



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

**FY 2017 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Appropriations Bill – Full Committee
May 24, 2016
Opening Statement**

The bill before us provides responsible federal funding to meet urgent transportation and housing needs – totaling \$58.2 billion – an increase of \$889 million above current levels.

To help encourage greater efficiency and improved safety within our transportation infrastructure system, the bill provides the Department of Transportation with total budgetary resources of \$76.9 billion.

Many surface transportation programs are funded at the FAST Act authorized levels, helping to keep our highways, railways, and waterways running smoothly. These investments not only address safety and reliability issues, but also help to improve commerce and grow our economy.

Easing congestion and reducing delays for air travelers is also a top priority, and this bill will help by fully funding all requested air traffic control personnel, and by investing \$1 billion in the FAA's Next Generation Air Transportation Systems (NextGen).

The bill increases funding for HUD by \$384 million above current levels. This includes funding for Public and Indian housing to continue assistance to all those currently served.

This also includes increases for programs that help some of our most vulnerable citizens – including Housing for the Elderly and Housing for Persons with Disabilities.

To make these increased investments, the bill trims back lower-priority activities, and reduces or eliminates programs that are wasteful or duplicative.

And to further protect taxpayer dollars, the legislation includes a number of reforms to ensure the best use of funding – such as requiring overtime limits for Amtrak employees.

The bill also does not include any new fees within DOT or FHA.

I want to congratulate the Chairman, Ranking Member and Subcommittee on a very good, bipartisan bill, and thank the staff for their efforts to bring it before the Committee today.

I urge the Committee to support the bill.

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Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

**FY 2017 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill – Full Committee
May 24, 2016
Opening Statement**

This bill provides \$56 billion for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, NASA and the National Science Foundation, and other agencies. This funding represents a \$279 million increase above the current level.

This increase is directed to critically important federal activities, such as law enforcement and national security. This includes funding for essential FBI operations that keep Americans safe from international threats and domestic crime – targeting increases to combat cybercrime, and for counterintelligence and counterterrorism.

The bill also places a high priority on funding for the Drug Enforcement Agency – particularly for anti-opioid and other illegal drug enforcement efforts.

Battling heroin and other opioid abuse is critical as this scourge continues to plague our nation, and I'm pleased that the bill includes \$12.5 million for four new heroin enforcement groups, as well as increases for diversion and other enforcement efforts.

The bill also includes \$103 million for drug courts, treatment, and prescription drug monitoring as authorized by the recently passed Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act.

To maintain critical scientific research that keeps our nation at the cutting edge, the bill funds important research, technology, and space exploration. This includes increases for NASA, providing \$19.5 billion total to continue the development of flight programs and explore the final frontier.

Within the National Science Foundation, funding is targeted to programs that foster innovation and encourage our economic development – including research on advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, and neuroscience.

Economic growth is a top priority as well. We have provided increases for programs that spur commerce and help communities that are still recovering economically. To keep our communities safe from extreme weather and other natural disasters, we have fully funded NOAA's weather satellite program.

In addition to these smart investments, this bill includes several policy provisions that protect our constitutional rights, that keep us safe from terrorists and other bad actors, and that preserve the sanctity of life.

I'm very pleased with all that this bill achieves – upholding our responsibility to the taxpayer with strong accountability and oversight. I urge the Committee to support it today.

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