

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

October 8, 2009

Washington, DC 20515

Mr. Norman D. Dicks  
Room B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear, Chairman Dicks, Chairwoman Feinstein, Ranking Member Alexander and Ranking Member Simpson:

We respectfully request your inclusion of the following language in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Conference Report:

*Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5; 123 Stat. 115) for wildland fire management shall be used in the District of Columbia.*

This prohibition of funds is needed to ensure that \$2.8 million currently scheduled to be spent in Washington, D.C. is instead directed to where it is needed most.

As you know, wildfires are a serious and growing problem. Currently, almost 2 million acres of land are burning throughout the West. Poor forest management and the Rocky Mountain Pine Beetle have left forests full of dead and dying trees and that's in addition to the deadfall that cause fires to burn hotter and faster. In fact, the acres burned annually have also increased over the past 50 years, with the greatest increases occurring in three of the past four years.

Washington, D.C., on the other hand, has no forests, let alone forest fires. While the West burns, D.C. bureaucrats are burning crucial resources thousands of miles away from the smoke of real fires. It is a disservice to taxpayers and to the communities who live with the threat of wildfires to spend these funds on unnecessary programs.

Again, we ask for your strong support and respectfully request that you maintain *SEC. 424. Prohibition on the Use of Wildland Fire Management Stimulus Funds in the District of Columbia.*

Sincerely,



Denny Rehberg  
Member of Congress

Cc: Congressman Mike Simpson  
Senator Lamar Alexander  
Secretary Ken Salazar

Wally Herger

Wally Herger (CA-02)  
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop

Rob Bishop (UT-01)  
Member of Congress

Cynthia Lummis

Cynthia Lummis (WY-At Large)  
Member of Congress

Jeff Miller

Jeff Miller (FL-01)  
Member of Congress

Dana Rohrabacher

Dana Rohrabacher (CA-46)  
Member of Congress

Glenn Thompson

Glenn "GT" Thompson (PA-05)  
Member of Congress

Jason Chaffetz

Jason Chaffetz (UT-03)  
Member of Congress

Dan Lungren

Dan Lungren (CA-03)  
Member of Congress

Doc Hastings

Doc Hastings (WA-04)  
Member of Congress

Dean Heller

Dean Heller (NV-02)  
Member of Congress

Tom McClintock

Tom McClintock (CA-04)  
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn

Doug Lamborn (CO-05)  
Member of Congress

Elton Gallegly

Elton Gallegly (CA-24)  
Member of Congress

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