



Chairman Tom Cole
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
House Committee on Appropriations

**Full Committee Markup of
FY 2015 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill
April 9, 2014
*Opening Statement As Prepared***

The recommendation for FY 2015 provides \$3.3 billion, excluding Senate items, which are traditionally left to the Senate to determine. Overall, the bill is frozen at FY 2014 levels. We made critical decisions and prioritized programs. We were able to do this by maintaining current operations for our agencies. No funds for COLAs or additional FTE were provided.

The bill includes \$1.2 billion for the operations of the House. This is equivalent to the FY 2014 enacted level. Funding for Member's Representational Allowances and Committees provides for current operations, and I do not anticipate further reductions in the coming year. The bill also includes the Members pay freeze for FY 2015.

With this bill, total funding for the House of Representatives is 14% below FY2010.

The bill includes \$348 million for the Capitol Police. This is \$9.5 million above the FY 2014 enacted level. This will support 1,775 sworn officers and 370 civilian positions, as approved in the omnibus. A slight increase above last year is provided to ensure the Capitol Police maintain current operations and restore mission essential training.

Knowing that access to the House Office Buildings is of considerable concern to the Members, we have recommended language directing the Chief to work with the House Sergeant at Arms to develop an action plan that will ensure public access to our buildings is remedied during heightened periods of visitation. This action plan is due to the Committee by April 23, 2014. The bill includes \$488.6 million for the Architect of the Capitol, excluding Senate items. This is a decrease of \$40.5 million from the FY 2014 enacted level.

The Subcommittee recognizes the continuing challenge of preserving and maintaining our infrastructure and prioritizing critical projects in the current budgetary environment. It is important to note, \$21 million is recommended for the final phase of the Dome Restoration, a very high priority of this Committee. In addition, we are continuing the five year practice of including funds for the House Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund. A fund established by Ms. Wasserman Shultz when she was Chair of this Subcommittee in anticipation of the renovation of the historic Cannon House Office Building.

The bill includes \$595 million for the Library of Congress. This is an increase of \$16 million above the FY 2014 enacted level. This amount will allow the Library to continue at current operations. In addition, it includes \$5.5 million in funding for the Deacidification Program, \$1.0 million over the Library's request.

The bill includes \$122.6 million for the Government Printing Office. Congressional Printing and Binding remain at FY 2014 levels.

The bill includes \$519.6 million for the Government Accountability Office. This is an increase of \$14.2 million above the FY2014 enacted level. Language is recommended to establish a Center for Audit Excellence to build global institutional auditing capacity and promote good governance. The Center is to be operated on a fee-based basis.

Finally, this bill includes \$3.42 million for the Open World Leadership Trust Fund. This is \$2.58 million below the FY 2014 enacted level.

As a sign of support for Ukraine, the subcommittee has reduced the program by 43%. This represents the programs percentage of participants from Russia. This decision was made in consultation with the Speaker's and Leader's office.

It is important to stress that Open World's program does not just focus on work with Russia. Ukraine has the next largest group of participants, closely followed by other nations in the surrounding region. Therefore, we encourage the Center to do more in Ukraine and with other participating countries in the surrounding region.

I would like to thank Ranking Member Debbie Wasserman Schultz for her role throughout the process. We have worked well together and in a bipartisan manner. Also, I extend my appreciation to all the members of the Subcommittee for their participation in the process this year.

#####