

good offices of the forest service to protect the land, to allow it to be used appropriately for grazing, which is a necessary activity in the West, necessary for the economic stability of the West.

In our efforts to be good stewards of the land, the forest service needs the resources to conduct these environmental reviews, and they have at the forest service a huge backlog.

In 1995 in the rescissions act, Congress allowed them to waive these environmental assessments, but they were supposed to follow a self-determined schedule for trying to do those assessments as best they could. By their own acknowledgment, they are 55 percent behind even their own schedule of assessments.

The system is not working. I think a blanket waiver alone is not the right answer, nor is it the right answer to oppose the waiver because such a block of the waiver might also have unintended consequences, bad for the ranching community and not helpful to environmental protection.

So I want to thank the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN), the chairman, and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), the ranking member, for already recognizing this problem. The underlying bill would add \$6 million to the grazing management account in the forest service.

My amendment would add an additional \$5 million to the grazing management account. It would help the forest service complete these assessments; and I have received a commitment only verbally, I am afraid, not in writing, from the forest service that it will use these additional funds, the funds that the committee has already earmarked and the additional funds represented by this amendment, to catch up on the backlog of environmental assessments that go back to 1999 all the way through 2002 and to work to do as many environmental assessments in 2003 as they possibly can.

The more money we give them, the better job they can do. I thank the Chair and his staff and the ranking member and his staff for coming together for this good idea in this cooperative way, and I hope we can agree to do the proper oversight of the forest service to make sure that they live up to their commitments to do the very best job with these environmental assessments as possible.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOEFFFEL. I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, just a brief comment on this. I have spoken with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFFEL); and first of all, I want to congratulate him on his leadership and his looking out for forest service lands. I know that he cares a lot about these lands and has worked on them and worked on these issues; and I think that the \$5 million additional in these accounts is really going to make a difference in terms of moving us along.

It is a win-win situation for both of us, and so I look forward to supporting the amendment and urge all of my colleagues to do so; and I thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN) for working with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFFEL) on this and for their leadership.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOEFFFEL. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I want to just commend the gentleman on his creative work here. This is an important issue. I think the way he has handled it will produce a real result, and we can help the gentleman if the forest service does not keep its word. The gentleman needs to make sure he lets us know. We will be following it, too.

Mr. HOEFFFEL. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman very much for his kind words and for his support and his staff's support on this important amendment.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOEFFFEL. I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Chairman, we are prepared to accept the gentleman's amendment. We commend his work. As he knows, the chairman of our subcommittee is very committed to the ranchers and wants the grazing plans to get updated more quickly himself. This is why our committee mark did have the \$5 million increase for grazing plans. We are willing to increase this further in order to see that proper environmental clearances get done and that ranchers are not harmed.

We commend all of the partners in a bipartisan way for doing what is right.

Mr. HOEFFFEL. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member, and I thank the gentleman who spoke for their comments. I ask for support for the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFFEL).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Earlier under section 1, I had planned to offer an amendment to the appropriations bill to increase by \$5 million compact impact aid for Guam. I commend the progress of the committee on this particular issue, which is a very important issue to the people of Guam, in order to make sure that there is adequate compensation for migration from the Freely Associated States, mostly from the Federated States of Micronesia to Guam.

□ 1530

I am pleased to note that today's bill is a big step in the right direction, as it includes a \$1 million increase above the President's budget, a proposal of \$4.58 million in Compact Impact Aid,

bringing Guam's total amount to \$5.58 million. This amount still does not reach last year's final amount, and my amendment would have increased Compact Impact Aid by \$5 million.

Even the GAO recognizes that the actual impact to Guam is over \$12 million. The Government of Guam thinks it is a little bit closer to \$19 million. But in any event, it is clear that the Compact Impact assistance that Guam is receiving under this Interior appropriations bill is clearly inadequate.

It is particularly critical at this time because Guam has just undergone the impact of two storms, Chata'an and Ha Long. As we speak today, power and water have been out on Guam for nearly 3 weeks. So we were hoping that if we could get some recognition of this fact, that we would use the proposed increase in Compact Impact assistance to ready the schools, which will be opening next month, and also to ensure that the hospitals be open.

I know that there has been an effort here on the part of both the majority and the minority to recognize that there is a need for some increased funds for Guam.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Chairman, clearly this is another issue we plan to take up in conference and we will give the gentleman and his constituents the highest consideration in the conference. We appreciate his raising this issue yet again today on the floor, and I am sure we will do all we can within our power to address this satisfactorily.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his assurance on that, and I thank also the chairman, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN), for his understanding of this issue during the course of his work.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, we certainly appreciate the gentleman's leadership, and we are very sympathetic to the problems that the gentleman is facing in Guam. We know the gentleman has done a terrific job in representing his area, and we will do everything we can to help him as the process moves forward.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Chairman, once again reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from Washington very much.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will rise informally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA) assumed the Chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence

of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3763. An act to protect investors by improving the accuracy and reliability of corporate disclosures made pursuant to the securities laws, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insist upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 3763) "An Act to protect investors by improving the accuracy and reliability of corporate disclosures made pursuant to the securities laws, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DODD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. REED, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. ENZI to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The committee will resume its sitting.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

The Committee resumed its sitting. The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read. The Clerk read as follows:

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses for forest fire suppression activities on National Forest System lands, for emergency fire suppression on or adjacent to such lands or other lands under fire protection agreement, hazardous fuel reduction on or adjacent to such lands, and for emergency rehabilitation of burned-over National Forest System lands and water, \$1,513,449,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such funds including unobligated balances under this head, are available for repayment of advances from other appropriations accounts previously transferred for such purposes: *Provided further*, That not less than 50 percent of any unobligated balances remaining (exclusive of amounts for hazardous fuels reduction) at the end of fiscal year 2002 shall be transferred, as repayment for past advances that have not been repaid, to the fund established pursuant to section 3 of Public Law 71-319 (16 U.S.C. 576 et seq.): *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, \$8,000,000 of funds appropriated under this appropriation shall be used for Fire Science Research in support of the Joint Fire Science Program: *Provided further*, That all authorities for the use of funds, including the use of contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements, available to execute the Forest and Rangeland Research appropriation, are also available in the utilization of these funds for the Joint Fire Science Program: *Provided further*, That funds provided shall be available for emergency rehabilitation and restoration, hazard reduction activities in the urban-wildland interface, support to Federal emergency response, and wildfire suppression activities of the Forest Service: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, \$640,000,000 is for preparedness, \$420,699,000 is for wildfire suppression operations, \$228,109,000 is for hazardous fuel treatment, \$63,000,000 is for rehabilitation and restoration, \$20,376,000 is for capital improvement and maintenance of fire facilities, \$27,265,000 is for research activities and to make competitive research grants pursuant to the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1641 et seq.), \$58,000,000 is for state fire assistance, \$8,500,000 is for volunteer fire assist-

ance, \$27,000,000 is for forest health activities on State, private, and Federal lands, and \$12,500,000 is for economic action programs: *Provided further*, That amounts in this paragraph may be transferred to the "State and Private Forestry", "National Forest System", "Forest and Rangeland Research", and "Capital Improvement and Maintenance" accounts to fund state fire assistance, volunteer fire assistance, and forest health management, vegetation and watershed management, heritage site rehabilitation, wildlife and fish habitat management, trails and facilities maintenance and restoration: *Provided further*, That transfers of any amounts in excess of those authorized in this paragraph, shall require approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations in compliance with reprogramming procedures contained in House Report No. 105-163: *Provided further*, That the costs of implementing any cooperative agreement between the Federal Government and any non-Federal entity may be shared, as mutually agreed on by the affected parties: *Provided further*, That in entering into such grants or cooperative agreements, the Secretary may consider the enhancement of local and small business employment opportunities for rural communities, and that in entering into procurement contracts under this section on a best value basis, the Secretary may take into account the ability of an entity to enhance local and small business employment opportunities in rural communities, and that the Secretary may award procurement contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements under this section to entities that include local non-profit entities, Youth Conservation Corps or related partnerships with State, local or non-profit youth groups, or small or disadvantaged businesses: *Provided further*, That in addition to funds provided for State Fire Assistance programs, and subject to all authorities available to the Forest Service under the State and Private Forestry Appropriations, up to \$15,000,000 may be used on adjacent non-Federal lands for the purpose of protecting communities when hazard reduction activities are planned on national forest lands that have the potential to place such communities at risk: *Provided further*, That included in funding for hazardous fuel reduction is \$5,000,000 for implementing the Community Forest Restoration Act, Public Law 106-393, title VI, and any portion of such funds shall be available for use on non-Federal lands in accordance with authorities available to the Forest Service under the State and Private Forestry Appropriation: *Provided further*, That in expending the funds provided with respect to this Act for hazardous fuels reduction, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may conduct fuel reduction treatments on Federal lands using all contracting and hiring authorities available to the Secretaries applicable to hazardous fuel reduction activities under the wildland fire management accounts: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding Federal Government procurement and contracting laws, the Secretaries may conduct fuel reduction treatments, rehabilitation and restoration, and other activities authorized under this heading on and adjacent to Federal lands using grants and cooperative agreements: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding Federal Government procurement and contracting laws, in order to provide employment and training opportunities to people in rural communities, the Secretaries may award contracts, including contracts for monitoring activities, to local private, nonprofit, or cooperative entities; Youth Conservation Corps crews or related partnerships, with State, local and non-profit youth groups; small or micro-businesses; or other entities that will hire or train a sig-

nificant percentage of local people to complete such contracts: *Provided further*, That the authorities described above relating to contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements are available until all funds provided in this title for hazardous fuels reduction activities in the urban wildland interface are obligated: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture may transfer or reimburse funds, not to exceed \$7,000,000, to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior, or the National Marine Fisheries Service of the Department of Commerce, for the costs of carrying out their responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to consult and conference as required by section 7 of such Act in connection with wildland fire management activities in fiscal years 2002 and 2003: *Provided further*, That the amount of the transfer of reimbursement shall be as mutually agreed by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior or Secretary of Commerce, as applicable, or their designees. The amount shall in no case exceed the actual costs of consultation and conferencing in connection with wildland fire management activities affecting National Forest System lands.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. TANCREDO

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 16 offered by Mr. TANCREDO:

Page 77, line 8, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$43,000,000)".

Page 78, line 8, after the second dollar amount insert "(increased by \$8,000,000)".

Page 78, line 9, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$35,000,000)".

Page 114, line 7, after the dollar amount insert "(decreased by \$50,000,000)".

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment that I hope will help those of us among the body who feel a terrible mistake was made in an earlier amendment that actually increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. My amendment reduces funding for the National Endowment for the Arts by \$50 million and redirects the money into the budget for the U.S. Forest Service.

We all know and certainly have had a lot of discussion about the devastating impact the fires have had on the American West, with hundreds of thousands of acres in Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, and my home State of Colorado reduced to charcoal by wildfire. In many of these States, the fire season is only now underway. According to the Forest Service, an additional 73 million acres remain at risk to catastrophic fire. To put it in perspective, 73 million acres is an area slightly larger than the State of Arizona.

While this amendment only reduces its budget, few programs seem more worthy of outright elimination than the National Endowment for the Arts. First created in 1965, the NEA has been one of the most controversial government programs on the books, almost since its inception. The most notorious aspects of the NEA have been talked about for many years, and I will not go into them today.