



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

March 12, 2014

THE DIRECTOR

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

Thank you for your letter regarding the implications of the sequestration order issued on March 1, 2013, for the Wildlife Restoration Fund and the Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Safety Trust Fund (referred to in your letter as the Sportsmen Trust Funds) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013.

When Congress did not reach agreement on a balanced deficit reduction plan to replace the Joint Committee sequestration, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (BBEDCA), as amended, required the President to issue a sequestration order canceling budgetary resources across the Federal Government for the remainder of FY 2013. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) also issued a report to Congress detailing the required reductions for each non-exempt budgetary account. Executive departments and agencies were required by statute to apply these reductions to each program, project, and activity within an account. The report can be found online at: www.whitehouse.gov/omb/legislative_reports.

Your letter expressed the view that the amounts sequestered from the Sportsmen Trust Funds in FY 2013 would become available for payment again in FY 2014 without further congressional action. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of the Interior (DOI), in coordination with OMB determined, pursuant to section 256(k)(6) of BBEDCA and the underlying authority for the program, that funds for this program sequestered in FY 2013 will become available to States in FY 2014 without further congressional action. DHS will allocate the sequestered funds based on 2014 payments, as authorized in statute, and DOI will allocate the sequestered funds based on 2013 payments. The agencies are working to make the funds available as expeditiously as possible. Please contact DHS or DOI directly if you have specific questions about the status of funds in their respective accounts.

Thank you again for your letter. If you or your staff has any questions, please contact Kristen J. Sarri, Associate Director for Legislative Affairs, at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

Sylvia M. Burwell
Director

Identical Letter Sent to The Honorable Kay Hagan, The Honorable Mark Pryor,
and The Honorable James Risch