



Chairman Mike Simpson

*Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and
Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations*

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

Good afternoon. First I'd like to thank all of you for your participation during the fiscal year 2019 process, which actually began while we were still negotiating the final fiscal year 2018 bill. Even under this aggressive schedule, everyone has worked hard to address the issues affecting this bill. I think that as you look at the bill and report, you will see that it reflects your input. In fact, more than 3,000 member requests were submitted this year, and each request was carefully reviewed to include everyone's concerns to the greatest extent possible. This bill and report contain support for 94 percent of those requests.

I would like to especially thank my Ranking Member. Ms. Kaptur continues to be a helpful partner in carrying out the subcommittee's work, and the bill we recommend today is better for her input.

We are also fortunate to have strong leadership in our Full Committee Chairman and Ranking Member – their understanding of this bill and support for the important work addressed in it are invaluable.

The recommendation totals \$44.7 billion, which is \$1.5 billion more than last year's level and \$8.2 billion above the budget request. This is a responsible bill, focusing increases over last year to those areas that are the most inherently federal responsibilities – to provide for our nation's defense and support our nation's infrastructure.

The recommendation provides strong support for the Department of Energy's national defense programs. It aligns with the Administration's Nuclear Posture Review, which calls for continuing to maintain a strong nuclear deterrent to meet the challenges of a changing security environment, revitalizing the nuclear complex, and supporting effective arms control and nonproliferation efforts.

Weapons Activities is funded at \$11.2 billion, up \$558 million from last year's level, to keep our nation's nuclear deterrent reliable and effective. This increase will fully fund the needs of programs to extend the life of the nuclear weapons stockpile. It also will ensure strong support for basic infrastructure across the nuclear complex and ongoing deferred maintenance reduction activities.

The recommendation for Naval Reactors is \$1.79 billion and includes full funding for the

Columbia-Class ballistic missile submarine. Nuclear Nonproliferation programs are funded at \$1.9 billion, including \$335 million to continue a limited amount of construction on the MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility. The bill continues authority for the Secretary to cancel the project only under the condition that an alternative is shown to be less than 50 percent of the cost and with a waiting period to provide this committee with the opportunity to review the information.

This recommendation includes strong funding for the Army Corps of Engineers – \$451 million more than last year – and \$2.5 billion more than the budget request. Harbor Maintenance activities are funded at \$1.6 billion, which is \$200 million more than fiscal year 2018. The level exceeds the WRDA annual target by \$160 million and represents 95 percent of estimated revenues. This recommendation also makes use of all annual revenues from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund.

The budget request proposed a substantial reduction to the energy accounts and focused requested funding almost solely on early-stage research and development. Like the President, we want to ensure the best use of each and every tax dollar. This Committee, however, has long supported developing the nation’s scientific capabilities in medium- and later-stage R&D as well. This comprehensive approach is more likely to result in realization of technological advancements needed to enable full use of our nation’s abundant energy resources.

This bill includes strong funding for Nuclear Energy, providing research and development to ensure a safe, efficient, and reliable nuclear fleet and laying the foundation for the next generation of nuclear reactors. The recommendation provides \$785 million for Fossil Energy Research and Development to ensure the nation is utilizing its abundant fossil energy resources as efficiently and safely as possible.

Funding for the Office of Science is \$6.6 billion, an increase of \$340 million above last year’s level, to keep the national laboratories and America’s researchers at the forefront of global scientific discovery.

This bill includes almost \$6.9 billion for the Department of Energy’s Office of Environmental Management, to carry out the federal government’s responsibilities to clean up five decades of nuclear weapons development and production.

Finally, the recommendation includes strong support for advancing the Yucca Mountain license application, providing \$100 million more than the budget request, for a total of \$267.7 million to the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. We simply cannot wait any longer to finish the license application process and proceed to construction and operation of the permanent repository.

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