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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2013

EDWARD J. MARKEY, MA
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DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Director
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

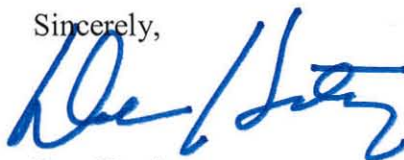
Dear Director Mathews Burwell:

Nearly two months ago, a letter was sent to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) requesting information about the Forest Service’s (“Service”) demand that states repay Secure Rural Schools Program (“SRS”) funds. To date, OMB has failed to provide any formal response to that letter.

The original letter sought responses to two questions seeking information, communications and documents pertaining to OMB’s advice provided to the Service on the retroactive sequestering of the SRS funds. These responses should have been easy for OMB to provide within the June 3, 2013 deadline. That deadline passed more than a month ago. Despite repeated attempts, Committee majority oversight staff have not been given any updates by OMB staff about when the response will be sent and whether it will be complete.

OMB’s lack of a timely response is unacceptable and frustrates Congress’ ability to conduct oversight of this important matter. It is expected that OMB will promptly and fully comply with the original May 20, 2013 request without further delay.

Sincerely,



Doc Hastings
Chairman

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JEFFREY DUNCAN
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Thomas L. Tidwell
Chief, Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
201 14th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Secretary Vilsack and Chief Tidwell:

Nearly two months ago, a letter was sent requesting information and documents about the Forest Service's ("Service") demand that states repay Secure Rural Schools Program ("SRS") funds. To date, the Service has failed to provide any formal response to that letter.

The original letter sought responses to four questions seeking information, communications and documents connected to the Service's authority and rationale to demand the repayment of the SRS funds. Such information should have been easy to collect and provide without delay. The letter requested that the information and documents be provided no later than June 3, 2013. That deadline passed more than a month ago. Committee majority oversight staff have recently been informed that the Department of Agriculture ("Department") is preparing the response but, despite repeated requests for updates, have not been told when it will be sent and whether it will be complete.

The Department's lack of a timely response is unacceptable and frustrates Congress' ability to conduct oversight of this important matter. It is expected that the Department will promptly and fully comply with the original May 20, 2013 request without further delay.

Sincerely,



Doc Hastings
Chairman