

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**May 10, 1999**

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LAST WEEK -

THE HOUSE APPROVES KOSOVO FUNDING - On Thursday, May 6, the House passed H.R. 1664, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for military operations, refugee relief, and humanitarian assistance relating to the conflict in Kosovo. An amendment to the bill, which was approved by voice vote, added \$106 million to support over \$1 billion in emergency farm loans. Congressional staff have stated that Appropriators will now begin an effort to combine the provisions of the Kosovo legislation with a previously passed emergency supplemental bill, H.R. 1141. The Senate version of H.R. 1141 contains \$100 million for the Emergency Watershed Protection program, and \$28 million to fund technical assistance costs associated with the Conservation Reserve Program.

CONSERVATION AND REINVESTMENT - On Tuesday, May 4, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on Conservation and Reinvestment. Senator Barbara Boxer of California gave testimony on an amendment to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (S. 466) and Dianne Feinstein also of California gave testimony to the Public Land and Recreation Investment Act (S. 532). Senator Boxer encouraged her colleagues to make a commitment to preserve and protect the natural resources. She said urban parks, farms and historic building need to be protected and restored. She stated that nearly 3 million acres of farmland and more than 170,000 acres of wetlands disappear each year. Senator Boxer strongly urged her colleagues to support her bill. Senator Feinstein stressed the need for the federal government to spend more on preserving the environment and recreational resources. She said the Land and Water Conservation Fund helped to preserve nearly 7 million acres, including Yellowstone National Park, Cape Cod National Seashore and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Senator Feinstein stated her bill would include money for federal land acquisition, noncompetitive grants to states and funding for urban parks. She urged the Senate to make a commitment to fund the LWCF and the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program.

