



**Comptroller General
of the United States**

Washington, D.C. 20548

B-246096.6

April 29, 1992

To the President of the Senate and the
Speaker of the House of Representatives

On March 20, 1992, the President submitted to the Congress his fifth through 72nd special messages for fiscal year 1992. These messages report 68 proposed rescissions of budget authority. We have reviewed each rescission message and found them to be in accordance with the Impoundment Control Act, 2 U.S.C. § 681, et seq., as amended.

With regard to the rescission proposals, section 1012(b) of the Act requires that funds proposed for rescission be made available for obligation unless the Congress completes action on rescission bills within the 45-day period of continuous Congressional session following the day such proposal is received by the Congress. As the Congressional Calendar now stands, our Office and the Office of Management and Budget have agreed that the 45-day period is scheduled to end on May 20, 1992.

Enclosure I provides specific information with regard to four rescissions which we believe will be useful to the Congress.

Milton J. Acosta
for Comptroller General
of the United States



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Enclosure

**COMMENTS ON THE FIFTH THROUGH SEVENTY SECOND
SPECIAL MESSAGES**

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

R92-87 Policy Development and Research
 Research and Technology
 Amount Proposed for
 Rescission: \$400,000
 861/20108

Under the Impoundment Control Act, the President's special impoundment messages must specify "the reasons why the budget authority should be rescinded . . ." 2 U.S.C. § 683(a)(3). The OMB justification for this rescission does not provide a rationale for rescinding the funds. Agency officials, however, provided our Office with a White House press release, dated March 20, 1992, which states that this project is proposed for rescission because:

[s]uch a study should be conducted by private sector beneficiaries, or to the extent the Federal Government believes it has value in formulating tax policy, by the Treasury in order to be most useful in evaluating future revisions in Federal tax policy.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

R92-88 Bureau of Indian Affairs
 Construction
 Amount Proposed for
 Rescission: \$8,593,000
 14X2301

According to BIA officials and the latest reapportionment request by the Department of the Interior, dated March 24, 1992, OMB was advised that the rescission amount is currently \$5,897,000, not \$8,593,000 as reported in the message. The initial amount of budget authority reported as available for rescission was an estimate made on March 13, 1992, of what would remain unobligated on March 20, 1992, based on data received from six of twelve BIA offices. Once final figures for obligations were received from all BIA offices, however, the amount already obligated was \$2,696,000 more than estimated. This resulted in a decrease in the amount available for rescission.

R92-90

National Park Service
Operation of the National Park System
Amount Proposed for
Rescission: \$1,975,000
1421036

According to the apportionment and reapportionment statement for this account, dated March 20, 1992, total budgetary resources are \$899,460,188 and not \$898,248,000 as reported in the message.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

R92-96

Abatement, Control and Compliance
Amount Proposed for
Rescission: \$1,450,000
682/30108

GAO recently testified before the Committee on Governmental Affairs, United States Senate, regarding the need for EPA to place greater emphasis on controlling nonpoint source pollution. GAO/T-RCED-92-46, April 7, 1992.