



# **Chairman Hal Rogers**

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## **House Committee on Appropriations**

### **Subcommittee Markup**

### **Fiscal Year 2015 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill**

### **May 20, 2014**

### **Opening Statement As Prepared**

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding.

We have before us today the Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations bill for Agriculture, Rural Development, the FDA and Related Agencies, which is funded at the discretionary level of \$20.88 billion. I would like to thank Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member Farr, and staff on both sides for their efforts to prepare for this markup today. I look forward to continuing the regular order under which we have moved our appropriations bills this year.

I have been saying it a lot since we started our hearings, but it is critical that we return to regular order to pass our bills. To that end, we are moving along at a brisk pace this year in order to keep this Committee on track to have all 12 appropriations bills passed on the floor by August. The FY14 omnibus package is a prime example of what we can accomplish when we work together: This Committee was able to provide every facet of the federal government with adequate, responsible funding, while continuing to reduce federal spending – totaling \$165 billion in cuts since fiscal year 2010. With the Ryan-Murray budget deal we were not only able to move our FY14 package, but it gave us our topline number for FY15, which has allowed us to move at the pace we have been going this year. In our estimation, we are moving faster than we ever have been able to since 1974, and I appreciate the speed at which we have been able to hold hearings and produce bills in Committee and get them moving to the floor. It is a breath of fresh air to be able to do our work in this manner.

As we have seen from the stagnation in our economy in recent years, the overspending, overtaxing, and over-regulating that this Administration continues to advocate is a drag on job creation. Millions of people in this country have simply pulled out of the labor market altogether. The bill before us today is yet another example of this Congress' – specifically this Committee's – commitment to restoring restraint and thoughtfulness to the budgeting process, while also ensuring that our nation's farms continue to be among the most productive in the world, and that our rural communities remain vibrant.

The funding in this bill allows the USDA, FDA, and other agencies to fulfill their core duties. And while it is always difficult to fund worthwhile programs at high levels due to the budget constraints we work under, I am proud that we have provided responsible funding for programs and services vital to our rural communities such as rural housing loans, water and waste facilities, and rural electric and broadband services. As our country continues to grapple with the epidemic of prescription drug abuse, I am also pleased that this legislation prods the U.S. Food and Drug Administration – the agency charged with primary responsibility for ensuring the safety of medications – to hasten the development of abuse-deterrent formulations and other emerging technologies that will put a dent in this devastating scourge.

This is a good bill, and it deserves the support of each Subcommittee member. Thank you, and I yield back.

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