

an indefinite appropriation estimated to be \$100,000. The agreement includes \$1,000,000 as proposed by the Senate to contract with the National Research Council for a review of coal reserves, research, and technologies. The agreement also directs the OSM to reprogram funds for e-government initiatives relating to disaster management and “SAFECOM” to help fund fixed costs.

ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND

The conference agreement provides \$190,863,000 for the abandoned mine reclamation fund as proposed by the Senate instead of \$194,106,000 as proposed by the House. The agreement directs the OSM to reprogram funds for e-government initiatives relating to disaster management and “SAFECOM” to help fund fixed costs. The managers note that bill language within Title I, general provisions, provides an extension until June 30, 2005, of the Secretary’s authority to collect fees pursuant to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

The conference agreement includes bill language recommended in the request which allows funds available for the technical innovation and professional services program to be used to transfer title for certain computer devices to State and Tribal regulatory and reclamation programs.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

OPERATION OF INDIAN PROGRAMS

The conference agreement provides \$1,955,047,000 for the operation of Indian programs instead of \$1,935,033,000 as proposed by the House and \$1,951,798,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Tribal Priority Allocations. - Changes to the House level for tribal priority allocations include increases of \$3,000,000 for contract support costs and \$2,000,000 for welfare assistance.

Other Recurring Programs. - Changes to the House level for other recurring programs include increases of \$10,500,000 for tribally controlled community colleges, \$98,000 for the Alaska Sea Otter Commission, \$790,000 for the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, \$87,000 for the Intertribal Bison Council, \$346,000 for the Chugach Regional Resources Commission, and a decrease of \$2,000,000 for the administrative cost grant fund.

Non-recurring Programs. - Changes to the House level for non-recurring programs include increases of \$500,000 for the Rocky Mountain Technology Foundation, \$750,000 for the rural Alaska fire program, \$1,250,000 for the Salish and Kootenai College nursing program (housing project), \$392,000 for Alaska legal services, and \$1,000,000 for the Denali Commission.

Central Office Operations. - Changes to the House level for central office operations include decreases of \$2,000,000 for the workforce initiative and \$1,000,000 for information resources technology.

Special Programs and Pooled Overhead. - Changes to the House level for special programs and pooled overhead include increases of \$500,000 for the United Tribes Technical College, \$450,000 for the United Sioux Tribes Development Corporation, \$442,000 for the Crownpoint Institute, \$1,250,000 for the Western Heritage Center distance learning program,

\$750,000 for the Alaska native aviation program, and \$409,000 for e-government initiatives, and \$500,000 for the enterprise services network.

Bill Language. - There is a statutory earmark of \$1,000,000 for administrative cost grants to tribes for transitional costs instead of \$3,000,000 as proposed by the House and no funding as proposed by the Senate.

CONSTRUCTION

The conference agreement provides \$323,626,000 for construction instead of \$348,626,000 as proposed by the House and \$238,126,000 as proposed by the Senate. Changes to the House level include increases of \$2,500,000 for the tribal school demonstration program, \$2,500,000 for facilities maintenance of detention centers and a decrease of \$30,000,000 for school replacement construction.

The managers have included bill language directing the bureau to provide \$4,500,000 to the Eastern Band of the Cherokee education facility at the Ravensford tract, \$4,000,000 for the Sac and Fox Meskwaki settlement school and \$4,000,000 for the Twin Buttes elementary school on the Fort Berthold Reservation within the Tribal School Demonstration Program.

The managers have retained bill language included in the Senate bill that allows the Secretary of the Interior to assume control of construction projects if the tribes have not completed planning, design, and initial construction within 18 months of the appropriation of funds.

The managers have included bill language that allows the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians to reimburse the appropriate share of construction costs for space expansion needs identified as a result of trust reform implementation.

The managers are aware of the significant problems with Bureau owned detention centers, and have provided additional funding for facilities and deferred maintenance of these facilities. The managers urge the Department to address the operations and maintenance of detention centers in future budget submissions.

INDIAN LAND AND WATER CLAIM SETTLEMENTS AND MISCELLANEOUS

PAYMENTS TO INDIANS

~~(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)~~

The conference agreement provides \$44,771,000 for Indian land and water claim settlements and miscellaneous payments to Indians as proposed by the House instead of \$34,771,000 as proposed by the Senate.


The managers have agreed to \$10,032,000 for the Quinault Indian Nation settlement. The managers have retained the Senate bill language which contained minor technical differences from the House.

The managers recognize that the Department of the Interior is working with Northwest Indian tribes and the shellfish industry to complete the historic Washington State shellfish settlement agreement and secure funding for it. This agreement represents nine years of hard, cooperative work by the Tribes and the shellfish industry. The managers support this effort and encourage the Department and all parties to continue working together to finalize the settlement in a timely manner. The managers agree that the Administration should provide funding for settlements such as these in the annual budget submission as the managers do not foresee having funds above the requested level for new settlements.

INDIAN GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The conference agreement provides \$6,421,000 for the Indian guaranteed loan program as proposed by both the House and the Senate. The managers have retained the House bill language which contained minor technical differences from the Senate.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

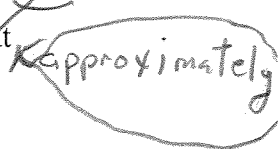


Bill Language. - The conference agreement includes language that allows certain tribes to continue to receive contract support as a supplement to administrative cost grants 

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES

INSULAR AFFAIRS

ASSISTANCE TO TERRITORIES

The conference agreement provides \$76,255,000 for assistance to territories instead of \$74,935,000 as proposed by the House and \$74,255,000 as proposed by the Senate. Changes in funding levels from the House recommendation include the Senate recommendations for an additional \$320,000 to continue judicial, court education, and court administration training, and \$1,000,000 for Marshall Islands health care. The managers agree to the following:

1. Although the agreement does not include bill language proposed by the Senate designating a specific funding level for a grant to the Close Up Foundation, the managers do support this effort and expect the Secretary to designate about  \$750,000 for this program.
2. The OIA should reprogram funds for e-government initiatives relating to disaster management and "SAFECOM" to help fund  office fixed costs. 

Administrative Services and Information Management. – Changes include increases of \$105,000 for fixed costs and \$10,000 for E-government initiatives, and a decrease of \$100,000 for IT standardization.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS

FEDERAL TRUST PROGRAMS

The conference agreement provides \$196,267,000 for Federal trust programs as proposed by both the House and the Senate. The managers have retained language contained in the Senate bill that caps the amount of funding that can be used for historical accounting activities at \$58,000,000.

INDIAN LAND CONSOLIDATION

The conference agreement provides \$35,000,000 for Indian land consolidation programs instead of \$42,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$50,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The managers are concerned about recent events in the courts that will likely slow the process of Indian land consolidation and reduce the ability of the Department of the Interior to obligate funds for acquisition of lands. The land consolidation program has the potential to resolve many of the contentious issues surrounding Indian trust management. The actions of the court concerning notifying Indian landowners of ongoing litigation will undoubtedly slow the process of consolidation of lands.

Bill Language. – The managers have retained bill language included by the Senate that allows Indian land consolidation funds to be transferred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Departmental Management accounts. The House had no similar provision.