



Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen
House Committee on Appropriations

**Appropriations Subcommittee Mark-up
Opening Statement (as prepared)
FY 2019 Interior and the Environment
May 15, 2018**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the time.

Today, the Committee continues its appropriations process with the mark-up of the FY 2019 Interior and Environment bill.

The bill is level-funded which means we will continue to sustain important programs that support and protect the nation's precious natural resources, including \$3.9 billion for the Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service to prevent and combat devastating wildfires.

This important legislation ensures that funding is targeted to maintaining the health and safety of our public lands and will help protect vital national resources for generations to come. In addition, our efforts to stop economically harmful, unnecessary regulations at the EPA and other agencies, to make sure core U.S. industries have can grow and thrive.

I am particularly pleased that the Subcommittee has been able to increase support for the National Park Service, including new funding to address longstanding deferred maintenance needs - repair and rehabilitation projects for our national treasures.

The bill also increases funding for the Smithsonian Institution and the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities. And we provide \$360 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) which finances the Highlands Conservation Act programs.

Overall, this is a good bill and I urge its approval.

+++++

Mr. Chairman, in coming weeks, we will continue our oversight and funding process. It is our intention to move as expeditiously as possible to complete all 12 of the fiscal year '19 Appropriations bills.

I commend you, Mr. Chairman (Calvert), the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Ms. McCollum of Minnesota, our full Committee Ranking Member, Ms. Lowey, all the members of the Subcommittee and the professional staff - on both sides of the aisle - who have worked so hard to make this mark-up possible.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

###