

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 8, 2000

The Speaker of the

House of Representatives

Sir:

In accordance with provisions of P.L. 104-208, the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997, I hereby request the following:

Department of Agriculture


- Forest Service, Wildland Fire Management: \$150,000,000

These funds will be used to address urgent needs arising from the consequences of the severe and numerous fires on Federal public lands throughout the western United States.

I hereby designate the above request as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of William J. Clinton in black ink.

Enclosure



THE DIRECTOR

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

August 8, 2000

The President

The White House

Submitted for your consideration is a request to make available previously appropriated contingent emergency funds for the Departments of Agriculture (USDA). Your approval of this request would make available \$150 million to fight wildland fires and rehabilitate fire-damaged Federal public lands in the western United States.

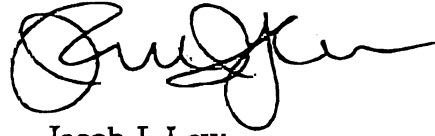
P.L. 104-208, the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997, provided \$550 million to USDA for emergency wildland fire management activities. The availability of a portion of this funding -- \$250 million -- was made contingent upon the President submitting a budget request to the Congress and designating the entire amount requested as an emergency requirement. On September 29, 1999, you released \$100 million to address needs arising from the consequences of fires on Federal public lands throughout the western United States. Of the \$550 million appropriated to USDA for firefighting in P.L. 104-208, \$300 million was available immediately upon enactment.

Major recent fires in western States have resulted in costs that greatly exceed those of the average firefighting season, and new fires are being started daily by lightning and other causes. Funds currently available to USDA for wildland fire operations are insufficient to cover the expenses estimated to be incurred during this fiscal year. The funds now requested to be made available would support emergency wildland fire operations, including fire suppression and rehabilitation of fire-damaged lands.

I recommend that you designate this request for \$150 million as an emergency requirement in accordance with section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. No further congressional action will be required.

I have carefully reviewed this proposal and am satisfied that it is necessary at this time. Therefore, I join the Secretary of Agriculture in recommending that you make the requested funds available by signing the enclosed letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob J. Lew". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jacob J. Lew
Director

Enclosure

**EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS: AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED
MADE AVAILABLE BY THE PRESIDENT**

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Forest Service:

Wildland Fire Management \$150,000,000

P.L. 104-208, the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997, provided \$550 million to USDA for emergency wildland fire management activities. The availability of a portion of this funding -- \$250 million -- was made contingent upon the President submitting a budget request to the Congress and designating the entire amount requested as an emergency requirement. Of the \$250 million in contingent emergency appropriations, \$100 million has been designated as an emergency requirement and made available.

Major recent fires in the western United States have resulted in costs that greatly exceed those of the average firefighting season. At this time, the remaining \$150 million in contingent funding is required to address urgent needs arising from the consequences of the severe and numerous fires on Federal public lands throughout the western United States. This funding will support emergency wildland fire operations, including fire suppression and rehabilitation of fire-damaged lands.