DEC 19 2011

The Honorable Daniel Akaka
Chairman
Committee on Indian Affairs
United States Senate
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is a report that outlines the Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression cost for fiscal year (FY) 2012, as required in the FLAME Act of 2009 (Title V of Division A of Public Law 111-88). This estimate is pursuant to section 502(h)(3) of the Act, which requires the Secretary of Agriculture to submit an estimate of the anticipated wildfire suppression costs the first week of September if the Appropriations Act for the following fiscal year has not been enacted by September 1. I apologize for the delay.

This forecast predicts fire suppression costs to be between $297 million and $668 million for FY 2012. These estimates are based on the best climate, weather, and other related data currently available, as well as the best current models and other analytical tools to estimate fire costs. The forecast does not include costs for aviation assets or cost pools that were shifted to the preparedness account as part of the rebaselining initiative.

In an effort to establish more consistency between the Departments, the enclosed forecast has been updated to include both USDA and the Department of the Interior.

A similar letter and copy of the report are being sent to Congressmen Robert Bishop, Michael Simpson, Glenn Thompson, Raúl Grijalva, Tim Holden, and James Moran and Senators Jack Reed, Ron Wyden, John Barrasso, and Lisa Murkowski.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure
The Honorable John Barrasso  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Indian Affairs  
United States Senate  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  

Dear Senator Barrasso:

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Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary  

Enclosure
The Honorable Robert Bishop  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Parks,  
Forest and Public Lands  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
123 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary  

Enclosure
The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Parks,  
Forests and Public Lands  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1511 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

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Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary

Enclosure
The Honorable Tim Holden
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Conservation,
   Energy and Forestry
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
2417 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Holden:

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Enclosure
DEC 19 2011

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

Dear Congressman Moran:

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Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary

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Dear Senator Murkowski:

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Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure

An Equal Opportunity Employer
The Honorable Michael K. Simpson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2312 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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The Honorable Glenn Thompson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy and Forestry  
Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
124 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Enclosure
The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
223 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  

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