FY 2011 requests
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Endangered and native species habitat protection; Kahoolawe, Hawaii
Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission; Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii
$1,100,000
Funding would provide and enhance terrestrial and marine habitats for listed and native species. The project would increase ecosystem resiliency and buffers against species extinction. Despite human impacts, remnant native habitats and wildlife persist in some areas on Kahoolawe and on two offshore islets, 'Ale'ale and Pu'u Koa'e, and the surrounding waters support one of the most valued marine ecosystems in the state. Five native terrestrial communities have been identified; the sea cliffs and islets are significant nesting areas for listed seabirds and rare plants; the beaches and Reserve waters support a variety of listed species as well as some of the healthiest fish populations in the main Hawaiian islands; and listed and migratory shorebirds use the island as a stopover site. Destructive ungulates have been eradicated and efforts have been made to restore native vegetation and habitats, reduce erosion, control invasive species and remove marine debris. Federal funding would allow these efforts to continue.

Establishment of a USGS Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Hawaii at Hilo; Hilo, Hawaii Island, Hawaii
Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Studies Units, US Geological Survey; Reston, Virginia
$23.6 million
The request is for an additional $4.3 million about the FY2010 appropriation to fully fund the Department of the Interior CRU program at $23.6 million, including the addition of wildlife CRU components at UH Hilo, Hawaii and Humboldt State University, California, and the addition of new CRUs at Rutgers University, New Jersey and University of Nevada at Reno, Nevada. Of the requested additional $4.3 million, $2.0 million is needed to fill vacant Unit scientist positions in existing CRUs across the nation, restore the integrity of the existing CRU program, and ensure that the proposed expansion of the national program is built on a sound foundation and does not come at the expense of existing Units. The remaining $2.3 million would establish new Units in New Jersey and Nevada, complete the wildlife mission at existing Units in Hawaii and California, and provide funding to support this program expansion.

Forest Inventory and Analysis in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands; Hawaii (statewide)
Pacific Northwest Research Station, USDA Forest Service; Portland, Oregon
$850,000
Forest Service, USDA
Current, credible, and relevant information on the status and trends of forest lands in Hawaii and the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands is needed to guide decisions at the state, national, and international levels. Changes in the structure and composition of tropical forests are facing intense pressure owing to their geographic constraints, tourism pressure, and changes in climate. Funding would be used to support activities at the Hawaii Tropical Experimental Forest and the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry.

Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge expansion; Hawaii Island, Hawaii
Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge; Hilo, Hawaii
$7 ,000,000
This project would add neighboring parcels to both the Hakalau Forest and Kona Forest Units of Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge totaling approximately 15,730 acres. The sites have significance for recovery of listed plants and endangered forest birds and their habitat. The sites include rare closed canopies of koa and ohia forest, as well as a rich mid-canopy and understory of native vegetation with some 31 native plant species. The sites support small but biologically important populations of rare native birds including 'akiapōlā'au, 'ākepa, 'io, and Hawai'i creeper, as well as abundant populations of native 'elepaio, 'i'iwi, 'amakihi, and 'apapane. In the future, FWS hopes to reintroduce the 'alalā into this area, where it last existed in the wild. In addition to birds, the property supports a diversity of native plants, including several rare and endangered species, and many of the more common native plants and ferns found in an intact Hawaiian rain forest. The sites have important watershed value including groundwater recharge and preventing siltation of nearby marine environments. The property is bordered by the Hilo Forest Reserve to the north, Hilo Watershed Forest Reserve to the south, and Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge to the west. The expansion would support connectivity amongst surrounding parcels that are currently managed for conservation by the State of Hawaii, the National Park Service, and McCandless Ranch under conservation easements with the Forest Service.

Hanalei River Water Diversion Study; Hanalei, Hawaii
Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge; Hanalei, Hawaii
$500,000
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior
Funding would be used to evaluate alternatives for permanent protection of the China Ditch water supply to Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge for both its endangered birds and its tenant kalo farmers. Numerous different public and private land owners are involved with the intake, breach location, and various points of potential streambank protection and water application. This issue has long been looked at and addressed mainly in response to emergency situations. Alternatives that have been suggested have not fully been analyzed, nor have previous studies looked at the entire watershed from a geomorphologic/hydrologic perspective. Neither water budgets nor in-stream flow standards have been determined or established.

Hauoli Street Drainage; Maalaea, Maui, Hawaii
Department of Public Works, County of Maui; Wailuku, Hawaii
$700,000
Of the total, $500,000 of project funding would go towards design and permitting, and $200,000 would support land acquisition. As the low lying areas of Hauoli Street are plagued by flooding, the project would provide an upstream retention basin, which would capture sediment that would otherwise flow into the Pacific Ocean, and increase the size of a culvert to handle larger water flows. Additionally, a new drainline extending to the ocean would replace an open ditch.

Hawaii Invasive Species Partnerships; Hawaii (statewide)
FWS Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office; Honolulu, Hawaii
$2,250,000
FWS Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, Department of the Interior
This funding would be used to reduce the impact of established invasive species in the State of Hawaii and supporting ongoing efforts to prevent future invasive species introduction. Invasive species have significant, negative impacts on Hawaii's endangered species, insular ecosystems, human health, and economy. The major factor limiting endangered species recovery and contributing to endangered species decline in Hawaii is the continued presence of invasive species that are ecologically harmful. Because of the current and future threats that invasive species pose in this geographic region, the Service has supported collaborative, interagency, and community-based initiatives to reduce invasive species threats on a county, State, and regional level. Beginning in FY2010, funding provided by the State to support these efforts was significantly reduced due to a decline in State revenue and is expected to decrease even more in FY 2011. Without additional federal support, critical invasive species prevention and control efforts spanning decades are in jeopardy. The funding would be used to provide direct financial support for individual projects that meet the mutual goals of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), the Hawaii Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS), and the Service; programs and projects that control invasive species on a State or county level (for example through county-level "Island Invasive Species Committees"); and high priority projects that address the control, management, or eradication of specific invasive species or disease in Hawai'i that impact federally listed or candidate species, such as rodents in natural areas, the forest weed Miconia, and mosquito-borne avian malaria.

Hawaii Restoration and Conservation Initiative; Hawaii (statewide)
$2,000,000
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior
The Hawaii Restoration Conservation Initiative (HRCI) is a partnership of 27 public agencies and private organizations that are committed to restoring and conserving Hawaii's exceptional natural and cultural resources while revitalizing her economy, enhancing the health of her watersheds, securing the long-term supply of clean fresh water, and sequestering carbon from the atmosphere. The HRCI partnership is founded on sustainability principles and Native Hawaiian land stewardship practices. To achieve this vision, the HRCI seeks funds to initiate a comprehensive development and demonstration process that will yield the blueprint for long-term and large-scale restoration and conservation in Hawaii.

Hawaii Watershed Partnership Program; Hawaii (statewide)
FWS Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office; Honolulu, Hawaii
$500,000
FWS Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, Department of the Interior
Funding would continue the implementation of the on-the-ground, locally driven habitat restoration and species protection work carried out by Hawaii's watershed partnerships. These efforts provide multiple benefits, including protection of Hawaii's water sources, conservation of rare native species, reduction of siltation that harms coral reefs, and enrichment of opportunities for outdoor education and recreation. This work is of even greater importance in the face of global climate change.

Hawaiian forest bird status and trends; Hawaii (statewide)
Pacific Island Ecosystem Research Center; Haleakala, Kilauea, and Manoa, Hawaii
$350,000
U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior
This request is for the USGS to resume work on the Hawaii Forest Bird Survey. The survey was originally carried out across the state between 1976 and 1983, and documented severe impacts from habitat loss, introduced predators, and disease in most species of Hawaiian forest birds. Since then the declines appear to have continued, and as many as 10 species may now be extinct in the wild. The US Fish and Wildlife Service lists 23 forest bird species or subspecies as threatened or endangered, and The International Union For Conservation of Nature lists all but four species of Hawaiian forest birds as either vulnerable, endangered, or critical. New population surveys are needed to assess the status of the surviving populations, understand current trends, evaluate current and future threats, and inform managers on the effectiveness of conservation measures.

Historic Battle of Midway Seaplane Hangar Stabilization; Midway Atoll
Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge/Battle of Midway National Memorial
$5,700,000
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior
Funding would be used to ensure the continued structural stability and historic integrity of the Battle of Midway National Memorial's iconic seaplane hangar. The historic seaplane hangar at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge is the most prominent feature of the Battle of Midway National Memorial. Designed in 1940 by architect Albert Kahn of Detroit, Michigan, one of the country's foremost industrial designers, this seaplane hangar became a prototype for others, including those built at Naval Air Stations Barbers Point and Kaneohe Bay. During the first Japanese attack on the atoll on December 7, 1941, six shells hit the building, which was the most conspicuous target on Sand Island. One PBY Catalina, whose tanks held 1,500 gallons of fuel and under whose wings hung two fused 500-lb bombs, was demolished in the hangar. With the roof in flames, the Marines in the anti-aircraft gun battery located on the roof carefully lowered their weapons and ammunition to the ground, concerned first with their weapons' safety rather than their own lives. Other Marines and sailors calmly carried bombs from the burning building, while their comrades outside busily attempted to launch undamaged PBYs from the cold waters of the lagoon, standing in water flooded with aviation fuel.

James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge visitor and environmental education center and headquarters planning and design; Oahu, Hawaii
James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge; Haleiwa, Hawaii
$1,500,000
This request is to add $1.5 million to the Fish and Wildlife Service construction budget to complete the site plan, architectural engineering, and design of a proposed new Visitor and Environmental Education Center and Refuge Headquarters and related features on a 10-acre site on James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, Oahu, Hawaii. The visitor center is expected to serve more than 250,000 annually. The environmental education facility would be a year-round outdoor facility that would serve approximately 5,000–10,000 local students annually. The headquarters building will provide offices for refuge staff for all of Oahu's three National Wildlife Refuges. Offices will also be available to share with partner conservation agencies.

National Tropical Botanical Garden Conservation Efforts; Hawaii
National Tropical Botanical Garden; Hawaii
$500,000
National Park Service, Department of the Interior
This funding would support conservation efforts at the National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG) as authorized in the Public Law 111-11. Hawaii has over 230 plant species on the verge of extinction. NTBG would continue work with state and federal agencies to implement emergency actions to perpetuate these exceptionally rare species and prevent their extinction. This request would also support NTBG's "intensive care" nursery to propagate and grow at risk species, as well as the classification and systematic research needed to identify rare and endangered plants in the Hawaiian flora. These activities support the charge in NTBG's Congressional Charter, 36 U.S.C. Chapter 1535, "to collect and cultivate tropical flora of every nature and origin and to preserve for the people of the United States species of tropical plant life threatened with extinction."

Native Hawaiian culture and arts program; Honolulu, Hawaii
Bishop Museum; Honolulu, Hawaii
$800,000
National Park Service, Department of the Interior
This funding would support the Native Hawaiian Culture and Arts Program (NHCAP). NHCAP was authorized by Public Law 99-498 to preserve, support, revitalize, and develop Native Hawaiian art and culture. The funding for NHCAP would support programs and projects that help to perpetuate Hawaiian culture and art, including the traditional and contemporary expressions of Native Hawaiian language, history, scholarship, visual and performing arts, and crafts. Projects include education outreach to schools and communities, development of an on-line database of archaeological records and research, ethnobotany workshops and events, Hawaiian language and culture publications, exhibitions of contemporary Native Hawaiian artists, and Native Hawaiian arts month.

Preventing extinctions of Hawaiian birds and plants; Hawaii (statewide)
Fish and Wildlife Service Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office; Honolulu, Hawaii
$3,000,000
Funding would augment recovery efforts directed at the rarest-of-the-rare plant and bird species. The effort focuses on the three key actions needed to save these species: short-term emergency actions, habitat management, and the reintroduction of species back into the wild. Of the 113 known unique species of Hawaiian birds, 71 have gone extinct and 36 are federally listed or proposed as endangered or threatened. Hawaii has 319 endangered plant species, far more than any other State. Many of these plant and bird species are important ecologically, culturally, and could also be economically important in the future. A total of 231 species of Hawaiian plants have fewer than 100 remaining individuals in the wild, and at the extreme end of risk, 25 plant species have only a single remaining wild individual.

Solid Waste Management Assistance grants; Hawaii (statewide)
$150,000
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Environmental Protection Agency
This initiative is authorized through the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (P.L. 94-580). This funding would be made available for programs that promote the use of integrated solid waste management systems to solve solid waste generation and management problems at the local and state level in Hawaii. Priority would be given to projects that result in measurable results in the form of pounds/tons recycled, diverted and/or reduced, specifically: municipal solid waste (MSW), priority chemicals, industrial materials, and green initiatives (e.g., electronics). Given the difficulties of managing MSW in a remote island state, these projects are of great value in Hawaii.

Tern Island Runway Restoration; Tern Island
Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
$650,000
This request is to add $650,000 to the Fish and Wildlife Service construction budget to stabilize the airfield runway and allow continued operations at Tern Island, French Frigate Shoals. This project would stabilize the Tern Island airfield runway for aircraft use over the next 1-2 years. The current airfield is maintained by hand-dragging a beam along its surface. Over the years, this has created berms along the sides, causing water to puddle in the runway and create significant safety hazards for landing aircraft. The project would include purchasing a grading blade for use on the existing tractor on island. A trained operator, a FWS detailee, would grade in a crown, fill low spots, and spread a propriety concentrate (Soil Tac) to cover the runway.

USS Arizona Memorial surveillance system; Honolulu, Hawaii
Hawaiya Technologies, Inc.; Aiea, Hawaii
$1,000,000
The project would provide critical surveillance at the widely dispersed monument sites within Pearl Harbor, including the USS Arizona Memorial, the USS Utah Memorial, the USS Oklahoma Memorial, the Six Chief Petty Officer Bungalows on Ford Island and Mooring Quays F6, F7, and F8. Over the past few years, vandalism and trespassing have increased from a few incidents a year to almost weekly incidents.

Volcano hazards monitoring and protection; Hilo and Honolulu, Hawaii
University of Hawaii at Manoa and University of Hawaii at Hilo; Hilo and Honolulu, Hawaii
$900,000
Funding would support the University of Hawaii at Manoa-USGS cooperative that has been effective in expanding and improving research to better understand volcano mechanisms and to improve volcano monitoring techniques. It would support the University of Hawaii at Hilo-USGS cooperative that has been effective in expanding and improving volcano hazard training, monitoring, and technology nationally and internationally with the goal of protecting life and property. In addition, the funding would support the acquisition of an entry-level field geophysical-instrument/telemetry support person at Hawaiian Volcano Observatory to complete

the modernization and expansion of the monitoring network on Mauna Loa, Hualalai, and expand coverage in the lower east rift zone of Kilauea volcano. The rift zone runs beneath and immediately adjacent to a number of residential areas. This request is for $650,000 in addition to the $250,000 requested in the President's Budget.

Water resources monitoring program; Hawaii (islands of Hawaii, Oahu, and Molokai)
Pacific Islands Water Science Center; Honolulu, Hawaii
$600,000
U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior
This funding would enable continued work with the Hawaii Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) and county water departments to provide: (1) water-resource monitoring for understanding status and trends, (2) groundwater recharge studies for updating sustainable yield estimates, and (3) estimates of low-flow characteristics in perennial streams for setting in-stream flow standards. A 5-year plan has been developed in collaboration with stakeholders to complete items (2) and (3), which provide a scientifically defensible basis for future water management in the State. The project will also provide for the operation of long-term stream gages. Most of these gages have been in operations for more than 50 years, and provide important information on climate change, water availability, and flood alerts. In addition, work will include estimates of groundwater recharge for Oahu and Kauai, and estimates of low-flow characteristics in perennial streams. This information is critical to the CWRM so that they can update sustainable yield estimates and set in-stream flow standards. This project is aligned with the mission of the USGS to provide information for the management of the nation's water resources. It also supports the new Science Strategy for the USGS by providing information needed for the Water Census initiative being implemented by the agency.

Watershed and Coral Reef Management; Hawaii (statewide)
Pacific Island Ecosystem Research Center; Honolulu, Hawaii
$800,000
U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior
This funding would provide for the execution of a multidisciplinary process-oriented study of watersheds and ecosystems to provide scientific information to resource managers on tropical islands. Hawaiian watersheds hold about 40 percent of all U.S. endangered species, and healthy watersheds are vital to maintaining a sustainable supply of fresh water to support residents, tourists, agriculture, and industry. However, many watersheds and coastal areas are threatened by human impacts. Information and predictive models are needed to effectively address these threats. Therefore, the funding will go towards developing modeling tools that can be used by watershed managers to evaluate the effectiveness of various watershed restoration actions. The work would have broad transferability to other areas where watershed management is linked to coastal resources. Information from the program would support land, wildlife, and marine management decisions by federal and local agencies, in addition to numerous non-governmental organizations. Project data would allow land managers to better address watershed degradation, invasive species, threatened and endangered species, and coral reef degradation. In addition this project would develop methods for local landowners and citizen groups to better estimate the efficacy of efforts to restore forests. The work would add scientific guidance to the efforts of

several watershed partnerships in Hawaii, which are collectively spending about $5,000,000 annually on watershed protection and restoration.

Joint Letters

Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
$3,487,000,000
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
I joined Senators Reed and Bond, as well as a number of other Senate colleagues, in writing to Subcommittee Chairman Dianne Feinstein and Ranking Member Lamar Alexander in support of at least level funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). Fiscal Year 2010 funding for CWSRF is $2.1 billion and current funding for DWSRF is $1.387 billion. This federal funding capitalizes state clean water and drinking water loan programs which in turn fund water quality protection projects for wastewater treatment, nonpoint source pollution control, and watershed and estuary management, as well as funding public water system infrastructure improvement projects. This funding is critical to helping communities continue upgrading their water infrastructure to meet Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act requirements without resorting to high user fee increases.

Endangered Species Operating Accounts and Cooperative Endangered Species Fund
Adequate funding
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species Operating Accounts and Cooperative Endangered Species Fund
I joined Senators Whitehouse and Crapo, as well as a number of other Senate colleagues, in writing to Subcommittee Chairman Dianne Feinstein and Ranking Member Lamar Alexander in support of adequate funding for the Endangered Species Operating Accounts and Cooperative Endangered Species Fund. When Congress passed the Endangered Species Act in 1973, it recognized that America has an obligation to protect its most vulnerable species of wildlife, fish, and plants and to ensure a rich conservation legacy for our children and grandchildren. Protecting these natural habitats yields direct benefits to our families and communities, including: water, soil, and air purification; new medical discoveries; improved crop pollination; sources of raw materials; and coastal storm protection and flood control.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program
At least $3,200,000,000
Department of Energy, Electricity Efficiency and Renewable Energy
I joined Senators Menendez, Sanders, and Lugar, as well as a number of other Senate colleagues, in writing to Subcommittee Chairman Dorgan and Ranking Member Bennett to request inclusion of at least $3.2 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, authorized in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. This partnership program will help local officials expand on the success of local initiatives to increase energy efficiency, promote energy conservation, and expand renewable energy supplies. The program creates jobs at a time when so many are struggling economically, reduces consumers' energy

bills, and can help curb greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere.

Land and Water Conservation Fund and Forest Legacy Program
$534,000,000
National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service
I joined Senators Shaheen, Leahy, and Snowe, as well as a number of other Senate colleagues, in writing to Subcommittee Chairman Dianne Feinstein and Ranking Member Lamar Alexander in support of funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Specifically, we requested $384 million for the federal LWCF program, $50 million for the LWCF stateside program and $100 million in funding for the Forest Legacy Program. Public lands are important for local communities and the jobs created by LWCF through tourism and outdoor recreation contribute billions to the economy. The federal LWCF program has helped to ensure the permanent protection of critical lands in our national forests, recreation areas, parks, wildlife refuges, Civil War battlefields, and other historic sites. The stateside LWCF grants program supports the protection of recreation lands and the development of parks at the state and local level through matching grants that enable communities, counties, and states to acquire land and to build recreational facilities. The Forest Legacy Program, created in the 1990 Farm Bill, works with states to target funding in a way that complements ongoing federal, state and local forest protection efforts. Over the past 20 years, Forest Legacy has prevented the loss of almost 2 million acres of forest land in 42 states and Puerto Rico and leveraged an equal amount of state, local, and private funding for every federal dollar spent.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Core Habitat Restoration Programs
$62.3 million
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
I joined Senator Menendez, as well as a number of other Senate colleagues, in writing to Subcommittee Chairman Barbara Mikulski and Ranking Member Richard Shelby in support of $62.3 million in funding for core habitat restoration programs at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Specifically, we requested funding of $47.3 million for Fisheries Habitat Restoration (including the Community-based Restoration Program and Open Rivers Initiative), $11 million for the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program, and $4 million for the Estuary Restoration Program. These programs help create jobs and promote local economic growth while benefitting fish and wildlife and enhancing coastal ecosystems. In addition to improved water quality, fish passage, and habitat, these landscapes will support commercial fishing, improve tourism, and create new business and recreational opportunities such as fishing, river rafting and kayaking and associated support services.

National Wildlife Refuge System
Modest increase over FY2010 funding of $503,300,000
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System
I joined Senators Feingold and Snowe, as well as a number of other Senate colleagues, in writing to Subcommittee Chairman Dianne Feinstein and Ranking Member Lamar Alexander to support a modest increase over the FY2010 funding of $503.3 million for the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Refuge System is our nation's wildlife trust, forming our core commitment to maintaining wildlife diversity and abundance for future generations. Over 41 million Americans

enjoy visiting the Refuge System each year, and their travel and recreation generate $1.7 billion in sales to regional economies and create more than 27,000 jobs and $543 million in employment income.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)
Highest funding level practical
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation
I joined Senators Lincoln and Thune, as well as a number of other Senate colleagues, in writing to Subcommittee Chairman Dianne Feinstein and Ranking Member Lamar Alexander in support of the highest funding level practical for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). The NAWCA is a popular and successful conservation program that has strong support in the conservation community and among private landowners across the United States. NAWCA is a unique, public-private program that matches non-federal and federal funds to protect, restore, and manage wetlands and associated habitats for migratory birds and other wildlife. Federal dollars invested in NAWCA are typically matched by more than three dollars from non-federal partners, including corporations, private landowners, non-profits, state governments, and local organizations.

Office of Environmental Education
$14,000,000
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Education
I joined Senator Gillibrand, as well as a number of other Senate colleagues, in writing to Subcommittee Chairman Dianne Feinstein and Ranking Member Lamar Alexander in support of $14 million in funding for the Office of Environmental Education at the Environmental Protection Agency. Programs supported by the Office of Environmental Education help train, educate, and prepare citizens for careers in environmentally sustainable fields that promote the global transition to less polluting, higher efficiency technologies and practices. Environmental education is a proven tool to prepare Americans to compete globally in high growth environmentally friendly fields such as energy efficiency, green building design, commercial scale renewable energy, biofuels, low emission vehicles, energy efficient manufacturing facilities, and the production of environmentally friendly products.

Renewable Electricity Research and Development Programs
$838,500,000
Department of Energy, Electricity Efficiency and Renewable Energy
I joined Senator Menendez, as well as a number of other Senate colleagues, in writing to Subcommittee Chairman Byron Dorgan and Ranking Member Robert Bennett in support of funding for renewable electricity research and development programs. Specifically, we urge inclusion of $377 million for the Solar Energy Program and an additional $10 million for solar heating and cooling within the Building Technologies Program; $105 million for the Geothermal Technologies Program; $100 million for the Hydropower Technologies Program; $100 million for Ocean/Marine Renewable Technologies Program; $170.5 million for the Wind Energy Technologies Program (including $5.5 million for small wind turbines, $38 million for cost reduction and reliability increase, and $4 million for technical assistance for community wind projects); and $16 million through the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.

Research in these technologies is critical for lowering costs, improving efficiency, and surmounting the barriers they face to widespread deployment in the marketplace.

Rural Community Assistance Partnership
At least $4,000,000
Environmental Protection Agency, Rural Community Assistance Partnership
I joined Senators Leahy and Crapo, as well as a number of other Senate colleagues, in writing to Subcommittee Chairman Dianne Feinstein and Ranking Member Lamar Alexander in support of at least $4 million in funding for the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP). The RCAPs have worked for over 25 years with the EPA, state and local governments, Indian tribes, and community organizations to help people living in small communities to address their drinking water and waste water treatment needs. This national network of six regional organizations helps to ensure that small rural communities can provide safe, reliable, clean water and affordable drinking water supplies to their residents.

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program
$90,000,000
Department of Interior, State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program
I joined Senators Lincoln and Crapo, as well as a number of other Senate colleagues, in writing to Subcommittee Chairman Dianne Feinstein and Ranking Member Lamar Alexander in support of level funding of $90 million for fiscal year 2011 for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program. We also requested help to retain the decrease in the non-federal match requirement for implementation projects from 50 percent to 35 percent. The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is the nation's core program to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered in every state. Adequate and consistent funding for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants is essential to fulfillment of the shared federal-state responsibility for keeping our nation's wildlife from becoming endangered.

Water Resources Research Act Programs
$8.8 million
U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Research Act Programs
I joined Senators Udall and Crapo, as well as a number of other Senate colleagues, in writing to Subcommittee Chairman Dianne Feinstein and Ranking Member Lamar Alexander in support of $8.8 in funding for the Water Resources Research Act programs. The Water Resources Research Act established water resources research institutes at universities in each state. These state institutes research water and water-related phenomena, aid the entry of new research scientists into the water resources fields, train future water scientists and engineers, and distribute the results of sponsored research to water managers and the public.