



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

Full Committee Markup

Fiscal Year 2015 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill

June 24, 2014

Opening Statement As Prepared

Good morning. Welcome to the full Committee markup of the Fiscal Year 2015 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill.

We are nearing the finish line of our Committee work. This is the ninth bill we've had before this Committee – meaning we are nearly 75 percent of the way done – and we intend to bring our tenth bill before the Committee tomorrow. And as of last week, we've passed five appropriations bills off the floor and expect two more on the floor the week after the July 4th recess.

This is remarkable progress, and I want to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and for your commitment to returning to regular order.

I would like to commend the Chairwoman and Ranking Member for their expert work on this bill. While I know you do not agree on everything, your work together sets a fine example for this Committee and for the Congress of the good work that can be done when we work together collaboratively. Thank you to you both, the Subcommittee, and the staff for all that you have done to bring this bill before the Committee today.

It is clear that we face growing global instability, including in Iraq, Ukraine, and Syria to name a few. These State and Foreign Operations programs remain critically important to the future of the United States and the entire world.

In this bill, we have prioritized the \$48.3 billion in discretionary and OCO funding on critical diplomatic efforts, the safety of Americans abroad, and our longstanding support for humanitarian aid and public health – programs that will have the greatest direct impact on our national security.

One of our top priorities is ensuring that our men and women serving overseas – particularly in more volatile areas – remain safe. For embassy and diplomatic security, we've provided a \$46 million increase above the request.

The bill provides a total of \$8.5 billion for international security assistance. This critical support for our allies and international partners like Israel, Jordan, Mexico, Colombia, and the Philippines will continue our ongoing collaboration, and help advance U.S. interests in these regions.

This funding also continues our commitment to fighting drug trafficking, rejecting the Administration's proposed cuts to counternarcotics and law enforcement efforts in Mexico, Colombia, Central America, and the Caribbean.

New problems and threats arise every day, and this bill takes steps to tackle these developing issues, such as the escalating crisis of thousands of unaccompanied alien children entering through the Southwest Border.

It is also plain that the tenuous situation in Ukraine persists, so the bill includes \$215 million above the request to support the people of Ukraine and the region, and to provide security and democracy assistance throughout this tumultuous time.

In addition, I'm thankful the bill includes language that allows the financing of coal-fired and other power generation projects by U.S. companies overseas – boosting American job creation, and ensuring cost-effective technology for developing and other nations.

At the same time, this bill recognizes an important domestic priority – cutting federal discretionary spending to a more sustainable level. With this legislation, we have made difficult decisions to reduce funding for lower-priority programs, or those that we simply cannot afford at this time. In total, this bill saves about \$708 million compared to last year's levels.

Finally, the bill includes robust oversight to improve management and tighten the reins on taxpayer dollars. And, we have required tough conditions and reporting, particularly when it comes to funding for foreign governments and multi-year commitments.

This bill lives up to the challenge of “do more with less,” and I strongly support Committee approval today.

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