



June 3, 2004  
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**House Interior Appropriations Markup** – At the House Interior and Related Agencies FY 2005 appropriations bill markup this morning, Subcommittee members unanimously approved the \$19.7 billion budget for the bill, with no amendments offered to the Chairman's mark. According to an Appropriations Committee's press release, the major emphasis of the bill was to reduce "funding for grant programs and new initiatives to restore funding for core, mission-essential programs." The \$19.7 billion level excludes \$500 million each for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 for emergency firefighting if needed, as provided in the budget resolution.

This morning, the Subcommittee released the following information on the bill, which contains funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service.

Bureau of Indian Affairs: Total funding is \$2.3 billion, \$81 million above the President's FY05 request and \$34 million above the FY04 enacted amount. The BIA Operation of Indian Programs funding totals \$1.9 billion, \$42 million over the FY04 level. The Subcommittee recommends \$66 million above the Administration's request for the BIA construction program, for a total of \$349 million.

The bill provides \$238 million for Indian Trust Reform, \$29 million above the FY04 level. Ranking Member Norm Dicks (D-WA) stated the Subcommittee is recommending a cap on Historical Accounting of \$58 million. Rep. Dicks supported the cap and warned appropriators against spending exorbitant amounts of money on a nonexistent historical accounting that diverts funds from critical Indian programs. The FY05 Administration request for the Office of Historical Trust Accounting within OST was \$109.4 million.

Indian Health Service: Total funding in the bill for the Indian Health Service is \$3 billion, \$112 million above the FY04 enacted amount and \$66 million over the Administration's FY05 request. According to the National Indian Health Board, the Committee approved the President's request for an additional \$45 million, restored the \$52 million cut for facilities construction, and added \$15 million for the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund.

Markup by the full House Appropriations Committee is tentatively set for June 9, 2004.

If you have any questions on the FY 2005 Interior Appropriations information available at this time, contact the NCAI at (202) 466-7767.