



Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen

House Committee on Appropriations

**Financial Service and General Government Subcommittee
Office of Management and Budget – FY 2018 Budget Hearing
Wednesday, June 21, 2017
Opening Statement As Prepared**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the time and I also want to welcome Director Mulvaney to the Appropriations Committee. We look forward to your testimony and hearing your frank and candid views on the many issues.

Today's hearing is an important part of the oversight duties of this Committee. As part of our analysis, we are in the process of going through each and every line of the budget you sent us and are asking for credible spending justifications from all the agencies of the federal government.

When we have completed our examination and received the answers we need, we make our own determinations on the best and most effective use of tax-dollars.

In this context, Mr. Director, I believe the American people embrace the goals of the "America First" budget – to rebuild our military in the face of growing global threats, strengthen border security and eliminate unnecessary programs, waste and duplication and modernize outdated programs.

However, the national debate today focuses on how you define "unnecessary programs." We are eager to hear your views in greater detail here this afternoon.

I think I can speak for the vast majority of members of this committee in saying, yes, Washington needs to be fixed. But we also do not want to be party to a government shutdown which would reflect poorly on all of us and punish those Americans most in need of the services provided through the nation's safety net.

Mr. Director, I look forward to your testimony.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the time.

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