

**CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE (TX-18)**

**STATEMENT BEFORE THE  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY, WATER, AND RELATED AGENCIES**

**MEMBER DAY HEARING ON  
ENERGY, WATER, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FY2018  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2017  
2362-B RAYBURN  
10:00 A.M.**

*Chairman Simpson, Ranking Member Kaptur and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee:*

- As the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, let me offer my appreciation and thanks to Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur for the difficult work and choices that must be made to produce a truly bipartisan Energy and Water spending bill, and for their commitment to producing a bill that fairly reflects the interests and priorities of the American people.
- Mr. Chairman, I understand that my entire statement will be made part of the record so I will keep my remarks brief.
- In the few minutes allotted I wish to highlight the energy, water, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer programs which warrant the Committee's continuing attention and support.

**ENERGY AND WATER PROGRAMS**

**I support \$1.263 billion for Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund**

The Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) is collected to ensure reliable maintenance and operation of our nation's ports. I strongly support full utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, and urge the Committee to fund harbor maintenance activities at the highest possible level.

**I support \$230 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program**

WAP helps low-income families, seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities improve the energy efficiency of their homes, freeing up limited resources for other essentials like food and medicine

**I support \$2 million for U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation Program**

Provide \$2 million for implementation of the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperative Agreement. This funding will be utilized to further implement Section 917 of the Energy Independence and Security Act, P.L. 110-140, and the May 2008 agreement between the U.S. and Israel on energy cooperation. The funding will provide for ongoing collaborative U.S. and Israeli research and development efforts in the fields of energy technologies and increased energy efficiency.

**I support robust funding for DOE's Wind Energy Program**

The Wind Energy Program improves our nation's renewable energy goals by furthering advancements in wind energy research and technologies, including wind energy project design, optimization, and testing. The program also conducts important research to increase capacity for distributed wind, which has the ability to harness the full potential of rural America to play a major role to lower the costs for consumers.

**I support \$2.9 billion for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy**

The DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) and its critical programs partner the federal government with industry, academia, and research facilities to secure America's energy future.

**I support \$5.672 billion for DOE Office of Science**

This request provides funding to operate the scientific user facilities at optimal levels in support of more than 31,000 researchers from universities, national laboratories, industry, and international partners. The request funds activities that, in close

coordination with the NIH and the Presidential BRAIN Initiative, will develop next-generation tools and technologies to support research into the brain.

**I support \$84 million for National Network for Manufacturing Innovation**

The National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI) provides scientific and technical resources to universities and manufacturing firms for research, technology transfer and job training. There is a federal role in supporting research into clean energy applications as well as technology transfer and workforce training particularly for well-paying skilled jobs in the field of Science, Technology Engineering and Math (STEM).

**I support \$70 million for State Energy Program**

This funding will allow states to take on energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and grid modernization projects, including: starting rebate programs to encourage purchasing energy-saving appliances; efficiency improvements of hospitals and school; working with utilities and energy service companies to install wind, solar and energy efficiency projects and to improve resilience and modernize the grid.

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**I support \$85 million for Army Corps of Engineers Investigations**

The Army Corps of Engineers does vital work that requires cooperation with other agencies. This appropriation funds studies to determine the need, engineering feasibility, and economic and environmental return to the Nation of potential solutions to water and related land resource problems; preconstruction engineering and design; and related data collection, interagency coordination, and research.

**I support the \$2.8 billion for Operation and Maintenance**

This funding will go towards the study, design, construction, operation and maintenance of inland and coastal navigation projects. It funds capital investments

on the inland waterways based on the estimated revenues to the Inland Waterways Trust Fund. The Budget gives priority to coastal harbors and inland waterways with the most commercial traffic. It also funds harbors that yield significant commercial fishing and public transportation benefits.

**I support \$6 million for Coastal and Ocean Data System (CODS)**

CODS provides high-resolution observations and models of coastal ocean waves and shoreline change. Through a network of over 50 wave buoys, CODS measures, models, forecasts and publicly disseminates real-time coastal wave information in 14 states and island territories. Without these data, life and property would be at risk.

**CONCLUSION**

Mr. Chairman, I thank you and the Ranking Member for your leadership and for extending me this opportunity to share my major priorities with the Subcommittee.