

# Testimony Before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

Rep. Val Hoyle (OR-04)

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## Member Day

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Thank you, Chairman Joyce, Ranking Member Hoyer and Members of the Appropriations Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee for the opportunity to provide Member testimony about Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations.

Crews ready to break ground on major infrastructure projects are waiting for work that may never come. Apprenticeship programs are getting cut. Washington, D.C.'s chaos has already cost us over a month of fire mitigation on our forests. This is what's happening right now, and American taxpayers are paying the price.

Congress already made the decision to spend money on these priorities. But here we are today, watching the administration stall, delay, and ignore the law while small businesses and the people they employ wait and projects that help our economy grind to a halt. And Congress is doing nothing to stop it.

### Chaos in Washington, D.C. is Hurting Oregon

Congress holds the power of the purse. We are the closest representatives of the people – not the Executive Branch and certainly not unelected bureaucrats. There are clear processes and laws in place for an administration to review, redirect, or claw back funding, but this administration is outright ignoring them.

The law is clear: if the administration wants to withhold funding that we have approved, it must follow the Impoundment Control Act. If it wants to review programs and recommend cuts, it can do so legally without stopping the funding. The President submits a budget every year for this reason. But this administration is outright ignoring the law. Congressional leadership has the power to hold the Executive Branch accountable.

### What Congress Can Do

My constituents and the American people deserve to know why promised federal funding isn't reaching them and why their neighbors are being indiscriminately fired. If the administration continues to ignore Congress' will, then its budget should reflect that.

This subcommittee can force the Executive Office of the President (EOP) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to answer for cuts that weaken wage theft enforcement, stall job training programs, or delay wildfire response. It can condition funding to ensure money is spent as Congress intended. It can even take more drastic measures, like defunding the EOP entirely.

You also have the tools to protect workers from politically motivated attacks. This subcommittee should increase funding for the Merit Systems Protection Board, Office of Special Counsel, and Federal Labor Relations Authority to handle a surge in wrongful termination requests. No person – Democrat or Republican – should have unchecked power that allows them to circumvent our entire system of civil service protections.

### The Stakes

The consequences if Congress doesn't act are real. Billions in federal payments to farmers remain frozen. Funding to help our federal forests is drying up. That's to say nothing of what is happening to the very people who make these programs possible: federal workers. NOAA, which supports our commercial fishermen and helps detect wildfire threats, is hemorrhaging staff. Layoffs at the Roseburg VA are leaving the hospital with a "skeleton crew" to stock medical supplies.

The administration is also targeting the very agencies meant to safeguard federal workers from political firings. Attacks on the Merit Systems Protection Board and the National Labor Relations Board only serve to hurt workers who don't have any recourse.

It's absurd that we're sitting here making requests for Fiscal Year 2026 when the administration is failing to honor this year's spending directives. If the Executive Branch can ignore Congress, then why are we even here?

The choices are clear: help preserve Congress as a co-equal branch of government or be complicit in its demise. I hope you'll make the right decision.