August 15, 2016

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
B308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The fiscal year (FY) 2016 fire season is predicted to be above average. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Forest Service is projecting that it will exhaust the Wildland Fire Suppression Account within 30 days.

Per the Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriations Act (P.L. 114-113):

Provided, That such amounts are only available for transfer to the 'Wildland Fire Management' account following a declaration by the Secretary in accordance with section 502 of the FLAME Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a).

The FLAME Act of 2009 establishes the FLAME Wildland Suppression Reserve Fund for USDA for the costs of catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities that are separate from amounts annually appropriated for under the Wildland Fire Suppression Account.

This is not Fire Transfer. However, for FY 2016, based on analyses of historical fire activity and anticipated increased fire activity, the Forest Service anticipates exhaustion of Wildland Fire Suppression funds. This serves as my declaration the funds will be exhausted in 30 days, therefore, making FLAME Act funds available.

A similar letter is being sent to Ranking Member Betty McCollum, Chairman Lisa Murkowski, and Ranking Member Tom Udall.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

An Equal Opportunity Employer
August 15, 2016

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman McCollum:

The fiscal year (FY) 2016 fire season is predicted to be above average. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Forest Service is projecting that it will exhaust the Wildland Fire Suppression Account within 30 days.

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A similar letter is being sent to Chairman Ken Calvert, Chairman Lisa Murkowski, and Ranking Member Tom Udall.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary
August 15, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam Chairman:

The fiscal year (FY) 2016 fire season is predicted to be above average. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service is projecting that it will exhaust the Wildland Fire Suppression Account within 30 days.

Per the Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriations Act (P.L. 114–113):

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A similar letter is being sent to Ranking Member Tom Udall, Chairman Ken Calvert, and Ranking Member Betty McCollum.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary
August 15, 2016

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
125 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

The fiscal year (FY) 2016 fire season is predicted to be above average. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Forest Service is projecting that it will exhaust the Wildland Fire Suppression Account within 30 days.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary