

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

February 16, 2007

005783

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

Congress recently passed an enhanced Continuing Resolution that includes funding for the Fiscal Year 2007 Interior Appropriations Bill. As you know, this action on FY2007 funding for most federal departments and agencies was the direct result of the 109th Congress' failure to complete nine of the eleven appropriations bills.

Given we are nearly half way through the fiscal year before the enactment of final funding levels, most federal departments and agencies face significant challenges and decisions about how to use the funds they were provided. I encourage you to use the bill reported out of the Republican-controlled Senate Appropriations Committee during the 109th Congress as guidance when you determine how to allocate your department's funds in FY2007.

I strongly support the priorities included in that bill. I believe they are essential to the nation and to my home state of Nevada. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

My best wishes to you.

Sincerely,


HARRY REID
United States Senator

*P.S., Call if I
can ever help.*

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
Washington, DC 20240



MAR 16 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

Thank you for your February 16, 2007 letter to Secretary Kempthorne. He asked that I respond on his behalf.

Your letter expressed support for the projects funded in the Senate Appropriations Committee passed appropriations bill. Section 112 of the Joint Resolution, Public Law 110-5 provides that report language accompanying appropriations acts for FY 2006 have no legal effect and further directs that agencies prepare operating plans for submission to the Appropriations Committees within 30 days.

We are formulating our operating plans consistent with guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget. OMB issued Memorandum 07-10 on February 15, 2007, providing guidance to Departments and agencies on the development of the operating plans. Based on this guidance, our plans will incorporate funding for programs and projects that were selected as a result of merit-based and competitive allocation processes. This would include projects that were formulated as part of the 2007 President's Budget.

We are not at liberty at this time to disclose decisions on the allocation of the 2007 funds that are being developed for inclusion in operating plans. Operating plans are to be approved by the Office of Management and Budget and submitted to the Appropriations Committees by March 17.

We appreciate your interest in the Department's programs.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Weimer
Assistant Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
TASKING PROFILE

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Addressee: Dirk Kempthorne
From: Reid, Harry
United States Senate
Washington
DC 20510

Subject Text: Encourages the utilization of the FY07 Interior Appropriations Bill as guidance when determining how to allocate the Department's funds in FY07.

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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~~Majority Leader~~
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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R. Thomas Weimer

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Assistant Secretary

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