



Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen

House Committee on Appropriations

**FY 2018 Interior Appropriations Bill
Subcommittee Markup
July 12, 2017
Opening Statement As Prepared**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the time and for all your hard work and that of members of the Subcommittee and this excellent staff to make this markup possible.

I am going to exercise the prerogatives as Chair and reserve my more expansive remarks for full committee.

Mr. Chairman, preserving our natural resources for future generations is a responsibility we all share. I am pleased that this bill prioritizes our limited funding to programs that protect the environment within a responsible, sustainable budget. For example, in my home state, the legislation provides conservation funding authorized by the Highlands Conservation Act to protect thousands of acres of open space and critical water supplies.

This bill also provides critical investments for the National Park Service, National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities, and continues funding for the Chemical Safety Board.

The Environmental Protection Agency is funded above the President's request to ensure that the federal government, along with our state partners, continues to act as a responsible steward of our land, air, and water resources.

While New Jersey has many natural treasures, we also have the distinction of having more Superfund sites than any other state – 10 alone in my Congressional district. I am pleased that this bill continues to support ongoing cleanup efforts, while we hold those that are responsible for paying their full share.

Further, the Committee's oversight has identified opportunities to rein in the federal bureaucracy and to stop many harmful and unnecessary regulations that destroy economic opportunity and kill jobs. I urge its adoption.

Once again, I want to thank the Chair, the Ranking Members, all members of the Subcommittee for producing such a strong bill on such short notice.

#####