



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

Full Committee Markup – FY 2016 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill

June 16, 2015

Opening Statement As Prepared

This bill totals \$30.17 billion, supporting important Department of Interior and environment programs that protect and promote our natural resources within a responsible, sustainable budget. The bill also preserves the role of the federal government – making sure that the government is doing its job well, while ensuring that it is not harmful or intrusive into the lives of the American people or our economy.

This bill makes great strides to budget responsibly, investing in proven programs while making cutbacks where we can. The EPA is one such agency that can certainly make do with less.

The bill reduces funding for the EPA by \$718 million – 9 percent below last year – encouraging the agency to streamline its operations, and focus on its core duties rather than meddling in an unnecessary, job-killing regulatory agenda.

This Administration has been hell-bent on implementing all sorts of regulations that are harmful to both our economy and our energy security – seemingly without concern for the thousands of hard-working Americans who might lose their jobs, or see more and more of their paychecks going toward their electric bills. Nowhere is this more evident than in my district and coal-mining communities throughout the nation.

So, bill-wide, we have included several, important policy provisions aimed to stop this sort of overzealous bureaucratic red tape.

For instance, the bill prohibits the EPA from changing the definitions of “navigable waters” and “fill material” and prevents them from implementing new, over-the-top greenhouse gas regulations for power plants. The bill also prevents increased oil and gas inspection fees and grazing fees.

We must do whatever we can to keep the government from inhibiting economic growth by overregulating and overtaxing American business and industry, and this appropriations bill is a great place to start.

Again, I want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for bringing this legislation before the Committee today, as well as the entire subcommittee for their work putting this bill together. I also want to thank the staff for their hard work, as well.

I urge the Committee to support this bill today.

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