



Alternative Fuels & Chemicals Coalition

Advocating for Public Policies to Promote the Development & Production of Alternative Fuels, Renewable Chemicals, Biobased Products, and Sustainable Aviation Fuels

AFCC'S FY2023 Appropriation Requests

AFCC Contacts:

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Appropriations Subcommittee:

Interior and Environment, and Related Agencies

I&E Priority:

#1 of 3

Federal Agency:

Department of Interior

Agency Account:

Department-wide Programs, Wildland Fire Management

Program Headings:

- *Fuels Management Activities*
- *Procurement contracts*, grants, and cooperative agreements for fuels management activities (on federal land and adjacent non-federal land)
- *Authorization of interdepartmental transfers of funds appropriated for wildfire management* between the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture when such transfers will facilitate and expedite wildfire management programs and projects

Amount Requested by AFCC:

Per the Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY2022, H.R. 2471, pages 320-321

- For *Fuels Management Activities*: Maintain FY2022 funding level of \$227,000,000
- For *Procurement contracts*: Maintain FY2022 authority
- For *interdepartmental transfers of funds appropriated for wildfire management*: Maintain FY2022 authorization of \$50,000,000.

Amount of Federal Funding Included in the President's Budget Request for the Coming Fiscal Year:

Not yet known.

Amount of Federal Funding Appropriated for the Program During Previous Fiscal Years:

Fuels Management Activities:

FY 2019: Included in Wildland Fire Management appropriation of \$1,116,076,000

FY 2020: \$194,000,000



FY 2021: \$219,964,000

FY 2022: \$227,000,000

Procurement contracts:

FY 2019 – FY 2022: “... using the amounts designated under this title of this Act ...”

Interdepartmental transfers of funds appropriated for wildfire management:

FY 2019: \$20,000,000 authorization

FY 2020: \$50,000,000 authorization

FY 2021: \$50,000,000 authorization

FY 2022: \$50,000,000 authorization

AFCC’s Justification / Rationale for This Request:

This request is important:

First, because it will remove dead and diseased wood and slash piles from logging operations from federal lands and private lands adjacent to federal lands which exacerbate and can lead to extreme fire hazards.

Second, because it begins to carry out, for the first time, the mandate in the “Policies Relating to Biomass Energy” (page 371 of H.R. 2471), which has been incorporated into every Consolidated Appropriations Act since FY2018, which directs the Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to, among other provision, recognize “the full benefits of the use of forest biomass for energy, conservation, and responsible forest management ...”

Third, because responsible forest management includes wildland fire management to maintain healthy forests and reduce the dangers of wildfires.

Fourth, because, in removing the fuel that exacerbates wildfire danger, it:

Uses a liability that fouls the air with smoke which impacts public health, increases carbon emissions that contribute to climate change, destroys property, takes lives, ravages wildlife and wildlife habitats, consumes forests, and leads to ballooning firefighting budgets,

As an asset to produce value-added products which can:

- create jobs,
- generate revenues and improve the economies of rural communities,
- replace fossil-based products, and
- mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Fifth, because the USDA Forest Service has launched a robust, 10-year strategy to squarely address this wildfire crisis in the places where it poses the most immediate threats to communities, which was announced on January 18, 2022 by Agriculture Secretary Vilsack and Forest Service Chief Randy Moore.

See: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/news/releases/secretary-vilsack-announces-new-10-year-strategy-confront-wildfire-crisis>



The strategy:

- Estimates that funding to remove hazardous fuels will range from \$1,000 to \$2,500 per acre
- the strategy calls for the Forest Service to treat up to an additional 20 million acres on national forests and grasslands and support treatment of up to an additional 30 million acres of other federal, state, Tribal, private, and family lands
- **Funding will need to be appropriated to the Forest Service by the Appropriations Subcommittee for Agriculture and Rural Development to treat these additional acreages.**



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Appropriations Subcommittee:

Interior and Environment, and Related Agencies

I&E Priority:

#2 of 3

Federal Agency:

Environmental Protection Agency

Agency Account:

State and Tribal Assistance Grants, Pollution Prevention Program

Program Headings:

- *Multi-Media and Single-Media Pollution, Control, and Abatement Grants*
- *Diesel Emissions Reduction Grants* (under title VII, subtitle G of the Energy Policy Act of 2005)
- *Smoke Preparedness Grants*

Amount Requested by AFCC:

Per the Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY2022, H.R. 2471, page 338 (5), (15), and (16)

- For *Multi-Media and Single-Media Pollution, Control, and Abatement Grants*: Maintain FY2022 funding level under \$1,099,384,000 State and Tribal Assistance Grant appropriation
- For *Diesel Emissions Reduction Grants*: Maintain FY2022 funding level of \$92,000,000
- For *Smoke Preparedness Grants*: Increase FY2022 funding level of \$4,000,000 to \$20,000,000 – see **Justification / Rational (3)** below

Amount of Federal Funding Included in the President's Budget Request for the Coming Fiscal Year:

Not yet known.

Amount of Federal Funding Appropriated for the Program During Previous Fiscal Years:

Multi-Media and Single-Media Pollution, Control, and Abatement Grants:

FY 2019: \$11,657,500

FY 2020: \$11,127,000

FY 2021: Included under State and Tribal Assistance Grant appropriation of \$1,638,826,000



FY 2022: Included under State and Tribal Assistance Grant appropriation of \$1,099,384,000

Diesel Emissions Reduction Grants:

FY 2019: \$99,701,800

FY 2020: \$99,130,100

FY 2021: \$92,000,000

FY 2022: \$92,000,000

Smoke Preparedness Grants:

FY 2019: N/A

FY 2020: N/A

FY 2021: N/A

FY 2022: \$4,000,000

AFCC's Justification / Rationale for This Request:

The request is important because:

(1) Pollution control and abatement grants, in many cases, inspire innovations which lead to the development and use of new, improved technologies and alternatives such as those developed and deployed by AFCC's 130+ member companies (which employ more than 300,000 people and generate in excess of \$150 billion per year in revenues), which improve public health, mitigate the impacts on climate and the environment, and create new jobs and stimulate economic development.

(2) Diesel emission reduction grants also are directed at inspiring innovations to both reduce the impacts of using diesel fuels and to replace diesel fuels with cleaner fuels to improve public health (on which diesel fuels have a major impact, particularly due to the large amount of particulate matter emitted) and mitigate environmental impacts

(3) Smoke preparedness grants are particularly important. This is because smoke from wildfires releases large amounts of:

- *carbon dioxide, black carbon, brown carbon, and ozone precursors* into the atmosphere, as well as
- *volatile and semi-volatile organic materials and nitrogen oxides* that form ozone and
- *organic particulate matter*

which lead to harmful exposures to the populations impacted by the ever-increasing incidence and intensity of wildfires -- first responders, local residents, wildlife, and now, even distant populations.

One effective and long-lasting way of implementing smoke preparedness to protect public health would be to eliminate – or at least reduce – one of the major contributors to wildfires: the accumulations of diseased, dying, and insect-infested trees and underbrush, fallen trees, slash piles, discarded forest waste from timber sales and thinning operations, and small diameter branches and treetops discarded by timber operations, **which increase the intensity and serve as tinder for starting and spreading wildfires.**



This would allow a significant liability and threat to public health, natural habitats, wildlife, and private property, to be turned into an asset that creates jobs, stimulates economic development in underserved rural areas, puts the Nation on a path to sustainability, and reduces the incidence and intensity of wildfire smoke health effects to large populations (consistent with *Part C, Subpart I, Section 7470(3), Congressional Declaration of Purpose*).

Hence, this would be an effective and meaningful approach to protecting public health under *Part C, Prevention of Significant Deterioration of Air Quality, of the Clean Air Act of 1963 (P.L. 88-206), 42 USC 85, as amended in 1990 (P.L. 101-549)*.

AFCC requests that the FY2022 appropriation for smoke preparedness grants be increased to a minimum of \$20 million in FY2023 to match the FY2022 appropriation of \$20 million to the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, National Forest System for “creating incentives for the increased use of biomass from National Forest System lands” to remove those materials from National Forests that contribute to the incidence and intensity of wildfires (*per page 343, Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY2022, HR 2471*).



from timber sales and thinning operations, and small diameter branches and treetops discarded by timber operations, which increase the intensity and serve as tinder for starting and spreading wildfires.

This would allow a significant liability and threat to public health, natural habitats, wildlife, and private property, to be turned into an asset that creates jobs, stimulates economic development in underserved rural areas, puts the Nation on a path to sustainability, and reduces the incidence and intensity of wildfire smoke health effects to large populations (consistent with *Part C, Subpart I, Section 7470(3), Congressional Declaration of Purpose*).

Hence, this would be an effective and meaningful approach to protecting public health under *Part C, Prevention of Significant Deterioration of Air Quality, of the Clean Air Act of 1963 (P.L. 88-206), 42 USC 85, as amended in 1990 (P.L. 101-549)*.

This request is consistent with and will facilitate the mandate to the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Interior, and Department of Agriculture, as set forth in “Policies Relating to Biomass Energy“ (page 371, Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY2022, H.R. 2471) which, in addition to increasing smoke preparedness grants to protect public health, will:

- Ensure coordination and consistency across all federal departments and agencies relating to forest bioenergy, of which wildfire management is an integral part
- Facilitate responsible forest management to improve forest health
- Establish clear and simple policies for the use of forest biomass, the removal of which will reduce the hazards of wildfires, thus, protecting forest diversity, wildlife habitats, private property, and smoke emissions affecting public health
- Encourage private investment throughout the forest biomass supply chain so the removal of wildfire-causing forest residuals is carried out without cost to the federal government
- Recognize biomass as a renewable energy source – which represents significant economic and environmental value to the Nation by replacing fossil-based fuels, power, and consumer products with alternative fuels, renewable chemicals, and biobased products – “provided the use of forest biomass for energy production does not cause conversion of forests to non-forest use.”



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AFCC'S FY2023 Legislative & Funding Requests

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Appropriations Subcommittee:

Interior and Environment, and Related Agencies

I&E Priority:

#3 of 3

Federal Agency:

Environmental Protection Agency

Agency Account:

Energy Programs

Program Title:

Environmental Programs and Management

Type of Request:

Legislative

This is a no-cost addition to the FY2022 Interior and Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations.

AFCC's Request:

Add the following language at the end of the first paragraph under Environmental Programs and Management (FY2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act, H.R. 2471, pg. 333) to be added at the end of the first paragraph ending "... support costs." And prior to the paragraphs beginning "In addition, ..."

Strike the period after "... costs)" and replace with a colon. Add the following language:

"Provided further, That the Administrator updates and adopts the most recent modeling for lifecycle greenhouse gas assessments for corn-based ethanol, biodiesel, and for all other purposes using modernized methods as set forth in the most recent Argonne National Laboratory's Greenhouse gases, Regulated Emissions and Energy use in Transportation, commonly referred to as the GREET modeling tool, to improve the way in which these assessments are conducted, ensure greater accuracy, and provide consistency across all Federal agencies so that more projects can advance that produce ethanol, biofuels, and other transportation fuel and power production technologies that reduce the Nation's reliance on fossil fuels. "



AFCC's Justification / Rationale for This Request:

The House and Senate bills, H.R. 3592 and S. 193, *Adopt the Greenhouse Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy use in Transportation model Act* or "Adopt GREET Act," need to be incorporated into the FY2023 I&E appropriation.

The bills would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to update its greenhouse gas (GHG) modeling for ethanol and biodiesel.

Specifically, the bills would require EPA to adopt either the Argonne National Lab's Greenhouse Gas and Regulated Emissions and Energy Use in Transportation (GREET) Model or the 2019 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) methodology.

EPA would then be required to update its modeling every five years or report to Congress to affirm its modeling is current or otherwise explain why no updates were made. This would ensure that accurate carbon intensity values are assigned to ethanol and biodiesel production.

The updates recognize that significant emissions reductions have taken place at the farm level and support existing farmer-led efforts to adopt agricultural practices that benefit soil health and water quality while also reducing GHG emissions, such as precision agriculture, no-till, and smart farming.

These emission reductions are incorporated into the new GREET model and are an important factor for determining the carbon of ethanol production.

Other factors that affect lifecycle greenhouse gas assessments are estimates and ranges of Land Use Changes (LUC), farming, co-product credit, fuel production, fuel and feedstock transport, tailpipe, and denaturant emissions.

The language proposed above by AFCC for inclusion in the I&E appropriations will ensure that the EPA administrator is directed to use the most recent GREET model. The language proposed by AFCC also will tie in with and support H.R. 3592 and S. 193, *Adopt the Greenhouse Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy use in Transportation model Act* or "Adopt GREET Act," once they become law.