

105th Congress, 1st Session - - - - - House Document 105-167

CANCELLATION OF DOLLAR AMOUNT OF  
DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY

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MESSAGE

FROM

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

TRANSMITTING

A REPORT CANCELLING THE DOLLAR AMOUNTS OF DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY CONTAINED IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998, PURSUANT TO PUB. L. 104-130, SEC. 2(a) (110 STAT. 1201)



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*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the Line Item Veto Act, I hereby cancel the dollar amounts of discretionary budget authority, as specified in the attached reports, contained in the “Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998” (Public Law 105–65; H.R. 2158). I have determined that the cancellation of these amounts will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *November 1, 1997.*



**CANCELLATION OF  
DOLLAR AMOUNT OF DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY  
Report Pursuant to the Line Item Veto Act, P.L. 104-130**

**Bill Citation:** "Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998" (H.R. 2158)

**1(A). Dollar Amount of Discretionary Budget Authority:** \$900 thousand for planning a new national cemetery in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on page 90 of House Report 105-297, dated October 6, 1997.

**1(B). Determinations:** This cancellation will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest.

**1(C), (E). Reasons for Cancellations; Facts, Circumstances, and Considerations Relating to or Bearing Upon the Cancellations; and Estimated Effect of Cancellation of Objects, Purposes, and Programs:** This item would provide funding for the design of a new Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemetery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The Department just opened one new cemetery and will open four more in the next two years --unprecedented since the Civil War. Activation of these cemeteries is a top priority. As a result of this recent expansion, the FY 1998 President's Budget and VA's Strategic Plan call for no new construction of national cemeteries over the next five years. This will give VA time to assess the adequacy of these new presences and to determine what, if any, further construction is warranted. Should future construction be needed, several other sites would be higher priority than Fort Sill in terms of veterans served. The estimated cost for the first phase of constructing this cemetery is \$9.1 million, but \$1.0 million a year would be needed for increased operating costs in the system.

**1(D). Estimated Fiscal, Economic, and Budgetary Effect of Cancellation:** As a result of the cancellation, Federal outlays will not increase, as specified below. This will have a commensurate effect on the Federal budget deficit and, to that extent, will have a beneficial effect on the economy.

Outlay Changes (in thousands of dollars)					
FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	Total
-39	-242	-292	-216	-82	-871

**1(F). Adjustments to Non-Defense Discretionary Spending Limits:**

**Budget authority:** -\$900 thousand in FY 1998

**Outlays:** The estimated outlay effect for each year is shown above.

**Evaluation of Effects of These Adjustments upon Sequestration Procedures:** If a sequestration were required, such sequestration would occur at levels that are reduced by the amounts above.

**2(A). Agency:** Department of Veterans Affairs

**2(A). Bureau:** National Cemetery System

**2(A). Governmental Function/Project (Account):** Veterans Cemetery System (Construction, Major Projects)

**2(B). States and Congressional Districts Affected:** Oklahoma, 4th Congressional District

**2(C). Total Number of Cancellations (inclusive) in Current Session in each State and District identified above:** Oklahoma: one; 4th District: one

**CANCELLATION OF  
DOLLAR AMOUNT OF DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY  
Report Pursuant to the Line Item Veto Act, P.L. 104-130**

**Bill Citation:** "Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998" (H.R. 2158)

**1(A). Dollar Amount of Discretionary Budget Authority:** \$15 thousand for an Economic Development Initiative project "Arab Police Department," on page 96 of House Report 105-297, dated October 6, 1997.

**1(B). Determinations:** This cancellation will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest.

**1(C), (E). Reasons for Cancellation; Facts, Circumstances, and Considerations Relating to or Bearing Upon the Cancellation; and Estimated Effect of Cancellation on Objects, Purposes, and Programs:** This project would develop a multidepartmental police training complex on city property in Arab, Alabama. This project is being canceled because: (1) funding for facilities used in the general conduct of government is not an eligible use of Community Development Block grant funding; and (2) routine police training is considered to be part of the general conduct of government.

**1(D). Estimated Fiscal, Economic, and Budgetary Effect of Cancellation:** As a result of the cancellation, Federal outlays will not increase, as specified below. This will have a commensurate effect on the Federal budget deficit and, to that extent, will have a beneficial effect on the economy.

Outlay Changes (in thousands of dollars)					
FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	Total
----	-5	-7	-2	-1	-15

**1(F). Adjustments to Non-Defense Discretionary Spending Limits:**  
**Budget authority:** -\$15 thousand in FY 1998  
**Outlays:** The estimated outlay effect for each year is shown above.

**Evaluation of Effects of These Adjustments upon Sequestration Procedures:** If a sequestration were required, such sequestration would occur at levels that are reduced by the amounts above.

**2(A). Agency:** Department of Housing and Urban Development

**2(A). Bureau:** Community Planning and Development

**2(A). Governmental Function/Project (Account):** Economic Development Initiative  
(Community Development Block Grants)

**2(B). States and Congressional Districts Affected:** Alabama, 4th Congressional District

**2(C). Total Number of Cancellations (inclusive) in Current Session in each State and District identified above:** Alabama: one; 4th District: one

**CANCELLATION OF  
DOLLAR AMOUNT OF DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY  
Report Pursuant to the Line Item Veto Act, P.L. 104-130**

**Bill Citation:** "Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998" (H.R. 2158)

**1(A). Dollar Amount of Discretionary Budget Authority:** \$1,000 thousand for Carter County Chamber of Commerce for trade and development activities on page 99 of the House Report 105-297, dated October 6, 1997.

**1(B). Determinations:** This cancellation will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest.

**1(C), (E). Reasons for Cancellation; Facts, Circumstances, and Considerations Relating to or Bearing Upon the Cancellation; and Estimated Effect of Cancellation on Objects, Purposes, and Programs:** These funds would be used to provide a grant to the Carter County Chamber of Commerce to search for ways to enhance their economic standing. Carter County plans to increase revenue for the County by examining possible trade and development activities in the region. The project is being canceled because: (1) it was not requested by the President; and (2) promotional and business outreach activities are not eligible uses of Community Development Block Grants.

**1(D). Estimated Fiscal, Economic, and Budgetary Effect of Cancellation:** As a result of the cancellation, Federal outlays will not increase, as specified below. This will have a commensurate effect on the Federal budget deficit and, to that extent, will have a beneficial effect on the economy.

Outlay Changes (in thousands of dollars)					
FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	Total
-20	-340	-460	-130	-40	-990

**1(F). Adjustments to Non-Defense Discretionary Spending Limits:**

**Budget authority:** -\$1,000 thousand in FY 1998

**Outlays:** The estimated outlay effect for each year is shown above.

**Evaluation of Effects of These Adjustments upon Sequestration Procedures:** If a sequestration were required, such sequestration would occur at levels that are reduced by the amounts above.

- 2(A). Agency:** Department of Housing and Urban Development
- 2(A). Bureau:** Community Planning and Development
- 2(A). Governmental Function/Project (Account):** Economic Development Initiative  
(Community Development Block Grants)
  
- 2(B). States and Congressional Districts Affected:** Montana, At large
  
- 2(C). Total Number of Cancellations (inclusive) in Current Session in each State and District identified above:** Montana: three

**CANCELLATION OF  
DOLLAR AMOUNT OF DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY  
Report Pursuant to the Line Item Veto Act, P.L. 104-130**

**Bill Citation:** "Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998" (H.R. 2158)

**1(A). Dollar Amount of Discretionary Budget Authority:** \$600 thousand for a Solar Aquatic Wastewater Treatment Demonstration Project on page 117 of House Report 105-297, dated October 6, 1997.

**1(B). Determinations:** This cancellation will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest.

**1(C), (E). Reasons for Cancellation; Facts, Circumstances, and Considerations Relating to or Bearing Upon the Cancellation; and Estimated Effect of Cancellation on Objects, Purposes, and Programs:** Solar Aquatic Wastewater Treatment is a demonstration project of an alternative wastewater treatment approach. The Congress has earmarked a total of \$7.2 million from FY 1992 to FY 1997 to fund this project. In Senate Report 104-318 dated July 11, 1996, the Senate Committee on Appropriations notes that the "solar aquatic wastewater treatment demonstration projects have received funding for several years". The Report further directs EPA to report on 1) what has been achieved, 2) the viability of applying this technology widely, 3) an assessment of the costs and benefits, and 4) the amount of future Federal funding required. EPA's report, which was sent to the Congress on April 30, 1997, concludes that the project "has not yet demonstrated reliable attainment of all of its process goals". The project "does not appear to offer any economic advantages over conventional technologies, and appears to be clearly more costly than conventional processes at flow rates more than 100,000 gallons per day. In view of these conclusions, the continuation of Federal funding support for these demonstration projects is not warranted."

This project is being canceled because it: 1) was not requested in the President's FY 1998 Budget; 2) is earmarked for a specific project, thereby avoiding prioritization against other environmental research needs or be competitively awarded; and 3) has been evaluated by EPA, at the request of Congress, and found to not warrant additional funding.

**1(D). Estimated Fiscal, Economic, and Budgetary Effect of Cancellation:** As a result of the cancellation, Federal outlays will not increase, as specified below. This will have a commensurate effect on the Federal budget deficit and, to that extent, will have a beneficial effect on the economy.

Outlay Changes (in thousands of dollars)					
FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	Total
-168	-312	-96	-18	-6	-600

**1(F). Adjustments to Non-Defense Discretionary Spending Limits:**

**Budget authority:** -\$600 thousand in FY 1998

**Outlays:** The estimated outlay effect for each year is shown above.

**Evaluation of Effects of These Adjustments upon Sequestration Procedures:** If a sequestration were required, such sequestration would occur at levels that are reduced by the amounts above.

**2(A). Agency:** Environmental Protection Agency

**2(A). Bureau:** N/A

**2(A). Governmental Function/Project (Account):** Wastewater Treatment Demonstration (Environmental Programs and Management)

**2(B). States and Congressional Districts Affected:** Vermont, At large

**2(C). Total Number of Cancellations (inclusive) in Current Session in each State and District identified above:** Vermont: one

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**Bill Citation:** "Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998" (H.R. 2158)

**1(A). Dollar Amount of Discretionary Budget Authority:** \$1,000 thousand for the Alabama Water and Wastewater Institute on page 117 of House Report 105-297, dated October 6, 1997.

**1(B). Determinations:** This cancellation will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest.

**1(C), (E). Reasons for Cancellation; Facts, Circumstances, and Considerations Relating to or Bearing Upon the Cancellation; and Estimated Effect of Cancellation on Objects, Purposes, and Programs:** The Alabama Water and Wastewater Institute is a collective of personnel from 13 or 14 wastewater treatment plants in Alabama. In FY 1997, they received an earmark of \$200,000 to conduct on-site operator training over a three year period. The \$1 million earmark for FY 1998 is to be given to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to build a central facility for the Institute in Montgomery, Alabama in which to conduct both wastewater and drinking water operator training. This project is being canceled because: 1) it was not requested in the President's FY 1998 Budget; 2) it is earmarked for a specific activity, thereby avoiding prioritization against other environmental needs; 3) it is earmarked to a specific group, avoiding competitive evaluation; and 4) construction of non-Federal buildings is outside the scope of EPA's mission and an extraordinary use of the Agency's authority.

**1(D). Estimated Fiscal, Economic, and Budgetary Effect of Cancellation:** As a result of the cancellation, Federal outlays will not increase, as specified below. This will have a commensurate effect on the Federal budget deficit and, to that extent, will have a beneficial effect on the economy.

Outlay Changes (in thousands of dollars)					
FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	Total
-280	-520	-160	-30	-10	-1,000

**1(F). Adjustments to Non-Defense Discretionary Spending Limits:**  
**Budget authority:** -\$1,000 thousand in FY 1998  
**Outlays:** The estimated outlay effect for each year is shown above.

**Evaluation of Effects of These Adjustments upon Sequestration Procedures:** If a sequestration were required, such sequestration would occur at levels that are reduced by the amounts above.

**2(A). Agency:** Environmental Protection Agency

**2(A). Bureau:** N/A

**2(A). Governmental Function/Project (Account):** Construction of Training Facility  
(Environmental Programs and Management)

**2(B). States and Congressional Districts Affected:** Alabama, 2nd and 7th Congressional Districts

**2(C). Total Number of Cancellations (inclusive) in Current Session in each State and District identified above:** Alabama: two; 2nd District: one; 7th District: one

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Report Pursuant to the Line Item Veto Act, P.L. 104-130**

**Bill Citation:** "Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998" (H.R. 2158)

**1(A). Dollar Amount of Discretionary Budget Authority:** \$500 thousand for McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania Wastewater and Drinking Water System Needs on page 124 of House Report 105-297, dated October 6, 1997.

**1(B). Determinations:** This cancellation will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest.

**1(C), (E). Reasons for Cancellation; Facts, Circumstances, and Considerations Relating to or Bearing Upon the Cancellation; and Estimated Effect of Cancellation on Objects, Purposes, and Programs:** This project would provide \$500,000 to fund new water and sewer lines to a new industrial park in Ayr Township. As a by-product of constructing the water and sewer lines for the industrial park, it would also provide the potential for a limited number of residences with existing working wells and septic systems to be hooked up to the central water and sewer systems. The project is being canceled because: 1) it was not requested in the FY 1998 President's Budget; 2) it primarily provides benefits to a private entity; 3) the water line funding is outside the scope of EPA's usual mission; 4) the sewer line funding is outside the normal process for allocating funds to States who determine the environmental priority of projects, and 5) it is a low priority use of environmental funds primarily intended to help municipalities pay for Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.

**1(D). Estimated Fiscal, Economic, and Budgetary Effect of Cancellation:** As a result of the cancellation, Federal outlays will not increase, as specified below. This will have a commensurate effect on the Federal budget deficit and, to that extent, will have a beneficial effect on the economy.

Outlay Changes (in thousands of dollars)					
FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	Total
-20	-100	-150	-100	-50	-420

**1(F). Adjustments to Non-Defense Discretionary Spending Limits:**  
**Budget authority:** -\$500 thousand in FY 1998  
**Outlays:** The estimated outlay effect for each year is shown above.

**Evaluation of Effects of These Adjustments upon Sequestration Procedures:** If a sequestration were required, such sequestration would occur at levels that are reduced by the amounts above.

**2(A). Agency:** Environmental Protection Agency

**2(A). Bureau:** N/A

**2(A). Governmental Function/Project (Account):** Wastewater and Drinking Water Infrastructure (State and Tribal Assistance Grants)

**2(B). States and Congressional Districts Affected:** Pennsylvania, 9th Congressional District

**2(C). Total Number of Cancellations (inclusive) in Current Session in each State and District identified above:** Pennsylvania: five; 9th District: one

**CANCELLATION OF  
DOLLAR AMOUNT OF DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY  
Report Pursuant to the Line Item Veto Act, P.L. 104-130**

**Bill Citation:** "Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998" (H.R. 2158)

**1(A). Dollar Amount of Discretionary Budget Authority:** \$10,000 thousand for optical astronomy testbeds on page 131 of House Report 105-297, dated October 6, 1997.

**1(B). Determinations:** This cancellation will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest.

**1(C), (E). Reasons for Cancellation; Facts, Circumstances, and Considerations Relating to or Bearing Upon the Cancellation; and Estimated Effect of Cancellation on Objects, Purposes, and Programs:** This line item includes two optical telescope projects, neither of which is appropriate for NASA to fund. Both projects are augmentations of ground-based, optical telescopes -- one in Arizona, and one in Chile. The Arizona project, at the Steward Observatory at the University of Arizona, Tucson, duplicates of an on-going project at the Keck Observatory in Mauna Kea, Hawaii -- a project in which NASA shares funding. While the Arizona experiment could enable a space-based, NASA facility in the future, similar to that being pursued at Keck, the Keck project, due to its configuration, would produce technical results superior to those of the Arizona project. Given that NASA is already investing in a superior capability in the Keck II facility, NASA should not fund the Arizona project.

The Chile project is not within NASA's mission, since the project has no implications for space-based astronomy -- the only type of astronomy within NASA's mission. NASA engages in ground-based astronomy only if such activities enable future, space-based missions.

**1(D). Estimated Fiscal, Economic, and Budgetary Effect of Cancellation:** As a result of the cancellation, Federal outlays will not increase, as specified below. This will have a commensurate effect on the Federal budget deficit and, to that extent, will have a beneficial effect on the economy.

Outlay Changes (in thousands of dollars)					
FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	Total
-3,600	-5,500	-900	----	----	-10,000

**1(F). Adjustments to Non-Defense Discretionary Spending Limits:**  
**Budget authority:** -\$10,000 thousand

**Outlays:** The estimated outlay effect for each year is shown above.

**Evaluation of Effects of These Adjustments upon Sequestration Procedures:** If a sequestration were required, such sequestration would occur at levels that are reduced by the amounts above.

**2(A). Agency:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**2(A). Bureau:** N/A

**2(A). Governmental Function/Project (Account):** Science (Science, Aeronautics and Technology).

**2(B). States and Congressional Districts Affected:** Arizona, 5th Congressional District

**2(C). Total Number of Cancellations (inclusive) in Current Session in each State and District Identified Above:** Arizona: two; 5th District: two

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