



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

**Subcommittee Markup – FY 2017 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies
Appropriations Bill
April 13, 2016
Opening Statement As Prepared**

Thank you for yielding, Chairman Simpson. I appreciate the hard work of this subcommittee in crafting an Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2017. This is the second subcommittee markup this year, and I am pleased that we are reporting these bills at such a rapid pace.

The bill we have before us provides crucial funding for our national security and our energy and water resources. With so many important priorities in this bill, we must make very difficult decisions about how to address each of them in a meaningful manner. I applaud Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur, along with each Member of this subcommittee, on working together to balance these priorities in this bill. This legislation makes the right investments in our nation's nuclear weapon and nonproliferation programs, energy-related research and development work, as well as the maintenance and construction of important infrastructure projects across the country.

My District in Southern and Eastern Kentucky, along with countless other coal-producing regions, have been devastated by the "keep it in the ground" agenda spearheaded by the Administration in recent years. Coal remains an important commodity in this country - one that is inexpensive and reliable - and we know it will be a part of our energy mix for years to come. I am pleased that this legislation provides \$645 million for research and development of fossil energy technologies, which represents a \$285 million increase over the President's request. This demonstrates this committee's commitment to making important investments in fossil energy research and moving the ball forward to make this valuable resource an even more efficient source of energy.

This bill also pushes back on many of the onerous regulations aimed at putting coal communities out of work. Specifically, this bill thwarts the Administration's efforts to modify the definition of "Fill Material," which would shutter coal operations across the country and eliminate countless well-paying jobs in the process. It also prevents the Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA from moving forward with their "Waters of the United States" rule, which allows these agencies to drastically expand their authority over waterways and force construction companies, farmers, coal operators and others to deal with unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles. This bill enables Congress to take action against these egregious examples of regulatory overreach and protect crucial industries from sinking under the weight of burdensome rules and requirements.

This is a good bill, I am supportive of it, and I urge each Member of the subcommittee to support it as well.

Thank you, and I yield back.

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