TITLE I—AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $300,000,000 to the Office of the Secretary for replacement, modernization, and upgrade requirements at USDA facilities, other than the Forest Service, to meet workplace safety requirements and to improve mission area effectiveness. The Committee notes that many USDA facilities have been in operation for over one-half of a century and serious structural and operational defects currently impede the functions of the Department and do not adequately safeguard employees from health and safety risks. The Committee includes bill language requiring the Secretary to submit a plan on the allocation of these funds to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate (hereafter referred to in this title as "Committees") within 60 days of enactment of this act on how these funds will be allocated and to initiate modernization and upgrade activities as soon as practicable. The Secretary shall also provide quarterly reports to the Committees on the status of these activities until complete. The Secretary is further directed that none of the funds in this appropriation should be used for modernization or upgrade activities of the USDA South Building beyond those described in the current phase of facility renovation.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Committee recommends $5,000,000 for the Office of Inspector General for oversight and audit activities of funds under this title. The Secretary shall provide quarterly reports to the Committees on the status of these activities.

COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC SERVICE

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

The Committee recommends $100,000,000 for competitive grants under the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative [AFRI]. The Committee feels that effective gains in the areas of renewable energy and agricultural productivity must be the result of high quality peer-reviewed research. AFRI is the USDA flagship competitive research program that draws on expertise from colleges and universities around the Nation, and from other eligible institutions, on challenges most important to the agricultural sector. The Committee directs that funds provided by this appropriation be made available for research in the area of renewable fuels and emerging agricultural production technologies. These are two areas for which an enhanced knowledge base will contribute greatly to more effective and robust economic activity. The Secretary is directed to provide a report to the Committees on the allocation of these funds by research category within 60 days of enactment of this act and on the specific research awards within 120 days of enactment of this act.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $171,000,000 for Farm Service Agency, Salaries and Expenses to stabilize and upgrade computer systems and for additional staff which are critical for implementing the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the farm bill). The Farm Service Agency is the critical agency of the Department to ensure the timely and appropriate distribution of Federal financial support to the agricultural sector, which has a direct effect on the viability of manufacturing, supplies, financial services, and other elements of the national economy. Prompt implementation of the farm bill will greatly assist economic recovery in rural America. Continuing risks of information technology systems failures, as experienced recently, pose a very serious threat to this effort.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The Committee recommends $42,430,000 in budget authority to support $650,000,000 in direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans. The Farm Service Agency is experiencing increased loan demand and a significant shortfall in the funding necessary to meet the anticipated demand for both direct and guaranteed loans. Due to the shortfalls in credit availability, these funds are needed to ensure that sufficient credit is available to meet the needs of farmers and ranchers, and to support production needs in the coming growing season.

The following table reflects the amounts provided in the bill:

	Amount
Farm Ownership Loans:	
Direct	($300,000,000)
Subsidy	17,200,000
Guaranteed	(100,000,000)
Subsidy	330,000
Farm Operating Loans:	
Direct	(200,000,000)
Subsidy	23,600,000
Unsubsidized Guaranteed	(50,000,000)
Subsidy	1,300,000

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS

The Committee recommends $275,000,000 for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations for watershed and flood prevention activities. The Secretary is directed to submit a report to the Committees within 60 days of enactment of this act on how these funds will be allocated and to initiate activities as soon as practicable. The Secretary shall also provide quarterly reports to the Committees on the status of these activities until complete. The Committee expects that these funds will fully implement the stage of activity resulting in actual improvement to the watershed.

WATERSHED REHABILITION PROGRAM

The Committee recommends $120,000,000 for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program for critical activities across the country. The Secretary is directed to submit a report to the Committees within 60 days of enactment of this act on how these funds will be allocated and to initiate activities as soon as practicable. The Secretary shall also provide quarterly reports to the Committees on the status of these activities until complete. The Committee expects that these funds will fully cover any activity initiated.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $110,000,000 to assist USDA in implementing the rural development activities included in this act and for upgrading computer systems. The Secretary shall provide quarterly reports to the Committees on the status of the activities funded by this act for rural development until these activities are complete.

RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The Committee recommends $200,000,000 in budget authority to support $11,472,000,000 in direct and guaranteed single family housing loans that will provide about 105,000 very low to moderate-income rural households the opportunity of homeownership or avoiding the risk of foreclosure, especially during this period of uncertainty in the housing market and extremely high demand for credit.

The following table indicates loan and subsidy levels provided in the bill:

	Amount
Section 502 Single Family Housing:	
Direct	($1,000,000,000)
Subsidy	67,000,000
Guaranteed	(10,472,000,000)
Subsidy	133,000,000

RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The Committee recommends $127,000,000 in budget authority to support $1,546,000,000 in loans and grants for essential rural community facilities including hospitals, health clinics, health and safety vehicles and equipment, public buildings, and child and elder care facilities. These funds will both create opportunities for job growth and provide relief to local governments which are generally suffering from severe revenue shortfalls due to the current economic downturn.

The following table indicates loan and subsidy levels:

	Amount
Community Facilities:	
Direct loans	($1,171,000,000)
Direct subsidy	67,000,000
Guaranteed loans	(325,000,000)
Guaranteed subsidy	10,000,000
Grants	50,000,000

RURAL BUSINESS—COOPERATIVE SERVICE

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The Committee recommends $150,000,000 in budget authority to support $3,010,000,000 in loans and grants to support income and employment expansion through improved business opportunities in rural areas.

The following table indicates loan and subsidy levels:

	Amount
Business and Industry:	
Guaranteed loans	($2,990,000,000)
Guaranteed subsidy	130,000,000
Rural business enterprise grants	20,000,000

BIOREFINERY ASSISTANCE

The Committee recommends $200,000,000 in budget authority for loans and grants to assist in the development of new and emerging technologies for the development of advanced biofuels. This program will create energy-related jobs in rural America and encourage economic development, along with promoting resource conservation and diversifying markets for agricultural and forestry products, including agricultural waste materials. Further, this program will assist in a shift to renewable fuels that rely on feedstocks that do not compete with food-related commodities and therefore would not result in higher food costs.

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

The Committee recommends $50,000,000 for the Rural Energy for America Program. These funds would be used to provide loans and grants to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy development for agricultural producers and rural small businesses. This program provides opportunities to increase local revenues, bolster the local job market, and increase the economic yield of land. The Committee also recommends that schools in rural areas be eligible to receive these funds.

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The Committee recommends $1,375,000,000 in budget authority that will support $2,820,000,000 in loans and $963,000,000 in grants for needed water and waste disposal facilities in rural areas.

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM

The Committee recommends $200,000,000 in budget authority that will support $813,000,000 in loans and $180,000,000 in grants for the distance learning and telemedicine program to improve access to these services in remote rural communities.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

CHILD NUTRITON PROGRAMS

The Committee recommends $198,000,000 for USDA to implement a school food service equipment assistance program to provide competitive grants to school food authorities, based on the number of students eligible for free or reduced price lunch. These grants are to procure new equipment to replace old and worn out equipment, which often times was installed when schools were built, and will assist schools' efforts to provide nutritious meals to students.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN [WIC]

The Committee recommends $380,000,000 for a contingency fund for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children [WIC]. This contingency fund will ensure that the WIC program will have adequate funds to ensure that potential increased participation or food costs as a result of economic uncertainty will have no adverse effect on the program. The Committee also recommends $120,000,000 for WIC Management Information System funds.

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Committee recommends $150,000,000 for food purchases, of which up to $50,000,000 may be used for administrative funding, for the Emergency Food Assistance Program.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

SEC. 101. The Committee recommends bill language that will give the Secretary of Agriculture the tools necessary to facilitate the rapid build out of broadband infrastructure and capacity to rural areas necessary to encourage their rural development needs. The provision allows the Secretary to offer grants, loans and combinations of grants and loans to better tailor assistance to meet the needs of individual projects while making the most efficient use of available funds. The provision gives the Secretary the ability to fund projects that operate in sparsely as well as more densely populated areas so the project can have a sufficiently large subscriber base to be operationally and financially viable and affordable to the end users. Even though the Secretary will be allowed this flexibility, the Committee intends that it be used to enable projects to cover more unserved areas than would be otherwise served. The Committee intends that in looking at the sufficiency of broadband service in the area, the Secretary will exclusively look at the capacity and level of service available and the area's broadband needs for sustained development and not simply at the technologies or service providers involved. In determining the sufficiency of access to be provided, the Secretary shall take into consideration both the level of capacity required for effective rural development and the affordability of service to the end users. The Committee believes a substantial investment in broadband is essential for sustained economic viability of rural America.

SEC. 102. This section provides funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The Committee recommends a 12 percent increase in benefits for households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP] and Consolidated Block Grants for Puerto Rico and American Samoa through September 30, 2011. Further, the Committee recommends providing a one-time bonus payment to families, which would have an immediate stimulus effect and provide assistance to those who need it most. Additionally, the Committee recommendation includes a temporary suspension of the 3-month limit for non-working adults to receive SNAP benefits, provides States $150,000,000 in fiscal years 2009 and 2010 to carry out these additional provisions, and provides $5,000,000 in administrative funding for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

SEC. 103. The Committee recommends bill language to provide assistance to agricultural producers for lost income due to natural disasters and other unforeseen events. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the Farm Bill) authorized and made available funding for agricultural losses in each year covered by that act. However, the passage of the Farm Bill occurred at a time after planting decisions, crop insurance decisions, and much of the harvesting of the 2008 crop were complete. Therefore, there remains a need to transition the historical pattern of ad hoc agricultural disaster assistance into the newly authorized Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance program that was provided in the Farm Bill to ensure equitable treatment of all producers.

This provision will help enable farmers and ranchers across the Nation to secure the financing needed for investment in the 2009 growing season through purchases of seed, fertilizer, and other farm inputs that has a significant effect on the manufacturing and natural resource base of the United States. Without the ability of farmers and ranchers to recover from disasters in 2008, much of the rural economy will be at risk. This provision is a necessary step to move farmers and ranchers away from ad hoc disaster assistance to a much more reliable and predictable disaster recovery mechanism as provided in the Farm Bill, especially in view of the unique situation of the 2008 crop year and the timing of enactment of the Farm Bill.

SEC. 104. The Committee recommends bill language to strengthen enforcement authorities of the Food Safety and Inspection Service.

SEC. 105. The Committee recommends bill language to provide assistance to rural schools and other State and local entities.

SEC. 106. The Committee recommends bill language to carry out the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

TITLE VI—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT

The Committee recommends $248,000,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Management. These funds are for the consolidation of the Department of Homeland Security headquarters, which is currently spread throughout 70 buildings and 40 sites across the National Capital Region. Funds are also made available under title V to the General Services Administration [GSA] for this purpose. The final Environmental Impact Statement for this activity found that the project would create direct employment opportunities for 32,917 people in the region, not including the Federal employees working at the consolidated headquarters. Bill language is included directing the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not more than 60 days after the date of enactment of the act, a plan for the expenditure of these funds.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Committee recommends $5,000,000 for the Office of Inspector General. These funds shall be used for oversight and audit of programs, grants, and projects.

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $198,000,000 for U.S. Customs and Border Protection [CBP] Salaries and Expenses. Of this amount, $100,800,000 is for the procurement and deployment of non-intrusive inspection systems to improve port security; and $97,200,000 is for procurement and deployment of tactical communications equipment and radios. Bill language is included directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not more than 45 days after the date of enactment of the act, a plan for the expenditure of these funds.

BORDER SECURITY FENCING, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND TECHNOLOGY

The Committee recommends $200,000,000 for Border Security Fencing, Infrastructure, and Technology. These funds are for expedited development and deployment of border security technology on the Southwest border. Bill language is included directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not more than 45 days after the date of enactment of the act, a plan for the expenditure of these funds.

CONSTRUCTION

The Committee recommends $800,000,000 for Construction. These funds shall be used to construct, alter, enhance, expand, repair, and/or improve CBP-owned land border ports of entry. Included in this amount is funding to enhance construction program management and oversight. CBP estimates that these funds would create more than 8,700 jobs. Funds are also made available under title V to the General Services Administration for construction and repair of land border ports of entry owned by GSA. Bill language is included directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not more than 45 days after the date of enactment of the act, a plan for the expenditure of these funds.

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

AUTOMATION MODERNIZATION

The Committee recommends $27,800,000 for Automation Modernization. These funds shall be used for the procurement and deployment of tactical communications equipment and radios. Bill language is included directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not more than 45 days after the date of enactment of the act, a plan for the expenditure of these funds.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

AVIATION SECURITY

The Committee recommends $1,200,000,000 for Aviation Security for the procurement and installation of checked baggage explosives detection systems and checkpoint explosives detection equipment. These funds will allow the Transportation Security Administration to make air travel more efficient and secure by funding high priority optimal baggage screening projects at approximately 20 airports. Funding is also available for the purchase of emerging checkpoint security technologies that can identify explosive threats. Currently, an insufficient number of air passengers are screened by these technologies. Bill language is included directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not more than 45 days after the date of enactment of the act, a plan for the expenditure of these funds.

COAST GUARD

ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

The Committee recommends $572,500,000 for Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements for the following activities: $255,000,000 for shortfalls in priority procurements due to materials and labor cost increases; $195,000,000 for construction of high priority shore facilities; $87,500,000 for the competitively awarded design of a new polar icebreaker or the renovation of an existing polar icebreaker, and major repair and maintenance of existing polar icebreakers; and $35,000,000 for emergency maintenance of the Coast Guard's high endurance cutters. These funds will generate significant economic activity while addressing critical needs. The Coast Guard estimates that these funds would create approximately 1,235 jobs. Bill language is included directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not more than 45 days after the date of enactment of the act, a plan for the expenditure of these funds. The expenditure plan is to include all necessary expenses related to the oversight and management of each activity.

ALTERATION OF BRIDGES

The Committee recommends $240,400,000 for Alteration of Bridges deemed a hazard to marine navigation by the Coast Guard pursuant to the Truman-Hobbs Act. These funds will also allow $139,500,000 made available in prior years to be expended as sufficient funding will now be available to begin several bridge alterations. The Coast Guard estimates that these funds will create approximately 1,630 jobs. Bill language is included directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not more than 45 days after the date of enactment of the act, a plan for the expenditure of these funds.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee recognizes that our Nation's responders still cannot communicate important and timely information during a major disaster or event with existing infrastructure. The Committee recommends $6,000,000 to purchase through a competitive award six rapidly deployable communications response vehicles which will provide needed communications, and the ability to patch together disparate communications systems during major a disaster or a national security event.

STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS

The Committee recommends $950,000,000 for grants to State and local governments, to provide for one-time investments to modify and upgrade infrastructure assets in the Nation that have been left vulnerable for too long. These funds will generate significant economic activity while at the same time addressing important homeland security needs. Collectively, these projects are estimated to create more than 7,200 jobs. The Committee directs that priority be given to construction projects that will address the Nation's most significant risks which can also be completed in a timely fashion.

Of the total amount recommended, $100,000,000 is for Public Transportation Security Assistance, Railroad Security Assistance, and Systemwide Amtrak Security Upgrades; $100,000,000 is for Port Security Grants; and $250,000,000 is for upgrading, modifying, or constructing emergency operations centers or for upgrading, modifying, or constructing State and local fusion centers as defined by section 210A(j)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h(j)(1)) which shall be awarded to both types of facilities as equitably as warranted. Funds shall be available until September 30, 2009. The cost share for Port Security Grants and emergency operations centers is waived for these projects.

Additionally, of the total amount recommended, $500,000,000 is for construction projects which will upgrade or modify critical infrastructure, as defined if section 1016(e) of the USA PATRIOT ACT of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)), to mitigate consequences related to potential damage from terrorist attacks or natural disasters. FEMA is directed to engage subject matter experts, including the National Protection and Programs Directorate, to identify large-scale projects that to date have lacked the needed resources to mitigate risks to assets which if destroyed or disrupted would cause national or regional catastrophic events. Bill language is included directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not more than 60 days after the date of enactment of the act, a plan for the expenditure of these funds. The Committee directs the Secretary to include in the expenditure plan a description of the risk, effectiveness, and need for each project as well as the estimated time to complete each project. The plan may be submitted in a classified format if necessary but should be accompanied by a redacted version. Bill language is included providing 5 percent for program administration. Of the amount provided for program administration, FEMA is directed to ensure subject matter experts have the needed engineering and technical expertise for this critical work. Funds for these projects shall be available until September 30, 2011.

FIREFIGHTER ASSISTANCE GRANTS

The Committee recommends $500,000,000 to provide for one-time investments to make grants on a competitive basis directly to fire departments, in consultation with the chief executive of the State, for the purpose of modifying, upgrading, or constructing State and local fire stations. Collectively, such projects are estimated to create 4,800 jobs. Funds shall remain available until September 30, 2010 and up to 5 percent shall be for program administration.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The Committee includes a provision to provide additional access to loans for communities whose local economies have been significantly impacted by a Presidentially declared disaster in 2008. Such communities will now be able to apply for loans for up to 50 percent of their pre-storm revenue instead of being capped at $5,000,000.

EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER

The Committee recommends $100,000,000 to support the Emergency Food and Shelter program which funds grants to nonprofit and faith-based organizations at the local level to supplement their programs for emergency food and shelter to provide for the immediate needs of the homeless. The Committee recognizes that there are over 36.2 million Americans who need food assistance and over 675,000 homeless Americans and recent economic indicators are projecting increases in unemployment, homelessness, and poverty rates.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENTS, AND RELATED EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $15,000,000 for Federal Law Enforcement Training Center [FLETC] Acquisition, Construction, Improvements, and Related Expenses at all FLETC sites. FLETC estimates that these funds would create up to 342 jobs. Bill language is included directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not more than 45 days after the date of enactment of the act, a plan for the expenditure of these funds.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, ACQUISITION, AND OPERATIONS

The Committee recommends $14,000,000 to expand cyber security research to better address critical infrastructure vulnerabilities. Bill language is included directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not more than 45 days after the date of enactment of the act, a plan for the expenditure of these funds.

TITLE V—FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The Committee recommends $250,000,000 for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund. Of the recommended funds, up to $20,000,000 is for technical assistance and other purposes for Native American, Native Hawaiian, and Alaskan Native communities and up to $5,000,000 is for administrative costs. The Committee directs that no later than 60 days after enactment of this act, the Department of Treasury submit a detailed expenditure plan to the Committees on Appropriations of House of Representatives and the Senate for funds provided under this heading.

Funding awards will immediately provide capital to new and existing qualified community development financial institutions [CDFIs] to invest in the development of underserved communities through grants, loans, equity investments, deposits, and technical assistance grants through the CDFI program. CDFIs include community development banks, credit unions, venture capital funds, revolving loan funds, and microloan funds, among others. Recipient institutions engage in lending and investment for affordable housing, small business, and community development within underserved communities.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FEDERAL PAYMENTS

FEDERAL PAYMENT TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

The Committee recommends a Federal payment of $125,000,000, to be matched with 100 percent local funds to continue implementation of the Combined Sewer Overflow [CSO] Long-Term Control Plan, a $2,200,000,000, 20-year sewer construction program. The Committee directs that no later than 60 days after enactment of this act, the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority submit a detailed expenditure plan to the Committees on Appropriations of House of Representatives and the Senate. The Committee further directs that such spending plan shall include a description of each specific project, how specific projects will further the objectives of the Long-Term Control Plan, and all funding sources for each project. The Committee expects ratepayers to bear half of the costs of the projects.

Approximately one-third of the District of Columbia is served by a combined sewer system, constructed by the Federal Government in 1890, in which both sanitary waste and storm water flow through the same pipes. When the collection system or the Blue Plains treatment plant reach capacity, typically during periods of heavy rainfall, the system is designed to overflow the excess water. This mixture of sewage and storm water runoff is discharged to the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, Rock Creek, and tributary waters between 60 and 75 times each year. Under a judicial consent decree, the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority [WASA] embarked on a 20-year, $2,200,000,000 sewer construction program to reduce combined sewer overflows [CSOs]. The program includes deep underground storage tunnels, side tunnels to reduce flooding, pump station rehabilitation, and the elimination of over a dozen CSO outfalls along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers and Rock Creek. When completed in 2025, this project is expected to vastly improve water quality and significantly reduce debris in our Nation's capital waterways.

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority [WASA] has identified three dozen specific near-term activities of either an engineering (design/program management) or construction nature that would create potentially as many as 260 jobs in the District of Columbia and permit considerable progress to be made on critical sewer infrastructure improvements.

The Committee recommends this significant investment because of the Federal Government's role in building the original system and its responsibility to maintain the infrastructure that the Federal Government uses. The scale and cost of this project exemplifies how critical infrastructure, starved over the years, is now nearly non-functional.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Real Property Activities

FEDERAL BUILDINGS FUND

LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF REVENUE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $9,048,000,000 to the Federal Buildings Fund. The funding level provides for construction and acquisition, and repairs and alterations of Federal buildings and United States courthouses, and border stations (land ports of entry). Of this amount, $1,400,000,000 is for construction and repair of Federal buildings and courthouses and $1,200,000,000 is for construction and repair of border stations. Funds are also made available under title VI through the Department of Homeland Security for construction and repair of land border ports of entry.

Funding is also provided for measures necessary to implement the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 [EISA] (Public Law 110–140) in Government-owned and leased facilities under the control of the General Services Administration [GSA]. With the $6,000,000,000 provided, GSA is directed to use green technology to address the backlog of $8,400,000,000 of repair projects. In addition, the Committee recommends $4,000,000 and nine FTE to formally establish the Office of Federal High-Performance Green Buildings, as authorized by the Energy Independence and Security Act [EISA] of 2007 (Public Law 110–140). The new office will enhance GSA's ability to develop high-performance green building standards for all types of Federal facilities, establish green practices, and identify a certification system for Federal green buildings.

Contract award for construction and repair projects is expected within 120 days so that work can be undertaken as expeditiously as possible.

GSA is directed to submit an expenditure plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 60 days after the enactment of this act. The expenditure plan shall identify each prospectus-level construction and acquisition or repairs and alterations project to be funded by the amounts provided in this section. For each project, the plan shall identify total project cost, the total amount to be obligated from funds provided in this section, and the expected year of obligation. The plan shall address the highest priorities of the administration in the areas of Federal buildings and United States courthouses, border stations, and "green" buildings. GSA is further directed to provide an update on the status of the projects, use of funds, and next steps, to the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Committees no later than 150 days after the enactment of this act.

Within the aggregate amounts provided for Federal buildings and courthouses, GSA may allocate an additional amount for leasing of temporary space, up to an aggregate amount of $108,000,000. Within the aggregate amounts provided for Federal buildings and United States courthouses, border stations, and green buildings, GSA may allocate up to an aggregate amount of $206,000,000 for the administrative costs of completing projects funded in this act. GSA may provide for the expenses associated with temporary displacement of tenants of Federal buildings undergoing repairs and alterations, to the extent necessary, from funds made available for "Repairs and Alterations" and "Building Operations" under this and previous acts. However, where possible, tenant agencies are expected to request funding for their costs through the annual appropriations process.

For consolidation of the Department of Homeland Security headquarters, the Committee recommends $448,000,000 for construction and development. Funds are also made available under title VI through the Department of Homeland Security for this purpose.

ENERGY-EFFICIENT FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE FLEET PROCUREMENT

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $600,000,000 to the General Services Administration's Federal Acquisition Service for the acquisition of high-efficiency motor vehicles for the Federal motor vehicle fleet. The funding level provides for the acquisition of motor vehicles with higher fuel economy, including hybrid vehicles, neighborhood electric vehicles, electric vehicles, and plug-in hybrid vehicles, as well as for infrastructure and alterations to Federal buildings necessary to support the motor vehicles, including charging stations.

Motor vehicles acquired through this act may be used for the GSA motor vehicle fleet, or may be transferred to other Federal agencies. Funds provided are not to be used to expand the Federal fleet and, if GSA transfers vehicles acquired through this act to other Federal agencies, the Committee directs the Administrator of

General Services to ensure that those agencies return less efficient vehicles to GSA for disposal on at least a one-for-one basis.

The Committee expects that the funds provided for Federal motor vehicle fleet procurement will help to stimulate the market for high-efficiency motor vehicles and will increase the fuel efficiency and reduce carbon emissions of the Federal motor vehicle fleet. The Committee remains hopeful that domestically produced, plug-in hybrid-electric vehicles will be commercially available in sufficient quantities before September 30, 2010, such that these funds could be used to acquire this technology for the Federal fleet.

The Administrator of General Services is directed to submit a status report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate no later than 150 days after the enactment of this act on the types of vehicles purchased, the fuel efficiency gained, the agencies receiving transferred funds, and future plans.

Office of Inspector General

The Committee recommends $2,000,000 for the Office of Inspector General for oversight and audits of programs funded in this act.

RECOVERY ACT ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY BOARD

The Committee recommends $7,000,000 for the Recovery Act Accountability and Transparency Board established in title XVI of this act. The Committee directs that funding shall be transferred as necessary to the Recovery Independent Advisory Panel, the Office of Management and Budget, and the General Services Administration as authorized in title XV of this act. Funding will support operating expenses, including information technology investments, to support activities related to accountability, transparency, and oversight of spending under this act.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Salaries and Expenses

The Committee recommends $84,000,000, of which $24,000,000 is for technical assistance under the Microloan program, $15,000,000 is for lender oversight activities, and $20,000,000 is for improving, streamlining, and automating information technology systems related to lender processes and lender oversight. The Committee directs that remaining funds shall be used for necessary expenses for implementing changes to loan programs made under this act and for enhanced lender oversight and credit risk management activities. The Committee directs that no later than 60 days after enactment of this act, the Small Business Administration submit a detailed expenditure plan for funds provided in this act for the Small Business Administration to the Committees on Appropriations of House of Representatives and the Senate.

Office of Inspector General

The Committee recommends $10,000,000 for the Office of Inspector General for oversight and audits of programs funded in this act.

SURETY BOND GUARANTEES REVOLVING FUND

The Committee recommends $15,000,000 for surety bond guarantees.

BUSINESS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The Committee recommends $615,000,000 in subsidy appropriations for guaranteed loans, including $515,000,000 for the 7(a) general business guaranteed loan program to fund a temporary elimination of lender and borrower fees and $100,000,000 to fund a temporary elimination of certain lender and borrower fees under the 504 guaranteed loan program. The Committee is concerned that small businesses maintain adequate access to loans as the market for credit continues to tighten. In October 2008, a Federal Reserve Board survey showed that 75 percent of domestic institutions reported tightening lending standards to small businesses, up from just one-tenth reported 12 months earlier. Data from the Small Business Administration shows that loan volume guaranteed under the 7(a) and 504 programs in 2008 fell far short of the 2007 volume and that the 2009 volume continues to slow significantly. The Committee recommends temporarily subsidizing the 7(a) and 504 programs in order to reinvigorate small business lending.

In addition, the Committee recommends $6,000,000 in subsidy appropriations to support additional lending under the microloan program in order to meet the increase in demand resulting from the shrinking availability of credit in the market.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 501. Temporarily eliminates fees under the 7(a) general business guaranteed loan program and temporarily eliminates certain fees under the 504 guaranteed loan program.

SEC. 502. Makes changes to requirements under the 7(a) general business guaranteed loan program, the Small Business Investment Company program, and the 504 guaranteed loan program.

SEC. 503. Authorizes the Small Business Administration to refinance certain small business loans under the 504 guaranteed loan program.

SEC. 504. Establishes definitions for provisions under the heading "Small Business Administration".

TITLE XII—TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Committee recommends $45,467,750,000 for the Department of Transportation for investments in our Nation's transportation infrastructure. The transportation investments funded in this bill will create jobs across the country, and play an important role in the economic recovery of local communities and the Nation. In addition, the investments we make today in our Nation's transportation infrastructure will sustain economic activity long after our current troubles are behind us.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SUPPLEMENTAL DISCRETIONARY GRANTS FOR A NATIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The Committee recommends $5,500,000,000 for grants to State and local governments to make investments in the Nation's surface transportation infrastructure. The Secretary of Transportation must award these grants solely on a competitive basis, and select projects that will make a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. In order to ensure that these grants will produce jobs quickly, the bill directs the Secretary to give priority to projects that can be completed within 3 years. The Secretary must also give priority to projects that require this additional share of Federal funds in order to fill gaps in an overall financing plan, helping State and local governments invest in meaningful transportation projects whose completion would otherwise be out of reach due to their cost.

The bill requires that, in making project selections, the Secretary shall take such measures so as to ensure an equitable geographic distribution of funds and an appropriate balance in addressing the needs of urban and rural communities.

The bill allows the funds provided for these competitive grants to be used on a wide variety of transportation investments. Eligible projects include investments in highways and bridges, including but not limited to interstate rehabilitation, improvements to the rural collector road system, the reconstruction of overpasses and interchanges, bridge replacements, seismic retrofit projects for bridges, and road realignments. Eligible projects also include public transportation investments, including contributions to projects participating in the New Starts or Small Starts programs if the funds will expedite the completion of the project and its entry into revenue service. Finally, eligible projects include investments in passenger and freight rail transportation and port infrastructure, including projects that connect different modes of transportation and improve the efficiency of freight movement.

Because this program will fund projects in number of different modes of transportation, the Committee expects the Secretary to take advantage of the expertise to be found at the modal administrations, and to accept assistance in evaluating grant applications from the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the Maritime Administration. The bill allows the Secretary to use $5,000,000 of the appropriated funds for administrative and oversight activities, and to transfer portions of this funding to the appropriate modal administrations as needed.

In administering this grant program, the Secretary will provide two separate opportunities to receive funding by awarding two sets of grants. The first set of grants will be funded from the $5,500,000,000 appropriated directly to this program. Applications for this funding will be due within 180 days of the date of the bill's enactment, and the Secretary must announce the final project selections within 1 year. The second set of grants will be funded from amounts transferred to this program through the "use-or-lose" provisions applying to the highway and transit formula funding included in this bill. Those transfers are discussed in more detail later in this report. Applications for grants paid out of the transferred amounts are due within 1 year of the bill's enactment, and the Secretary must announce the final project selections within 6 months of that date.

The Committee expects the Secretary to maintain a grant application process that is transparent, fair, and accessible to all interested parties. Within 75 days of the bill's enactment, the Secretary must publish a set of criteria on which project selections will be based. The Committee expects the Secretary to publicize these criteria to all possible grant applicants. The Committee also expects the Secretary to adhere rigorously and consistently to the published criteria, and fairly measure all applications against those criteria. Finally, while the Committee understands that State and local governments may want to revisit their applications and resubmit them before the 1-year deadline, the Secretary must conduct a fresh competition for the second set of grants rather than view them as an opportunity to provide consolation to disappointed applicants from the first competition.

The Committee directs the Secretary to submit quarterly reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the implementation of the bill. For each of the programs funded under the bill for the Department of Transportation, these reports shall include a summary of activities already conducted, a summary of planned activities, the amount of funding obligated, and the amount of funding expended.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

The Committee recommends $200,000,000 for investments in the facilities and equipment of the Federal Aviation Administration [FAA]. The FAA provides air traffic control services 24 hours a day, protecting the safety of the traveling public and maintaining an efficient air transportation system. This system depends on the ability of the FAA's air traffic control workforce to do their jobs at the highest levels of performance every day. However, the facilities and equipment that the air traffic controllers use to perform their jobs are not in sustainable condition. Significant repairs and replacements are required.

The Committee's recommendation includes $50,000,000 to make necessary improvements to the FAA power systems, including the replacement of batteries, engine generators, and cables in order to maintain reliable sources of back-up power; improvements to power systems at air traffic control facilities; and lightning protection. The FAA has identified these investments in its power systems as a critical near-term necessity.

The recommendation also includes $50,000,000 for the modernization of air route traffic control centers, the facilities where the FAA conducts air traffic control over airspace in the en route environment. These facilities are over 50 years old and in poor condition. The funding provided in the bill will address the significant backlog of necessary repairs.

The recommendation also includes $80,000,000 to replace air traffic control towers and terminal radar approach control facilities that have aged beyond their expected lifespan. Many of these projects have completed engineering and design work, and the Committee expects the FAA to enter contracts and begin construction on these projects within 6 months.

Finally, the recommendation includes $20,000,000 for the installation of airport lighting, and navigation and landing equipment. There is currently a backlog for the installation of instrument landing systems. This funding will address those needs, add capacity, and improve safety at airports across the country.

The decision as to which FAA facilities will benefit from the funding made available for all of the facilities and equipment described above shall be left entirely to the Secretary.

SUPPLEMENTAL DISCRETIONARY GRANTS FOR AIRPORT INVESTMENT

The Committee recommends $1,100,000,000 for investments in airport infrastructure. The bill clarifies that such investments may include the procurement, installation and commissioning of runway incursion prevention devices and systems, as well as on the purchase of firefighting and safety equipment to meet the requirements of airport certification under part 139 of title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The bill directs the Secretary of Transportation to distribute this funding as discretionary grants and to give priority to projects that demonstrate an ability to be completed within 2 years. The Federal share of these airport grants shall be 100 percent.

The bill requires that projects funded with these airport grants be included in an airport layout plan. However, the Committee also believes that these grants should serve to increase the amount of investment currently planned for airport infrastructure. As such, the bill directs the Secretary to give priority to those projects that demonstrate their ability to supplement rather than supplant spending planned from airport-generated revenues or from other State and local sources on such activities.

Finally, the bill includes a provision that allows the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to use up to one-quarter of 1 percent of the funds provided for awarding and overseeing these supplemental airport grants.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS FOR HIGHWAY INVESTMENT

The Committee recommends $27,060,000,000 for highway investments. The vast majority of these funds will be apportioned by formula to State departments of transportation and local governments. The bill apportions the funds according to the formula authorized under current highway law for the Surface Transportation Program, an authorized part of the overall Federal-aid Highway program. In addition, it is likely that additional billions of dollars will be available for highway investments through the "Supplemental Discretionary Grants for a National Transportation System" that will be allocated competitively through the Office of the Secretary.

The apportioned funds may be used for capital projects eligible for funding under the Surface Transportation Program. Such projects include, but are not limited to, highway rehabilitation and restoration, bridge repair, infrastructure investments that improve highway safety, highway resurfacing, and seismic retrofit projects for bridges. The bill also authorizes grant recipients to use this funding to invest in projects that address stormwater runoff, passenger and freight rail transportation, and port infrastructure. Finally, the bill requires that States spend at least 5 percent of their apportioned funding on activities eligible under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality [CMAQ] Improvement program, another authorized part of the overall Federal-aid Highway program. Such activities include, but are not limited to, diesel retrofits, congestion mitigation, parking facilities, and traffic flow improvements.

In order to balance the need to make immediate use of the highway funding with the need to make meaningful investments in our Nation's transportation, the bill distributes the apportioned funds in two parts. All of the funds will be apportioned as soon as possible after the date of enactment of the bill, but half of the funds will be required to be obligated within 180 days while the other half will be required to be obligated within 1 year.

The first half of the apportioned funds are intended for immediate investments in highway infrastructure that provide a quick infusion of money into local economies to spur job creation. This funding will be available for use within 180 days, and it will be apportioned exclusively to States. In order to enforce the immediate use of these funds, the Committee has included a "use-or-lose" provision in the bill. After 180 days, the bill requires the Secretary to withdraw from each State any unobligated balances from this half of the apportioned funds. The bill requires the Secretary to redistribute these balances among the States that were able to obligate all of the funding provided to them for immediate investment.

The second half of the apportioned funds, plus any funds redistributed after the first 180 days, are intended to be obligated within 1 year on more meaningful investments in highway infrastructure. The Committee believes these investments will support local economies and job creation over a longer period of time. Although these funds are meant for such longer-term benefits, the Committee still intends grant recipients to make prompt use of the funding provided to them. For this reason, the bill includes a second "use-or-lose" provision. After 1 year, the bill requires the Secretary to withdraw all unobligated balances from each recipient of apportioned funds. The bill requires the Secretary to transfer these balances to the account for "Supplemental Discretionary Grants for a National Transportation System," a separate program funded in the bill. This program provides discretionary grants for transportation investments and is described in detail earlier in this report.

Unlike the first half of the apportioned funding, which will be provided exclusively to the States, fully 80 percent of the second half of the apportioned will be allocated to local jurisdictions in all 50 States. As such, 40 percent of the total amount of highway funding to be distributed by formula will be provided to local jurisdictions.

The Committee recognizes that there may be extenuating circumstances that prevent a grant recipient from obligating all of the funding provided to it. In particular, the Committee is concerned that a large investment of transportation funding provided all at one time with a single national deadline for obligation may drive up contractor prices and create an unworkable bidding environment. For extreme situations in which a grant recipient faces such an unworkable bidding environment or other extenuating circumstances, the bill gives the Secretary the authority to extend the 1-year period for funding obligation at the request of a grant recipient. Before granting an extension, however, the Secretary must send a letter to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations that provides a thorough justification for the extension.

Within the total amount of funding provided for highway investments, the Committee recommends $60,000,000 for ferry transportation systems. This funding is discussed in greater detail under the heading for the Maritime Administration.

The Committee also recommends that of the total funding provided for highway investments, $500,000,000 shall be provided for transportation investments at Indian reservations and Federal lands. The bill includes language that priority for this funding shall be given to capital investments, and to projects that can be completed within 2 years.

The Committee directs that $320,000,000 of the funds for Indian reservations and Federal lands shall be provided for the Indian Reservation Roads program [IRR]. The IRR program provides grants to tribes for transportation investments and distributes the grants by formula. The bill allows up to 4 percent of the IRR funds to be used for the administration and oversight of the program. The Committee recommendation for Indian reservations and Federal lands also includes $100,000,000 for the Park Roads and Parkways program, which funds improvements to transportation infrastructure under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service; $70,000,000 for the Forest Highway program, which funds improvements to highways that provide access to and within the National Forest System; and $10,000,000 for the Refuge Roads program, which funds improvements to roads that provide access to and within the National Wildlife Refuge System.

To ensure the prompt utilization of all funds provided for investments at Indian reservations and Federal lands, the bill includes language that requires the Secretary of Transportation to redistribute any funds that remain unobligated after 1 year. Any funds subject to such redistribution, however, must remain within the program component for which they were originally appropriated.

For all projects funded with the $27,060,000,000 provided for highway investments, the bill provides that the Federal share may be up to 100 percent. The exact amount of the Federal share shall be solely at the discretion of the grant recipient. The bill also stipulates that provisions under current highway authorizing law relating to labor protection, environmental planning, and disadvantaged business enterprises shall apply to the highway funding apportioned under the bill.

Finally, the bill allows the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration to use up to $12,000,000 of the funds provided for highway investment to cover the cost of awarding and overseeing grants.

FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS TO STATES FOR INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE

The Committee recommends $250,000,000 for discretionary grants to States to provide capital assistance for improving intercity passenger rail service as well as maintaining existing passenger rail corridors. The Federal share of any grant for intercity passenger rail service shall be 100 percent.

The bill requires the Secretary of Transportation to give priority to projects that demonstrate an ability to be completed within 2 years, and to projects that will improve the safety and reliability of intercity passenger trains. The bill also requires that, in order to qualify for grant, a project must be on a Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan at the time of its application.

Finally, the bill includes a provision that allows the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration to use up to one-quarter of 1 percent of the funds provided for awarding and overseeing the grants.

SUPPLEMENTAL CAPITAL GRANTS TO THE NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

The Committee recommends $850,000,000 for capital grants to be provided directly to the National Railroads Passenger Corporation [AMTRAK] for projects that will maintain or improve the national system of intercity passenger rail, including the rehabilitation of rolling stock. The bill prohibits AMTRAK from spending more than 50 percent of the grant money on capital projects along the Northeast Corridor.

The bill includes language directing the AMTRAK Board of Directors to give priority to those projects that will expand the capacity of passenger rail, and to ensure that the projects are completed within 2 years. The bill also includes language that directs the Board ensure that the grants supplement rather than supplant the railroad's plans to invest in capital projects using Federal, State, local, and corporate sources of funding. The bill requires the Board to certify to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations its compliance with the requirement that grants supplement and not supplant the AMTRAK's capital program.

HIGH-SPEED RAIL CORRIDOR PROGRAM

The Committee recommends $2,000,000,000 for discretionary grants for capital projects in designated high-speed rail corridors, as authorized under section 26106 of title 49, United States Code. The Secretary may award these grants to a State, group of States, an interstate compact, a public agency that has been established by one or more States and has responsibility for providing high-speed rail service, or Amtrak. The funding provided for this program shall be available until September 30, 2011, and the Federal share of any high-speed rail grant shall be 100 percent.

As required under authorization law, the Secretary shall select high speed rail projects that are anticipated to result in significant improvements to intercity rail passenger service, and to give greater consideration to projects that encourage intermodal connectivity, provide environmental benefits, and produce positive economic and employment impacts.

The bill includes a provision that allows the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration to use up to one-quarter of 1 percent of the funds provided for awarding and overseeing the grants.

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT INVESTMENT

The Committee recommends $8,400,000,000 for grants to make capital investments in public transportation systems. The vast majority of these funds will be apportioned by formula to local areas. The apportioned funds may be used for capital projects that include, but are not limited to, purchasing or rehabilitating a bus, overhauling rail rolling stock, conducting preventative maintenance, acquiring real property, conducting demolition work, and constructing or improving stations and terminals. In addition, it is likely that additional billions of dollars will be available for transit investments through the "Supplemental Discretionary Grants for a National Transportation System" that will be competitively allocated through the Office of the Secretary.

In order to balance the need to make immediate use of the public transit funding with the need to make meaningful investments in public transportation systems, the bill provides the apportioned funds in two parts. All of the funds will be apportioned as soon as possible after the enactment of the bill, but half of the funds are intended for use within 180 days and the other half are intended for use within 1 year.

The first half of the apportioned funds that the Committee provides for use within 180 days are intended for immediate investments in public transportation that provide a quick infusion of money into local economies and spur job creation. In order to enforce the immediate use of these funds, the Committee has included a "use-or-lose" provision in the bill. After 180 days, the bill requires the Secretary to withdraw from each grant recipient any unobligated balances from this half of the apportioned funds. The bill requires the Secretary to redistribute these balances among the recipients that were able to obligate all of the funding provided to them for immediate investment.

The second half of the apportioned funds, plus any funds redistributed after the first 180 days, are intended for more meaningful investments in public transportation. The Committee believes these investments will support local economies and job creation over a longer period of time. Although these funds are meant for such longer-term benefits, the Committee still intends grant recipients to make prompt use of the funding provided to them. For this reason, the bill includes a second "use-or-lose" provision. After 1 year following the date of enactment, the bill requires the Secretary to withdraw all unobligated balances from each recipient of apportioned funds. The bill requires the Secretary to transfer these balances to the account for "Supplemental Discretionary Grants for a National Transportation System," a separate program funded in the bill. This program provides discretionary grants for transportation investments and is described in detail earlier in this report.

The Committee recognizes that there may be extenuating circumstances that prevent a grant recipient from obligating all of the funding provided to it. In particular, the Committee is concerned that a large investment of transportation funding with a single national deadline for obligation may drive up contractor prices and create an unworkable bidding environment. For extreme situations in which a grant recipient faces an unworkable bidding environment or other extenuating circumstances, the bill gives the Secretary the authority to extend the 1-year period for funding obligation at the request of a grant recipient. Before granting an extension, however, the Secretary must send a letter to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations that provides a thorough justification for the extension.

To apportion funding, the bill uses formulas authorized under current transit law. Most of this funding is provided directly to local areas, while some of it is provided to the States for allocation among the local areas. The Committee encourages States to allocate these grants so that every grant recipient receives enough resources to be able to make meaningful use of the funds provided in the bill. The bill also continues to make transit formula grants available for public transportation investments at Indian reservations.

Of the funding provided for public transit investments, the Committee includes $200,000,000 for grants to public transit agencies for making capital investments that will reduce the energy consumption or greenhouse gas emissions of their public transportation systems. The investments made with these grants will help reduce the impact of pubic transportation systems on the environment, and they will help public transit agencies to realize cost savings by reducing their energy consumption.

Grants provided for such energy efficiency grants may be used for projects that include, but are not limited to, improvements lighting, heating, cooling, or ventilation systems at public transportation stations and facilities; adjustments to signal timing or other vehicle controlling systems, including computer controlled systems; the purchase or retrofit of rolling stock; and improvements to energy distribution systems. The bill requires that priority shall be given to projects based on the total energy savings that are projected to result from the investment, and the projected energy savings as a percentage of the total energy usage of the public transit agency.

For all projects funded with the $8,400,000,000 provided for public transit investments, the Federal share may be up to 100 percent. The exact amount of the Federal share shall be solely at the discretion of the grant recipient. The bill also stipulates that provisions under current transit authorizing law relating to labor protection, planning, and disadvantaged business enterprises shall apply to the transit funding apportioned under the bill.

The bill allows the Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration to use up to $5,000,000 of the funds provided for investments in public transportation to cover the cost of awarding and overseeing grants.

Maritime Administration

SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS FOR ASSISTANCE TO SMALL SHIPYARDS

The Committee recommends $100,000,000 for grants to maritime communities through the assistance to the Small Shipyards program. The funding can be used to make capital improvements to small shipyards in order to increase the productivity of the Nation's shipbuilding industry. In addition, these funds can be used for training in maritime communities. These investments will help to improve the competitiveness of the domestic shipbuilding industry, and create jobs in the maritime sector.

The Committee recommendation includes $60,000,000 for the construction of ferry boats and ferry terminal facilities, to be administered by the Federal Highway Administration. The bill directs the Secretary of Transportation to distribute this funding to States on a competitive basis. The bill also directs the Secretary to give priority to those projects that have proven their ability to be completed within 2 years, ensuring that the funding will produce the quickest benefit for communities that rely on ferries for their basic transportation needs. The priority on projects that can be brought to completion promptly will also produce the quickest creation of job opportunities. The bill specifies that the Federal share of these grants shall be 100 percent.

Office of Inspector General

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends an additional $7,750,000 for the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation to conduct audits and investigations of the projects and activities carried out pursuant to the bill. The Committee directs the Inspector General to provide biannual reports summarizing this work to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. These reports should include a list of all audit work and significant investigations currently being conducted, an overview of the Inspector General's findings based on completed audit and investigation work, and a record of all recommendations the Inspector General has issued.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 1201. The Committee includes a provision that expands the contingent commitment authority of the Federal Transit Authority [FTA]. This provision will allow the FTA to enter into full funding grant agreements with a larger number of transit properties more rapidly and so expedite the construction of those projects and the creation of jobs.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANTS

This account funds the Native American Housing Block Grants Program, as authorized under title I of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 [NAHASDA]. This program provides an allocation of funds on a formula basis to Indian tribes and their tribally designated housing entities to help them address the housing needs within their communities. Under this block grant, individual Indian tribes use performance measures and benchmarks that are consistent with the national goals of the program, but can base these measures on the needs and priorities established in their own housing plan.

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $510,000,000 for the Native American Housing Block Grant. The bill requires that recipients obligate funds within 1 year of the date of enactment, and imposes expenditure deadlines at 2 and 3 years after the authorized funds become available for obligation. The Secretary must recapture funds from participating jurisdictions that do not meet the 1-year obligation and 2-year expenditure deadlines, and reallocate such funds to participating jurisdictions that can expend the money rapidly.

The bill requires that the Secretary distribute $255,000,000 through the existing formula and distribute $255,000,000 through a competition. In allocating the discretionary portion of the authorized funds, the Secretary must give priority consideration to projects that will spur construction and rehabilitation and will create employment opportunities for low-income and unemployed person. Recipients are required to prioritize projects that can award contracts based on bids within 180 days from the date that funds are available to recipients. The Secretary has discretion to enable participation in the formula and competitive allocations under this paragraph by any housing entity eligible for funding under title VIII of NAHASDA, Housing Assistance for Native Hawaiians (25 U.S.C. 4221 et seq.).

To facilitate the timely obligation and expenditure of authorized funds, the bill allows the Secretary to waive all statutory and regulatory requirements other than those dictated by the bill and requirements related to fair housing, non-discrimination, labor standards, and the environment.

One percent of funds are made available for staffing, training, technical assistance, monitoring, technology, evaluation, and administrative expenses, and such funds are to be transferred to the appropriate Administration, Operations, and Management and Personnel Compensation and Benefits accounts and subaccounts.

PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND

This account provides funding for modernization and capital needs of public housing authorities (except Indian housing authorities), including management improvements, resident relocation and homeownership activities.

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $5,000,000,000 for capital and management activities for public housing agencies. The bill requires that the Secretary distribute $3,000,000,000 through the existing public housing capital fund formula and the remaining $2,000,000,000 through a competition. The Committee notes that public housing agencies are required to have a 5-year capital plan, and expects them to prioritize projects already underway and in these plans. In allocating the discretionary portion of the authorized funds, the Secretary must give priority consideration to the rehabilitation of vacant rental units and institute measures to ensure that authorized funds will supplement and not supplant expenditures from other Federal, State, or local sources. No public housing agencies, including Moving to Work agencies, may transfer authorized funds to operating or rental assistance activities.

The bill requires public housing agencies to obligate funds within 1 year of the date of enactment. The bill also imposes expenditure deadlines at 2 and 3 years after the authorized funds become available for obligation. The Secretary must recapture funds from public housing agencies that do not meet the 1-year obligation and 2-year expenditure deadlines, and reallocate such funds to public housing agencies that can spend the money rapidly. To facilitate the timely obligation and expenditure of funds, the bill allows the Secretary to waive all statutory and regulatory requirements other than those dictated in the bill and requirements related to conditions on use of funds for development and modernization, fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment.

One percent of funds are made available for staffing, training, technical assistance, monitoring, technology, evaluation and administrative expenses, and such funds are to be transferred to the appropriate Administration, Operations, and Management and Personnel Compensation and Benefits accounts and subaccounts.

Public housing is an essential part of our Nation's physical infrastructure. Located in 3,500 communities nationwide and home to nearly 1,200,000 households, public housing is a critical ingredient of any strategy to deliver on the goal of providing "decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable living environments for all Americans set forth in the Housing Act of 1949. (42 U.S.C. § 12721). Nearly two-thirds of all public housing households include an elderly person or an individual with a disability. More than 400,000 low-income families with children—the majority of them working families–also occupy public housing units.

But this critical asset cannot be sustained without prompt and substantial investment in aging buildings. Most units are more than 30 years old, and many will need rehabilitation to continue to provide decent quality homes. Additionally, aging public housing projects are in desperate need of "greening" through activities that improve energy efficiency, reduce energy costs, or preserve and improve units with good access to public transportation or employment centers.

The Committee believes this one-time investment will increase the availability of affordable rental housing by expediting rehabilitation projects to bring vacant units back on line. The capital investment gap for redevelopment or replacement housing projects, many of which are mixed finance transactions involving the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, that have been approved or are otherwise ready to proceed but are stalled due to the inability to obtain anticipated private capital. It will also address the needs of public housing's most vulnerable residents—seniors and persons with disabilities—through improvements to housing and related facilities which attract or promote the coordinated delivery of supportive services.

Finally, targeting authorized funds to the capital needs backlog is particularly timely given the large loss of jobs in housing-related sectors of the economy during the current recession.

NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM

The Committee has included $2,250,000,000 for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program [NSP], authorized under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 [HERA] and established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD]. The Secretary shall allocate funding for this program exclusively through a competition among States, units of general local government, and non-profit entities or consortia of nonprofit entities, which may submit proposals in partnership with for-profit entities.

There were over 2.3 million properties in foreclosure in 2008, an increase of over 80 percent from 2007. The impact of foreclosures has not been limited to individual homeowners; it has devastated entire neighborhoods. As a result, communities across the Nation are developing and implementing measures to stabilize neighborhoods hit hardest by the foreclosure crisis and economic downturn. The funding provided for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program is intended to help redevelop abandoned and foreclosed homes in order to revitalize these struggling communities and create additional affordable housing. The resources provided are available for: the establishment of financing mechanisms for purchase and redevelopment of foreclosed homes and residential properties; the purchase and rehabilitation of homes and residential properties that have been abandoned or foreclosed upon, in order to sell, rent or redevelop such homes and properties; the establishment of land banks for homes that have been foreclosed upon; the demolition of blighted structures; and the redevelopment of demolished or vacant properties for housing. In addition, the Committee expects that this funding will create new housing construction jobs as communities undertake development and rehabilitation efforts.

The Committee has provided the Secretary with the authority to use up to 10 percent of the funding provided under this heading for capacity building and support for local communities receiving funding either through this competition or the NSP funds previously awarded by HUD. The Committee believes that targeting such assistance to local communities undertaking these projects or activities will provide the Secretary with additional tools to ensure that funding is being used most effectively.

The Committee has included language that allows funding under the NSP program to be used for construction of early childhood development centers. Early education is critical to every child's development and its impact on children can been seen for years to come. Unfortunately, a lack of adequate capital resources hinders the ability to create early childhood development centers, especially in lower income neighborhoods. As the Secretary evaluates proposals for this competition, the Secretary is encouraged to consider the impact of investments in early childhood development centers on the neighborhoods themselves, as well as the job and educational opportunities these capital investments would create for residents in these communities.

In order to ensure the timely expenditure of funds, the Committee has included language requiring the Secretary to publish criteria for the competition within 75 days of enactment of this act with applications due within 180 days of such date, and to make awards not later than a year after enactment. The Committee has set these deadlines in order to accommodate the deadlines placed on the availability of the funds and on grantees for the expenditure of funding. In establishing criteria for such competition, the Secretary is directed to use such factors as need and foreclosure rates, as well as the capacity of the grantee, leveraging potential, and the impact of this funding on stemming foreclosures and stabilizing neighborhoods. The Secretary shall also evaluate the effective use of any NSP funding previously awarded to a grantee.

In order to ensure that communities will quickly feel the impact of this funding, the Committee has included language requiring 75 percent of the funding be expended within 2 years and 100 percent of the funding be expended within 3 years. As such, the Committee has also directed the Secretary to evaluate the demonstrated capacity of grantees to execute projects and expend funding within the allowable time.

The Committee has included language that allows the Secretary to use up to 1.5 percent of the funds provided for staffing, training, technical assistance, technology, monitoring, research and evaluation activities. The Secretary is directed to transfer and merge funds set aside for these functions to the appropriate salaries, expenses, or working capital fund accounts.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act, as amended, authorizes the HOME Investment Partnerships Program. This program provides assistance to States and units of local government for the purpose of expanding the supply and affordability of housing to low-and very low-income people. To participate in the HOME program, State and local governments must develop a comprehensive housing affordability strategy.

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $2,250,000,000 for the HOME Investment Partnerships program. The bill requires that recipients obligate funds within 1 year of the date of enactment, and imposes expenditure deadlines at 2 and 3 years after the authorized funds become available for obligation. The Secretary must recapture funds from participating jurisdictions that do not meet the 1 year obligation and 2-year expenditure deadlines, and reallocate such funds to participating jurisdictions that can expend the money rapidly.

The bill also gives the Secretary discretion to use up to 20 percent of authorized funding to create incentives for projects that increase energy efficiency or employ green technology. To facilitate the timely obligation and expenditure of authorized funds, the bill allows the Secretary to waive all statutory and regulatory requirements other than those dictated by the bill and requirements related to fair housing, non-discrimination, labor standards, and the environment.

One percent of funds are made available for staffing, training, technical assistance, monitoring, technology, evaluation and administrative expenses, and such funds are to be transferred to the appropriate Administration, Operations, and Management and Personnel Compensation and Benefits accounts and subaccounts.

The flexibility and successful track record of the HOME program make it an ideal vehicle to assist communities in their efforts to address the current, multi-faceted housing crisis. A wide range of activities qualifies for HOME funding, including both homeownership and rental housing activities. These activities fall into the following categories: rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing; assistance to home buyers; rehabilitation or new construction of rental housing; and tenant-based rental assistance. From inception through November 2008, HOME funds helped over 1 million low income families. Specifically, nearly 882,000 physical units of affordable homeownership and rental housing have been constructed, rehabilitated, or acquired using HOME funding, and an additional 201,000 families have been assisted through tenant-based rental assistance.

Projects that use HOME funding must meet certain income targeting and affordability requirements. All HOME funds must go to projects that benefit households with incomes at or below 80 percent of area median income, and 90 percent of the funds that are used for rental units or tenant-based rental assistance must benefit households with incomes at or below 60 percent of area median income.

The authorized HOME funds can be expected to leverage investment from other sectors. From inception through November 2008, each HOME dollar invested attracted $3.70 in non-HOME funds. A more detailed Government Accountability Office [GAO] analysis of HOME units completed in fiscal year 2006 found that each dollar of HOME generated $1.92 of private spending, $1.33 of other Federal spending including Low Income Housing Tax Credit equity, and $.76 of State and local spending.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION FUND

The Committee has included $1,500,000,000 for homeless prevention activities. Homeless prevention funding will provide communities across the country with an important tool to help stem the growth in poverty that accompanies economic downturns. The Committee intends that this funding will be used to assist tenants who reside in units that are in default or foreclosure and face eviction, or other vulnerable individuals who have recently become homeless, or might become homeless as a result of the recession.

The funding provided for homeless prevention activities shall go out to grantees eligible under the Emergency Shelter Grants [ESG] program through the ESG formula. However, the Secretary has been given the authority to establish a minimum grant amount in order to reach a greater number of communities, or otherwise ensure the most effective use of funding. Eligible uses of funding include: short-term or medium-term rental assistance; housing relocation and stabilization services, including housing search, mediation or outreach to property owners, credit repair, security or utility deposits, utility payments, rental assistance for a final month at a location, moving cost assistance, or other appropriate prevention activities. As this funding reaches those most in need, it will also go quickly into local economies in the form of rent or utility payments.

The bill includes language requiring grantees to capture data on the services provided and the individuals and families served through this program in the Homeless Management Information System [HMIS] or other comparable database. The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations 1 year after the enactment of this act that details how the funding provided under this paragraph has been used to alleviate the effects of the Nation's current economic recession and prevent homelessness.

Grantees receiving homeless prevention funding are required to spend 75 percent of the funding in 2 years and 100 percent of the funding in 3 years. If a grantee is unable to expend the required amount of funding in 2 years, the Secretary is given the authority to recapture those funds and reallocate them to grantees based on need and the ability of grantees to obligate and expend additional funding within the permissible time period.

The Committee has also included language that allows the Secretary to use up to 1.5 percent of the funds provided for staffing, training, technical assistance, technology, monitoring, research and evaluation activities. The Secretary is directed to transfer and merge funds set aside for these functions to the appropriate salaries, expenses, or working capital fund accounts.

ASSISTED HOUSING STABILITY AND ENERGY AND GREEN RETROFIT INVESTMENTS

The Committee has included $3,500,000,000 for payments, grants or loans to owners of properties receiving section 8 project-based rental assistance, or assistance through the section 202 Housing for the Elderly program and section 811 Housing for the Disabled programs. The funding is provided in order to stabilize project-based section 8 housing, and to improve the energy efficiency of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's [HUD] assisted housing portfolio through energy and green retrofit investments. All funding provided is available until September 30, 2010, and the Secretary is directed to take the steps necessary to ensure that grantees expend funding within 2 years of receiving it.

The Committee has included $1,368,000,000 to facilitate energy efficiency or green investments in HUD's assisted housing. The funding provided will be used by the Secretary to make grants or loans to project owners receiving HUD housing assistance in order to improve the energy efficiency of housing for the Nation's most vulnerable low-income tenants, including the elderly and the disabled. The Committee expects that nearly 90,000 units of assisted housing can benefit from this program. As a result of these investments, the low-income residents living in these units will realize important savings from reduced energy costs.

The language included in the bill directs HUD's Office of Affordable Housing Preservation [OAHP] to make grants or loans to project owners receiving HUD assistance. In exchange for receiving this assistance, project owners must agree to the terms and conditions established by the Secretary, including that these properties will remain available for an additional period of affordability of at least 15 years. Extending the period of affordability will ensure that owners receiving this benefit will have an additional obligation to the Federal Government and the low-income residents they serve. Other terms and conditions established by the Secretary shall ensure the preservation and maintenance of these properties as affordable housing, as well as the continued maintenance and operation of any energy efficiency technologies installed. The bill language also requires that any owner selected for this program must have at least a satisfactory management review rating, be in substantial compliance with performance standards and legal requirements, and undergo a physical inspection and financial assessment.

In executing the energy and retrofit provisions under this heading, OAHP shall use existing loan programs and other transactional infrastructure currently authorized to be used by the Secretary, as well as any applicable existing policies, procedures, and contracts to carry out this program. The Committee expects that the Office will use such funding mechanisms as the HUD Flexible Subsidy program, and the refinancing tools provided under section 223(a)(7). In order to facilitate the provisions of this paragraph, the Committee has included language allowing the Secretary to waive or modify statutory or regulatory requirements with respect to existing grant, loan or insurance mechanisms, but this ability to waive or modify statues or regulations is limited only to the funding provided under this heading to make grants and loans for energy or green investments.

OAHP is required to undertake appropriate oversight and underwriting of such loans and grants, using existing procedures as appropriate. The Secretary is permitted to set aside up to 5 percent of the funds provided for grants and loans for these underwriting and oversight purposes. The Committee has also included language that allows the Secretary to use up to 1.5 percent of the funds provided for staffing, training, technical assistance, technology, monitoring, research and evaluation activities. The Secretary is directed to transfer and merge funds used for these functions to the appropriate salaries, expenses, or working capital fund accounts.

The Committee has also included $2,132,000,000 within the funding provided for the Secretary to make payments to owners of properties receiving section 8 project-based assistance for periods of 12 months. Housing funded through the section 8 project-based account serves approximately 1 million of our Nation's low-income residents. This funding will allow HUD to make consistent payments to project owners, bringing much needed stability to the program, and ensuring the maintenance and preservation of this housing for low-income tenants. As the financial and housing crises hit communities across our Nation, affordable housing investments are being threatened. Therefore, the Committee believes that it is critical to send a message to both the housing and financial sectors that the Federal Government is a credible and reliable partner in affordable housing projects. Providing full and stable payments to owners will also assure those interested in undertaking energy or green retrofits, for which funding is also provided under this heading, that they can rely on the Government as a partner when agreeing to future commitments of affordability.

OFFICE OF HEALTHY HOMES AND LEAD HAZARD CONTROL

Title X of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 established the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act under which HUD is authorized to make grants to States, localities and Native American tribes to conduct lead-based paint hazard reduction and abatement activities in private low-income housing. The Committee has included $100,000,000 for the Lead Hazard Reduction Program.

The bill requires that recipients obligate funds within 1 year of the date of enactment, and imposes expenditure deadlines at 2 and 3 years after the authorized funds become available for obligation. The Secretary must recapture funds from recipients that do not meet the 1 year obligation and 2-year expenditure deadlines, and reallocate such funds to recipients who can expend the funds rapidly.

To facilitate the timely obligation and expenditure of authorized funds, the bill also allows the Secretary to waive all statutory and regulatory requirements other than those imposed by this heading and requirements related to fair housing, non-discrimination, labor standards, and the environment.

One percent of funds are made available for staffing, training, technical assistance, monitoring, technology, evaluation and administrative expenses, and such funds are to be transferred to the appropriate Administration, Operations, and Management and Personnel Compensation and Benefits accounts and subaccounts.

Lead-based paint remains a significant health hazard, especially for children. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], some 434,000 children have elevated blood levels. While this is down from 1,700,000 in the late 1980s, lead poisoning remains a serious childhood environmental condition, with some 2.2 percent of all children aged 1 to 5 years having elevated blood lead levels. This percentage is much higher for low-income children living in older housing.

While lead poisoning crosses all socioeconomic, geographic, and racial boundaries, the burden of this disease falls disproportionately on low-income and minority families. In the United States, children from poor families are eight times more likely to be poisoned than those from higher income families. This appropriation will move the Nation toward the achievable goal of fully addressing the risks associated with lead-based paint hazards over the next decade.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The bill provides $2,750,000 for salaries and expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. The bill also ensures that the Inspector General shall have independent authority over all personnel issues within this office.

TITLE XIII—HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Committee has included language authorizing the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act [HITECH]. Information technology systems linked securely and with effective privacy protections can improve the quality and efficiency of health care while producing significant cost savings. Despite the potential benefits of health information technology [IT], investment and adoption has been limited, particularly among smaller providers. HITECH would give health care providers the assistance they need to invest in lifesaving health IT, and would do so responsibly, by ensuring compliance with standards for interoperability.

The legislation encourages the development of standards for health IT through codifying the role of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology in coordinating initiatives on health IT, establishing the Health Information Technology Policy Committee as a body providing recommendations to the National Coordinator regarding policies to promote the effective and expanded use of health IT, and establishing a Health Information Technology Standards Committee to recommend standards for health IT for adoption by the Secretary, consistent with the recommendations of the Health Information Technology Policy Committee.

The legislation encourages the adoption of health IT that meets standards for interoperability by providing enhanced support for short-term, high-value investments in current initiatives to pilot test the best ways to use health IT, establishing a health information technology extension program to provide assistance to health care providers to effectively use health information technology, providing planning and implementation grants to States to facilitate and expand the electronic exchange of health information according to nationally recognized standards, and providing grants to States and Indian tribes to establish low interest loan programs to facilitate the purchase of certified health IT by providers, enhance the utilization of health IT, train personnel in the use of IT, and improve the secure electronic exchange of health information.

The legislation assures effective privacy protections for electronic health information while allowing the legitimate and secure exchange of that information to improve health care quality by applying the privacy protections under HIPAA to business associates of covered entities, requiring notification of patients if the privacy of their medical information has been breached, requiring an accounting of disclosures of health information made through health IT systems, prohibiting the sale of patients' private health information without their consent, and prohibiting the use of private medical information for marketing without the consent of patients.

TITLE VII—INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OF LANDS AND RESOURCES

The Committee has provided $135,000,000 for management of lands and resources and recommends that the funds be allocated as follows: $80,000,000 for deferred maintenance projects, of which $35,000,000 is for deferred maintenance projects currently in the Bureau's 5-year maintenance plan, $25,000,000 is for recreation maintenance, especially for rehabilitation of off-road vehicle routes, and $20,000,000 is for trail maintenance and restoration; $30,000,000 for remediation of environmental and public safety hazards at abandoned mines and wells on public lands; and $25,000,000 for habitat restoration projects that accomplish ecological goals and provide employment opportunities in the local communities. As the Bureau prepares the spending plans required by section 701 of this title, the Committee is mindful that flexibility will be needed in order to achieve the goals of maximum job creation and most effective use of resources. As such, the Committee expects modifications to these allocations after full and timely consultation.

CONSTRUCTION

The Committee has provided $180,000,000 for the construction account and recommends that the funds be allocated as follows: $160,000,000 for construction, reconstruction, and repair of roads and bridges on public lands; and $20,000,000 for the department-wide Net Zero initiative that will retrofit existing Bureau visitor centers for maximum energy efficiency. As the Bureau prepares the spending plans required by section 701 of this title, the Committee is mindful that flexibility will be needed in order to achieve the goals of maximum job creation and most effective use of resources. As such, the Committee expects modifications to these allocations after full and timely consultation.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

The Committee has provided $15,000,000 for wildland fire management and recommends that all funding be used for additional hazardous fuels reduction work on Federal lands.

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Committee has provided $190,000,000 for resource management and recommends that the funds be allocated as follows: $125,000,000 for deferred maintenance projects currently prioritized in the refuge and hatchery maintenance databases; $20,000,000 for the removal of small- to medium-sized fish passage barriers; $20,000,000 for trail improvement projects; and $25,000,000 for habitat restoration projects that accomplish ecological goals and provide employment opportunities in the local communities. As the Service prepares the spending plans required by section 701 of this title, the Committee is mindful that flexibility will be needed in order to achieve the goals of maximum job creation and most effective use of resources. As such, the Committee expects modifications to these allocations after full and timely consultation.

CONSTRUCTION

The Committee has provided $110,000,000 for the construction account and recommends that the funds be allocated as follows: $60,000,000 for construction, reconstruction, and repair of roads and bridges; $50,000,000 for projects to significantly improve energy efficiency at Service facilities, of which $30,000,000 is for the Green Energy program for cost-effective, renewable energy projects and $20,000,000 is for the department-wide Net Zero initiative that will retrofit existing Service visitor centers. As the Service prepares the spending plans required by section 701 of this title, the Committee is mindful that flexibility will be needed in order to achieve the goals of maximum job creation and most effective use of resources. As such, the Committee expects modifications to these allocations after full and timely consultation.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

The Committee has provided $158,000,000 for operation of the National Park Service and recommends that the funds be allocated as follows: $135,000,000 for deferred maintenance of facilities, with emphasis on cyclic maintenance and other repair and rehabilitation projects currently in the Service's 5-year deferred maintenance plan; and $23,000,000 for deferred maintenance of trails. As the Service prepares the spending plans required by section 701 of this title, the Committee is mindful that flexibility will be needed in order to achieve the goals of maximum job creation and most effective use of resources. As such, the Committee expects modifications to these allocations after full and timely consultation.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

The Committee has provided $55,000,000, which will be derived from the Historic Preservation Fund, and recommends that the funds be allocated as follows: $50,000,000 for State Historic Preservation Offices, and $5,000,000 for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices.

CONSTRUCTION

The Committee has provided $589,000,000 for construction and recommends that the funds be allocated as follows: $180,000,000 for repair and restoration of Service-managed roads; $310,000,000 for construction of facilities; $9,000,000 for equipment replacement, including high priority needs of the U.S. Park Police; $50,000,000 for cleanup of abandoned mine sites on Federal lands; and $40,000,000 for the department-wide Net Zero initiative that will retrofit existing Service visitor centers for maximum energy efficiency. As the Service prepares the spending plans required by section 701 of this title, the Committee is mindful that flexibility will be needed in order to achieve the goals of maximum job creation and most effective use of resources. As such, the Committee expects modifications to these allocations after full and timely consultation.

Additional Funding.—The Committee is aware that approximately $200,000,000 of visitor fees collected through the Recreational Fee program remains unobligated. The Service is therefore urged to work with its local units to ensure that these funds are expended as quickly as possible, and the Committee would strongly recommend that the unobligated funds be integrated with and directed toward the types of deferred maintenance and other infrastructure projects being funded in the act. Detailed information on the steps the Service is taking to ensure the timely use of unobligated recreational fees should be included in the spending plans the Service is required to submit to the Appropriations Committees.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH

The Committee has provided $135,000,000 for surveys, investigations and research and recommends that the funds be allocated as follows: $30,000,000 for deferred maintenance and capital improvement projects for buildings and grounds; and $20,000,000 for deferred maintenance and capital improvement projects for cableways, groundwater wells, and surface water stations, and $85,000,000 for other instructure upgrades, including research equipment.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

OPERATION OF INDIAN PROGRAMS

The Committee has provided $40,000,000 for operation of Indian programs and recommends that the funds be allocated as follows: $18,000,000 for the workforce construction training program, which will be focused in areas with the highest unemployment; $2,000,000 for the workforce training and development program, which is a national program focused on training for certified plumbers and pipefitters; and $20,000,000 for the housing improvement program. As it utilizes the funding for housing improvement, the Bureau is directed to work closely with the Department of Energy to ensure that funding from the Weatherization Program is incorporated to the maximum extent possible.

CONSTRUCTION

The Committee has provided $522,000,000 for construction and recommends that the funds be allocated as follows: $115,000,000 for major facilities improvement and repair projects prioritized by the Bureau; $132,000,000 for full-replacement school projects; $35,000,000 for minor school facilities improvements and employee housing repair; $25,000,000 for detention center improvements, repairs, and maintenance; $40,000,000 for new construction, repair and deferred maintenance projects at various irrigation projects and systems; $25,000,000 for dam improvements, repair and maintenance at those facilities identified by the Bureau as presenting high or significant hazards; and $150,000,000 for road and bridge maintenance on Bureau-owned roads. As the Bureau prepares the spending plans required by section 701 of this title, the Committee is mindful that flexibility will be needed in order to achieve the goals of maximum job creation and most effective use of resources. As such, the Committee expects modifications to these allocations after full and timely consultation.

INDIAN GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The Committee has provided $10,000,000 for the guaranteed loan program. This program provides opportunities to a historically underserved community by providing Federal guarantees for loans to Indian-owned businesses. Because the program leverages appropriated dollars at approximately 13:1, this investment will create and/or sustain jobs that will benefit reservations and Indian communities.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES

INSULAR AFFAIRS

ASSISTANCE TO TERRITORIES

The Committee has provided $62,000,000 for necessary infrastructure upgrades associated with the large-scale redeployment of U.S. military forces to Guam. The Committee recommends that the funds be allocated as follows: $20,000,000 for port modernization, $30,000,000 for water and wastewater infrastructure, and $12,000,000 for electrical transmission line and substation upgrades. As the Office prepares the spending plans required by section 701 of this title, the Committee is mindful that flexibility will be needed in order to achieve the goals of maximum job creation and most effective use of resources. As such, the Committee expects to approve some modifications to these allocations after full and timely consultation.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee has provided $7,600,000 for additional oversight and audit responsibilities associated with the funding being made available to the Department of the Interior through this act. The Committee expects semiannual reports from the Inspector General, beginning 6 months after the date of enactment of this act.

DEPARTMENT-WIDE PROGRAMS

CENTRAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FUND

The Committee has provided $20,000,000 for the central hazardous materials fund for remediation of known environmentally hazardous sites where there is a need for immediate action.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

The Committee has provided $20,000,000 to continue implementation of the department-wide financial and business management system.

ENVIROMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SUPERFUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The Committee has provided $800,000,000 for Superfund remedial activities to initiate new construction projects and expedite cleanup activities at existing Superfund sites. Language has been included allowing the Administrator to retain up to 2 percent of these funds for program oversight and support functions, and to transfer these funds to other accounts as necessary. The Administrator is directed to coordinate oversight activities with the Office of the Inspector General. As part of the spending plan required by section 701, the Administrator is directed to provide detailed information regarding proposed accomplishments, including a complete list of sites that receive funding, as well as program support and oversight funding requirements.

LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK TRUST FUND PROGRAM

The Committee has provided $200,000,000 for grants to fund leaking underground storage tank remediation activities. The Committee has included bill language waiving State and local cost-share requirements to expedite allocation of these funds. The Administrator is directed to detail oversight and program support functions needed to support these grants in the spending plans required by section 701.

STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The Committee's recommendation includes $6,400,000,000 for the State and Tribal Assistance Grants appropriation to fund urgently needed infrastructure improvement and job creation activities. To expedite these projects, the Committee has waived cost-share requirements for all programs funded under this appropriation.

State Revolving Funds.—Within these funds, the Committee has provided $4,000,000,000 for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds and $2,000,000,000 for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to address the nationwide backlog of clean and drinking water infrastructure needs. Language has been included requiring priority to be given to "shovel-ready" projects on which construction can begin within 180 days of enactment of this act, including projects not on State priority lists but that meet the other eligibility requirements of the Clean or Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. Funds not obligated for binding commitments to proceed to construction within 180 days of enactment of the act may be reallocated by the Administrator.

The Committee has included language that allows States to provide more comprehensive financial assistance through principal forgiveness or negative interest rate loans. States are strongly encouraged to maximize the use of these provisions to allow wide distribution of funds, particularly for projects located in disadvantaged communities. Language has been included requiring no less than 15 percent of the funds provided for each of the Revolving Funds be designated for green infrastructure, water efficiency or other environmentally innovative water quality improvement projects. These projects include, but are not limited to, decentralized wastewater treatment, decentralized stormwater controls and water conservation and reuse projects. The Committee has also included a longstanding tribal set-aside for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Finally, language has been included clarifying that funds are not eligible for certain activities that do not promote job creation.

Brownfields/Diesel Emission Reduction Act Grants.—The Committee has provided $100,000,000 for grants to States and tribes to fund Brownfields remediation activities to return environmentally contaminated lands to productive use. An additional $300,000,000 has been provided for Diesel Emission Reduction Act [DERA] grants to fund cost-effective emission reduction projects. Language has been provided allowing the Administrator to adjust allocations between the national competitive DERA grant and State DERA grant programs to expedite the allocation of these funds if necessary. Priority should be given to projects that spur job creation and achieve direct, measurable reductions in diesel emissions.

The Committee has included bill language allowing the Agency to retain up to one-quarter of 1 percent of the funds appropriated for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and up to 1.5 percent of the Diesel Emissions Grant funds to fund oversight and program support activities, and to transfer those funds to other accounts as necessary. The Administrator is directed to coordinate these activities with its partners and with the Office of the Inspector General.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

The Committee has provided $650,000,000 for Forest Service capital improvement and maintenance activities, including associated support costs. Of these funds, the Committee recommends $280,000,000 for road maintenance and improvement; $245,000,000 for facilities maintenance and improvement; $100,000,000 for trail maintenance and improvement; and $25,000,000 for abandoned mine site remediation on national forest lands. Funds should be allocated in a manner that will ensure rapid job creation and long-term public benefit. Priority should be given to roads and trails projects that address natural resource damage and water quality impairment, improve public safety, or improve access to highly utilized national forest lands. Priority should be given to facilities projects that improve public safety or visitor services or retrofit existing facilities with energy efficient or other "green" technologies.

Abandoned mine site remediation funds should be allocated to areas that pose the greatest environmental and public safety threats.

As the Service prepares the spending plans required by section 701 of this title, the Committee is mindful that flexibility will be needed in order to achieve the goals of maximum job creation and most effective use of resources. Where appropriate, the Committee expects modifications to these allocations after full and timely consultation.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

The Committee has provided $650,000,000 for Wildland Fire Management programs for hazardous fuels reduction and hazard mitigation activities and recommends that the funds be allocated as follows: $300,000,000 for projects on Federal lands; and $350,000,000 for grants to fund projects located on State and private lands. Funds provided for hazardous fuels reduction on both Federal and State and private lands shall be used to reduce fuel loads in areas of the Nation at highest risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Language has been included to allow the Service to use all appropriate authorities to facilitate projects on State and private lands. Of the funds being made available for State and private projects, the Committee has recommended up to $50,000,000 be used to fund biomass utilization grants to promote the use of woody biomass as a renewable energy source, reduce the cost of removing fuel from national forest lands and create jobs. The Service should work with State foresters and other stakeholders to determine an appropriate allocation for these grants as part of the detailed spending plans.

As provided in section 702, the Service is directed to utilize the Youth Conservation Corps, the Job Corps, the Public Lands Corps, or other partner organizations.

Within the amounts provided for Capital Improvement and Maintenance, and Wildland Fire Management not to exceed 1.5 percent may be used to conduct oversight and administration. The Service is directed to coordinate its activities with the Office of the Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES

The Committee has provided $135,000,000 for health services and recommends that the funds be allocated as follows: $50,000,000 for additional services under the Contract Health Service program; and $85,000,000 for health information technology activities, including $55,000,000 for health information technology applications, and $30,000,000 for clinical applications, information technology infrastructure, and national program support. In an effort to maximize efficiencies and integrate systems most effectively, language has been included to provide the Director of the Indian Health Service with the authority to manage the health information technology program at the national level. Additionally, language is included which allows the Service to use health information technology funds appropriated within this account for the acquisition of associated infrastructure requirements that are typically funded within the "Indian Health Facilities" account. As the Service prepares the spending plans required by section 701 of this title, the Committee is mindful that flexibility will be needed in order to achieve the goals of maximum job creation and most effective use of resources. As such, the Committee expects modifications to these allocations after full and timely consultation.

INDIAN HEALTH FACILITIES

The Committee has provided $410,000,000 for facilities and recommends that the funds be allocated as follows: $155,000,000 for the maintenance and improvement program; $100,000,000 for the sanitation facilities construction program; $20,000,000 for the purchase of medical equipment; and $135,000,000 for the construction of health care facilities. Language has been exempting the funds provided in this bill for the purchase of medical equipment from spending caps carried in the annual appropriation bill in order to provide maximum flexibility to the Service in meeting the highest priority needs of tribes. As the Service prepares the spending plans required by section 701 of this title, the Committee is mindful that flexibility will be needed in order to achieve the goals of maximum job creation and most effective use of resources. As such, the Committee expects modifications to these allocations after full and timely consultation.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

FACILITIES CAPITAL

The Committee has provided $150,000,000 for facilities, and recommends that the funds be allocated as follows: $75,000,00 for major revitalization and renovation; and $75,000,000 for other Smithsonian-wide repairs with an emphasis on life and fire safety requirements.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

SEC. 701. The Committee has included bill language requiring each agency receiving funds in this title to file several reports with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. The report required by subsection (a) shall be transmitted within 30 days of enactment and shall provide activity and subactivity level allocations, including amounts allocated for administrative expenses, and a copy of all guidance issued by the agency. The second report, which is required by subsection (b) and is to be submitted within 90 days after enactment, shall contain more detailed information about each program or project to be funded under this act. This report shall include a brief project description, the amount allocated, target dates for the obligation and expenditure of allocated funds, and the expected completion date for each project. In addition, each agency receiving funds in this title shall submit reports to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees every 6 months following enactment until all the funds have been obligated and expended. These reports will compare actual project results, obligations, and expenditures to the detailed plan required by subsection (b).

SEC. 702. The Committee has included bill language to provide employment opportunities to young adults that will accomplish the goals of this legislation and encourage young workers to consider careers in agencies devoted to natural resources and health management.