

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 3, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary
Department of the Interior

Dear Secretary Haaland:

On June 7, 2023, I sent the Department of the Interior (DOI) a letter with respect to funding the eradication of the Brown Treesnake (BTS) from the island of Guam.¹ I asked four questions in my letter:

1. How much taxpayer money has your department spent related to the Brown Treesnake, including eradication, control, and research? Please provide a yearly breakdown from 1993 to the date of this letter.
2. For each project related to the Brown Treesnake, including eradication, control, and research, describe and name each project, the government agency and/or contractor involved, and its results. Provide all records.
3. How many Brown Treesnakes are estimated to be on the island of Guam? What was the estimate in 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020?
4. What is your estimated timeline to complete the stated goal of eradicating the Brown Treesnake from Guam?

On July 27, 2023, DOI provided a response that failed to fully respond to my letter.² Concerning the first question, the letter from DOI stated “[o]n average, since 1993, the Department has allocated a total of approximately \$2.97 million annually to support BTS interdiction, suppression, and eradication on Guam.”³ However, DOI failed to provide a yearly breakdown.

With respect to questions two, three and four, DOI failed to answer or provide records.

¹ Letter from Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee, to Deb Haaland, Secretary, Department of the Interior, (June 7, 2023), (on file with Comm. Staff).

² Letter from Carmen Cantor, Assistant Secretary, Department of Interior - Insular and International Affairs, to Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee, (July 27, 2023), (on file with Comm. Staff).

³ *Id.*

In light of DOI's blatant failure to respond despite working on its reply for over a month after the two-week deadline, please answer the aforementioned questions and provide all records no later than August 17, 2023.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact my Committee staff at (202) 224-0642.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget