



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee Markup
FY 2016 Energy and Water Appropriations
April 15, 2015
Opening Statement As Prepared

Thank you, Chairman Simpson, for yielding, and I thank you for working with Ranking Member Kaptur to produce an Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2016. This is the first subcommittee markup for FY16, and I am pleased that we are moving along at such a rapid pace in getting these bills out of the gate. I thank my colleagues on both sides for all you have done to help complete our work in this manner.

Today, we have before this subcommittee a bill appropriating funding for our nation's energy and water resources. This bill impacts nearly every community in every District across the country, so it always involves difficult choices. In my estimation, this legislation strikes an appropriate balance between our nation's many energy and water related priorities. This bill makes significant investments in energy research, nuclear security programs, and in critical infrastructure constructed and maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Through this legislation, this subcommittee supports the Corps' primary missions of flood mitigation and navigation, while also reaffirming the Corps' and Congress' commitment to recreation opportunities on our cherished natural resources. Additionally, this bill prioritizes investments in energy research and new technologies that will make energy production in this country safer, and more efficient. It also provides \$8.7 billion to ensure the effectiveness of our nation's nuclear weapons stockpile.

In my District in Southern and Eastern Kentucky, we have been hard hit by the Administration's energy and environmental policies and so I am particularly pleased that this bill makes much needed investments in fossil energy research and takes action to roll back the harmful, job-killing regulatory attacks that we have seen on the coal industry. We provide \$605 million - \$45 million above the President's woefully inadequate request -- to promote new fossil energy technologies and make them more efficient. This bill also stands firm against the layer upon layer of environmental red tape that this Administration keeps laying out in hopes of crippling the coal industry. For example, we take on wrong-headed policies such as the attempt to change the definition of "Fill Material," which would shut down coal mines nationwide, and the new "Waters of the United States" proposal in which the Administration seeks to regulate almost anywhere water could conceivably run. This subcommittee takes responsible action through this bill to prevent regulatory overreach that would devastate energy production in the U.S. and communities nationwide.

This a good bill, I support it, and it deserves the support of each Subcommittee member.

Thank you, and I yield back.

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