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House Appropriations Committee [Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill](#) and [Report](#)

The House Appropriations Committee has approved a FY20 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that provides \$37.28 billion overall, which is a \$1.73 billion increase over FY19 enacted levels, and \$7.24 bill greater than the Administration’s FY20 budget request. The bill increases both the Department of Interior’s budget, \$833 million more than FY19, and the Environment Protection Agency’s budget, \$672 million more than FY19. A more detailed summary can be found below:

Program (funding levels in millions and rounded up to the nearest million)	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20 POTUS Request	FY20 House
EPA Brownfield Projects (assessment/cleanup)	80	80	87	62	105
EPA Categorical Grants (Sec 128, Brownfields)	48	48	48	32	48
Clean Water State Revolving Fund	1,394	1,394	1,394	1,120	1,784
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	863	863	864	863	1,300
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)	300	300	300	300 ¹	320
Nonpoint Source (Sec. 319)	170	170	171	0	176
BEACH Grants	10	10	10	0	10
National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program	24	24	24	24	35
Long Island Sound Restoration	8	12	14	0	21
Chesapeake Bay Program	73	73	73	7.3	85
Water Pollution Control (Sec. 106)	230	231	231	154	241
National Estuary Program	27	27	27	0	32
Land and Water Conservation Fund	400	425	438	33	524
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)	465	500	500	465	500
USGS Water Resources	214	218	226	180	220

¹ The President’s original budget called for \$30 million for the GLRI, but OMB sent Congress a budget amendment in May changing GLRI’s budget request to \$300 million.

Other notable provisions:

Interior

North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

The Report includes \$50 million, which is \$8 million more than FY19, and a little more than \$10 million above the Administration's budget request.

Aquatic Invasive Species and Asian Carp

The Report includes almost \$26.3 million for the USFWS's invasive species activities. Of the funds, \$2 million is included to help States implement plans required by the National Invasive Species Act (NISA); \$1.6 million is for NISA coordination; \$11.6 million is for controlling Asian carp in the Mississippi and Ohio River Basins and preventing them from entering and establishing in the Great Lakes; \$1 million is for sea lamprey administration costs; and \$2 million is to prevent the spread of quagga and zebra mussels in the West.

Of the amount for Asian carp control and prevention, \$2 million is to expand and perfect the combined use of contract fishing and deterrents to extirpate Asian carp, including grass carp, where already established, pursuant to individual State laws and regulations and as called for in management plans. Contract fishing has proven to be an extremely effective management tool and it is not meant to develop a sustainable commercial fishery. The USFWS shall continue to work with its State partners to gather data to analyze the impacts of contract fishing to control abundance and movement of Asian carp.

Cooperative Landscape Conservation

The Report includes \$12.5 million for the 22 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), which the Administration had proposed to eliminate. The Report cites that LCCs play an important role in bringing diverse partners together to focus on shared conservation goals and provide a forum and resources to address climate change. If any LCC is not currently operating, the USFWS is directed to reestablish it.

USGS Ecosystems Programs and the Great Lakes

The Report continues to express concern about the significant data gaps that exist in understanding and enhancing the Great Lakes ecosystem and is anticipating the briefing directed in the FY19 omnibus appropriations bill to determine the funding level needed for scientific information used by resource managers such as provided by the Great Lakes Science Center. A \$3 million increase included in the USGS's Fishery's Program is to be used for new biological assessment tools and technology to support fishery management and ecosystem-based decisions for the Great Lakes ecosystem.

USGS and Invasive Species

The Report includes language expressing continued concerns about the economic, ecologic, and health threats posed by invasive species, including Asian carp. The recommendation includes \$8.6 million for Asian carp control, which includes \$3 million for research on Asian grass carp to contain or eradicate them.

USGS Water Resources

The Report includes \$239.9 million for USGS's Water Resources Programs. Of this funding, \$93.8 million is for the National Water Quality Program and directs no less than \$2.82 million is for harmful algal

blooms. The Urban Waters Federal Partnership is funded at the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of \$717,000.

The Report also includes \$93.3 million for the National Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program to improve the infrastructure investments in the nation's streamgauge network. The Report includes an increase of \$4.8 million for infrastructure investments in the streamgauge network which will provide an additional 95 flood-hardened gages to the Federal Priority Streamgauge (FPS) network and will allow the USGS and partners to support approximately 3,555 streamgages, which accelerates attainment of the long-term goal of 4,760 sites. In addition, an increase of \$7 million is provided so the USGS can proceed with the next phase of the Next Generation Water Observing System.

The Report also includes \$1 million for research on aquatic invasive species in the Upper Mississippi River region to address a critical need for multistate research.

Historic Preservation Fund

The Report includes approximately \$121.7 million, which is an increase of \$19 million from the FY19 levels, and almost a \$90 million increase from the Administration's budget request for the Historic Preservation Fund.

EPA

Safe and Sustainable Water Resources

The Report includes approximately \$95 million for EPA's Safe and Sustainable Water Resources. The Report includes language stating that Enhanced Aquifer Recharge (EAR) represents a key practice for the management and restoration of ecosystems and directs the EPA to coordinate with other Federal research efforts in this area. Given ongoing concerns related to Harmful Algal Bloom toxins in the Great Lakes and other coastal and inland waters, EPA is encouraged to continue working to understand the risk of exposure from such toxins, especially through pathways including recreation and drinking water.

Research: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources

The Report includes \$113.3 million, that includes \$3 million to support ongoing work to establish Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFAS chemicals, and \$4 million be used to award grants under Section 2007 of AWIA (P.L. 115–270).

Environmental Protection: National Priorities

The Report includes almost \$13 million for a competitive grant program for qualified non-profit organizations, excluding institutions of higher education, to provide technical assistance for improved water quality or safe drinking water, adequate waste water to small systems or individual private well owners.

Harmful Algal Blooms

The Report includes language recognizes the increasing challenges many communities face from harmful algal blooms (HABs) in freshwater and coastal ecosystems. It encourages EPA to conduct and support research that help promote scientific progress towards preventing and controlling HABs, including research to: (1) determine the effectiveness of existing nutrient treatment technologies; (2) evaluate the scale-up of emerging nutrient treatment technologies and develop new technologies; and (3) develop best management practices to help both rural and urban communities control nutrients in their watersheds. Additionally, \$6 million is made available to investigate health effects from exposure to

HABs and cyanobacteria toxins and to develop methods to monitor, characterize, and predict blooms for early action.

Environmental Protection: National Priorities

The Report includes \$17.7 million for a competitive grant program for qualified non-profit organizations, to provide technical assistance for improved water quality or safe drinking water, adequate waste water to small systems or individual private well owners. EPA shall provide \$15 million for Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act activity and \$1.7 million for grants to qualified not-for-profit organizations for technical assistance for individual private well owners, with priority given to organizations that currently provide technical and educational assistance to individual private well owners. EPA is directed to provide on a national and multi-State regional basis, \$1 million for grants to qualified organizations, for the sole purpose of providing on-site training and technical assistance for wastewater systems.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and VIDA

The Report notes that the recently enacted Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (P.L. 115–282) places the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Invasive species program in the Great Lakes National Program Office and urges the EPA to prioritize efforts to reduce the risk of introduction of invasive species in the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain, using funds from the appropriate Geographic Program.

Water Security Test Bed

The Report encourages EPA to include adequate funding for advancing full scale applied research and testing capabilities to address threats to drinking water and drinking water infrastructure in its current and future budget request.

WaterSENSE Program

The Report includes \$187 million in funding for the WaterSENSE program, while supporting ongoing activities related to integrated planning, which will be increasingly necessary as States and communities evaluate wastewater systems for lead contamination issues and pipe replacement.

Inland Oil Spills Program

The Report includes \$23.2 million, which is \$5 million more than that was appropriated in FY19 and almost \$8 million more than what the Administration requested for FY20. The Report states that there continues to be an acute need to prevent, and when necessary, to respond to oil spills. This includes ensuring that the agency and state and local first responders have adequate personnel, training, and equipment, to respond to emergencies.

EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG): Drinking Water

- Lead Testing in Schools Grant - \$25 million
- Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Grants - \$20 million
- Drinking Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program Grants - \$4 million
- Technical Assistance for Treatment Works Grants - \$13 million
- Water Infrastructure Workforce Development (both drinking water and waste water) - \$1 million

Sewer Overflow Control Grants (STAG)

The Report include \$90 million for grants to control and treat sewer overflows and directs the EPA to award no less than 30 percent of grants to green infrastructure projects.

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)

The Report includes \$50 million for WIFIA, of which \$45 million is for direct loan subsidization which may translate into a potential loan capacity of more than \$5.4 billion to eligible entities for water infrastructure projects.