



## **House Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill**

### **Overview**

The fiscal year (FY) 2024 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill funds most Department of Interior activities and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) activities. The bill also provides funding for a handful of agencies within other federal departments, including the U.S. Forest Service (Department of Agriculture) and the Council on Environmental Quality (within the Executive Office of the President). The bill was approved by the House Appropriations Committee on July 19<sup>th</sup>, by a vote of 33 to 27.

### **Funding**

The House FY24 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill includes \$25.417 billion in non-defense discretionary spending, \$13.433 billion below the FY23 enacted level (35 percent reduction), and \$21.371 billion below the President's FY24 Budget Request.

#### Department of Interior (DOI)

Provides \$14.3 billion for the Department of the Interior, which is \$677 million below the FY23 enacted level (5 percent reduction) and \$3.4 billion below the President's Budget Request. Funding levels within the Department of Interior include:

- \$1.536 billion for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which is \$236.9 million below the FY23 enacted level (13 percent reduction) and \$555.9 million below the President's Budget Request;
- \$3.039 billion for the National Park Service (NPS), which is \$436.25 million below the FY23 enacted level (13 percent reduction) and \$725.5 million below the President's Budget Request;
- \$1.347 billion for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), which is \$149.7 million below the FY23 enacted level (10 percent reduction) and \$438 million below the President's Budget Request;
- \$2.582 billion for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), which is \$141.4 million above the FY23 enacted level (6 percent increase) and \$66.1 million below the President's Budget Request;
- \$67.94 million for the Office of the Secretary of the Interior which is \$67.94 million below the FY23 enacted level (50 percent reduction) and \$90.9 million below the President's Budget Request.



#### Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Provides \$6.173 billion to the EPA, which is \$3.96 billion below the FY23 enacted level (39 percent reduction) and \$5.91 billion below the President's Budget Request. The bill includes significant reductions to many critical focus areas of EPA, including:



- \$560.7 million for Science and Technology, which is \$241.6 million below the FY23 enacted level (30 percent reduction) \$407.1 million below the President’s Budget Request;
- \$2.429 billion for Environmental Programs and Management, which is \$857.4 million below the FY23 enacted level (26 percent reduction) and \$2.082 billion below the President’s Budget Request;
- \$355.9 million for the Hazardous Substance Superfund (in addition to fee receipts), which is \$926.8 million below the FY23 enacted level (72 percent reduction) and equal to the President’s Budget Request; and
- \$2.584 billion for State and Tribal Assistance Grants, \$1.897 billion below the FY23 enacted level (42 percent reduction) and \$3.272 billion below the President’s Budget Request.

#### U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

Provides \$8.023 billion which is an increase of \$948.75 million above the FY23 enacted level (12 percent increase) and \$1.708 billion below the President’s Budget Request.

#### Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

Provides \$3.75 million for the Council on Environmental Quality, which is \$926,000 below the FY23 enacted level (20 percent reduction) and \$1.075 million below the President’s Budget Request.

### **Key Great Lakes Provisions**

#### Department of Interior - USFWS

##### *USFWS Invasive Carp Program*

The bill includes \$29 million for the USFWS’s continued efforts to keep invasive carp out of the Great Lakes basin, while also controlling and eradicating carp from the Mississippi River. \$4 million of these funds are for contract fishing efforts, and no less than \$500,000 is for a new university collaboration to fight invasive carp. The bill also requires the USFWS to study, in coordination with regional state departments of natural resources, the current and potential uses of removed invasive carp, including human consumption, and shall report their findings to Congress within 120 days of enactment of the bill.



##### *Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act*

The bill includes \$6 million for the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, which also can be supplemented with funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

#### Department of Interior – USGS

##### *USGS Invasive Carp Program*



The bill includes \$11 million for research on invasive carp, of which \$3 million is for research on containing or eradicating invasive grass carp.

#### *Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC)*

The bill includes \$15 million for the USGS's GLSC, which is meant to ensure the acquisition of information necessary for fishery management decisions and to support the Center's large vessels. More specifically, the bill supports the GLSC's use of commercially available uncrewed surface vehicles to support the fisheries surveys conducted with crewed vessels.

#### *Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)*

The bill includes \$7.49 million for the National Water Quality Program to research, monitor, characterize, and predict harmful algal blooms and \$4.75 million for the Toxic Substance Hydrology Program to research the prevalence of microcystin toxins in the nation's natural bodies of water. The bill also encourages the USGS to participate in the interagency Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act Interagency Working Group efforts.

#### *Phytoplankton*

The bill requires that the USGS provides Congress with an update on phytoplankton changes in the Great Lakes since 1980 within 180 days of passage of the bill.

### Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

#### *Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)*

The bill provides the GLRI with \$368 million in funding, equal to what it received in FY23. The bill continues to preserve federal partners' coordination with the Great Lakes States, Tribes, local authorities, and nonfederal stakeholders to prioritize action-oriented projects across the five focus areas in lieu of additional studies, monitoring, and evaluations. Such projects include, but are not limited to: remediating and delisting Areas of Concern (AOC); reducing nutrient runoff; preventing and controlling invasive species; improving water quality; and increasing coastal resiliency through restoration and protection of streambanks, natural coastlines, and shorelines. As EPA distributes funds across the five focus areas, tribal-related activities should be maintained at not less than \$15 million.



Report language is included to address the rise in harmful algal blooms (HABs) throughout the Great Lakes by directing EPA to focus on HAB reduction efforts in the Great Lakes region where nutrient loading contributes the most to HABs.

#### *Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Invasive Species Program*



The bill directs EPA to continue to use funds from the appropriate Geographic Programs to address invasive species in the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain.

#### *Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs)*

The bill would substantially reduce the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs), reducing the Clean Water SRF from its current FY23 level of \$1.64 billion to \$535 million, and the Drinking Water SRF from its current FY23 level of \$1.13 billion to \$460.6 million.

The bill includes more than \$470 million in Congressionally directed “Community Project Funding” within the Clean Water SRF, and more than \$410 million in Congressional directed “Community Project Funding” within the Drinking Water SRF.

#### *Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)*

The bill encourages the EPA to conduct and support research that promotes scientific progress towards preventing and controlling HABs, while providing EPA \$6 million to investigate adverse health effects from exposure to HABs and cyanobacteria toxins and to develop methods to monitor, predict, and characterize blooms to allow for early action.

#### *Sec. 106 Clean Water State Grants (EPA)*

The bill includes \$237 million for Clean Water State Grants, equal to what was included in FY23 for this program.

#### *Sec. 221 Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants*

The bill includes \$50 million for Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grants, equal to what was included in FY23 for this program.

#### *Sec. 319 Non-Point Pollution Grants (EPA)*

The bill includes \$182 million for Non-Point Pollution Grants, equal to what was included in FY23 for this program.

#### *PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Rule*

The bill requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to complete a review of the EPA’s cost estimate included in the proposed rulemaking titled “PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Rulemaking”, which shall include: an assessment of the Agency’s evaluation of the impacts on drinking water ratepayers; an assessment of whether the cost estimate adequately accounts for the differences in cost across urban and rural service territories; an assessment of whether the cost estimate adequately incorporates all facets of compliance and implementation, such as testing, equipment, and operations and maintenance costs; and any gaps in data that would impact the cost estimate, such as the number of impacted water systems.



