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

The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved a FY19 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that provides \$35.853 billion overall. The bill includes \$1.34 billion overall for the Department of the Interior and \$8.058 billion for EPA (which is equal to its FY18 funding). Additionally, the National Parks Service would receive \$3.21 billion (an increase of \$13.4 million for FY18); the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would receive \$1.57 billion (a decrease of \$19.7 million from FY18); and the U.S. Geological Survey would receive \$1.148 billion (equal to what it received in FY18).

<b>Program (funding levels in millions and rounded up to the nearest million)</b>	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>	<b>FY18</b>	<b>FY19 POTUS Request</b>	<b>FY19 Senate</b>
EPA Brownfield Projects (assessment/cleanup)	80	80	80	62	80
EPA Categorical Grants (Sec 128, Brownfields)	48	48	48	32	48
Clean Water State Revolving Fund	1,394	1,394	1,394	1,394	1,394
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	863	863	863	863	864
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)	300	300	300	30	300
BEACH Grants	10	10	10	0	10
National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program	24	24	24	22	24
Long Island Sound Restoration	4	8	12	0	12
Chesapeake Bay Program	73	73	73	7	73
Section 106 Water Pollution Control	214	230	231	154	231
National Estuary Program	26	27	27	0	27
Land and Water Conservation Fund	450	400	425	n/a <sup>1</sup>	425
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)	452	465	500	465	500
USGS Water Resources	211	214	218	165	220

<sup>1</sup> The President's budget includes a more than 90% reduction of LWFC activities. For further details, please see the following appendix to the FY 19 Interior's Budget in Brief: [https://edit.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/fy2019\\_bib\\_d0001.pdf](https://edit.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/fy2019_bib_d0001.pdf)

Other notable provisions:

**Interior**

*Invasive Species*

The Senate Report recognizes the critical importance of early detection and rapid response [EDRR] of invasive species as a strategy to mitigate the threats and impacts of invasive species. The Report mandates that agencies provide the Appropriations Committee a report on their efforts to prioritize EDRR as part of their expected program of work for FY19, including detail on how the agencies plan to protect specific native species and natural resource values on public lands across the Nation.

*North American Wetlands Conservation Fund*

The Senate Report includes \$43 million, which is \$3 million more than FY18, and a little more than \$10 million above the Administration's budget request.

*Aquatic Invasive Species and Asian Carp*

The Senate Report recognizes the importance of the work conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service to combat the serious threat of Asian carp and provides \$11 million for Asian carp activities, an increase of \$600,000 above the enacted level. Funding should be used to control Asian carp in the Mississippi and Ohio River Basins—including in Kentucky Lake, Lake Barkley and the Ohio River—and to prevent them from entering and establishing in the Great Lakes. The Service should consider the utility of creating a dedicated funding source to increase the intensity and geographic scope of efforts to prevent entry into the Great Lakes.

The Report also expresses the Committee's awareness that work is ongoing in several regions to address the threats posed by aquatic invasive species and directs the Fish and Wildlife Service to continue to make available competitive grant funding for projects to eliminate these destructive, non-native species, which include Asian carp, quagga-zebra mussels, and variable-leaf watermilfoil. The Committee encourages the Fish and Wildlife Service to support research, monitoring, and mitigation efforts, as well as efforts to disseminate such work, in all regions.

*USGS and Invasive Species*

The Senate Report includes language calling for the base funding of \$5.62 million to continue to be used to address Asian carp issues in the Great Lakes and Upper Mississippi River.

*Historic Preservation Fund*

The Senate Report includes approximately \$89 million, which is \$8 million below FY18 levels, but almost \$56 million above the Administration's budget request for the Historic Preservation Fund. Of these funds, approximately \$49 million is for State Historic Preservation Offices and \$11.5 million is for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. The Save America's Treasures program is provided \$5 million.

**EPA**

*Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)*

The Senate Report encourages the EPA to work with Metropolitan Planning Organizations to advance

the GLRI's long-term goal of land use, recreation and economic activities to sustain the health and function of natural communities, as they allocate funding under the GLRI.

Additionally, the Report urges the Environmental Protection Agency and Great Lakes Interagency Taskforce to provide continued attention and resources towards building the capacity of on-the-ground partners, including States and Tribes, as ongoing partners in the stewardship of the Great Lakes. The Committee recognizes the importance of Tribal self-governance and encourages the Agency to work with Tribal governments and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to develop a proposal for the creation of a distinct GLRI Tribal program through which GLRI funds would be provided to allow Tribes the flexibility to develop the programs that are of the highest priorities to their communities, and which fulfill the spirit of self-determination, meet treaty obligations, and carry out Federal trust responsibilities.

The Report encourages agency funds for Great Lakes projects to be made available for projects in the historic Great Lakes Basin, which includes the Chicago River Watershed.

#### *Chesapeake Bay*

Of the \$73 million that the Senate Report includes for the Chesapeake Bay, \$6 million is for nutrient and sediment removal grants and \$6 million is for small watershed grants to control polluted runoff from urban, suburban, and agricultural lands.

Additionally, the Senate Report includes language urging the EPA, as well as the Department of the Interior, to work closely with the General Services Administration to follow the directive contained in the FY 2018 Omnibus bill and sign a new lease for a Chesapeake Bay Liaison Office in the Annapolis, Maryland area. Additionally, the Agency and Department should take steps to ensure that Federal agencies and non-Federal partners currently housed in the Chesapeake Bay Program Office remain housed in the new office to facilitate program coordination, as practicable.

#### *Lake Champlain*

The Senate Report includes \$11 million for the Lake Champlain program. From within the amount provided, \$4.4 million shall be allocated in the same manner as fiscal year 2017. Funds appropriated above the \$4.4 million shall be for otherwise unmet needs necessary to implement the EPA's 2016 Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load Plan for Lake Champlain.

#### *Harmful Algal Blooms*

The Senate Report recognizes the increasing challenges many communities face from harmful algal blooms [HABs] in freshwater and coastal ecosystems and encourages the EPA to fund research grants that help promote scientific progress towards preventing and controlling HABs in freshwater and coastal ecosystems, 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.

#### *Safe and Sustainable Water Resources*

The Senate Report includes approximately \$106 million for EPA's Safe and Sustainable Water Resources, which is equal to the FY18 funding and \$39 million above the Administration's request.

### *Environmental Protection: National Priorities*

The Senate Report includes almost \$15 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.

### *WaterSENSE Program*

The Senate Report rejects the Administration's proposed elimination of the WaterSENSE program, and provides not less than the FY 2018 level.

### *Community Affordability Study*

The Senate Report supports the recommended framework and criteria in the National Academy of Public Administration (the Academy) Panel's report, "Developing a New Framework for Community Affordability of Clean Water Services." Within available funds, the Committee directs EPA to contract with the Academy to propose potential formulas consistent with the framework's criteria for utilization by the agency. The Academy's review shall (1) evaluate a subset of the most promising alternative community affordability formulas, (2) identify their advantages and disadvantages, and (3) recommend three to five community affordability formulas that could be appropriate replacements for the indicators and formulas in EPA's 1997 Combined Sewer Overflows-Guidance for Financial Capability Assessment and Schedule Development and the 2014 Financial Capability Framework for Municipal Clean Water Act Requirement. The EPA shall contract with the Academy within 60 days of the date of enactment of this act. The Academy shall submit a report with its findings and recommendations to Congress and EPA no later than 6 months after the date of contract with EPA.

### *Integrated Planning for Communities Struggling to Meet Clean Water Act (CWA) Compliance*

The Senate Report is supportive of EPA's use of integrated planning approach to meet compliance costs mandated under the CWA. The Report directs the EPA to maintain technical assistance and outreach to communities seeking to develop and implement an integrated planning approach to meeting CWA requirements. Further, it urges the Agency to implement integrated planning measures through a flexible permit process rather than enforcement actions and consent decrees.

### *Lead and Copper Rule*

The Senate Report acknowledges that the EPA has announced plans to update the Lead and Copper Rule and supports this action. The Report urges the Agency to act expeditiously on this matter and directs the Agency to brief the Committee within 60 days of enactment of this act about its plans for this action.

### *PFOA/PFAS*

The Senate Report acknowledges that the EPA has announced plans to take the next step under the Safe Drinking Water Act process to evaluate the need for a maximum contaminant level for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. The Report supports this action and urges the Agency to act expeditiously on this matter and directs the EPA to brief the Committee within 60 days of enactment of this act about its plans for this action.

### *Diesel Emission Reduction Grants*

The Senate Report includes \$50 million for the Diesel Emission Reduction Grant program, which is \$25 million less than what was included in FY18, but \$40 million more than the Administration's request.

*Inland Oil Spills Program*

The Senate Report includes \$18.2 million, which is equal to what was included in FY18 and \$2.5 million above the Administration's budget request.

*Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)*

The Senate Report includes \$63 million for WIFIA, of which \$55 million is for direct loan subsidization which may translate into a potential loan capacity of more than \$6 billion to eligible entities for water infrastructure projects. The Report Language encourages EPA to prioritize applications for WIFIA financing for projects that address lead and emerging contaminants, including PFOA and PFAS.