



United States Department of the Interior

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



MAR 16 2007

The Honorable Herb Kohl
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kohl:

Thank you for your March 7, 2007, letter to Secretary Kempthorne. He asked that I respond on his behalf.

One of your letters expressed support for the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin a U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service project. We have forwarded your letter to USDA so that they are aware of your concerns.

Your second letter expressed support for the State of Wisconsin Wild Waterways project. As you know, the Congress did not enact regular appropriations for 2007. Rather, the Congress enacted the Joint Resolution, Public Law 110-5.

Section 112 of P.L. 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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
TASKING PROFILE

ACCN #: 356926 Status: O Fiscal Year: 2007
Document Date 03/07/2007 Received Date 03/08/2007 Due Date 03/22/2007 Action Office PMB Signature Level A/S Doc Source CM
Addressee: Dirk Kempthorne
From: Kohl, Herb
U.S. Senate
Washington
DC 20510
Subject Text: Asks for support for an appropriations request for the Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) in Madison, Wisconsin, to modernize the main administrative building and to construct a new research facility.
Required Surnames: OCL
Mail Carrier: FX Mail Track#: Route to POB
Cross Reference:
Copies To: SIO-Exec; OCL; PMB
Status Tracking: Route to POB
Correspondence Specialist: MF MFeeney Corresp. Specialist Phone: 513-0705
Closed Comments:
Signed:

3/7
Kohl's office called to express support for 2 additional projects
① Ice Age
② Monoly Valley (sp?)

3/13/07
POB

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SIN

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 7, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing today to ask for your support for an appropriations request that is important to the state of Wisconsin. The FY2007 Senate Interior Appropriations bill included \$9.144 million for The Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) in Madison, Wisconsin to modernize the main administrative building and to construct a new research facility.

Improvements in the administrative building include installing new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. Construction of a new facility will house four research areas: Durability, Wood Preservation, Composites and Engineering Mechanics. This will allow FPL to conduct cutting-edge research and create new products from forest biomass.

FPL serves the public as the nation's leading wood research institute. Their research has led to innovations in recycling and ecological technology that has resulted in a greater yield from existing lumber and reduced demand on forest resources.

Although individual appropriations measures were not enacted by the 109th Congress, the Appropriations Committees provided ample insight as to their expectations. This was certainly the case with this Wisconsin priority and I encourage you to appropriately recognize and act on those recommendations.

Sincerely,



Herb Kohl
United States Senator

HERB KOHL
WISCONSIN

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 7, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing today to ask for your support for an appropriations request that is important to the state of Wisconsin. The FY2007 Senate Interior Appropriations bill included \$2.5 million for the State of Wisconsin Wild Waterways project for the acquisition of 1,150 acres along a tributary of the west fork of the Chippewa River.

Funding for this project in the past few years has resulted in the protection of over 8,500 acres of undeveloped shoreline along several critical lakes and streams. This project protects some of our most pristine land in a thoughtful and constructive way.

Although individual appropriations measures were not enacted by the 109th Congress, the Appropriations Committees provided ample insight as to their expectations. This was certainly the case with this Wisconsin priority and I encourage you to appropriately recognize and act on those recommendations.

Sincerely,



Herb Kohl
United States Senator



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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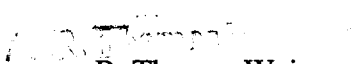
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Sincerely,


R. Thomas Weimer
Assistant Secretary

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