



Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen

House Committee on Appropriations

FY 2019 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill – Subcommittee Markup May 7, 2018 Opening Statement As Prepared

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the time.

Today, the Committee continues its appropriations process with the mark-up of the FY 2019 Energy and Water Development bill.

Our most important responsibility as Members of Congress is to provide for the common defense and the legislation before us will provide the resources to ensure America has the strongest possible nuclear deterrent, which is critically important during this time of rapidly changing global dynamics and emerging threats.

This bill also makes important investments in our water and power infrastructure that will help our economy continue to grow and provide a platform on which our businesses, industries, and communities can thrive. For example, the subcommittee recommends boosting funding for the Army Corps of Engineers by \$451 million above the FY 2018 enacted level, to provide a much needed influx of funds for activities that will have an immediate impact on public safety, job creation, and economic growth, including those that help increase the functionality of our ports and waterways.

I am also pleased that the legislation continues congressional efforts to support the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository, to accelerate progress toward meeting the federal government's legal obligation to take responsibility for storing the nation's nuclear waste.

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.

After all, the "power of the purse" lies in this building - it is the Constitutional duty of Congress to make spending decisions on behalf of the people we represent at home.

I commend you, Mr. Chairman, the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Ms. Kaptur, 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.

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