

House Appropriations Interior Subcommittee

Markup of FY27 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Bill

May 21, 2026

Highlights: The House Appropriations Subcommittee's markup of the FY27 Interior–Environment funding bill outlines a \$38.9 billion proposal that prioritizes Tribal trust and treaty obligations alongside investments in energy production, wildfire response, and natural resource management, while also proposing reductions to several environmental programs. Members on both sides emphasized the importance of meeting federal responsibilities to Tribal Nations, though disagreements emerged over how those commitments are balanced against cuts elsewhere in the bill.

Key Points:

- The bill includes substantial funding for Indian Country-
 - \$8.7 billion for the Indian Health Service
 - \$6.1 billion additionally in advance appropriations for FY28
 - \$3.2 billion for the Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - \$774.8 million is allocated for public safety and justice programs, including a \$204.8 million increase over FY26 levels, and \$33 million is dedicated to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women initiative.
 - \$1.5 billion for the Bureau of Indian Education
 - The bill also fully funds contract support costs and Section 105(l) lease payments, which are key mechanisms supporting Tribal self-determination and federal trust obligations.
 - While these investments were broadly supported, some members noted they are achieved within a constrained allocation, meaning increases for Tribal programs contribute to reductions in other areas of the bill.
- In addition to Tribal funding, the bill addresses several natural resource and agriculture-related priorities.
 - It supports federal wildfire preparedness and response by maintaining funding for wildland firefighters, including pay increases, and advancing plans to establish a U.S. Wildland Fire Service, which has implications for rangeland protection, forestry management, and rural communities.
 - The legislation also promotes domestic energy production by funding onshore and offshore oil and gas development and expanding access to critical mineral leasing, while including provisions to limit certain regulatory constraints under the Endangered Species Act.

- These policies signal a focus on economic development and resource extraction, which may intersect with Tribal lands and rural agricultural regions.
- The bill continues funding for water infrastructure programs under the [Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act](#), including grants to states and Tribes and support for roughly 1,200 community water projects.
- However, a broader reduction in [Environmental Protection Agency](#) funding—approximately 20 percent below enacted levels—raised concerns among some members about the agency’s capacity to support water systems, enforce environmental protections, and provide technical assistance, including in Tribal communities.
- During the markup, members also highlighted issues relevant to agriculture and tribal food systems, particularly debates over grazing policy on federal lands.
 - Discussion of buffalo versus cattle grazing underscored tensions between existing federal land management laws, such as the [Taylor Grazing Act](#), and Tribal cultural practices and food sovereignty priorities tied to bison restoration.