



## **Chairman Tom Graves**

*Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch  
House Committee on Appropriations*

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### **FY 2016 Budget Hearing – House of Representatives / Government**

#### **Accountability Office / Capitol Police**

**February 25, 2015**

#### **Opening Statement As Prepared**

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Today we will begin our hearings on the fiscal year 2016 budget request of the various agencies of the Legislative Branch. As Members of the Subcommittee are aware, the request of the Legislative Branch agencies is included in the budget request of the President that was received by the Congress earlier this month. The budget requests that we will consider were transmitted to the Office of Budget and Management, and as customary, included in the President's request, as submitted by the agencies of the Legislative Branch.

Currently our Nation is dealing with a national debt of over 18 trillion dollars. It will be difficult to maintain current levels, and providing every increase requested, will be impossible. As always we will do our work showing that we lead by example. We of course will continue the tradition of addressing life safety issues as our first priority.

I'm sure that all Members of the Subcommittee will work together as a team as we review, consider and ultimately produce a bill to be presented to the entire House.

I look forward to working with our returning ranking Member Ms. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who is not only our returning ranking member, but also a former Chair of the Committee. I want to also welcome the other Members of the Committee Mr. Mark Amodei of Nevada, the only returning Member on our side; Mr. Scott Rigell of Virginia; Mr. David Young of Iowa; Mr. Evan Jenkins of West Virginia; Mr. Sam Farr of California; and another returning Member, Ms. Betty McCollum of Minnesota.

I thank you all for being here and look forward to working with each and everyone one of you.

The budget that this Subcommittee will consider, not including the Senate and items under the Architect of the Capitol for the Senate, is \$3.5 billion. When you include the Senate the request it is \$4.5 billion.

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