

11-24-1975

## Letter, Mr. James T. Lynn from Senator John C. Stennis, November 24, 1975

John Cornelius Stennis

The office of Senator John C. Stennis

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 24, 1975

T. EDWARD BRASWELL, JR., CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

Mr. James T. Lynn, Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Executive Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Lynn:

I understand that the Office of Management and Budget has under consideration various possible rescission requests pertaining to Public Law 94-122, the Agriculture Appropriations for fiscal year 1976. I wish to urge very strongly that a rescission request not be submitted on the Forestry Incentives Program.

As you know, the administration originally budgeted \$25 million for the Forestry Incentives Program for fiscal year 1975, and later requested that this full amount be rescinded. The rescission request referred to the program as "a new program," which it was not, it having been previously funded from Rural Environmental Conservation money. The Congress agreed only to a partial rescission, and funded the program at \$15 million for fiscal 1975.

At the time the budget for fiscal year 1976 was submitted the rescission request was still pending. Under the assumption that it would be approved by Congress, the administration did not budget any money for Forestry Incentives. Again the Congress has shown a willingness to compromise in this matter and for fiscal year 1976 appropriated \$15 million, rather than the \$25 million that is authorized and needed.

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I sincerely hope that after two previous efforts to stop this small but worthy program, the administration will not be adamant in again proposing that the appropriation be rescinded.

You will find that it is unanimously acknowledged among all informed sources that the only way the nation can meet its future needs for wood is by increasing production from small privately owned forest lands. There is similar general agreement that this can be done only by an incentives program.

There are other very practical and persuasive reasons why this program should be carried on vigorously.

The Forestry Incentives program is providing employment now, and in doing so it requires an input of at least one dollar in private money for every three dollars in Federal money.

The program is carried out in rural areas, where income levels are low and unemployment is a serious problem. It does not require expensive labor training programs.

The Forestry Incentives program is an investment in a renewable resource which yields products that are used in place of those from energy depleting sources, and it does so at a minimal consumption of energy.

The initial Federal investment in developing and initiating the program has been made. The regulations are established, the Federal and State employees who carry it out at the county level and above are trained, and the program is a pronounced success in its third year of operation.

Significant investments of State and private capital have been made to ensure the efficient continuation of the program. Seedling nurseries have been expanded. Small contractors and vendors have made heavy investments in specialized equipment, and are prepared to undertake an increased program.

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The accomplishments of the Forestry Incentives program during calendar year 1974 are impressive. The program generated an estimated 363,000 man-days of gainful employment in hard-pressed rural areas. In the process 282,000 acres of run-down forest lands were improved by planting seedlings or applying cultural work, such as removal of diseased or misshapen trees.

The cost of this worthwhile undertaking was shared by nearly 14,000 owners of small tracts in a ratio of \$3 million in private funds to \$9 million Federal. The timber that will be harvested as a result of this work is absolutely essential to the nation's needs in the foreseeable future.

My experience with the last two rescission requests on the Forestry Incentives program leads me to believe that they have been submitted in a mechanical way, in response to general guidelines, and that those who formulated them may not have been fully informed as to the program or the implications of stopping it.

I believe that if the Forestry Incentives program is reviewed on its merits it will receive strong support. I earnestly solicit your attention toward that end.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN C. STENNIS  
United States Senator

JCS:mls