



## **Chairman Hal Rogers**

---

### **House Committee on Appropriations**

**FY 2017 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill – Subcommittee  
June 9, 2016  
Opening Statement As Prepared**

---

Mr. Chairman, thank you for yielding. I want to congratulate you and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard, as well as staff on both sides, for bringing forward the Fiscal Year 2017 appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security. As you know, this subcommittee is near and dear to my heart, and I appreciate the continued bipartisan work in crafting this important bill.

This marks the 10<sup>th</sup> appropriations bill to be marked up in subcommittee this year, and I want to thank you and the rest of the members of this subcommittee for your hard work in bringing this legislation before us today.

The bill funds the Department of Homeland Security at \$41.1 billion, which is a \$100 million increase over last year's enacted level and \$432 million over the President's request. The Department is tasked with the critical mission of keeping America safe by preventing a broad range of threats from air, land, and sea. I'm happy to see that the subcommittee has struck the proper balance of funding for the Department to carry out its critical missions while also emphasizing fiscal discipline and oversight. We further our investments in critical areas like cybersecurity, border protection, customs and immigration enforcement, and aviation security.

The bill maintains this subcommittee's strong commitment to emergency preparedness and response by providing FEMA an increase of \$536 million over the President's request. We fully fund the Disaster Relief Fund while also rebuking the President's \$507 million cut to FEMA preparedness grants. Firefighter Assistance grants, which are critical to communities across the country, is funded \$21 million above the request at \$690 million.

Lastly, this bill makes critical investments in our future by providing the Coast Guard with the funding for the production of the Offshore Patrol Cutter, adding an additional missionized HC-130J aircraft to the fleet, and an increase of \$85 million above the request for two additional Fast Response Cutters.

This is a good bill, and I urge the subcommittee to promptly report it to the full Committee. Thank you, and I yield back.

cush#####