



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

Full Committee Markup - FY 2016 Agriculture Appropriations Bill July 8, 2015 Opening Statement As Prepared

The FY16 Agriculture bill is first and foremost a bill to support our economy – one that targets funding toward important American agricultural industries and the development of rural communities, and away from unnecessary red tape that hinders economic growth and harms the livelihoods of America’s farmers and ranchers.

Importantly, the bill supports rural communities like those in my own district by funding basic rural infrastructure, providing vital loans to rural businesses, and helping those most in need with food and housing assistance.

The \$20.65 billion in discretionary funding contained in this bill is also focused on safety programs – those that ensure that healthy food is in our markets and on our tables, and that drugs and medical devices that save lives are safe, available and reliable.

For instance, funding in this bill will help control plant and animal pest and diseases, improve food safety and water quality, and fight antibiotic resistance.

And funding for food inspections will maintain more than 8,000 frontline inspection personnel nationwide to help make sure our \$186 billion meat and poultry industry remains world-class.

The bill also makes certain that our nation’s hungry are cared for. It provides funding for each and every eligible person on food assistance, ensuring that no one loses these critical benefits.

Overall, this is a strong appropriations bill that accomplishes what it seeks to do: It helps improve the way our government works, prioritizes funding to the most important agricultural, rural development, nutrition, and safety programs, and helps our economy grow and flourish.

I want to commend Chairman Aderholt for his leadership of the Agriculture Subcommittee. I also want to thank him, Ranking Member Farr, and the members of the Subcommittee for holding the hearings and providing the feedback necessary to draft this bill. As always, I want to thank the hard-working staff, without whom we could not be here today.

I ask the committee to support this bill today. Thank you.

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