# THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

June 9, 2008

### Dear Madam Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed amendments to my FY 2009 Budget for the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, the Interior, Labor, and the Treasury. Overall, the discretionary budget authority proposed in my FY 2009 Budget would not be increased by these requests.

I am requesting an additional \$546 million for the Department of Commerce to cover increased costs to conduct the 2010 Decennial Census. I am also requesting \$275 million for the Department of Health and Human Services to improve food and medical product safety and \$1 million for the Department of Homeland Security to continue operations of the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding through February 28, 2009. These amounts are fully offset by reductions to other accounts.

The details of these amendments are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker of the House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515



#### **EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

#### OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

June 9, 2008

The President
The White House

Submitted for your consideration are amendments to your FY 2009 Budget. This request would provide \$546 million to the Department of Commerce to ensure an accurate and on-time 2010 Decennial Census. Due to cost, schedule, and performance problems with a key information technology contract, the Census Bureau recently announced it would scale back the scope of its 2010 reengineering plan and correspondingly increase other activities to ensure a successful census. Therefore, additional funds are needed for the re-planned census.

This request would also provide \$275 million to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to: improve the safety of imported and domestic food and medical products; modernize FDA's information technology infrastructure; improve FDA facilities; and expand laboratory capacity for FDA to execute its import safety responsibilities.

This request would also provide \$1 million for continued operations of the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding through February 28, 2009, as defined by Executive Orders 13389 and 13390, as amended by Executive Order 13463.

These requested increases would be fully offset by cancelling or reducing \$822 million in funding from lower-priority Federal programs and excess funds. As described below and in more detail in the enclosures, the cancellation proposals include the following:

- \$175 million in unobligated balances in the Bureau of Reclamation, Water and Related Resources account in the Department of the Interior.
- \$80 million in unobligated balances in the Employment Standards Administration, Salaries and Expenses account in the Department of Labor.
- \$30 million in unobligated balances in the Treasury Forfeiture Fund account in the Department of the Treasury.
- \$260 million in funding in the Social Services Block Grant program in the Department of Health and Human Services.
- \$165 million in funding in the Watershed Rehabilitation Program account in the Department of Agriculture.
- \$111 million in funding from Department of Commerce accounts that will be realized through reductions to lower priority activities (\$41 million) and cancellation of unobligated balances (\$70 million).
- \$1 million in funding in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Operations, Management and Administration account in the Department of Homeland Security.

## Recommendation

I have reviewed these requests and am satisfied that they are necessary at this time. Therefore, I join the heads of the affected agencies in recommending that you transmit the proposals to the Congress.

Sincerely,

Jim Nussle

Enclosures

Bureau: BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Heading: Periodic Censuses and Programs

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: \$2,365,882,000

Proposed Amendment: \$540,380,000

Revised Request: \$2,906,262,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$2,365,882,000" and substitute \$2,906,262,000.)

This amendment would increase the pending request for Periodic Censuses and Programs to ensure resources are adequate to complete an accurate and on-time 2010 Decennial Census. Due to significant cost, schedule, and performance problems with a major information technology contract, the U.S. Census Bureau is reducing the scope of the 2010 Census reengineering effort by eliminating its plan to utilize handheld computers for the non-response follow-up (NRFU) operation. Therefore, additional funding is needed to plan for a paper-based NRFU, hire more staff reflecting associated workload and staffing assumptions, and mitigate other risks.

Major increases include \$69 million for critical systems and preparatory activities necessary for a paper-based NRFU in 2010; \$116 million for Address Canvassing to hire additional workers due to revised productivity assumptions and other changes; \$80 million for a more robust help desk to support the handheld computers for Address Canvassing; and \$50 million for end-to-end system testing, to ensure all decennial systems are fully integrated. Also requested is a \$200 million contingency fund, given the risks facing the program and uncertainty around what the final cost estimate will be for the Field Data Collection Automation contract.

The total increase for the 2010 Census is almost \$546 million. This increase is partially offset within this account by nearly a \$6 million reduction to lower priority activities. The remaining increase (\$540 million) is offset through proposed reductions to other accounts within the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Health and Human Services, Homeland, the Interior, Labor, and the Treasury, as described in the accompanying amendments.

Agency: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Bureau: FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Heading: Salaries and Expenses

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: \$2,332,425,000

Proposed Amendment: \$265,000,000

Revised Request: \$2,597,425,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$2,332,425,000" and substitute \$2,597,425,000.)

This amendment would increase the pending request by \$265 million for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Salaries and Expenses account. The additional funds would be used to improve the safety of imported and domestic food and medical products and modernize FDA's information technology infrastructure.

The requested increase in budget authority is fully offset by proposed reductions to other accounts within the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Health and Human Services, Homeland, the Interior, Labor, and the Treasury, as described in the accompanying amendments.

Agency: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Bureau: FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Heading: Buildings and Facilities

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: \$2,433,000

Proposed Amendment: \$10,000,000

Revised Request: \$12,433,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$2,433,000" and substitute \$12,433,000.)

This amendment would increase the pending request by \$10 million for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Buildings and Facilities account. This proposed funding would improve FDA facilities for new technologies and expand laboratory capacity to improve the safety of imported and domestic food and medical products.

The requested increase in budget authority is fully offset by proposed reductions to other accounts within the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Health and Human Services, Homeland, the Interior, Labor, and the Treasury, as described in the accompanying amendments.

Agency: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Bureau: DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

Heading: Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending BA Request: \$291,000

Proposed BA Amendment: \$989,000

Revised BA Request: \$1,280,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$291,000" and substitute \$1,280,000.)

This amendment would increase the pending request by nearly \$1 million to continue operations of the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding through February 28, 2009, as defined by Executive Orders 13389 and 13390, as amended by Executive Order 13463.

The requested increase in budget authority is fully offset by proposed reductions to other accounts within the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, the Interior, Labor, and the Treasury, as described in the accompanying amendments.

Agency: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Heading: General Provisions

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: ---

Proposed Amendment: Language

Revised Request: ---

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, add the following new section after section 717:)

SEC. 718. No funds shall be used to pay salaries and expenses of the Department of Agriculture to carry out or administer the program authorized by section 14(h)(1) of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. § 1012(h)(1)), as amended by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. No. 110-234). Of the unobligated balances available for this program, \$65,000,000 are hereby permanently cancelled. In addition, of the funds made available for this program for fiscal year 2009, \$100,000,000 are hereby permanently cancelled.

This amendment would reduce funding by \$165 million for local governments to repair locally-owned dams in the Watershed Rehabilitation Program. Of this amount, \$65 million was made available in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 and \$100 million was made available in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. This funding is not required for the Department of Agriculture to meet the needs of rehabilitating the highest priority dams.

The \$165 million decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.

Bureau: DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Heading: Salaries and Expenses

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: \$61,083,000

Proposed Amendment: -\$500,000

Revised Request: \$60,583,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$61,083,000" and substitute \$60,583,000.)

The FY 2009 Budget proposed an inflation adjustment for the Departmental Management, Salaries and Expenses account. This amendment would reduce the requested amount through reductions to lower priority activities.

The \$0.5 million decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.

Bureau: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Heading: Salaries and Expenses

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: \$32,800,000

Proposed Amendment: -\$1,968,000

Revised Request: \$30,832,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$32,800,000" and substitute \$30,832,000.)

This amendment would reduce the pending request for the Economic Development Administration's (EDA's) administrative budget by nearly \$2 million, providing the 2008 enacted funding level. With new grant-making activities in 2009 expected to be lower than 2008 levels, this funding will be sufficient.

The \$2 million decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.

Bureau: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Heading: Economic Development Assistance Programs

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: \$100,000,000

Proposed Amendment: -\$7,200,000

Revised Request: \$92,800,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$100,000,000" and substitute \$92,800,000.)

This amendment would reduce the pending request by \$7.2 million by eliminating funding for the Economic Development Administration's (EDA's) public works grants. Other EDA grant programs would not be affected. Given the need for increased funding to support the 2010 Decennial Census, these grant programs are a lower priority.

The \$7.2 million decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.

Bureau: BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Heading: Salaries and Expenses

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: \$238,740,000

Proposed Amendment: -\$5,152,000

Revised Request: \$233,588,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$238,740,000" and substitute \$233,588,000.)

This amendment would reduce the pending request for the Bureau of the Census, Salaries and Expenses account by \$5.2 million. The FY 2009 Budget proposed an inflation adjustment for this account and the amendment would eliminate this adjustment through reductions to lower priority activities.

The \$5.2 million decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.

Bureau: ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Heading: Salaries and Expenses

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: \$90,621,000

Proposed Amendment: -\$500,000

Revised Request: \$90,121,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$90,621,000" and substitute \$90,121,000.)

This amendment would reduce the pending request for the Economic and Statistical Analysis, Salaries and Expenses account by \$0.5 million. The FY 2009 Budget proposed an inflation adjustment for this account. This amendment would slightly reduce this adjustment for lower priority activities.

The \$0.5 million decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.

Bureau: INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

Heading: Operations and Administration

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: \$429,870,000

Proposed Amendment: -\$3,175,000

Revised Request: \$426,695,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$429,870,000" and substitute \$426,695,000.)

This amendment would reduce the pending request for the International Trade Administration, Operations and Administration account by \$3 million. The FY 2009 Budget proposed an inflation adjustment for this account. This amendment would slightly reduce this adjustment for lower priority activities.

The \$3 million decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.

Bureau: BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY

Heading: Operations and Administration

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: \$83,676,000

Proposed Amendment: -\$500,000

Revised Request: \$83,176,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$83,676,000" and substitute \$83,176,000.)

This amendment would reduce the pending request for the Bureau of Industry and Security, Operations and Administration account by \$0.5 million. The FY 2009 Budget proposed an inflation adjustment for this account. This amendment would slightly reduce this adjustment for lower priority activities.

The \$0.5 million decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.

Bureau: MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Heading: Minority Business Development

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: \$29,000,000

Proposed Amendment: -\$377,000

Revised Request: \$28,623,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$29,000,000" and substitute \$28,623,000.)

This amendment would reduce the pending request for the Minority Business Development account by \$0.4 million. The FY 2009 Budget proposed an inflation adjustment for this account and the amendment would eliminate this adjustment through reductions to lower priority activities.

The \$0.4 million decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.

Bureau: NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC

**ADMINISTRATION** 

Heading: Operations, Research, and Facilities

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: \$2,831,253,000

Proposed Amendment: -\$4,000,000

Revised Request: \$2,827,253,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$2,831,253,000" in both the first clause and the third proviso and substitute in both places \$2,827,253,000; delete "\$2,924,253,000" from the third proviso and substitute \$2,920,253,000.)

This amendment would reduce the pending request for the Operations, Research, and Facilities account by \$4 million. The FY 2009 Budget proposed an inflation adjustment for this account and the amendment would reduce by \$2 million the adjustment for lower priority activities. It would also reduce by \$2 million program increases for the Open Rivers and Atlantic Salmon initiatives.

The \$4 million decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.

Bureau: NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC

**ADMINISTRATION** 

Heading: Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: \$1,238,660,000

Proposed Amendment: -\$9,000,000

Revised Request: \$1,229,660,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$1,238,660,000" and substitute \$1,229,660,000.)

This amendment would reduce the pending request for the Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction account by a total of \$9 million. Funding for construction of the Pacific Regional Center would be reduced by \$6 million and funding for National Estuarine Research Reserves construction would be reduced by \$3 million. Given the need for additional funding for the 2010 Decennial Census, these facility initiatives are a lower priority.

The \$9 million decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.

Bureau: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND

**TECHNOLOGY** 

Heading: Industrial Technology Services

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: \$4,000,000

Proposed Amendment: -\$2,000,000

Revised Request: \$2,000,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$4,000,000" and substitute \$2,000,000.)

The FY 2009 Budget proposed phasing out Federal support for the Manufacturing Extension Program, and this amendment would reduce funding for the program's closeout costs by \$2 million.

The \$2 million decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with the other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.

Bureau: NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

**ADMINISTRATION** 

Heading: Salaries and Expenses

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: \$19,218,000

Proposed Amendment: -\$773,000

Revised Request: \$18,445,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$19,218,000" and substitute \$18,445,000.)

This amendment would reduce the pending request for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Salaries and Expenses account by \$0.8 million. The FY 2009 Budget proposed an inflation adjustment for this account and the amendment would eliminate this adjustment through reductions to lower priority activities.

The \$0.8 million decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.

Heading: GENERAL PROVISIONS-DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: ---

Proposed Amendment: Language

Revised Request: ---

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, add the following new section after section 106:)

SEC. 107. Of the unobligated balances available pursuant to section 12034 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. No. 110-234), \$70,000,000 is hereby permanently cancelled.

This amendment would reduce anticipated FY 2009 unobligated balances of funding provided for payments to commercial and recreational members of fishing communities impacted by salmon fishery failures in the Pacific Northwest. After the reduction, \$100 million would still be available for payments, which is sufficient given the estimated economic impact of recent fisheries disaster declarations for the area.

The \$70 million decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.

Agency: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Bureau: ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Heading: Social Services Block Grant

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: \$1,200,000,000

Proposed Amendment: -\$260,235,000

Revised Request: \$939,765,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$1,200,000,000" in both the first clause and the second proviso and substitute in both places \$939,765,000.)

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) is an appropriated entitlement, which was funded at \$1,700 million in FY 2008. The FY 2009 Budget requested \$1,200 million for SSBG through a one-year reduction of \$500 million in appropriations language. Additionally, the Budget included a permanent elimination of authorized funding levels in the out years beyond FY 2009. This amendment would permanently reduce the authorized funding level for SSBG by an additional \$260 million in FY 2009 so that the appropriations level would be \$940 million. The program's minimal requirements maximize State flexibility but, at the same time, do not ensure that funded activities are effective. This is because SSBG is a funding stream rather than a program with measurable performance objectives.

The \$260 million decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.

Agency: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Bureau: FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Heading: Operations, Management and Administration

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: \$957,405,000

Proposed Amendment: -\$989,000

Revised Request: \$956,416,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$957,405,000" and substitute \$956,416,000.)

This amendment would reduce the pending request for the Operations, Management and Administration account by almost \$1 million by reducing funding for lower priority programs.

The almost \$1 million decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.

Agency: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau: BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Heading: Water and Related Resources

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: ---

Proposed Amendment: Language

Revised Request: ---

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, add the following new proviso following the last bracket and before the period:)

Provided further, That from unobligated balances made available under section 2507 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (43 U.S.C. § 2211 note), as amended by section 2807 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. No. 110-234), for Desert Terminal Lakes, \$175,000,000 are hereby permanently cancelled

This amendment would reduce funding by \$175 million in the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation for the restoration of Desert Terminal Lakes in Nevada. This funding was made available by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. This funding is a low priority, is more than the Department can effectively spend to restore the lakes, and could result in significant unobligated balances. Furthermore, no funding was requested in the FY 2009 Budget for this activity. Funding was first provided for this activity by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, in the amount of \$200 million. Since 2002, some of this funding has been directed toward tangentially related activities and some funding has been directed toward unrelated actions.

The \$175 million decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.

Agency: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Bureau: EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ADMINISTRATION

Heading: Salaries and Expenses

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: ---

Proposed Amendment: Language

Revised Request: ---

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "\$30,000,000" from the second paragraph and substitute \$110,000,000.)

This amendment would reduce the pending request for the Employment Standards Administration, Salaries and Expenses account by \$80 million. The FY 2008 appropriation temporarily rescinded \$102 million from this account. These funds will become available for obligation again in FY 2009. This proposal would cancel a portion of these funds.

The \$80 million decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.

Agency: DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Bureau: DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES

Heading: Treasury Forfeiture Fund

FY 2009 Budget

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FY 2009

Pending Request: ---

Proposed Amendment: Language

Revised Request: ---

(Under the above heading, insert the following:)

Of the unobligated balances available under this heading, \$30,000,000 are hereby permanently cancelled.

This amendment would cancel \$30 million of the unobligated balances in the Treasury Forfeiture Fund. The Fund has historically used its remaining unobligated balances to fund additional law enforcement investments.

This decrease would partially offset the proposed increases described in the accompanying amendments. Taken together with other proposals in this transmittal, the budget authority requested in the FY 2009 Budget would not be affected.