



Chairman Tom Graves

*Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
House Committee on Appropriations*

Architect of the Capitol FY 2017 Budget Request

March 1, 2016

Opening Statement As Prepared

Today we will begin our hearings on the fiscal year 2017 budget request of the various agencies of the Legislative Branch.

I look forward to continuing to work with all the members of the subcommittee including:

Ranking Member Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida

Vice Chairman Mark Amodei of Nevada

Mr. Scott Rigell of Virginia

Mr. Evan Jenkins of West Virginia

Mr. Steven Palazzo of Mississippi

Mr. Sam Farr of California

Ms. Betty McCollum of Minnesota

I thank you all for being here and appreciate your dedication and attention to the important issues of this Subcommittee.

As everyone on this subcommittee knows our nation is in debt to the tune of over 19 trillion dollars. This is unsustainable. While major reforms to federal programs outside the jurisdiction of this Committee are needed we nonetheless must lead by example.

The budget that was submitted by the administration for this subcommittee to consider, not including the Senate and items under the Architect of the Capitol for the Senate, is \$3.6 billion – an increase of 6.81 percent over last year's enacted level.

When you include the Senate, the request is \$4.7 billion or an increase of 6.77 percent over last year's enacted level.

Our job is to scrutinize the requests under our jurisdiction. We will continue to lead by example being efficient, effective and doing more with less.

I appreciate the hard work done to prepare these budget requests and I look forward to hearing from each agency.

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