

***Extreme MAGA Republicans are holding our economy hostage with the Default on America (DOA) Act, a ransom note of demands that include reckless budget cuts at the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).***

## THE DEFAULT ON AMERICA ACT PUTS AMERICANS DIRECTLY IN HARM'S WAY.

**WEAKENS OUR ABILITY TO FIGHT WILDFIRES:** Last year, there were 68,988 wildfires across the U.S., leaving 7.5 million acres burned. DOI's wildland firefighters risk their lives to prevent wildfire catastrophes, but the DOA Act shamelessly derails efforts to reform and improve their pay. It also reduces as many as 1,754 of the 4,468 full-time fire program positions planned for the next fiscal year. The DOA Act cuts fuels management treatments for roughly one million acres. At USFS, the DOA Act slashes the number of firefighters, helicopters, and air tankers available for fighting wildfires. Up to 2,700 USFS wildlife firefighters would be furloughed.

**DIMINISHES DROUGHT RESPONSE AND WATER SUPPLY:** Climate change and unsustainable water use are driving unprecedented decades-long drought in the West. The DOA Act hurts DOI's efforts to keep critical reservoirs, like Lake Mead, from reaching "dead-pool" levels, putting water resources and power for millions of Americans at risk. It also makes deep cuts to California's Central Valley Project, increasing flood risk, reducing already decreased water allocations, and scaling back facility repairs.

**IMPACTS SAFETY AT OUR NATIONAL PARKS:** Our National Parks receive hundreds of millions of visitors and provide billions to local economies each year. The DOA Act forces the National Park Service to freeze new hiring and cut seasonal workers, reducing up to 5,000 staff positions at a time. These cuts significantly impact visitor experiences and safety, reduce park hours, and slash visitor services.

## THE DEFAULT ON AMERICA ACT HURTS TRIBAL COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) within DOI foster economic development for tribal communities and provide public education services, but both agencies are massively underfunded. Currently, 45% of BIE schools are in poor condition.

The DOA Act worsens the impacts of chronic underfunding in Indian Country by 1) cutting more than 1,500 tribal law enforcement personnel, 2) slashing roughly 25% of funding for K-12 education programs and delaying much-needed school repairs, and 3) reducing already inadequate resources for Indian child welfare, tribal courts, reservation roads, and tribal energy development, among other critical programs.

## THE DEFAULT ON AMERICA ACT CANCELS CLIMATE ACTION.

**STALLS CLEAN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT:** Democrats passed historic investments in clean energy through the *Inflation Reduction Act*, including more than \$1 billion for federal permitting offices. DOI will play a major role in our clean energy transition, which will create jobs and strengthen local economies.

The DOA Act reverses this progress by creating a major permitting bottleneck for energy projects and bringing clean energy development to a standstill. It will also weaken safety inspection programs for onshore and offshore oil and gas drilling and delay long overdue reforms to our oil and gas leasing programs.

**ERODES CLIMATE SCIENCE:** NOAA programs and grants support climate science, fisheries management, oceans, renewable energy deployment, and more. By gutting these programs, the DOA Act hamstring NOAA's ability to protect the environment, manage our natural resources, and fight climate change.