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

July 31, 2013

EDWARD J. MARKEY, MA
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JEFFREY DUNCAN
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:

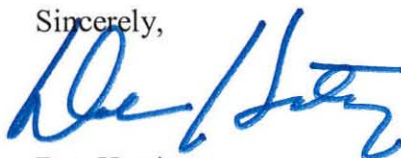
A letter was sent to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) on May 20, 2013 requesting information about the Forest Service’s (“Service”) decision demanding that states repay Secure Rural Schools Program (“SRS”) funds. OMB missed the Committee’s June 3, 2013 deadline for response.

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 without delay.

After no response was received, a follow up letter was sent July 18, 2013 stating that “OMB’s lack of timely response is unacceptable” and that OMB’s full and complete compliance to the Committee’s information request was expected “without further delay.” To date, OMB has not provided a single document in response to the Committee’s oversight request or said when a response will be received.

Patience is wearing thin with OMB’s delays. This letter provides OMB with a final opportunity to comply voluntarily with the Committee’s May 20 oversight request. There should be no doubt that if these delays continue and OMB does not fully comply with the Committee’s overdue oversight request, I am prepared to use the authority under Committee rules to issue subpoenas to compel production of the requested information.

Sincerely,



Doc Hastings
Chairman

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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:

A letter was sent May 20, 2013 requesting information and documents about the Forest Service's ("Service") decision demanding states repay Secure Rural Schools Program ("SRS") funds. The Service missed the Committee's June 3, 2013 deadline for response.

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.

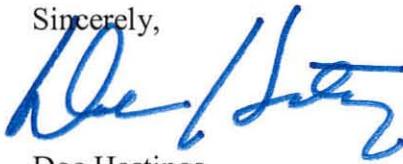
Committee majority oversight staff made numerous inquiries to the Service in June to get an update on when a response will be sent. Committee staff was informed that the U.S. Department of Agriculture ("USDA") would be responding on behalf of the Service and that a response could be expected in early July.

After no response was received, a follow up letter was sent July 18, 2013 stating that the "Department's lack of timely response is unacceptable" and that the Department's full and complete compliance to the Committee's information request was expected "without further delay." To date, the Department and Service have not provided a single document in response to the Committee's oversight request or said when a response will be received.

Patience is wearing thin with the Department's pattern of delays. This letter provides the USDA and the Service with a final opportunity to comply voluntarily with the Committee's May 20 oversight request.

There should be no doubt that if these delays continue and the USDA and the Service do not fully comply with the Committee's overdue oversight request, I am prepared to use the authority under Committee rules to issue subpoenas to compel production of the requested information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doc Hastings", written in a cursive style.

Doc Hastings
Chairman