to address urgent needs arising from the consequences of recent wildland fires.

The previously appropriated funds that are hereby made available are for the Department of the Interior's emergency wildland firefighting program. The funds appropriated to the Department of the Interior in FY 1996 for fire suppression, as well as existing balances, will soon be exhausted.

I designate the amount made available in accordance with P.L. 102-381 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.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

Enclosure.

[Estimate No. 22, 104th Cong., 2d Sess.]

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,
Washington, DC, August 29, 1996.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House.

Submitted for your consideration is a request to make available emergency wildland firefighting appropriations totaling \$51.2 million for the Department of the Interior. Your approval of this request would make available contingent emergency funds appropriated in the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 1993 (P.L. 102-381). These funds would be used to pay for the costs of wildland fire suppression efforts of the Department of the Interior incurred in FY 1996.

FY 1996 has been an active fire year thus far, with major early season wildfires in Texas and Oklahoma, and significant additional fire activity in New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Oregon. Within recent weeks, there have been large wildfires in nearly every western State of the country.

The funds appropriated in FY 1996 to the Department of the Interior for fire suppression in FY 1996 will soon be exhausted. Consequently, the proposed \$51.2 million emergency release is needed to cover estimated fire costs for the remainder of the fire season.

I recommend that you designate the \$51.2 million requested to be made available in accordance with provisions of P.L. 102-381 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.

I have carefully reviewed this proposal and am satisfied that it is necessary at this time. Therefore, I join the Secretary of the Interior in recommending that you approve this request by signing the enclosed letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

JACOB LEW, *Acting Director.*

Enclosure.

EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS: AMOUNT PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED MADE AVAILABLE
BY THE PRESIDENT

<i>Department of the Interior</i>	
Bureau of Land Management:	
Wildland Fire Management	\$51,200,000

Public Law 102-381, the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 1993, provided \$51.2 million in contingent emergency funding for the Department's Emergency Firefighting Fund, now the Wildland Fire Management account. The availability of these funds was made contingent upon Presidential notification to the Congress of his designation of this fund-

ing as an emergency requirement. None of the funds have yet been designated as an emergency requirement and made available.

The \$51.2 million will enable the Department of the Interior to cover the costs of wildland fire suppression efforts in the 1996 fire season. Due to higher-than-average firefighting costs, funds appropriated in FY 1996 for this essential program and existing balances are not estimated to be sufficient to cover the expenses incurred.

