



Chairman Mike Simpson

*Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and
Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations*

**Full Committee Markup
Fiscal Year 2015 Appropriations Bill for
Energy and Water Development
June 18, 2014
Opening Statement As Prepared**

I'm proud to present the Committee with the fiscal year 2015 energy and water bill.

But before I go into the recommendation, I'd like to thank Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey for all their hard work to get us back to regular order.

I'd also thank my Ranking Member, Ms. Kaptur, for her help in putting together this recommendation. She's a passionate advocate for her constituents and has a keen interest in the issues overseen by our subcommittee. This recommendation is better for her contributions.

The legislation before you totals \$34.01 billion for the activities of the Department of Energy, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and other agencies under our jurisdiction. This is a \$50 million reduction from last year's funding levels.

This is a strong bill, and one which recognizes the importance of investing in this nation's infrastructure and national defense.

Importantly, this recommendation overcomes the budget request's proposed cut of nearly \$1 billion to the critical programs of the Army Corps of Engineers.

The request would have led to economic disruptions as our ports and waterways filled in and would have left our communities and businesses at vulnerable to flooding.

Instead, this recommendation recognizes the critical work of the Corps and provides \$5.492 billion for those activities, \$959 million above the request and \$25 million above last year.

More than \$1.1 billion is provided for the activities supported by the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, an increase of at least \$185 million over the budget request.

Over \$916 million is provided to support projects either inadequately funded or not funded at all in the budget request, but only after the Administration reports to us on how they will prioritize these funds.

The recommendation takes a strong stand against government overreach, by prohibiting changes to the definitions of "waters of the United States" and "fill material".

The recommendation also provides \$11.361 billion for the atomic security, nonproliferation, and naval reactors programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration, a \$154 million increase from fiscal year 2014.

Unfortunately, given the limitations posed by the Ryan-Murray budget deal, we were not able to fully support all of our priorities. We were, however, able to substantially improve upon the President's request.

The nuclear weapons program run by the Department of Energy receives \$8.2 billion, an increase of \$423 million from last year. All critical life extension programs are fully funded, and infrastructure projects needed to sustain our national defense are fully supported.

Our nonproliferation programs are funded at \$1.55 billion, the same as the request. This is a significant cut – nearly \$400 million – from last year, which we could not make up.

However, within this figure we made changes to move nearly \$250 million in stalled funding to projects that will actively help protect against proliferation in fiscal year 2015.

Of this, \$100 million is from projects in the budget request that would take place in Russia. To be clear, there is no new funding in this recommendation for activities in Russia. There is also a requirement that before the Secretary of Energy funds any activity in Russia, he must certify that the activity is in our national security interests.

Colleagues, many of us have been reminded by Russia's actions that the end of the Cold War has not brought stability to eastern Europe. Our NATO colleagues and others who live under the security umbrella that our nuclear arsenal provides are nervous, and now is not the time to imply in any way that our nuclear weapons are not needed.

We've also seen, once again, how energy can both be used as a geostrategic weapon and be affected by geostrategic actions. Russia has used Ukraine's reliance on natural gas to put pressure on its new leadership. And the movements by insurgents to occupy Iraq threaten to drive oil prices through the roof.

That's why this bill makes strong, balanced investments in our energy sector to ensure that our constituents continue to have reliable, affordable energy. Fossil Energy, which provided more than 71 percent of our electricity production in 2013, receives \$593 million, a \$31 million increase above fiscal year 2014. Nuclear energy is increased by \$10 million above last year. Energy efficiency and renewable energy are slightly reduced by \$113 million from last year. This balanced investment prioritizes improvements to energy sources that we rely upon today, while making longer-term investments in alternative energy sources.

Colleagues, I'll stop here. However, I fully expect that today and on the floor many of us will have further contributions to propose to the bill, and I look forward to those discussions.

Thank you.

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